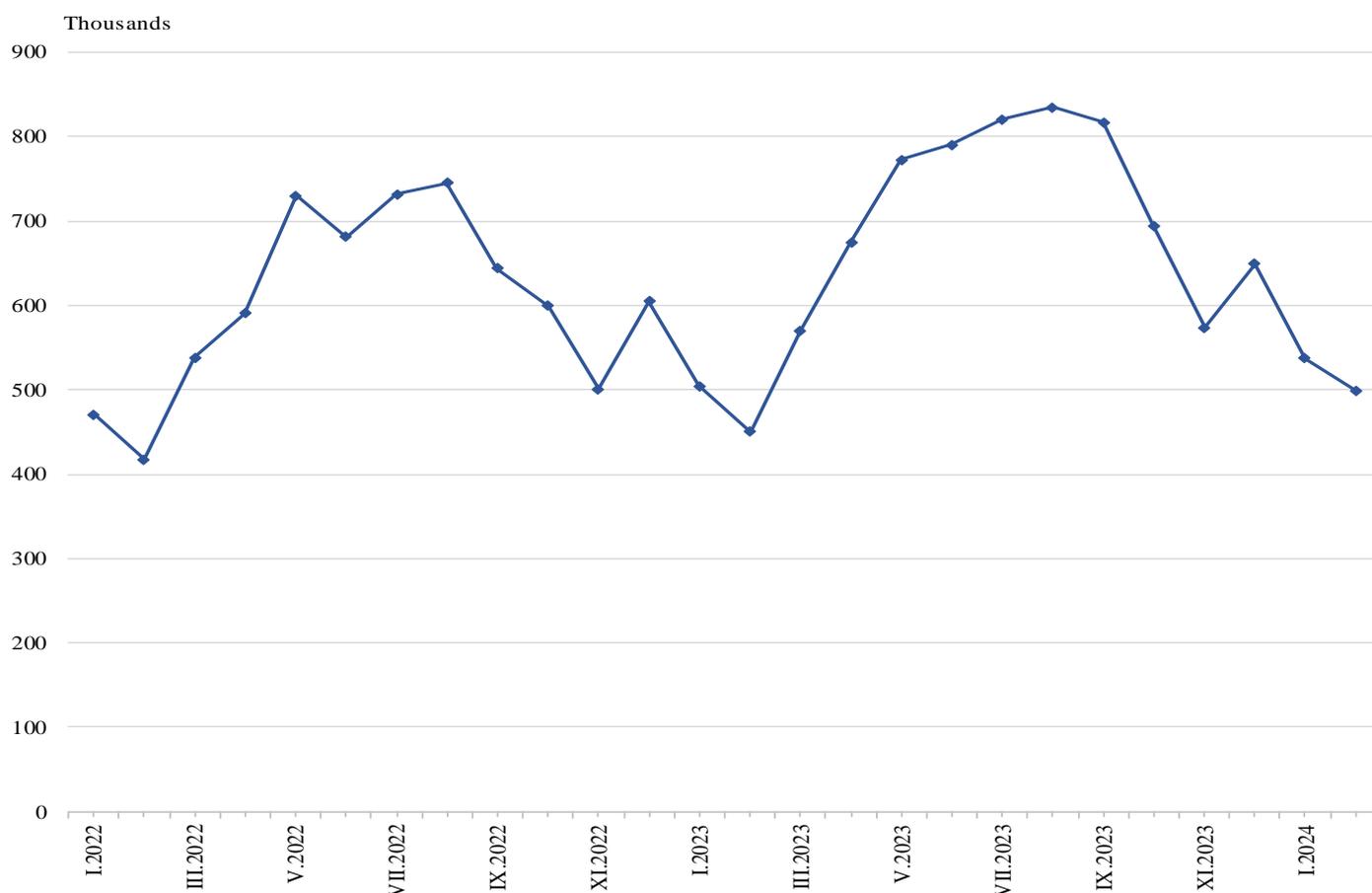


TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD AND ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA IN FEBRUARY 2024

