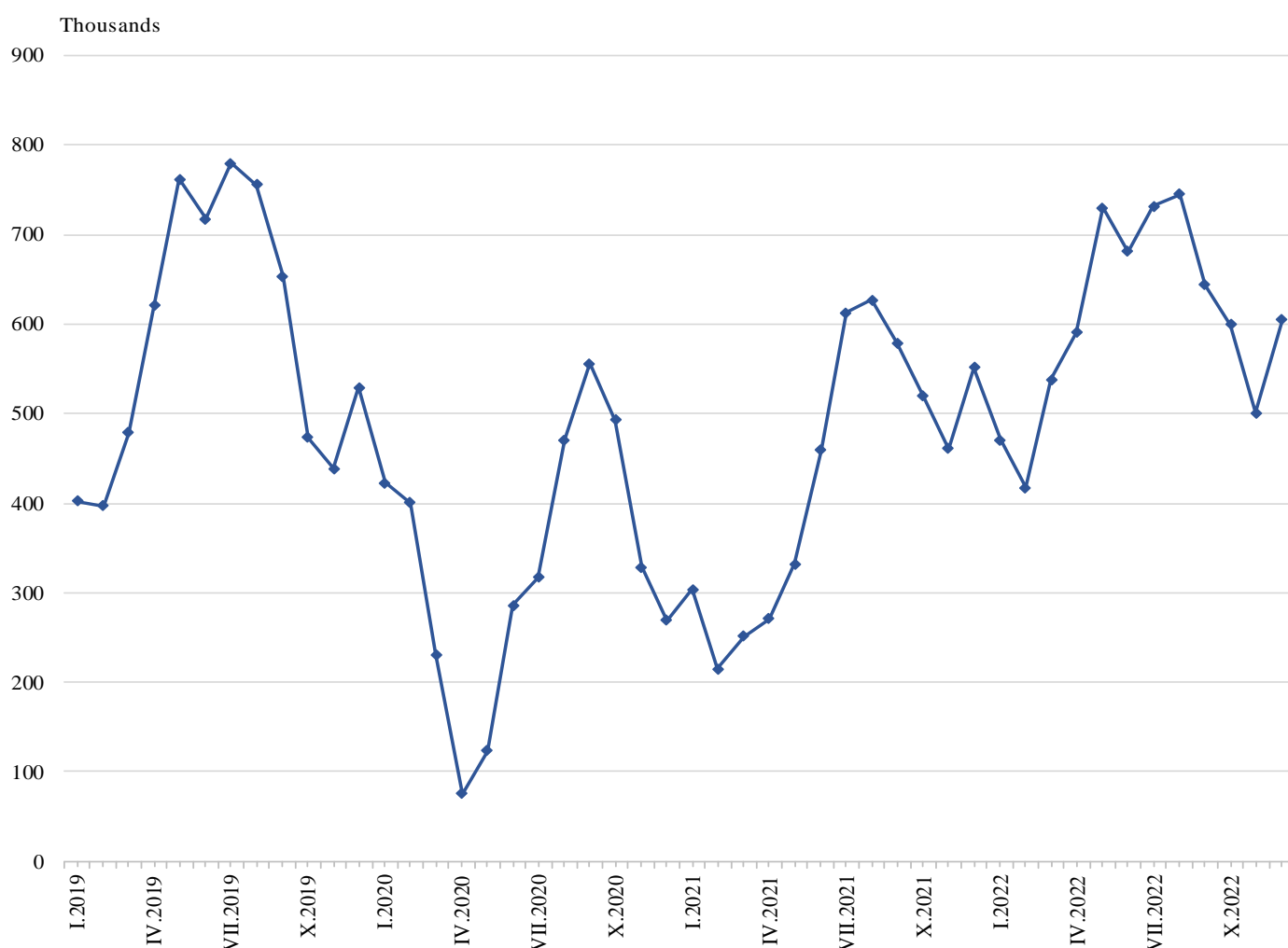


## TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN DECEMBER 2022

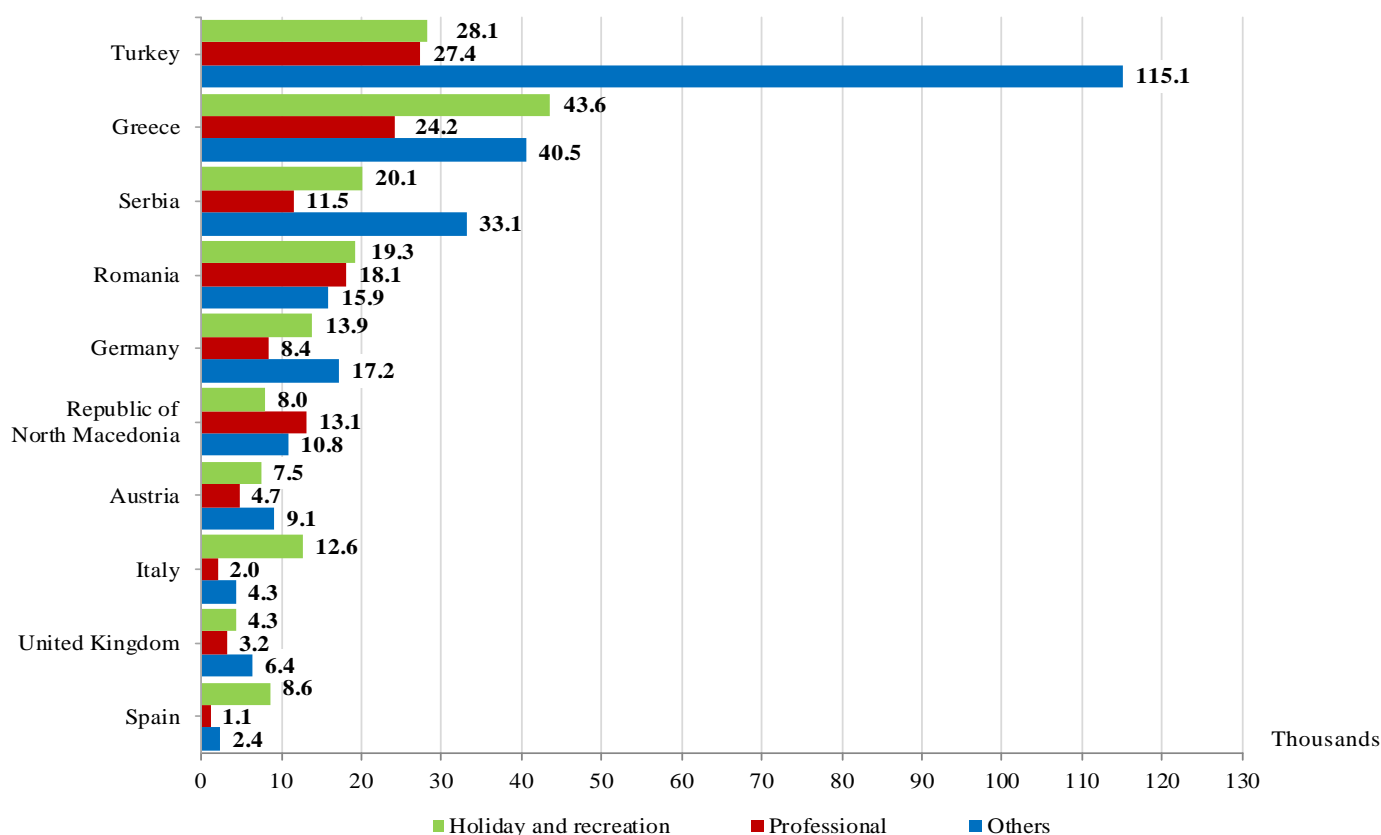
In December 2022, the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad was 604.7 thousand (Annex, Table 1) or 9.7% above the registered in December 2021.

Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months



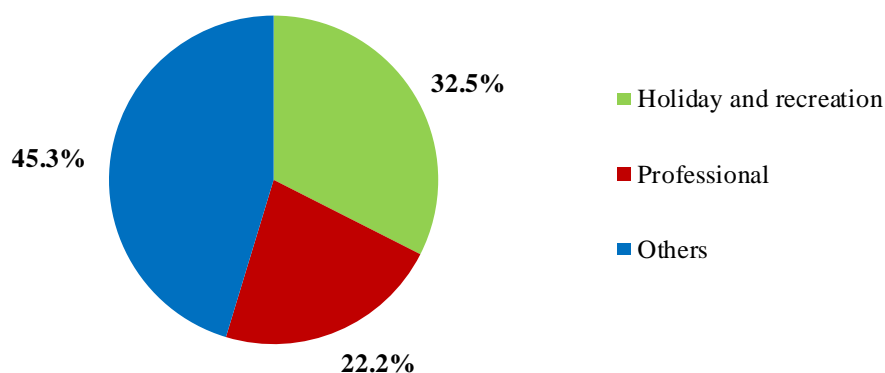
In December 2022, most trips of Bulgarian residents were made to: Turkey - 170.6 thousand, Greece - 108.3 thousand, Serbia - 64.7 thousand, Romania - 53.3 thousand, Germany - 39.5 thousand, the Republic of North Macedonia - 31.9 thousand, Austria - 21.3 thousand, Italy - 18.9 thousand, the United Kingdom - 13.9 thousand, Spain - 12.1 thousand (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Top foreign destinations for Bulgarian residents by purpose of visit in December 2022**



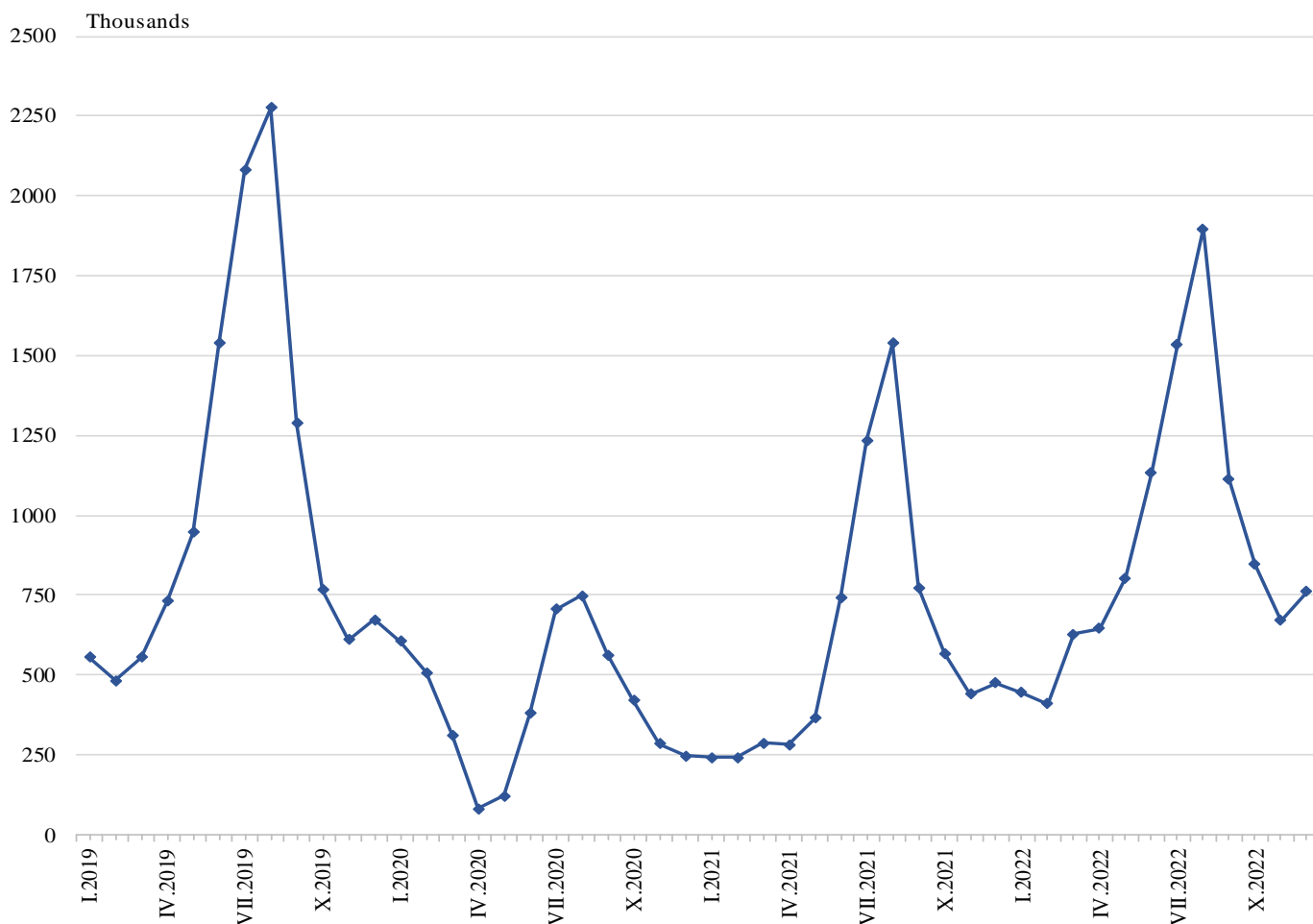
The trips with other purposes (as a guest, education and visiting cultural and sports events) in December 2022 composed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad - 45.3%, followed by those with holiday and recreation purpose - 32.5% and with professional purpose - 22.2%.

