

Domestic Sentiment Tracker: December 2022

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Fieldwork Period: 1st – 7th December 2022

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 and Covid-19, 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 1st 7th December 2022
- 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 2023 Intenders: Residents of the UK who claim their next domestic overnight trip will take place between <u>January and March 2023</u>
- April to June 2023 Intenders: Residents of the UK who claim their next domestic overnight trip will take place between <u>April and June 2023</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
- Retirees: Aged 65+



December 2022: Scorecard of Key Metrics

Key Metrics	December 2022	Change since November 2022	
% of UK adults stating 'WORST IS STILL TO COME' in regard to cost of living crisis	68%	-6%*	
Proportion intending a UK overnight trip at any point in the next 12 months	69%	-4%*	
Proportion intending an overseas overnight trip at any point in the next 12 months	53%	-4%*	
Preference for UK over overseas in the next 6 months (vs pre-pandemic)	35%	+1%	
Took a domestic overnight trip in the past 12 months [Dec 2021 - Nov 2022 vs Nov 2021 – Oct 2022]	58%	-6%*	
Net proportion of UK trips in the next 12 months vs pre-pandemic [% 'more' minus % 'fewer' trips]	3%	-1%	
Net proportion of overseas trips in the next 12 months vs pre-pandemic [% 'more' minus % 'fewer' trips]	-19%	-2%	
Reduce the number of UK overnight trips due to cost of living crisis [NET 'fewer', 'not go', 'go day trips instead']	30%	-6%*	
Reduce the number of day trips due to cost of living crisis [NET 'fewer', 'not go on day trips']	36%	-8%	
Top 3 barriers to taking a UK overnight trip in the next 6 months	1 st Rising cost of living; 2 nd Rising costs of holidays; 3 rd Personal finances	Rising costs of holidays moves to 2 nd ; Personal finances moves to 3 rd	



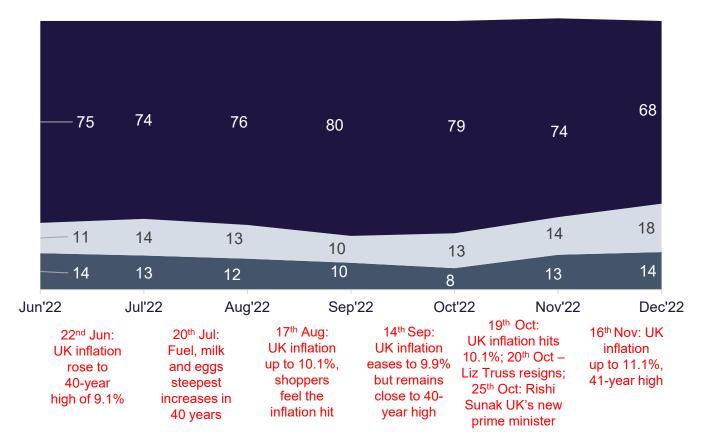


1. Current General Sentiment



Compared to previous months, fewer think 'the worst is still to come' in the next few months.

