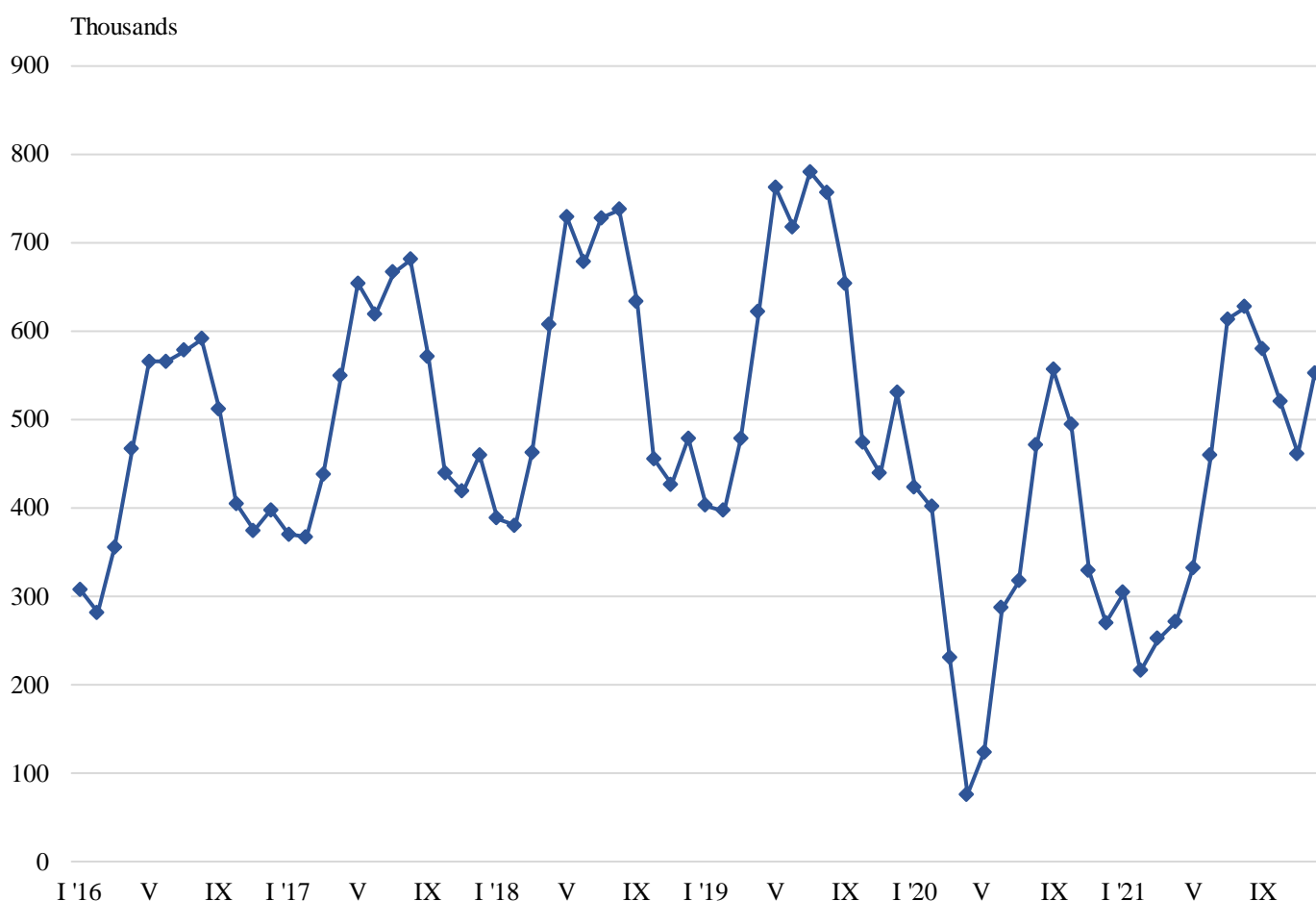


TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA¹ IN DECEMBER 2021

In December 2021, in the conditions of the continuing epidemic situation, **the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 551.0 thousand, or by 104.5% above the registered in December 2020 (Figure 1).