**Figure 3. Structure of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit in December 2022**



In December 2022, **the number of visits of non-residents to Bulgaria** was 761.9 thousand (Annex, Table 2) or 60.3% more in comparison with December 2021 (Figure 4). An increase in the trips with all observed purposes was registered. Transit passes through the country were 37.8% (287.6 thousand) of all visits of non-residents to Bulgaria.

**Figure 4. Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria by months**



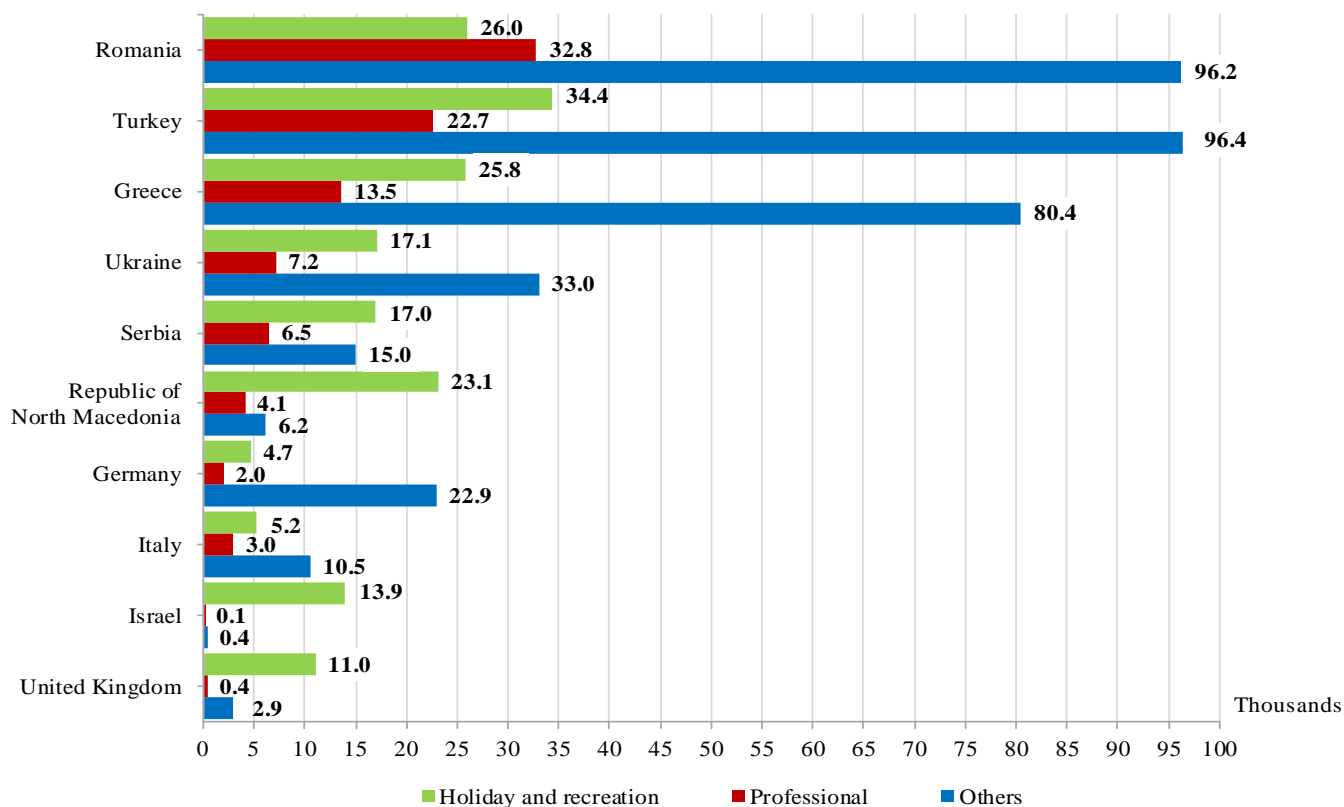
The share of visits of EU citizens was 51.1% of the total number of non-residents' visits to Bulgaria in December 2022 and reached 389.5 thousand, the largest being by visitors from Romania - 39.8% and Greece - 30.7%.