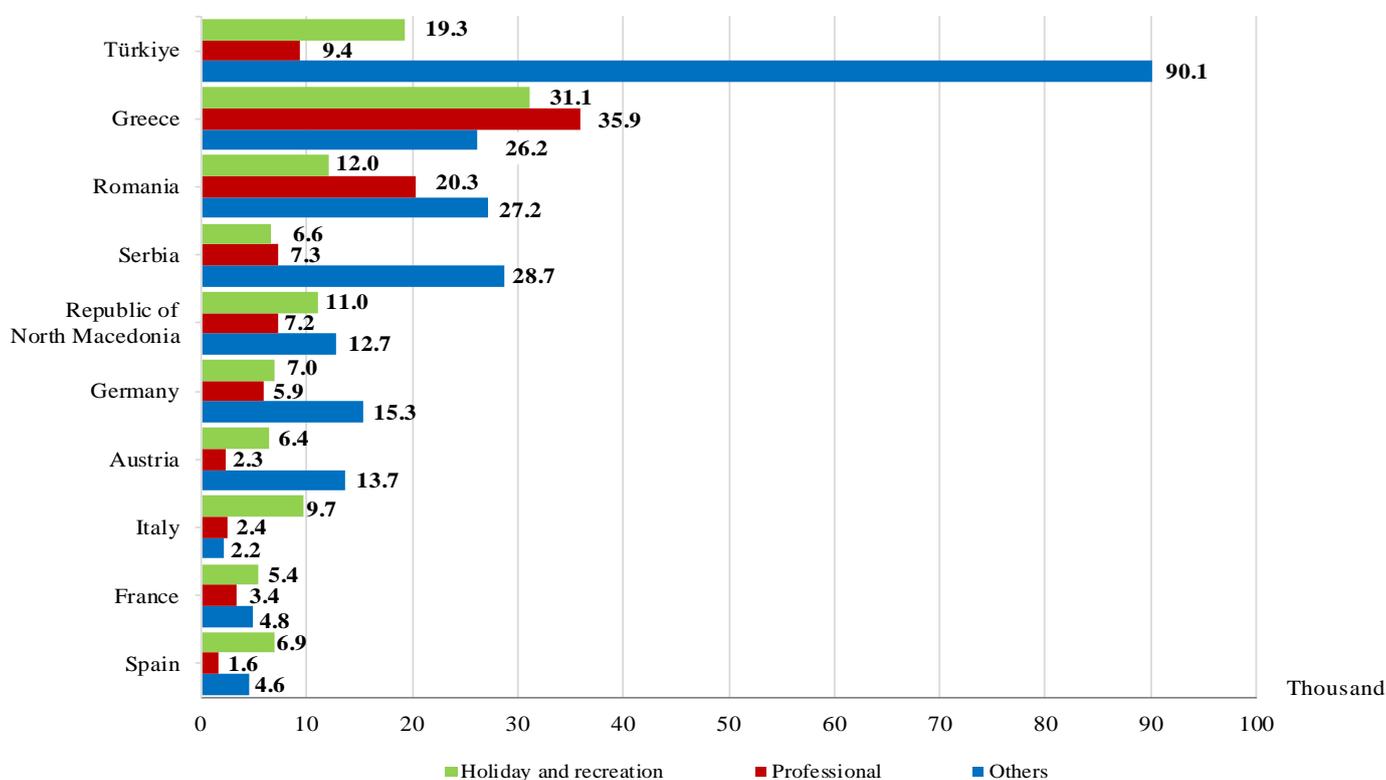
In February 2024, **the number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad** was 499.0 thousand (Annex, Table 1), or 10.7% above the registered in February 2023. An increase was registered in the trips with other purpose - by 22.9%, and with holiday and recreation purposes - by 7.4%, while those with professional purpose decreased by 5.7%.