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



■ The worst is still to come

■ Things are going to stay the same

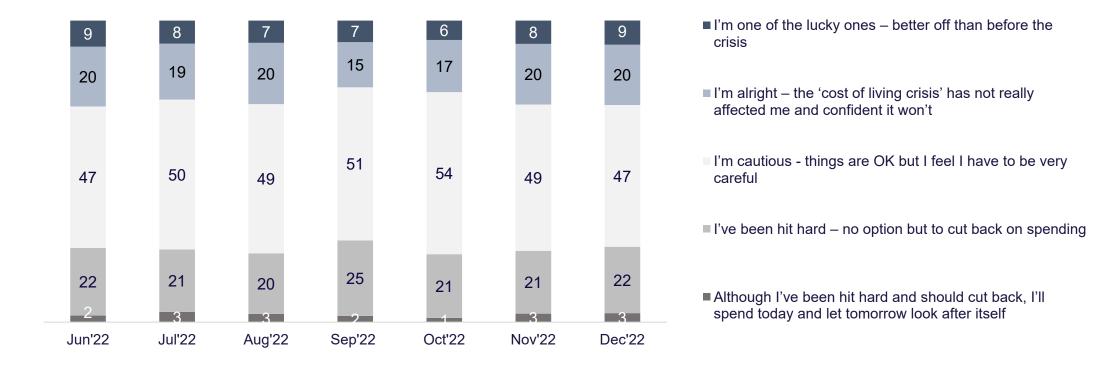
■ The worst has passed





The majority of UK adults (72%) are either cautious (47%) or have already been 'hit hard' (25%) by the cost of living crisis.

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

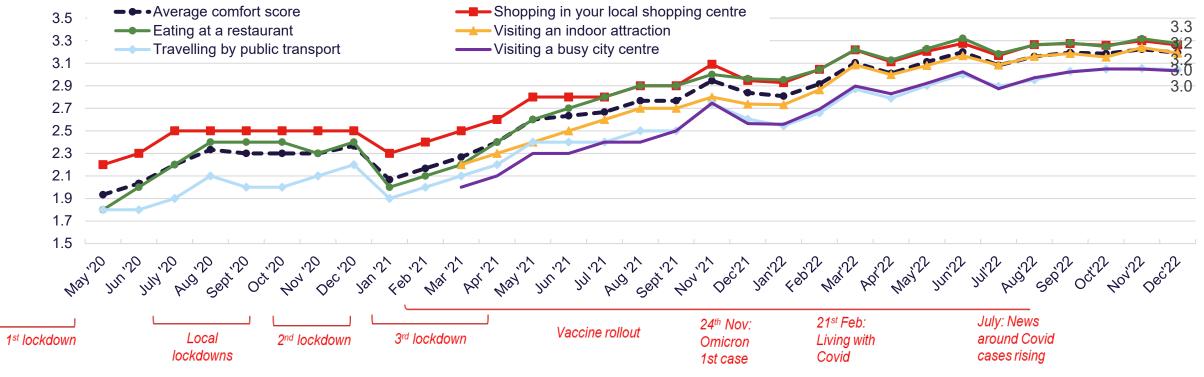






Comfort with everyday activities seems to have stabilized. In December, the 'average comfort score' was at 3.2.

Figure 3. Level of comfort conducting a range of activities separately and combined, average score where 1= not at all comfortable doing activity and 4= very comfortable doing activity, average wave-on-wave, UK



Question: VB11. Broadly speaking, how comfortable or uncomfortable would you feel doing the following in the next month or so?

Base: All respondents excluding those stating 'don't know' or who wouldn't do activity under any circumstances. Mean average based on those that gave a score of 1-4. December 2022 = 1,760 All other months n=c,1750. Pre June 2020, research was conducted by BVA BDRC with base size of c.750

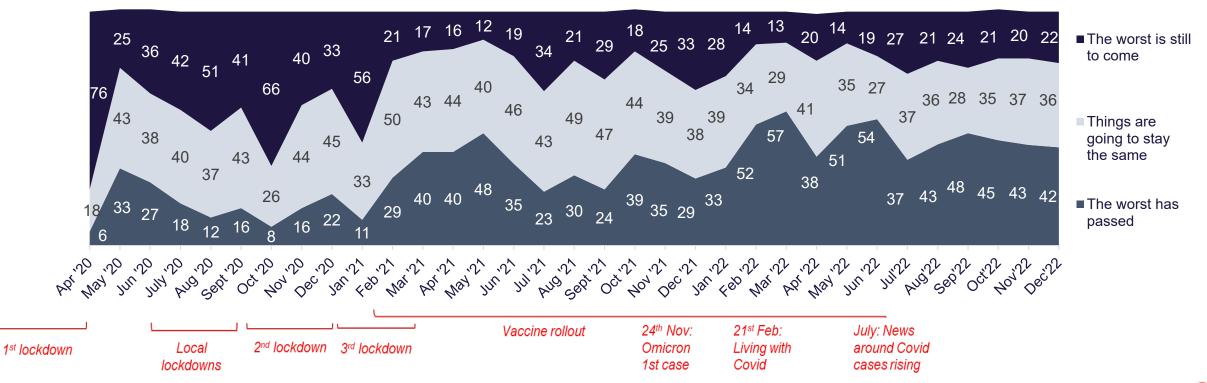
Note: These questions were not asked in October 2021





