

Domestic Sentiment Tracker: January 2024

Published: 23rd January 2024

Fieldwork Period: 2nd to 8th January 2024

UK Results



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Introduction

- VisitEngland, VisitScotland and Visit Wales have commissioned a Domestic Sentiment Tracker to understand the impact of major events, such as the cost of living crisis, on the UK public's intent to take overnight trips, both within the UK and abroad.
- The survey addresses areas, such as: current attitude to travel (incl. concerns around travel and reassurances needed from the tourism sector), intentions of UK residents to travel for day trips, short breaks and holidays, when they plan to book and when they plan to go on their trip, as well as the destination, type of location and accommodation for their intended trip.
- This tracker is based on a UK nationally representative sample of 1,500 adults aged 16+, with additional boosts for Scotland and Wales.
- Fieldwork tends to take place at the start of each month and this wave's fieldwork was conducted between 2nd to 8th January 2024.
- The results (both, reports and data tables) are made publicly available and updated each wave at the following website:

https://www.visitbritain.org/domestic-sentiment-tracker





Definitions used within this report

In this report, we look at the behaviour and attitudes of a number of separate audiences depending on when they intend to take an overnight domestic trip.

- January to March 2024 Intenders: Residents of the UK who claim their next domestic overnight trip will take place between <u>January to March 2024</u>
- April to June 2024 Intenders: Residents of the UK who claim their next domestic overnight trip will take place between <u>April to June 2024</u>

We also segment respondents by life stage and use the following definitions:

- Pre-Nesters: Aged 16-34 without children in household
- Families: Aged 16-64 with children in household
- Older Independents: Aged 35-64 without children in household
- Retirement age: Aged 65+





January 2024: Scorecard of Key Metrics

Key Metrics	January 2024	Change since December 2023
% of UK adults stating 'WORST IS STILL TO COME' regarding the cost of living crisis	42%	-5%*
Proportion intending a UK overnight trip at any point in the next 12 months	79%	+1%
Proportion intending an overseas overnight trip at any point in the next 12 months	64%	=
Preference for UK over overseas in the next 12 months (vs past 12 months)	33%	-1%
Took a domestic overnight trip in the past 12 months (January 2023 – December 2023)	65%	+2%
Net proportion of UK trips in the next 12 months vs the last 12 months [% 'more' minus % 'fewer' trips]	6%	+3%*
Net proportion of overseas trips in the next 12 months vs the last 12 months [% 'more' minus % 'fewer' trips]	-10%	+2%
Reduce the number of UK overnight trips due to cost of living crisis [NET 'fewer', 'not go', 'go day trips instead']	25%	-2%
Reduce the number of day trips due to cost of living crisis [NET 'fewer', 'not go on day trips']	31%	-2%
Top 3 barriers to taking a UK overnight trip in the next 6 months	1 st Rising cost of living; 2 nd UK weather 3 rd Personal Finances	None

^{*} Represents a statistically significant change on previous wave N/A – due to new question wording meaning comparison to last wave cannot be done





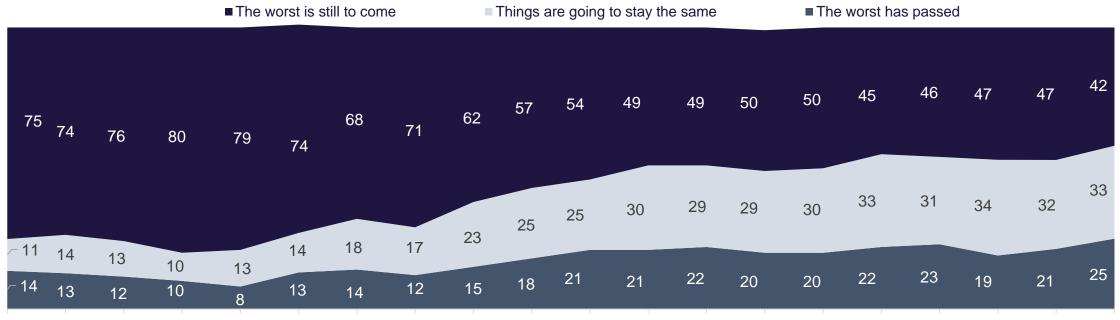


1. Current General Sentiment



Now, a quarter think that 'the worst has passed' in relation to the cost-of-living crisis, a significant improvement on recent months and the highest figure since we began tracking

Figure 1. Perception of the situation with regards to cost of living crisis, Percentage wave-on-wave, UK



Jun'22 Jul'22 Aug'22 Sep'22 Oct'22 Nov'22 Dec'22 Jan'23 Feb'23 Mar'23 Apr'23 May '23 Jun' 23 Jul'23 Aug'23 Sep'23 Oct'23 Nov'23 Dec'23 Jan'24 22nd Jun: 20th Jul: 17th Aug: 14th Sep: 19th Oct: 16th Nov:14th Dec: 18th Jan: UK 15th Feb: 22nd 19th April: 24th May: 22nd June:19th July: 20th 20th Sept – 14th Nov – 20th Dec – UK inflation Fuel, milk UK inflation UK inflation UK inflation UK UK inflation eases UK March: UK UK Inflation Inflation August: inflation fell UK inflation fell inflation eases to hits 10.1%; inflation inflation to 10.5%; 2nd inflation inflation Inflation Inflation fell rate rate down Inflation to 6.7%. and eggs to 4.6%, has fallen 9.9% but 20th Oct: Liz up to eases to Feb: Bank of eases to jumps to fell to to 8.7% in remained to 7.9% in rate falls the lowest to 3.9%, the 40-vear steepest shoppers remains close Truss 11.1%, 10.7% but England 10.1% 10.4% due 10.1% in April unchanged June sharply togenains the high of in two lowest in feel the to 40-year resigns; 25th 41-year remains 9.1% in 40 at 8.7% in 6.8% in to veg March same in expects vears. two years. Oct: Rishi high inflation hit hiah close to recession 'to vears shortages May July October. Sunak UK's 41-year be shorter and