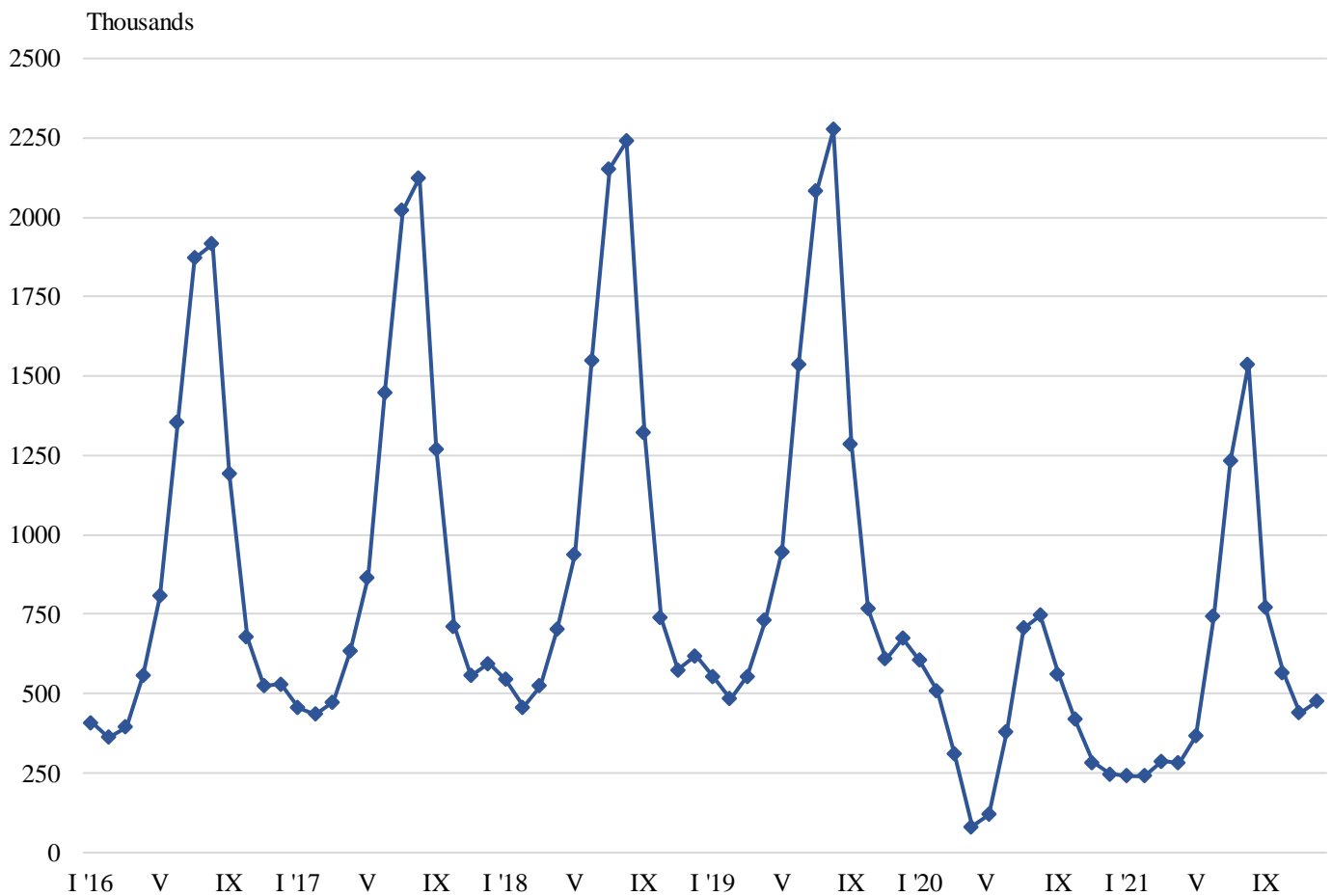
Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months



¹ Data provided by the Ministry of Interior. Due to the extension of the emergency epidemic situation in the country until 31.03.2022 with Decision 826 of the Council of Ministers of 25.11.2021, Order № RD-01-954 of 19.11.2021 and Order № RD-01-977 of 26.11.2021 of the Minister of Health, the statistical survey 'Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad and arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria' in December was not conducted.

In December 2021, the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 475.1 thousand (Figure 2), or by 92.4% above in comparison with December 2020 (Annex, Table 1), as the transit was 54.2% (257.7 thousand) of all visits of foreigners in the country.