Perceptions of the Covid situation have also been stable. 42% now think that 'the worst has passed', and further 36% believe 'things are going to stay the same'.

Figure 4. Perception of the situation with regards to COVID-19, Percentage wave-on-wave, UK



BVA BDRC



Question: Q7: Regarding the situation of Coronavirus in the UK and the way it is going to change in the coming month, which of the following best describes your opinion? Base: All respondents. December 2022 = 1,760 All other months n=c,1750. Pre June 2020, research was conducted by BVA BDRC with base size of c.750 Note: Fieldwork for each month took place at the start of each month – exact dates vary). October data is taken from BVA BDRC survey.

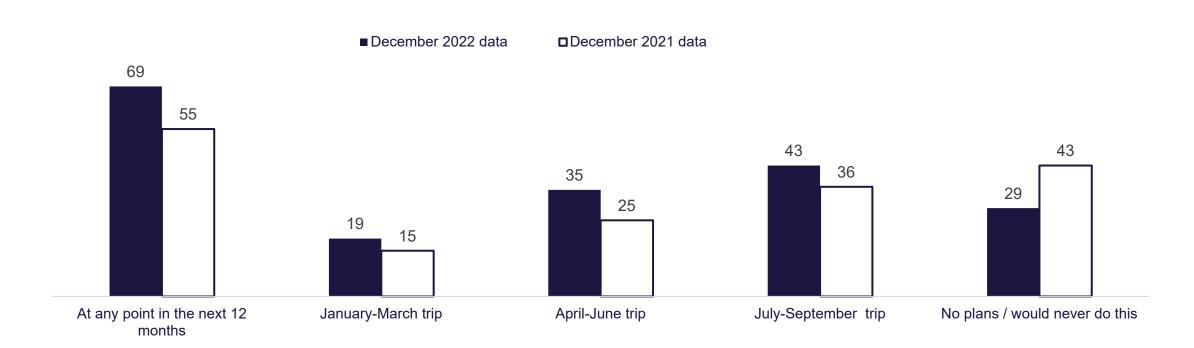


2. Trip Intentions: UK and Overseas



Overnight domestic trip intentions are well above the levels anticipated in December 2021, 19% are now planning a trip in January to March 2023.

Figure 5. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight UK trips, Percentage, December 2021 / 2022, UK







For <u>overnight overseas trips</u>, intentions are also much higher than in December 2021, with 13% intending an overseas trip in January to March 2023.

Figure 5b. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight overseas trips, Percentage, December 2021 / 2022, UK



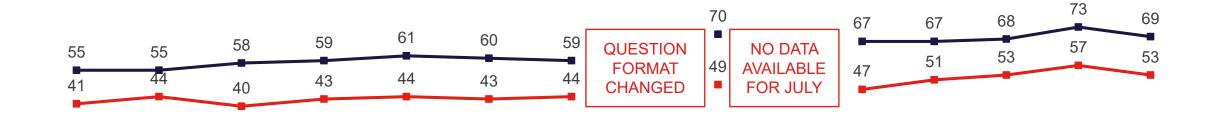




Domestic and overseas overnight trip intentions have returned to the levels reported in October.

Figure 5c. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight UK and overseas trips in the NEXT 12 MONTHS, Percentage, December 2022, UK*







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. December 2022 = 1,760. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate taking multiple trips across several time periods.