Figure 1. Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by months



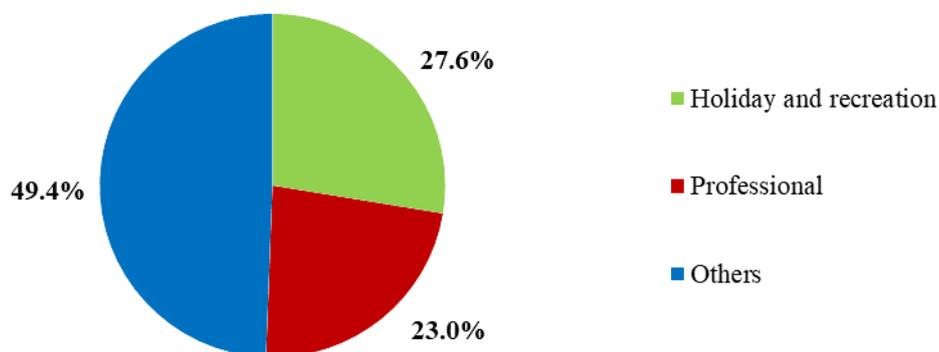
Most trips of Bulgarian residents were made to: Türkiye - 118.8 thousand, Greece - 93.2 thousand, Romania - 59.5 thousand, Serbia - 42.6 thousand, Republic of North Macedonia - 30.9 thousand, Germany - 28.2 thousand, Austria - 22.4 thousand, Italy - 14.3 thousand, France - 13.6 thousand, Spain - 13.1 thousand (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Top foreign destinations for Bulgarian residents by purpose of visit in February 2024



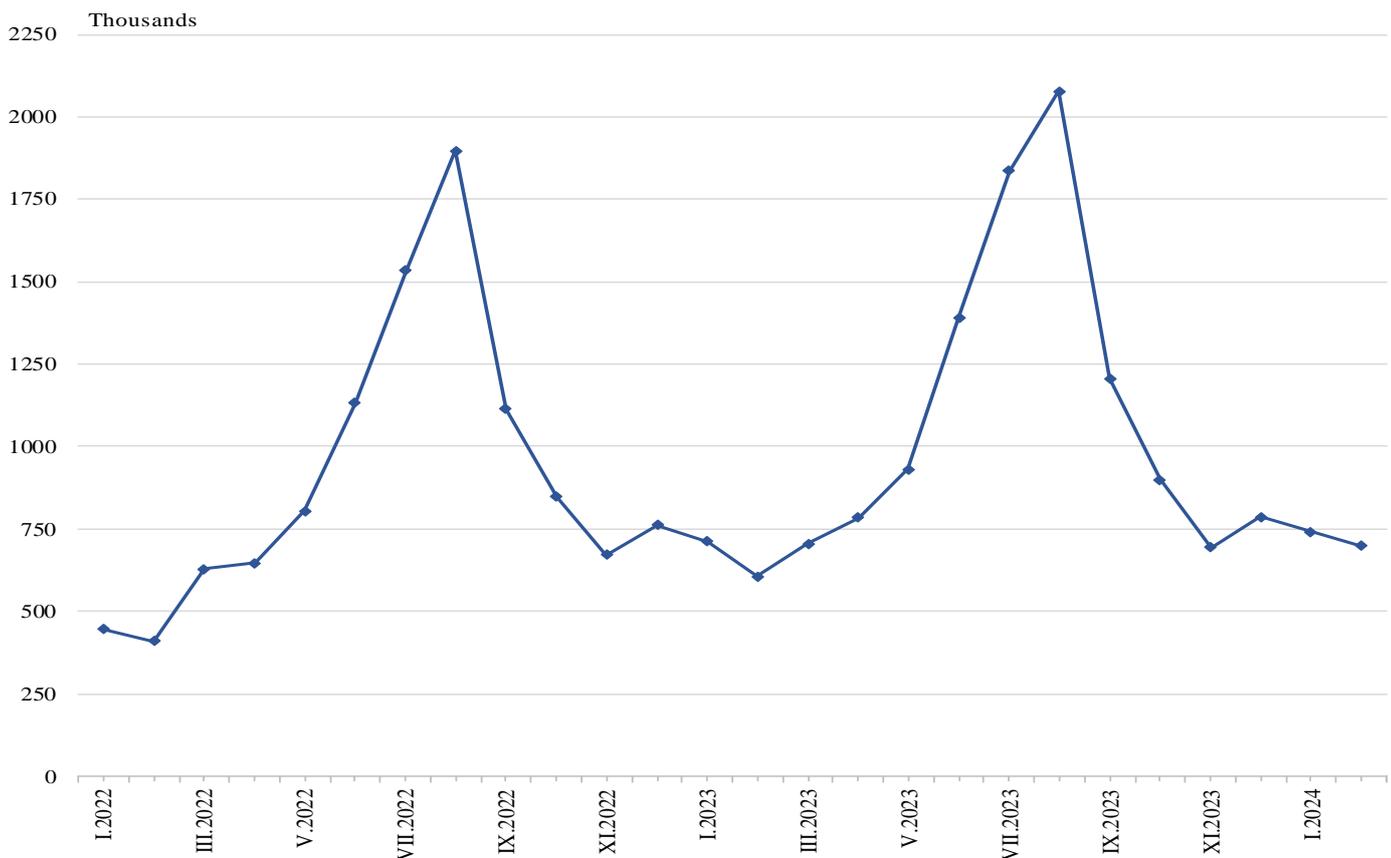
The trips with other purposes (as a guest, education and visiting cultural and sports events) composed the greatest share of the total number of trips of Bulgarian residents abroad - 49.4%, followed by those with holiday and recreation purposes - 27.6%, and with professional purpose - 23.0%.