Question: Q7b: And now regarding the 'cost of living crisis' in the UK and the way it is going to change in the coming few months, which of the following best describes your opinion? Base: All respondents. January 2024 = 1,760

less severe'

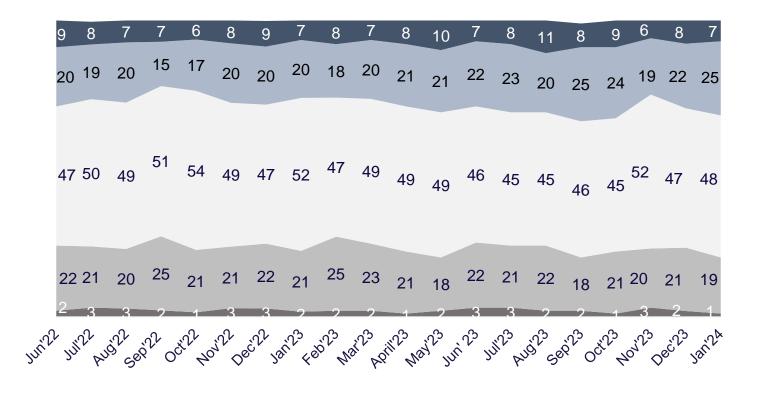
high

new prime

minister

Due to the cost-of-living crisis, most of UK adults (67%) are either 'cautious and being very careful' (48%) or have been 'hit hard and are cutting back' (19%)

Figure 2. Feelings about situation during the 'cost of living crisis', Percentage, UK



- I'm one of the lucky ones better off than before the crisis
- I'm alright the 'cost of living crisis' has not really affected me and confident it won't
- I'm cautious things are OK but I feel I have to be very careful
- I've been hit hard no option but to cut back on spending
- Although I've been hit hard and should cut back, I'll spend today and let tomorrow look after itself







2. Trip Intentions: UK and Overseas



Overnight domestic trip intentions are above the levels anticipated back in January 2023, 79% are planning a trip in the next 12 months compared to 70% a year earlier

Figure 5. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight UK trips, Percentage, January 2024, UK

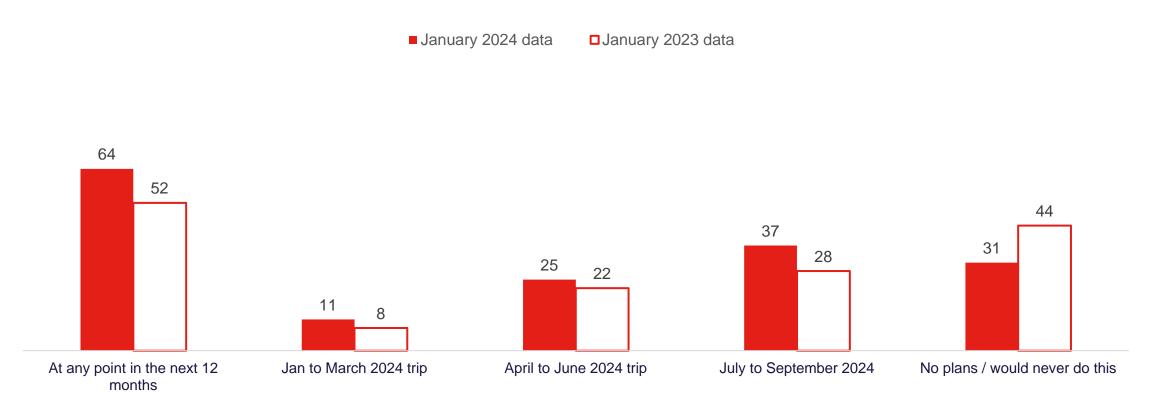






For <u>overnight overseas trips</u>, intentions are also above 2023 levels, 64% are planning an overseas trip in the next 12 months compared to 52% the year before

Figure 5b. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight overseas trips, Percentage, January 2024, UK



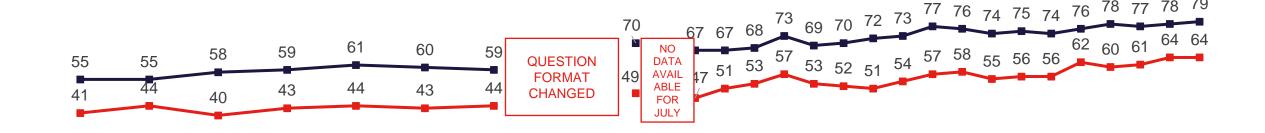




Long term domestic overnight trip intentions remain relatively stable over the last few waves, while overseas intensions have improved significantly since the summer

Figure 6. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight UK and overseas trips in the NEXT 12 MONTHS, Percentage, January 2024, UK

UK overnight trip —Overseas overnight trip



Nov-21 Dec-21 Jan-22 Feb-22 Mar-22 Apr-22 May-22

mi, my kna 260, Og, Kar, Oec, Nai, Eep, Way, Va, Wax, Mir, My Kna, 260, Oq, Kar, Oec, Nai, Ny

Question: QVB2a. Thinking of your next UK holiday or short break, when are you likely to go on this trip? QVB2b. And when else do you anticipate going on a UK holiday or short break? QVB2c. Thinking of your next OVERSEAS holiday or short break, when are you likely to go on this trip? QVB2d. And when else do you anticipate going on an overseas holiday or short break? Base: All respondents January 2024 = 1,760. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate taking multiple trips across several time periods.





