

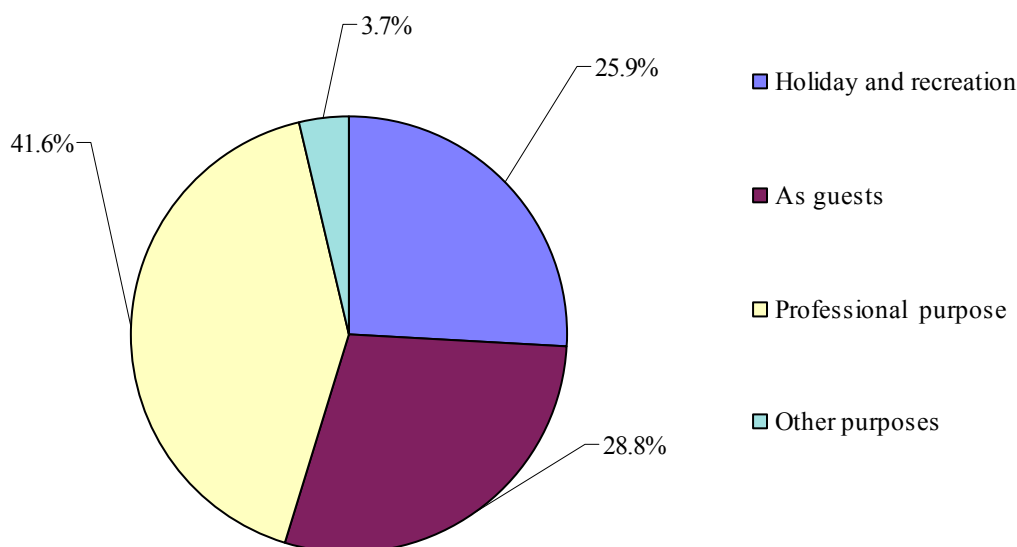


Trips of Bulgarian residents in abroad and arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria in December 2009

In December 2009, the number of the trips of Bulgarian residents in abroad was 297.9 thousand, which was 24.2% less than the number of the trips in December 2008 (Annex 1).

As compared to the same month of 2008 an increase in the total number of the trips was registered, namely to: Finland - by 183.8%. At the same time, a decrease was registered in the number of the trips for all other observed countries. The highest decline was observed in the trips to Ireland - by 98.6%, Japan - by 70.0%, Malta - by 68.2%, Portugal - by 62.6%, Israel - by 61.6%, Slovakia - by 60.9%, Sweden - 52.1%, followed by France - by 47.5%, Austria - by 45.1%, Denmark - by 43.3%, Russian Fed. - by 39.6%, USA - by 39.1%, Greece - by 38.6%, Slovenia - by 38.2%, Cyprus - by 37.5%, Belgium - by 35.0%, Germany - by 35.0%.

The highest share of the trips of the Bulgarian citizens travelling abroad had the trips with professional purpose - 41.6%, followed by visits as guests - 28.8%, trips with holiday and recreation purpose - 25.9% and other purposes - 3.7%.



Structure of the trips of Bulgarian residents in abroad by purpose of visit in December 2009

In December 2009, the number of arrivals of visitors from abroad to Bulgaria was 357.1 thousand or 7.3% less than the number of trips in the same month of 2008 (Annex 2).

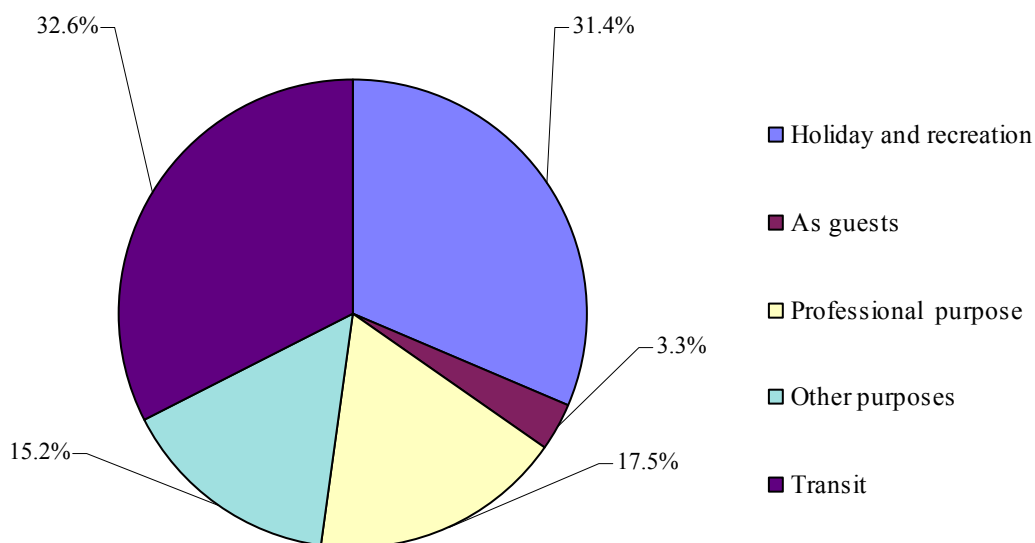
In respect to EU Member States less visits were observed for citizens of Ireland - by 25.7% Malta - by 23.6%, United Kingdom - by 20.9%, Greece - by 20.3%, Cyprus - by 8.9%, and Romania - by 5.7%. At the same time, an increase of arrivals was registered from Spain - by 13.5%, Czech Republic - by 11.0%, France - by 9.3% and Portugal - by 9.2%.

In the group "Other European countries"¹ the highest drop was observed in the number of visits of citizens from Norway - by 39.5%, Serbia - by 6.4%, FYROM - by 4.4%. At the same time, the increase in the number of visits of citizens from Ukraine was seen - by 9.7% and from Russian Fed. - by 5.6%.