Figure 3. Structure of the trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit in February 2024



In February 2024, the number of visits of non-residents to Bulgaria was 698.9 thousand (Annex, Table 2), or 15.6% more in comparison with the same month of the previous year (Figure 4). An increase in the trips with all observed purposes was registered - holiday and recreation, professional and others. Transit passes through the country were 31.5% (220.0 thousand) of all visits of non-residents to Bulgaria.

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



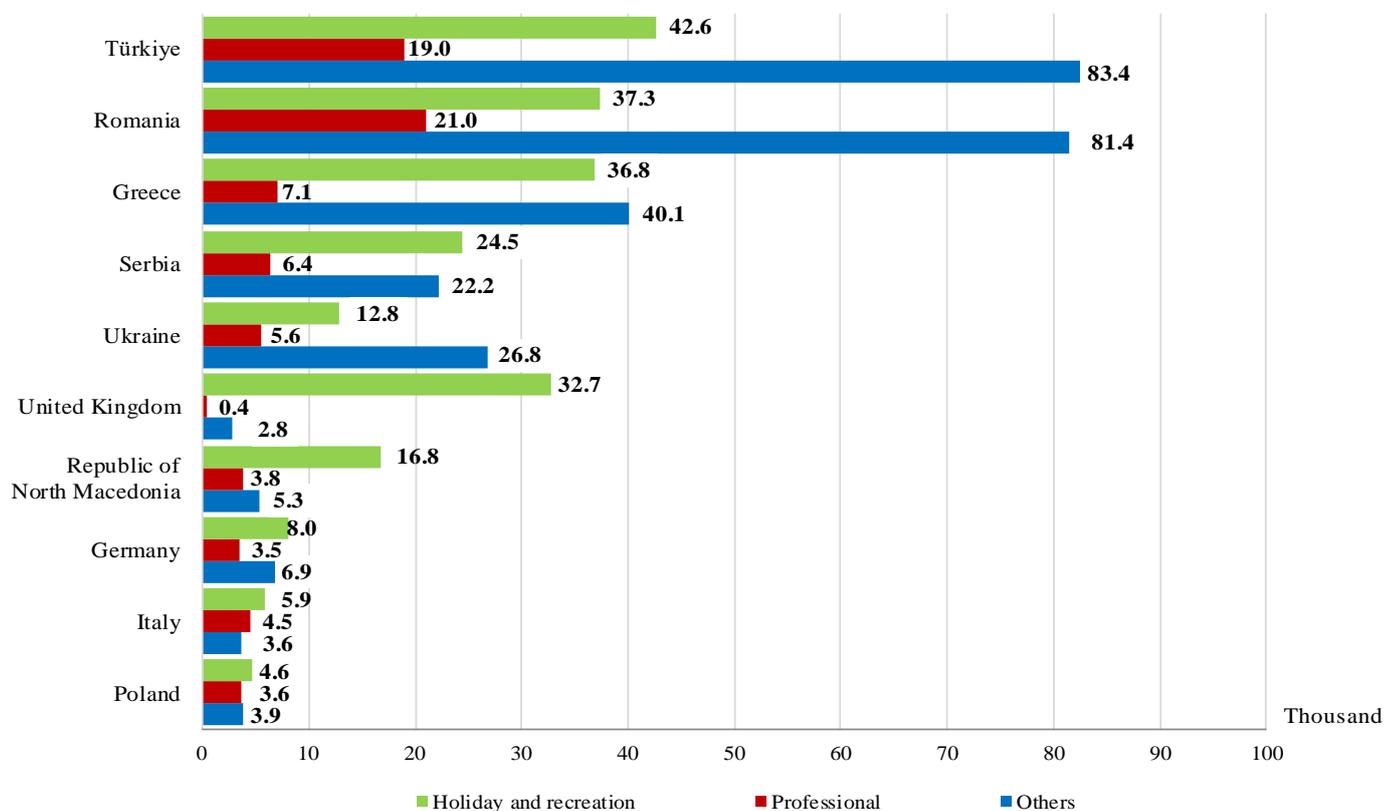
The share of visits of EU citizens was 46.2% of the total number of non-residents' visits to Bulgaria and reached 322.7 thousand, the largest being by visitors from Romania - 43.3%, and Greece - 26.0%.