At a 'net level', the number of intended domestic trips by UK adults is above those taken in the last 12 months – overseas intentions are still below

Figure 7. Number of <u>UK</u> overnight trips likely to take in next 12 months compared to last 12 months, Percentage, January 2024, UK

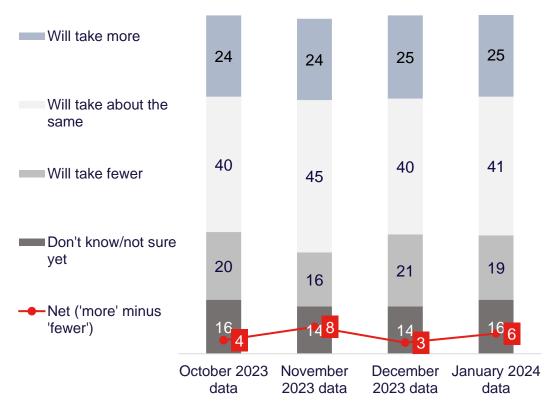
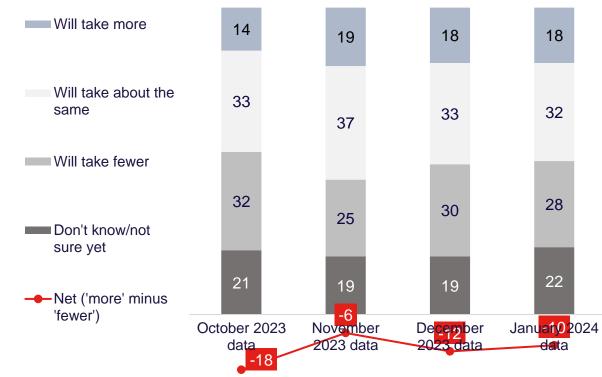


Figure 8. Number of <u>Overseas</u> overnight trips likely to take in next 12 months compared to last 12 months, Percentage, January 2024, UK

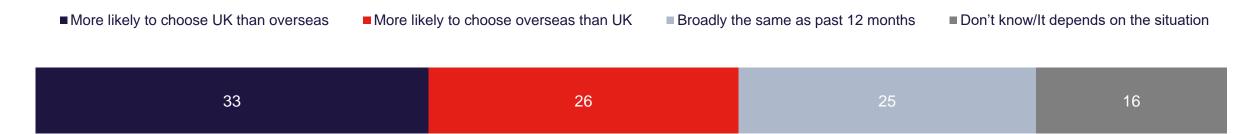






33% of respondents indicated they are more likely to choose a trip in the UK than overseas, compared to the last 12 months – the top reason being 'UK holidays are easier to plan' (56%)

Figure 9. Difference in short break/holiday choices in the next 6 months compared to last 12 months, Percentage, January 2024, UK



TOP 5 reasons for UK preference

- 1. UK holidays are easier to plan (56%)
 - 2. UK holidays are cheaper (51%)
 - 3. Shorter / quicker travel (47%)
- 4. To avoid long queues at airports/cancelled flights (39%)
- 5. I want to take holidays in places I am familiar with (28%)

TOP 5 reasons for Overseas preference

- 1. Better weather (51%)
- 2. I want to visit new places/experience new cultures (46%)
 - 3. Overseas holidays are cheaper (30%)
- 4. I'm prioritising overseas trips after missing out in the last few years (25%)
 - 5. To visit friends or relatives (18%)

FOR THE FULL LIST OF REASONS, PLEASE SEE THE PUBLISHED TABLES.



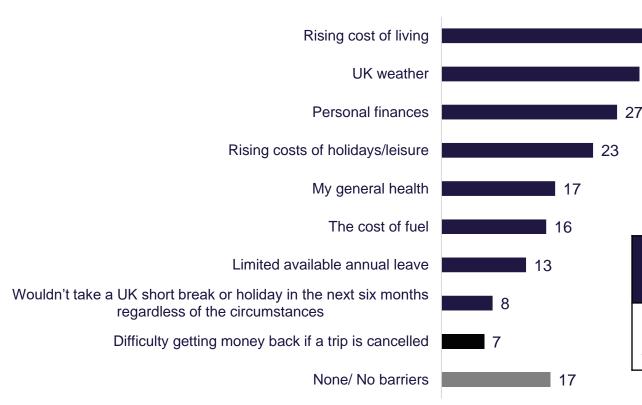


The top potential barrier to taking overnight UK trips in the next 6 months is the 'rising cost of living' (32%), followed by 'UK weather' (30%) and 'personal finances' (27%)

32

30

Figure 10. Top 10 Barriers to taking an overnight UK trip in next 6 months, Percentage, January 2024, UK



	October 2023 data	November 2023 data	December 2023 data	January 2024 data
NET: Costs and finances	58%	58%	58%	58%

FOR THE FULL LIST OF BARRIERS, PLEASE SEE THE PUBLISHED TABLES.

