

XXII. TOURISM

The definitions recommended by the World Tourist Organization (WTO) are applied at the statistical surveys in the sphere of international tourism.

An international visitor is a person who arrives in a country, which is not the one of his permanent residence, for a period not greater than 6 months and whose main purpose is not doing any activity for payment. International tourist is a visitor arriving in a country, which is not the one of his permanent residence, at least for 24 hours, but not for more than 6 months and whose main purpose is not doing any activity for payment.

The motives for visiting a country may be as follows:

1. Amusements (rest, cultural events, sports, visiting friends and relatives, leisure activities);
2. Professional motives (business trips, participation in conferences, congresses, contracting bargains, etc.);
3. Other motives connected with tourism.

In tourist statistics are not included:

1. Persons arriving with or without contract for work or who are looking for work in the country;
2. Persons entering the country for permanent residence;
3. Inhabitants of border regions residing at one side of the border and working at the other;
4. Other categories of traveling, which do not cover the criteria in the definition for an international visitor.

The data for number of tourist includes also the travelers with transit visas, which number is given in a separate column in the table by purpose of visit. The foreigners who have passed the country without stopping and also those entering the country with transit visas but staying for several days as tourists are included in their number.

Data by countries is presented according to the country of citizenship of the foreigners.

The item 'Professional Purpose' as a purpose of visit covers all visitors entering the country because of commercial and scientific aims, cultural relationships, exchange of experience, etc.

Data on the arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria and traveling abroad of Bulgarian residents are obtained from the Ministry of Interior.

The totality of all hotels, motels, camping sites, mountain chalets and accommodation agencies is an object of the statistical survey of accommodation establishments. All accommodation establishments with more than 30 bed-places in use during the reference year are covered by the survey.

The item 'Bed-nights' is obtained by accumulation of the number of beds available for each day of the reference period, no matter whether they had been occupied or not. The item 'Using of bed-nights' is a ratio between nights spent and bed-places.

A rest house is every autonomous delimited object consisting of one or more buildings, used as a recreation centre, unified management (one manager).

The persons who had used a bed in the rest house (incl. the children, regardless of using separate bed or not) are pointed in the number of persons rested.

The main sources of information for the accommodation establishments and the rest houses are quarterly and annual forms, which they present, in the National Statistical Institute.

More detailed information for the arrivals of visitors from abroad, traveling abroad of Bulgarian residents, the activity of the accommodation establishments and the rest houses can be found in the NSI annual publication 'Tourism'.