The visits of non-residents in the group 'Other European countries'¹ were 312.5 thousand, or 44.7% of all visits to Bulgaria. The highest number of visits from Türkiye - 145.0 thousand, or 46.4% in this group, was registered.

Most visits to Bulgaria were from: Türkiye - 145.0 thousand, Romania - 139.7 thousand, Greece - 84.0 thousand, Serbia - 53.1 thousand, Ukraine - 45.2 thousand, the United Kingdom - 35.9 thousand, Republic of North Macedonia - 25.9 thousand, Germany - 18.4 thousand, Italy - 14.0 thousand, Poland - 12.1 thousand (Figure 5).

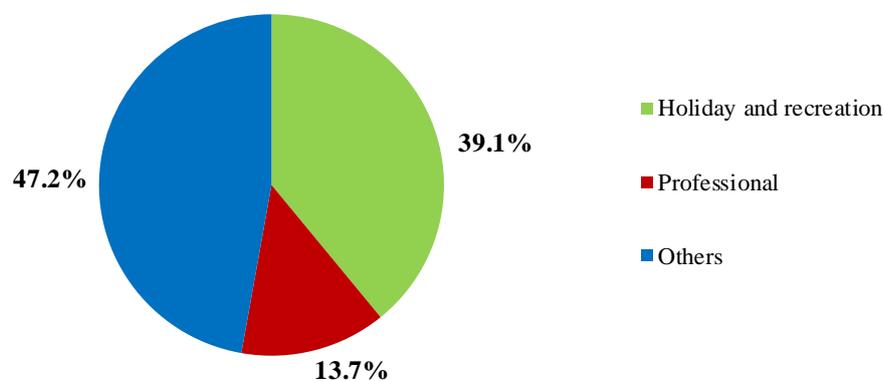
¹ Group 'Other European countries' includes countries in Europe outside the EU.