Confidence in the ability to take a trip over the coming months is consistent between December and February, rising in March.

Figure 6. Confidence in taking a UK and Overseas overnight trip across different time periods, <u>NET Confident (Very confident</u> + fairly confident) Percentage, November and December 2022, UK





Dec'22 trip Jan'23 trip Feb'23 trip Mar'23 trip

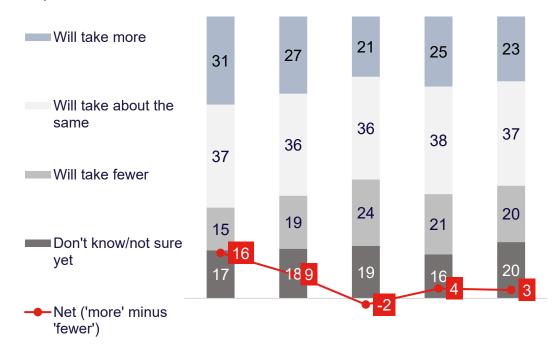




At a 'net level', UK adults' domestic trip intentions sit close to pre-pandemic levels – overseas intentions still some way below.

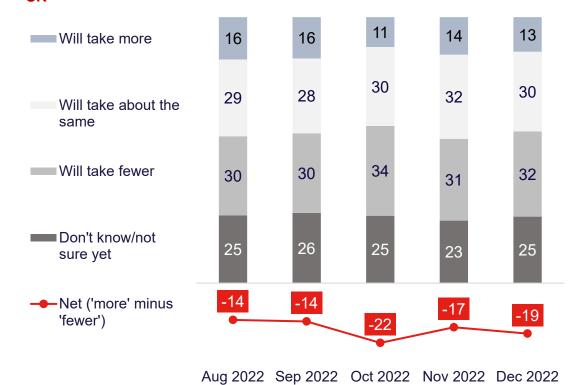
Figure 7. Number of <u>UK</u> overnight trips likely to take in next 12 months compared to pre-pandemic, Percentage, December 2022, UK

data



data

Figure 8. Number of <u>Overseas</u> overnight trips likely to take in next 12 months compared to pre-pandemic, Percentage, December 2022, UK



data

data

data

data



data



data

data

Aug 2022 Sep 2022 Oct 2022 Nov 2022 Dec 2022

data

35% of respondents indicated they are more likely to choose a trip in the UK than overseas, compared to pre-pandemic. Top reason being 'UK holidays are easier to plan' (54%).

Figure 9. Difference in short break/holiday choices in the next 6 months compared to pre-pandemic, Percentage, December 2022, UK



TOP 5 reasons for UK preference

- 1. UK holidays are easier to plan (54%)
 - 2. UK holidays are cheaper (46%)
 - 3. Shorter / quicker travel (36%)
- 4. To avoid long queues at airports/cancelled flights (34%)
- 5. Uncertainty around restrictions at overseas destinations (30%)

TOP 5 reasons for Overseas preference

- 1. Better weather (37%)
- 2. I want to visit new places (34%)
- 3. I'm prioritising overseas trips after missing out during the pandemic (29%)
 - 4. I want to explore other cultures (27%)
 - 5. Overseas holidays are cheaper (27%)

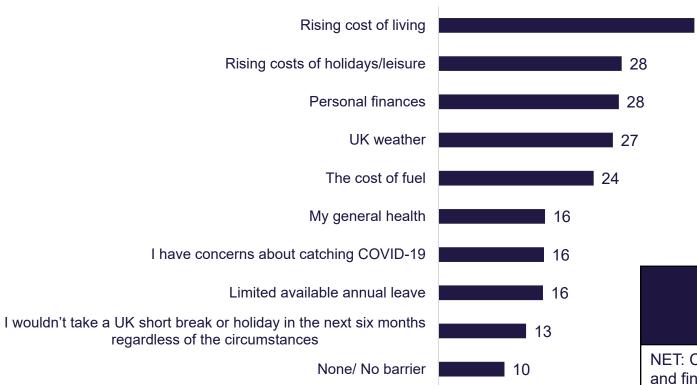
FOR THE FULL LIST OF REASONS, PLEASE SEE THE PUBLISHED TABLES.