Figure 2. Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria by months



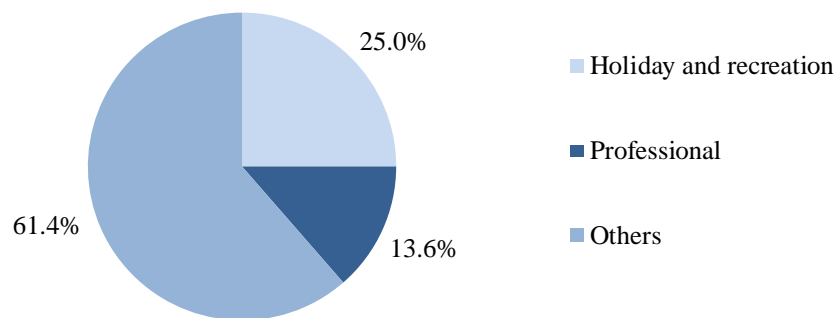
The share of visits of EU citizens was 41.9% of the total number of foreigners' visits to Bulgaria in December 2021, or 199.0 thousand, as the highest number of visits was from Romania - 38.4%, Greece - 22.8% and Germany - 10.1%.

The visits of foreigners in the group 'Other European countries'¹ were 232.2 thousand, or 48.9% of all visits to Bulgaria. The highest number of visits from Turkey - 129.0 thousand or 55.5% of the visits in this group was registered.

¹ Group 'Other European countries' includes countries in Europe outside EU.

In December 2021, the relative share of visits by purpose was as follows: with other purposes - 61.4%, with holiday and recreation purpose - 25.0%, and with professional purpose - 13.6% (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Structure of visits of foreign citizens to Bulgaria by purpose in December 2021





Methodological notes

The definitions recommended by the World Tourist Organization and the Methodological manual for tourism by Eurostat are applied by the National Statistical Institute (NSI).

In accordance with these definitions, **an international tourist** is any person who travels to a country other than his/her permanent residence for less than a year and whose main purpose is not doing any activity for payment in place visited.

The purposes of visiting a country are the following:

- Excursion, holiday or entertainment (visits to cultural or historical landmarks, sport events and other);
- Visiting friends and relatives;
- Professional purposes (business trips, participation in conferences, congresses, concluding deals, and etc.);
- Other (education, medical treatment, and etc.) purposes.

In December 2021, due to the impossibility to conduct the statistical survey at the border checkpoints, all statistical data on the trips of Bulgarians abroad and the visits of foreigners in Bulgaria - total and for the purpose of the trip - were provided to the NSI by the Ministry of Interior.

Annex

Table 1

Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria
by purpose of visit and country of origin in December 2021

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	475125	118490	64755	291880
EU	198955	48757	21891	128307
Austria	10145	1126	116	8903
Belgium	3027	730	158	2139
Croatia	1673	356	266	1051
Cyprus	1222	744	197	281
Czechia	1389	278	132	979
Denmark	692	198	77	417
Finland	265	103	37	125
France	5984	2944	491	2549
Germany	20096	6672	603	12821
Greece	45283	18777	8392	18114
Hungary	2626	126	401	2099
Ireland	1274	753	91	430
Italy	8760	5264	342	3154
Malta	231	158	-	73
Netherlands	4024	843	126	3055
Poland	7407	389	974	6044
Portugal	634	374	72	188
Romania	76450	6529	8804	61117
Slovakia	992	166	58	768
Slovenia	405	228	51	126
Spain	3760	1348	252	2160
Sweden	1243	292	65	886
Other EU countries	1373	359	186	828
Other European countries	232221	58306	36835	137080
Norway	349	87	-	262
Republic of North Macedonia	31803	15481	4035	12287
Russian Federation	9094	6337	547	2210
Serbia	33930	8209	6482	19239
Switzerland	1140	270	228	642
Turkey	128988	17831	22152	89005
Ukraine	16684	2445	3110	11129
United Kingdom	10233	7646	281	2306
Other countries	8571	6158	385	2028
Canada	332	190	21	121
Israel	5008	4722	96	190
Japan	100	54	10	36
USA	3131	1192	258	1681
Rest of the world	35378	5269	5644	24465

'-' - No case registered.