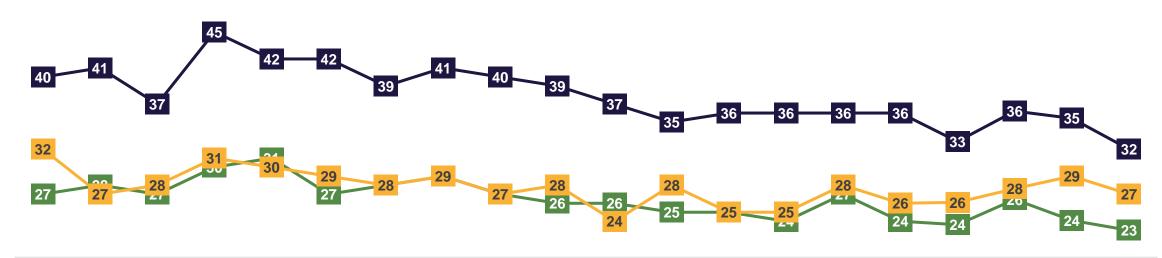




The 'rising cost of living' is the biggest financial barrier to taking an overnight domestic trip, followed by 'personal finances'

Figure 10b. Perceived financial barriers to an overnight trip in the UK in next 6 months, Wave-on-wave, Percentage, UK





Jun-22 Jul-22 Aug-22 Sep-22 Oct-22 Nov-22 Dec-22 Jan-23 Feb-23 Mar-23 Apr-23 May-23 Jun-23 Jul-23 Aug-23 Sep-23 Oct-23 Nov-23 Dec-23 Jan-24



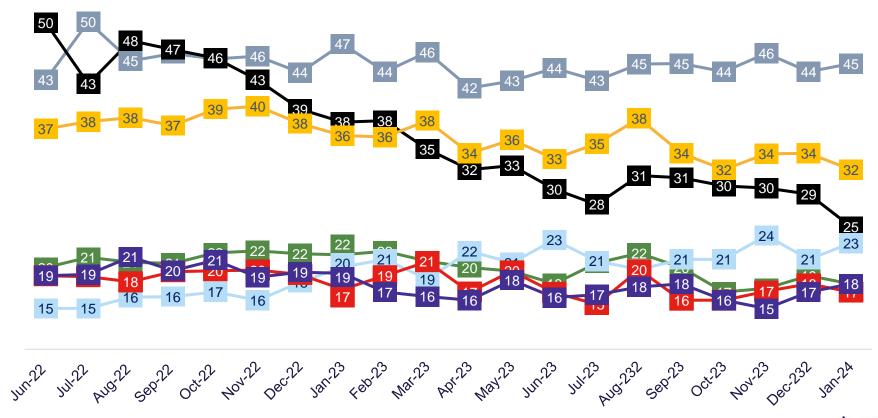


Focusing on barriers related directly to the cost of a domestic overnight trip, the 'cost of accommodation' remains at the top, followed by 'cost of drinking/eating out'

Figure 12. Individual costs barrier to taking UK holidays and short breaks in next 6 months, Wave-on-wave, Percentage, UK



- Cost of drinking/eating out
- Cost of visitor attractions
- None of these/No barriers
- Cost of activities
- Cost of public transport







Question: VB7bii. Which, if any, of these costs are the main financial barriers to you taking a UK short break or holiday in the next six months? Base: January 2024 = 1,760.

UK adults plan to cut their <u>overnight trip spending</u> mainly on accommodation, eating out and activities. 25% will cut the number of overnight trips they take

Figure 13a. 'Cost of living' impact on UK holidays and short breaks, Percentage, January 2024, UK, Full list







Question: VB7c. How, if at all, would you say the 'cost of living crisis' is likely to influence your UK short breaks or holidays in the next six months? Base: January 2024 = 1,760.

In terms of <u>UK day trips</u>, 27% of UK adults intend to look for more free things to do. 31% will reduce the number of day trips – slightly less than in previous waves

Figure 13b. 'Cost of living' impact on day trips, Percentage, January 2024, UK, Full list



Reduce the number of day trips	Oct 2023 data	Nov 2023 data	Dec 2023 data	Jan 2024 data
NET 'fewer', 'not go on day trips'	33%	33%	33%	31%





Question: VB7Cii. How, if at all, would you say the 'cost of living crisis' is likely to influence your day trips in the next few months? Base: January 2024 = 1,760.

In the next 12 months, UK adults are more likely to visit outdoor areas, practice leisure/sports activities or visit attractions. They are less likely to take part in wellbeing activities

Figure 14. Leisure venues and activities more or less likely to visit/do compared to last 12 months, Net: 'more likely' minus 'Less likely', Percentage, UK, January 2024



Question: VB9ai. Thinking about your personal finances, which, if any, of these types of places in the UK are you more likely to visit in the next 12 months, compared to the last 12 months? VB9bi. Still thinking about your personal finances, which, if any, are you less likely to visit in the next 12 months compared to the last 12 months? VB10ai. Again thinking about your personal finances, which, if any, of these types of activities are you more likely to do in the next 12 months, compared to the last 12 months? VB10bi. And which, if any, are you less likely to do in the next 12 months compared to the last 12 months?

Base: January 2024 = 1,760.





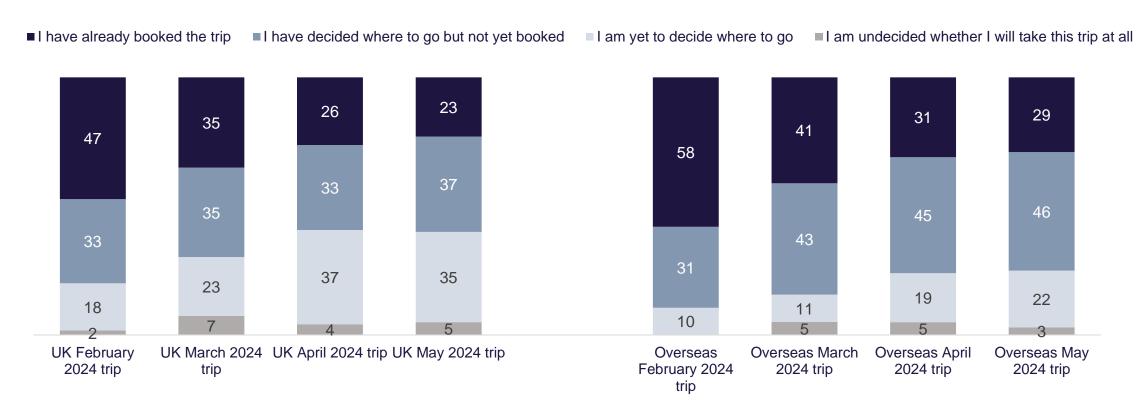


3. The Next Trip: Overnight and Day Trips



47% of UK adults have already booked their <u>domestic</u> trips for February, while 58% have already booked their <u>overseas</u> trips for the same month