The top potential barrier to taking overnight UK trips in the next 6 months is the 'rising cost of living', followed by 'rising cost of holiday' and 'personal finances'.

Figure 10. Top 10 Barriers to taking an overnight UK trip in next 6 months, Percentage, December 2022, UK



	September	October	November	December
	2022 data	2022 data	2022 data	2022 data
NET: Costs and finances	62%	62%	61%	61%

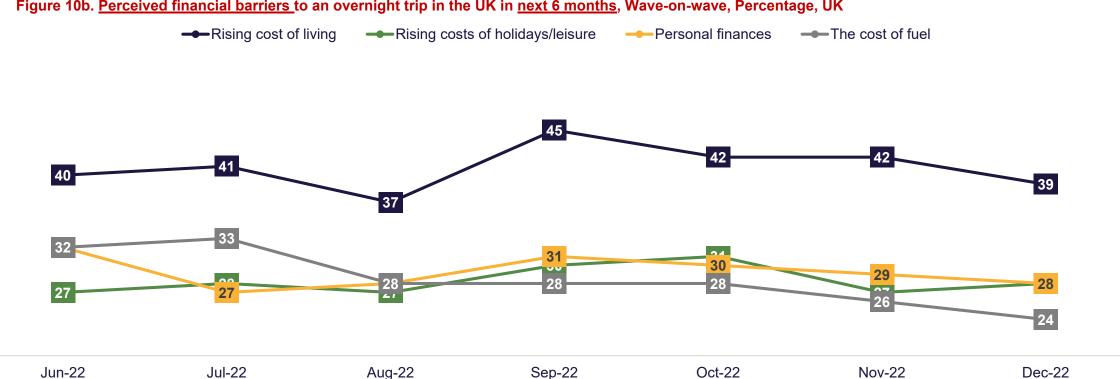
FOR THE FULL LIST OF BARRIERS, PLEASE SEE THE PUBLISHED TABLES.





The financial barrier 'rising cost of living' remains at the top. Cost of fuel has been on decline since July.

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

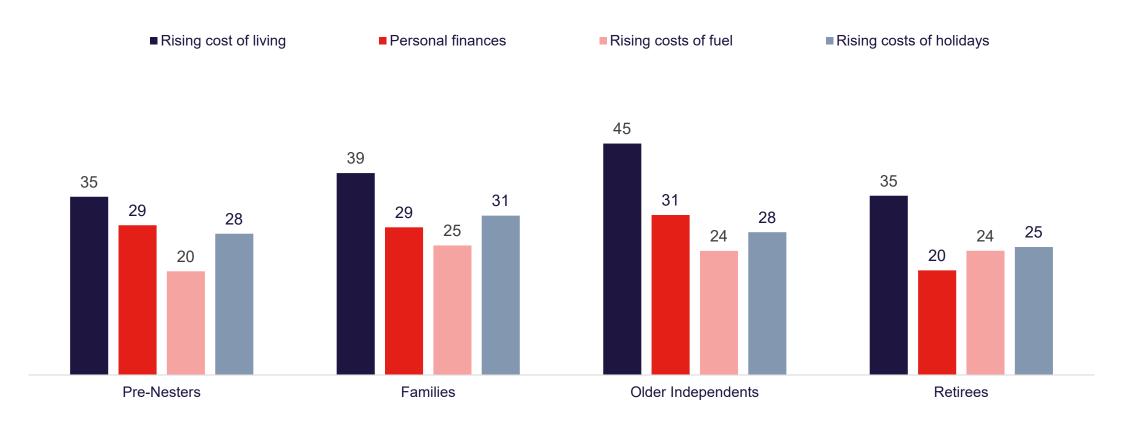






The 'rising cost of living' is the top financial barrier across all life stages – although stated more by Older Independents.