The visits of non-residents in the group 'Other European countries'<sup>1</sup> were 305.9 thousand, or 40.1% of all visits to Bulgaria. The highest number of visits from Turkey - 153.5 thousand, or 50.2% in this group was registered.

<sup>1</sup> Group 'Other European countries' includes countries in Europe outside the EU and all data are provided by the Ministry of Interior.

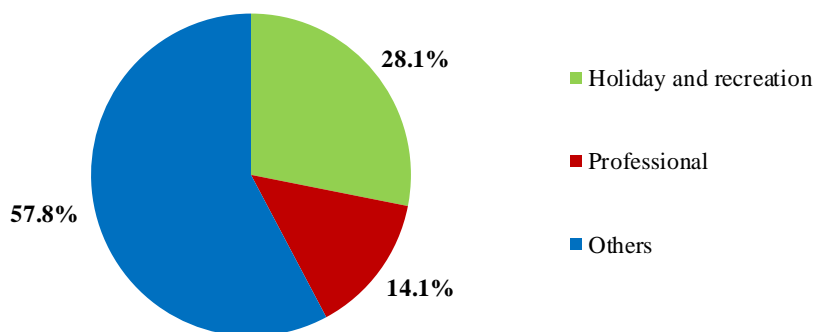
In December 2022, the most visits to Bulgaria were from: Romania - 155.0 thousand, Turkey - 153.5 thousand, Greece - 119.7 thousand, Ukraine - 57.3 thousand, Serbia - 38.5 thousand, Republic of North Macedonia - 33.4 thousand, Germany - 29.6 thousand, Italy - 18.7 thousand, Israel - 14.4 thousand, the United Kingdom - 14.3 thousand.

**Figure 5. Top visits by non-residents to Bulgaria by country of residence and purpose in December 2022**



In December 2022, the predominant share of the visits was with other purposes - 57.8%, followed by trips with holiday and recreation purpose - 28.1% and with professional purpose - 14.1%.

**Figure 6. Structure of visits of non-residents to Bulgaria by purpose in December 2022**





## 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.

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 others);
- Visiting friends and relatives;
- Professional purposes (business trips, participation in conferences, congresses, concluding deals, etc.);
- Other (education, medical treatment, etc.) purposes.

Statistical data on the trips of Bulgarian residents travelling abroad and visits by non-residents to Bulgaria are obtained on the basis of monthly information received from the Ministry of Interior and a sample survey of the National Statistical Institute among residents and non-residents passing through border check points.