Figure 15. Planning and booking the next intended UK and overseas overnight trip, Percentage, January 2024, UK

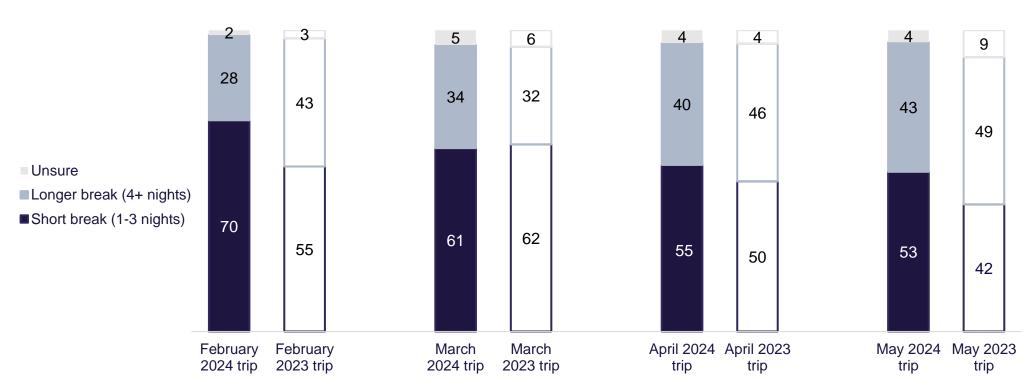






Short breaks are more likely between February and May 2024 – this is relatively in line with the same period a year ago

Figure 17. Length of next UK holiday or short break by time period, Percentage, January 2024, UK







Question: QVB3. Is this next trip to <INSERT DESTINATION FROM VB4A> in <INSERT MONTH FROM VB2A> likely to be a short break (1-3 nights) or a holiday (4+ nights)?

Base: All January 2024 respondents intending to take next holiday or short break in each time period: UK trip 2023-2024: February 2024 n = 132, March 2024 n = 167, April 2024 n = 221, May 2024 n = 185.

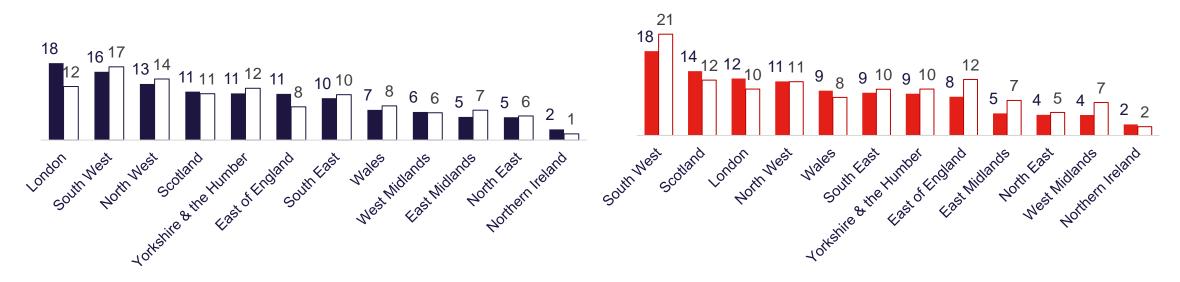
London is the most preferred UK overnight destination in January to March 2024, while the South West is the top for April-June 2024

Figure 18. Where planning on staying on next UK overnight <u>trip in January to March 2024</u>, Percentage, December 2023 and January 2024, UK

- December 2023 /January 2024 data
- □ December 2022 /January 2023 data

Figure 19. Where planning on staying on next UK overnight <u>trip</u> in April to June 2024, Percentage, December 2023 and January 2024, UK

- December 2023 /January 2024 data
- □ December 2022 /January 2023 data



Question: QVB4a. Where in the UK are you likely to stay on this next trip in <insert month>?

Base: All December 2023 and January 2024 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK January to March 2023 n = 572, April to June 2023 n = 958; January to March 2024 n = 785, April to June 2024 n = 1,029. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate staying in more than one location.





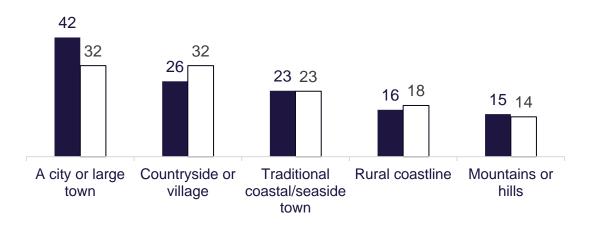
The top type of destination for overnight trips for January-March 2024 is 'City or large town', while it is 'Traditional coastal/seaside town' for the April-June 2024 period

Figure 20. Types of destination for <u>trip in January to March</u> <u>2024</u>, Percentage, December 2023 and January 2024, UK

- December 2023 /January 2024 data
- □ December 2022 /January 2023 data

Figure 21. Types of destination for overnight trip in April to June 2024, Percentage, December 2023 and January 2024, UK

- December 2023 /January 2024 data
- □ December 2022 /January 2023 data









For both time periods, own car is the most common mode of travel, followed by train

Figure 22. Top 5 main modes of travel to destination for <u>trip in January to March 2024</u>, Percentage, December 2023 and January 2024, UK