Figure 5. Top visits by non-residents to Bulgaria by country of residence and purpose in February 2024



The predominant share of the visits was with other purposes - 47.2%, followed by trips with holiday and recreation purposes - 39.1%, and with professional purpose - 13.7%.

Figure 6. Structure of visits of non-residents to Bulgaria by purpose in February 2024





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 the 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 checkpoints.

Data on the number of 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 checkpoints.



Annex

Table 1

**Trips of Bulgarian residents abroad by purpose of visit
and country of destination in February 2024**

(Number)

Country of destination	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	498998	137872	114589	246537
EU	286094	94085	83243	108766
Austria	22392	6364	2357	13671
Belgium	7902	1437	2514	3951
Croatia	2293	1493	573	227
Cyprus	423	217	-	206
Czechia	6866	3433	306	3127
Denmark	1585	432	507	646
Finland	514	263	-	251
France	13615	5446	3404	4765
Germany	28231	6993	5957	15281
Greece	93185	31062	35903	26220
Hungary	3381	1449	1230	702
Ireland	615	384	108	123
Italy	14262	9652	2439	2171
Malta	224	146	78	-
Netherlands	5865	1564	1173	3128
Poland	5013	2063	1836	1114
Portugal	1235	926	309	-
Romania	59490	11996	20341	27153
Slovakia	1612	584	759	269
Slovenia	1534	368	767	399
Spain	13098	6851	1614	4633
Sweden	2078	716	831	531
Other EU countries	681	246	237	198
Other European countries	204334	40507	27561	136266
Norway	542	395	-	147
Republic of North Macedonia	30873	11026	7167	12680
Russian Federation	212	-	-	212
Serbia	42636	6616	7351	28669
Switzerland	2280	345	1425	510
Türkiye	118779	19298	9402	90079
Ukraine	195	-	130	65
United Kingdom	8817	2827	2086	3904
Other countries	1083	287	483	313
Canada	274	162	-	112
Israel	187	125	-	62
USA	622	-	483	139
Rest of the world	7487	2993	3302	1192

Table 2

Arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria
by purpose of visit and country of origin in February 2024

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit		
		Holiday and recreation	Professional	Others
Total	698944	273213	95634	330097
EU	322727	112989	51277	158461
Austria	5903	1102	1259	3542
Belgium	3888	1028	548	2312
Croatia	2260	1191	237	832
Cyprus	2429	1340	-	1089
Czechia	3155	707	423	2025
Denmark	1170	472	166	532
Finland	486	265	221	-
France	6829	2561	1280	2988
Germany	18420	7959	3578	6883
Greece	83972	36822	7094	40056
Hungary	3842	1921	197	1724
Ireland	4249	2502	1299	448
Italy	13988	5866	4512	3610
Malta	606	121	485	-
Netherlands	5363	1625	1492	2246
Poland	12140	4605	3629	3906
Portugal	1561	957	390	214
Romania	139670	37342	20953	81375
Slovakia	1169	305	142	722
Slovenia	867	373	125	369
Spain	6364	2408	2064	1892
Sweden	2656	624	531	1501
Other EU countries	1740	893	652	195
Other European countries	312470	132959	36629	142882
Norway	614	315	208	91
Republic of North Macedonia	25915	16802	3844	5269
Russian Federation	4767	2531	487	1749
Serbia	53118	24497	6449	22172
Switzerland	1924	749	576	599
Türkiye	145016	42585	18989	83442
Ukraine	45241	12812	5623	26806
United Kingdom	35875	32668	453	2754
Other countries	12424	10508	759	1157
Canada	642	444	79	119
Israel	7589	7303	90	196
Japan	477	329	80	68
USA	3716	2432	510	774
Rest of the world	51323	16757	6969	27597