In December 2009, arrivals with transit purpose composed the greatest share of the total number of foreigners' visited Bulgaria - 32.6%, followed by holiday and recreation purpose -

¹ Group of "Other European countries" include countries in Europe outside EU.

31.4%, professional purpose - 17.5%, other purposes - 15.2% and visits as guests - 3.3%.



Structure of arrivals of visitors to Bulgaria from abroad by purpose of visit in December 2009

Methodological notes

Statistical data on the trips of Bulgarian citizens travelling abroad and visits by foreigners in Bulgaria are obtained on the basis of monthly information received from the Ministry of Interior and sample survey of the National Statistical Institute among Bulgarian and foreign citizens passing the 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 of “third countries” are obtained directly from the Ministry of Interior.

Data on the purposes of the trips are developed on the basis of the NSI’s regular monthly sample survey of passing Bulgarian and foreign citizens on the border check points.

Annex 1

TRIPS OF BULGARIAN RESIDENTS ABROAD BY PURPOSE OF VISIT AND BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION IN DECEMBER 2009

Country of destination	Total	Purpose of visit				(Number)
		Holiday and recreation	As guests	Professional	Others	XII 2009 to XII 2008 %
Total	297888	77221	85724	123896	11047	-24.2
EU	137399	43376	11010	81103	1910	-36.6
of which :						
Austria	5424	2748	269	2305	102	-45.1
Belgium	2233	685	249	1265	34	-35.0
United Kingdom	6718	1175	1206	4019	318	-32.1
Germany	11547	4050	711	6647	139	-35.0
Greece	67643	17915	5684	43441	603	-38.6
Denmark	131	27	17	86	1	-43.3
Ireland	6	3	1	2	-	-98.6
Spain	6496	2091	513	3703	189	-32.7
Italy	5743	2075	282	3296	90	-29.2
Cyprus	963	240	94	609	20	-37.5
Malta	163	89	7	64	3	-68.2
Netherlands	1850	575	167	1067	41	-21.3
Poland	1074	418	55	569	32	-29.7
Portugal	74	24	19	27	4	-62.6
Romania	21668	9116	1336	11039	177	-32.4
Slovakia	124	43	-	81	-	-60.9
Slovenia	134	61	1	72	-	-38.2
Hungary	1441	456	189	726	70	-29.2
Finland	105	30	37	34	4	183.8
France	1894	685	98	1062	49	-47.5
Czech Rep.	1818	814	68	908	28	-28.3
Sweden	80	36	7	35	2	-52.1
Other European countries	156237	32352	74408	40822	8655	-7.3
Norway	40	9	3	18	10	-24.5
FYROM	24144	3936	9549	5894	4765	-10.0
Russian Fed.	810	179	66	500	65	-39.6
Serbia	28548	14212	1484	11980	872	-8.0
Turkey	101955	13904	63231	21943	2877	-5.9
Ukraine	740	112	75	487	66	-10.7
Other countries	604	96	54	171	283	-50.2
Israel	247	61	15	130	41	-61.6
Canada	64	6	6	4	48	-17.9
USA	287	28	33	33	193	-39.1
Japan	6	1	-	4	1	-70.0
Rest of the world	3648	1397	252	1800	199	-43.0

**ARRIVALS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD TO BULGARIA
BY PURPOSE OF VISIT AND BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IN DECEMBER 2009**

(Number)

Country of origin	Total	Purpose of visit					XII 2009 to XII 2008 %
		Holiday and recreation	As guests	Profesional	Others	Transit	
Total	357101	112241	11753	62567	54236	116304	-7.3
EU	223062	81425	6353	53293	31152	50839	-10.7
of which :							
Austria	6953	1152	94	4355	434	918	8.4
Belgium	1762	520	119	772	106	245	3.3
United Kingdom	9939	2289	884	2152	1157	3457	-20.9
Germany	9796	2986	941	4343	512	1014	8.6
Greece	83028	36767	1564	11799	17863	15035	-20.3
Denmark	655	87	21	432	112	3	1.6
Ireland	2250	916	5	220	104	1005	-25.7
Spain	2327	612	120	1255	198	142	13.5
Italy	6258	2699	829	2002	227	501	3.7
Cyprus	1393	807	108	132	151	195	-8.9
Malta	921	294	-	45	184	398	-23.6
Netherlands	2361	569	151	672	344	625	4.1
Poland	3738	819	138	1612	741	428	7.6
Portugal	261	95	10	53	57	46	9.2
Romania	79457	27249	986	19460	6980	24782	-5.7
Slovakia	1741	504	23	216	700	298	6.7
Slovenia	605	291	10	202	57	45	8.4
Hungary	2109	385	15	1067	424	218	11.0
Finland	300	121	5	108	21	45	-0.3
France	3051	1023	145	1139	219	525	9.3
Czech Rep.	2326	517	174	929	269	437	11.0
Sweden	823	412	4	98	111	198	2.6
Other European countries	110658	24099	4440	6646	19309	56164	-2.1
Norway	219	92	2	105	9	11	-39.5
FYROM	25214	8664	2660	575	4829	8486	-4.4
Russian Fed.	8551	4898	505	958	1689	501	5.6
Serbia	14683	7413	195	455	1564	5056	-6.4
Turkey	54492	1715	940	4060	8825	38952	-2.1
Ukraine	7499	1317	138	493	2393	3158	9.7
Other countries	4678	3048	207	1026	283	114	-10.6
Israel	1587	1046	24	409	85	23	-22.5
Canada	427	307	32	52	20	16	-7.0
USA	2303	1479	146	440	170	68	-1.5
Japan	361	216	5	125	8	7	-6.2
Rest of the world	18703	3669	753	1602	3492	9187	8.2