- December 2023 /January 2024 data
- □ December 2022 /January 2023 data

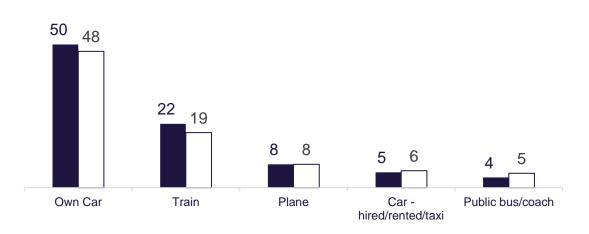
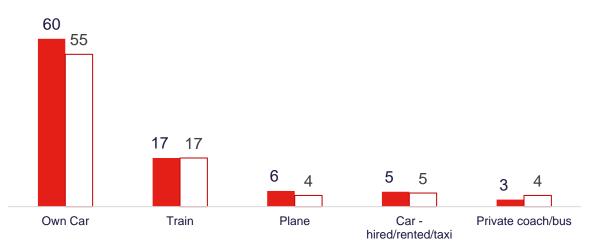


Figure 23. Top 5 main modes of travel to destination for overnight trip in April to June 2024, Percentage, December 2023 and January 2024, UK

- December 2023 /January 2024 data
- □ December 2022 /January 2023 data



FOR THE FULL LIST OF MODES OF TRANSPORT, PLEASE SEE THE PUBLISHED TABLES.

Question: VB4c. What do you anticipate being the main mode of travel to your next UK holiday or short break in <INSERT DESTINATION FROM VB4A> in <INSERT MONTH FROM VB2a>? Base: All December 2023 and January 2024 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK between January to March 2023 n = 572, April to June 2023 n = 958; January to March 2024 n = 785, April to June 2024 n = 1029.





For the next overnight trip in both time periods, 'hotel / motel / inn' is the leading accommodation type

Figure 24. Top 10 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight <u>trip in January to March 2024</u>, Percentage, December 2023 and January 2024, UK

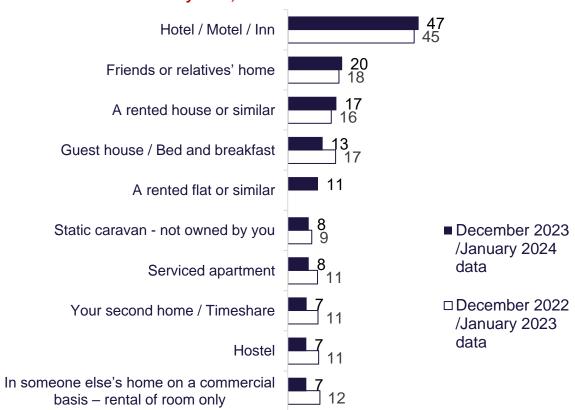
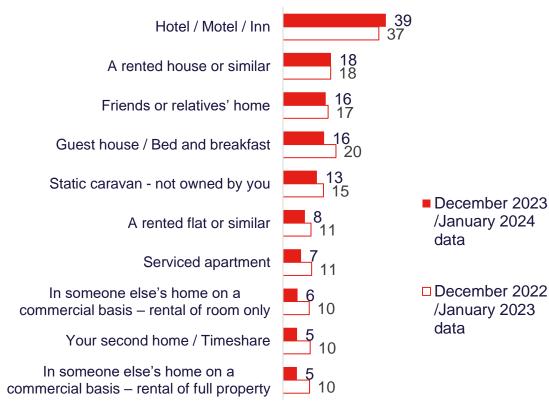


Figure 25. Top 10 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight <u>trip in April to June 2024</u>, Percentage, December 2023 and January 2024, UK



FOR THE FULL LIST OF ACCOMMODATION TYPES, PLEASE SEE THE PUBLISHED TABLES.

Question: VB6a. What type/s of accommodation do you expect to be staying in during your next UK holiday or short break in <INSERT DESTINATION FROM VB4A> in <INSERT MONTH FROM VB2A>? Base: All December 2023 and January 2024 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK between January to March 2023 n = 572, April to June 2023 n = 958; January to March 2024 n = 785, April to June 2024 n = 1029.





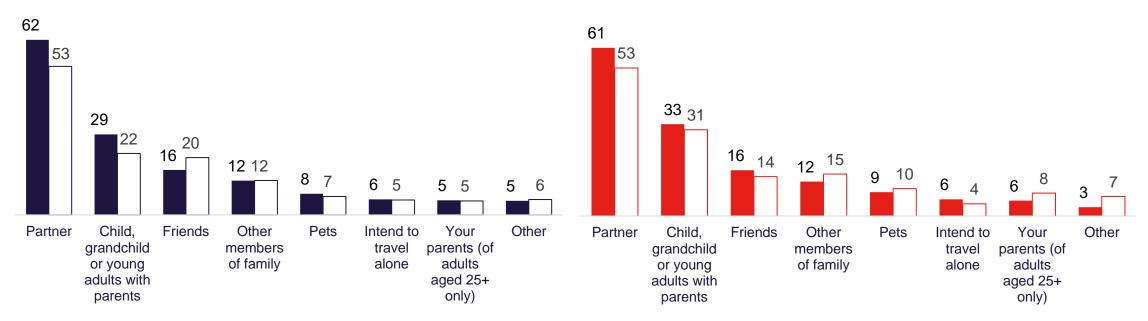
'Partner' is the most common companion on a trip during both time periods, followed by 'child, grandchild or young adult'

Figure 26. Visitor party make-up for <u>trip in January to March</u> <u>2024</u>, Percentage, December 2023 and January 2024, UK

- December 2023 /January 2024 data
- □ December 2022 /January 2023 data

Figure 27. Visitor party make-up for <u>trip in April to June 2024</u>, Percentage, December 2023 and January 2024, UK

- December 2023 /January 2024 data
- □ December 2022 /January 2023 data







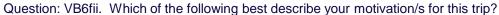
The top motivation for overnight trips in January to March 2024 is 'family time or time with my partner', while it is 'to get away from it all and have a rest' in April to June

Figure 28. Motivations for UK holidays and short breaks <u>in January to March 2024</u>, Percentage, January 2024, UK, Full list



Figure 29. Motivations for UK holidays and short breaks <u>in April to June</u> <u>2024</u>, Percentage, January 2024, UK, Full list





Base: All January 2024 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK between January to March 2024 n = 370, April to June 2024 n = 555.

Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100%.





The top activity in January to March 2024 is 'Trying local food and drink', while it is 'Walking, hiking or rambling' in April to June

Figure 30. Activities for UK holidays and short breaks, <u>in</u> <u>January - March 2024</u>, Percentage, January 2024, UK, Full list

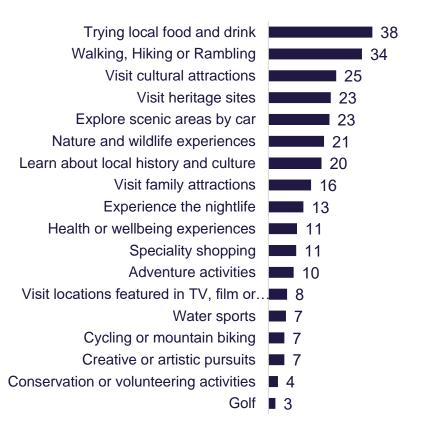
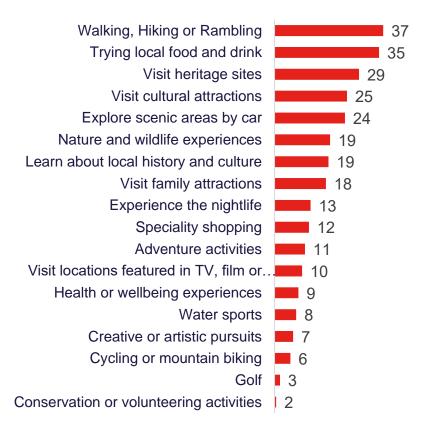


Figure 31. Activities for UK holidays and short breaks in April-June 2024, Percentage, January 2024, UK, Full list







Question: VB6fiii. Which, if any, of these activities are you likely to do on your next UK short break or holiday in <INSERT MONTH FROM VB2A>?

Base: All January 2024 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK between January to March 2024 n = 370, April to June 2024 n = 555.

Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100%.

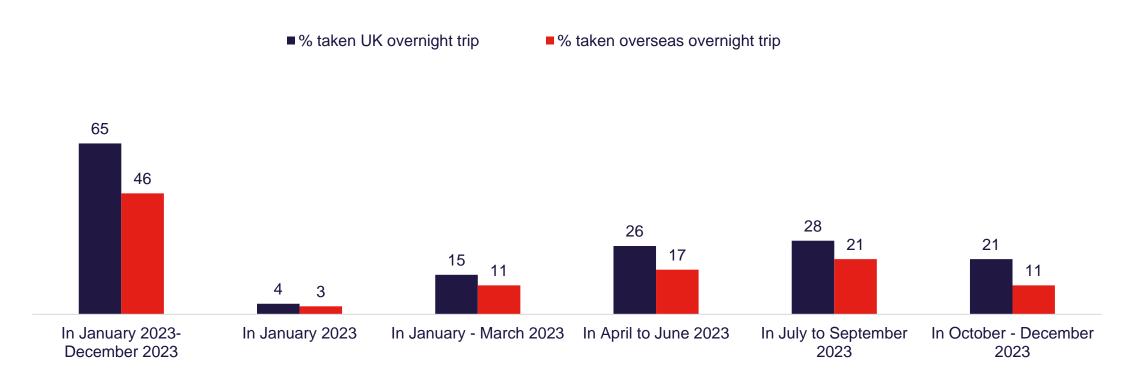


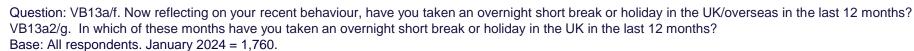
4. Past UK and Overseas Trips



Almost two thirds (65%) have taken a UK overnight trip between January and December 2023, while 61% have taken an overseas overnight trip during the same time period

Figure 32. Proportion UK adult population who have taken an overnight UK or overseas trip in below time period, Percentage, January 2024, UK



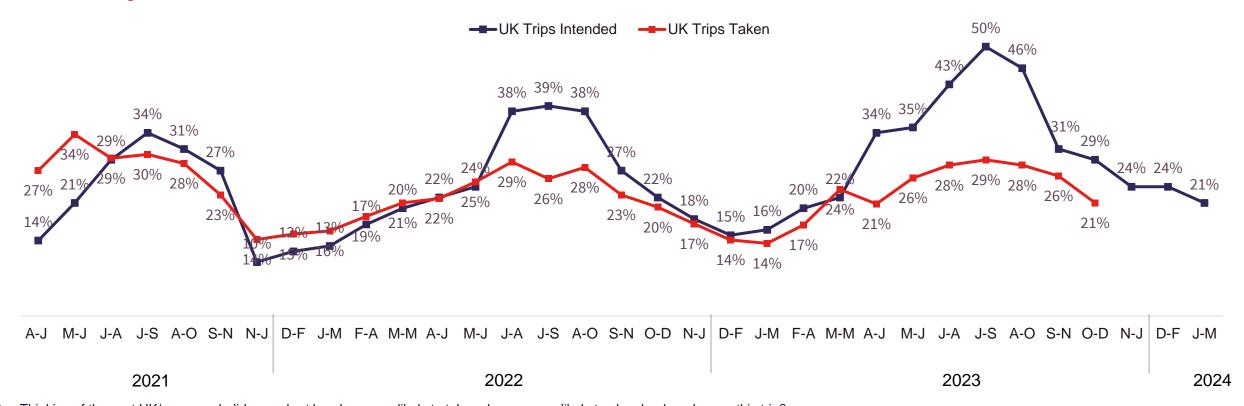






21% of respondents went on a domestic overnight trip between October and December 2023, compared to 29% who had previously intended to do so