Figure 11. <u>Perceived financial barriers</u> as a potential barrier to taking an overnight trip in the UK <u>in next 6 months</u>, Percentage, December 2022, UK

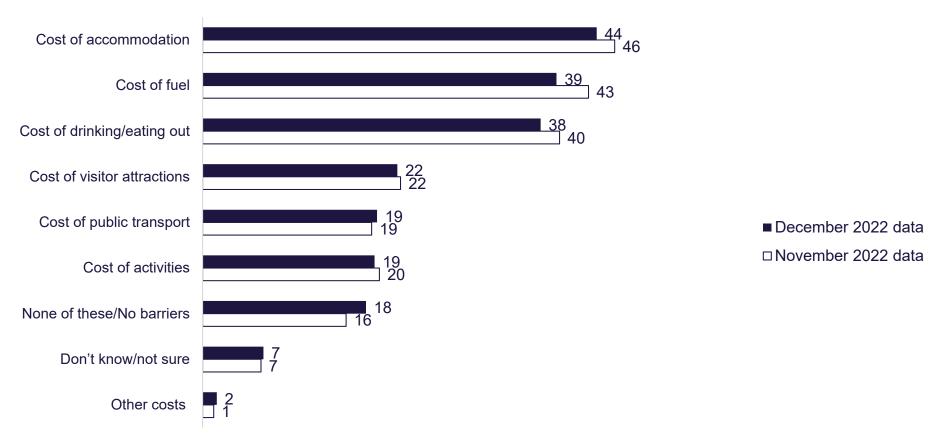






Focusing on cost related barriers to domestic overnight trips in the next 6 months, 'cost of accommodation' is the top (44%), followed by 'cost of fuel' (39%) and 'cost of eating out' (38%).

Figure 12. Individual costs barrier to taking UK holidays and short breaks in next 6 months, Percentage, November and December 2022, UK, Full list

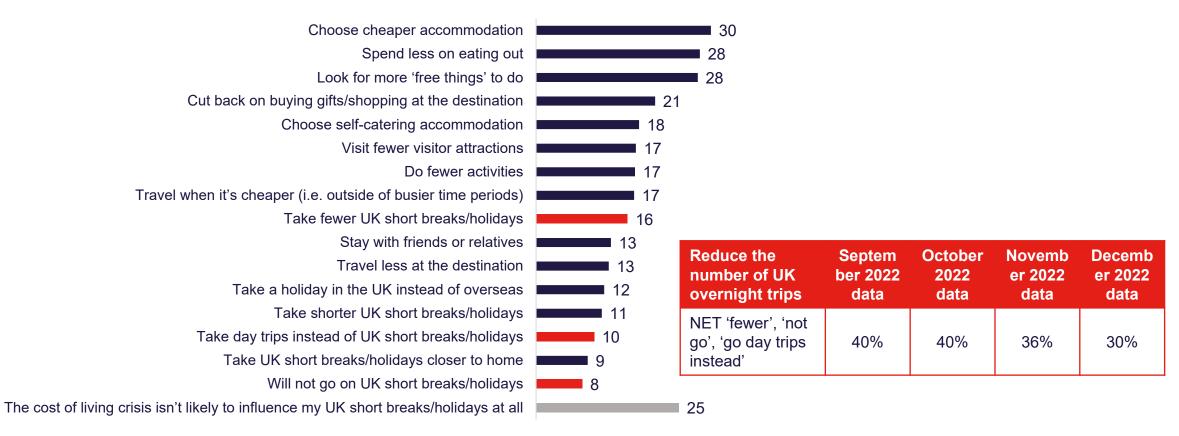






UK adults plan to cut their <u>overnight trip</u> spending mainly on accommodation, eating out and activities. 30% will cut the number of overnight trips (fewer than in previous months).

Figure 13a. 'Cost of living' impact on UK holidays and short breaks, Percentage, December 2022, 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: December 2022 = 1760.