Data on the number of the trips of the citizens of the European Union are estimated on the basis of the information obtained from the Ministry of Interior and the airport authorities. Data on the number of citizens from ‘third countries’ are obtained directly from the Ministry of Interior.

Data on the purposes of the trips are obtained on the basis of the NSI’s regular monthly sample survey of passing residents and non-residents through the border check points.

Annex

Table 1

**Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit  
and country of destination in December 2022**

(Number)

Country of destination	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
<b>Total</b>	<b>604692</b>	<b>196410</b>	<b>134237</b>	<b>274045</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>311223</b>	<b>130263</b>	<b>74881</b>	<b>106079</b>
Austria	21291	7514	4697	9080
Belgium	9682	3476	3098	3108
Croatia	2385	1226	364	795
Cyprus	478	139	177	162
Czechia	9482	6226	1992	1264
Denmark	2344	1004	419	921
Finland	507	206	301	-
France	9245	3082	2809	3354
Germany	39489	13838	8438	17213
Greece	108312	43607	24223	40482
Hungary	4979	2987	1431	561
Ireland	764	456	166	142
Italy	18908	12637	1949	4322
Malta	358	298	60	-
Netherlands	6098	1808	1805	2485
Poland	5991	1928	1867	2196
Portugal	923	553	118	252
Romania	53251	19261	18128	15862
Slovakia	1610	537	322	751
Slovenia	1192	551	156	485
Spain	12124	8579	1094	2451
Sweden	894	261	633	-
Other EU countries	916	89	634	193
<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>283361</b>	<b>61304</b>	<b>56488</b>	<b>165569</b>
Norway	548	198	267	83
Republic of North Macedonia	31870	7967	13089	10814
Russian Federation	76	-	76	-
Serbia	64664	20096	11440	33128
Switzerland	1438	575	863	-
Turkey	170628	28136	27352	115140
Ukraine	254	-	254	-
United Kingdom	13883	4332	3147	6404
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>1637</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>762</b>
Canada	298	113	132	53
Israel	818	300	27	491
USA	521	154	149	218
<b>Rest of the world</b>	<b>8471</b>	<b>4276</b>	<b>2560</b>	<b>1635</b>

**Table 2**

**Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria  
by purpose of visit and country of origin in December 2022**

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
<b>Total</b>	<b>761852</b>	<b>213932</b>	<b>107840</b>	<b>440080</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>389510</b>	<b>77796</b>	<b>59910</b>	<b>251804</b>
Austria	12121	1374	863	9884
Belgium	4172	808	742	2622
Croatia	2236	818	251	1167
Cyprus	2213	1084	369	760
Czechia	1832	614	307	911
Denmark	711	196	155	360
Finland	448	173	124	151
France	6846	1761	1043	4042
Germany	29614	4666	2043	22905
Greece	119700	25766	13576	80358
Hungary	3732	844	215	2673
Ireland	2301	1233	205	863
Italy	18749	5250	3032	10467
Malta	842	384	253	205
Netherlands	5436	1977	787	2672
Poland	9507	1251	854	7402
Portugal	1296	448	208	640
Romania	155031	26005	32767	96259
Slovakia	1367	207	163	997
Slovenia	680	196	147	337
Spain	7194	1713	1164	4317
Sweden	1662	399	254	1009
Other EU countries	1820	629	388	803
<b>Other European countries</b>	<b>305863</b>	<b>107311</b>	<b>41838</b>	<b>156714</b>
Norway	498	118	163	217
Republic of North Macedonia	33441	23129	4123	6189
Russian Federation	6950	4105	465	2380
Serbia	38470	16997	6471	15002
Switzerland	1442	418	378	646
Turkey	153477	34357	22685	96435
Ukraine	57256	17145	7154	32957
United Kingdom	14329	11042	399	2888
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>19625</b>	<b>17022</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>1996</b>
Canada	574	374	19	181
Israel	14392	13849	127	416
Japan	315	207	37	71
USA	4344	2592	424	1328
<b>Rest of the world</b>	<b>46854</b>	<b>11803</b>	<b>5485</b>	<b>29566</b>