Figure 32b. Incidence of UK short breaks or holidays intended within next 3 month and taken in last 3 months of UK adult population, Percentage, December 2023, UK



VB2a. Thinking of the next UK/overseas holiday or short break you are likely to take, when are you likely to plan, book and go on this trip?

VB13a: Now reflecting on your recent behaviour, have you taken an overnight short break or holiday in the UK in the last 12 months? Base: All UK respondents = 1760. Data shows the proportion intending to take a trip within the next 3 months – this will not account for intentions established less than 3 months ahead of trip date – and trips taken. Actual trips taken is only available from April 2021 up to December 2023.





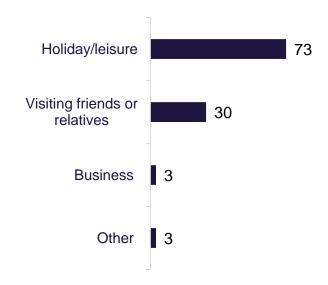
Note. UK trips taken based on fieldwork at the time, e.g. 'July-Sept 23' figures are from October 2023 fieldwork. This means there are some differences to the data presented on the previous slide

The South West, London and the North West were the most popular destination for domestic trips in the past three months, and the main purpose was for holiday/leisure

Figure 33. Destination of overnight trips taken in UK in the past three months, Percentage, January 2024, UK

Figure 34. Purpose of overnight UK trip taken in the past three months, Percentage, January 2024, UK





Question: VB13c. Where in the UK did you stay on your most recent trip in <INSERT MOST RECENT MONTH>? VB13e. And which of the following best describe the purpose/s of your most recent trip in <INSERT MOST RECENT MONTH >?

Base: All January 2024 respondents that took an overnight trips in the last three months n= 377

Note: Multiple choice questions. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents stayed in more than one location or travelled for more than one purpose







5. Overnight Business Trip Intentions (January 2024 data)



16% of UK adults in employment plan on taking an overnight business trip in the next 3 months. 'Conference' is the leading reason (34%), followed by 'Meeting' and 'Team Building' (26%)

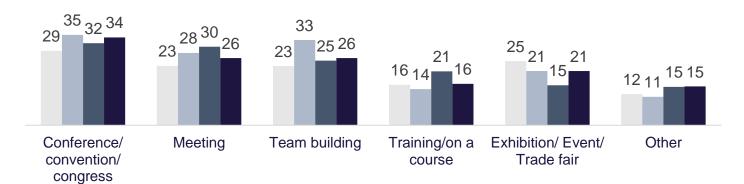
Figure 35. Proportion anticipating an overnight business trip in next 3 months, Percentage, January 2024, <u>UK adults in employment</u>

Figure 36. Reasons for taking an overnight business trip in next 3 months, Percentage, January 2024, UK adults in employment planning a trip

■ July 2023 data ■ September 2023 data ■ November 2023 data ■ January 2024 data







Question: VB14a. Now looking ahead again, are you intending to take any overnight business trips in the UK in the next three months? Please only answer yes if the overnight business trips are not a feature of your job. For example, if you are a long-distance lorry driver, airline crew or delivery service, an overnight stay would be a feature of the job so you would answer 'no'. Please also answer 'no' if your only overnight business trip is a regular trip to your main place of work (e.g. a weekly or monthly trip to your office). Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate more than one business reason.

VB14b: What would be the main reason for this overnight business trip? Base: January 2024 respondents currently in employment n = 1,337. All taking a business trip n=287.







Methodology & Further Data



Methodology

- This report presents findings from the January 2024 wave of the Domestic Sentiment Tracker, with comparisons to previous months where appropriate.
- The survey is conducted online, among a sample of the UK adult population.
- In the first stage, a nationally representative core sample of 1,500 is recruited and interviewed. This sample is then 'boosted' for Wales and Scotland to ensure sufficient base sizes for separate nation analysis. The data are then weighted to make the sample representative of the UK overall and within each nation.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The current 6th phase of this project started in April 2023 and will run until March 2024.
- With this newly commissioned phase, the questionnaire was updated to address the cost of living crisis' impact on trips intentions. It also covers the preference for domestic vs overseas overnight trips.
- Please note that because of the questionnaire updates, some questions are not comparable between this 6th phase and the previous phases / waves.



Master Data Table

- The full data tables are published on the VisitBritain website alongside this report and questions' data not shown in this report are available to view there: https://www.visitbritain.org/domestic-sentiment-tracker
 Extra questions available in the tables are:
 - VB1b. Likely to spend more, less or about the same on holidays in the next 12 months, vs last 12 months
 - VB9a/b. More/Less likely to visit leisure places in the UK in the next 12 months, vs last 12 months
 - VB10a/b. More/Less likely to conduct leisure activities in the UK in the next 12 months, vs last 12 months
- To access a .csv file of the data contained within the charts, please open this report with Adobe Reader. When you have done so, navigate to the left-hand side of the page to the attachments area, symbolised by a paperclip icon, and click on the file to open the attachment.