In terms of <u>UK day trips</u>, UK adults intend to spend less on eating out and on activities. 36% will reduce the number of day trips (fewer than in previous months).

Figure 13b. 'Cost of living' impact on day trips, Percentage, December 2022, UK, Full list



Reduce the number of day trips	Septem	October	Novemb	Decemb	
	ber 2022	2022	er 2022	er 2022	
	data	data	data	data	
NET 'fewer', 'not go on day trips'	45%	42%	44%	36%	





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: December 2022 = 1760.

The top destination type for an overnight domestic trip up to March is 'countryside or village'. From July to September 2023, it is 'traditional coastal/seaside town'.

Figure 14. Overnight trips intentions in next year by destination type, Percentage, December 2022, UK

■ Large city ■ Smaller City or Town ■ Traditional coastal/ seaside town ■ Rural coastline ■ Countryside or village ■ Mountains or hills

Dec'22 – Sept'23	Large city	Smaller City or Town	Traditional seaside town	Rural coastline	Countryside or village	Mountains or hills		
Intend a trip / trips [%]	35	38	48	40	46	33	45 46 44 42 42	
3 3 2 2 4 2 4 3	3 3 4 2	4 5 4 4 6 4	7786	9 6 9	17 17 14 11	20 1111 15 ₁₄ 11	42 42	25 17 10 10 12
Dec-22 J	an-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	B Apr-	Jun 2023	July-Sept 2023	No plans, but would like to	dWould never do this





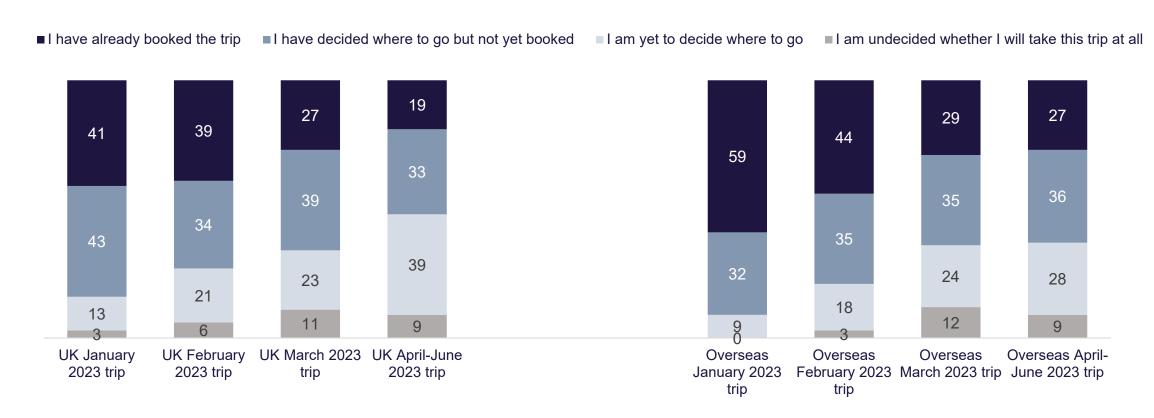


3. The Next Trip: Overnight and Day Trips



2 in 5 of January and February intenders have already booked their domestic trips. For overseas trips, 3 in 5 intenders have already booked their January trip.

Figure 15. Planning and booking the next intended UK and overseas overnight trip, Percentage, December 2022, UK



Question: VB2e. Which of the following best describes how close you are to booking your next overnight UK trip in <INSERT MONTH FROM VB2c(III)>? UK trip: January 2023 n = 72, February 2023 n = 101, March 2023 n = 131, April-June 2023 n = 454. VB2g. Which of the following best describes how close you are to booking your next overnight OVERSEAS trip in <INSERT MONTH FROM VB2c(III)>? Base: Overseas trip: January 2023 n = 50, February 2023 n = 56, March 2023 n = 99, April-June 2023 n = 305.





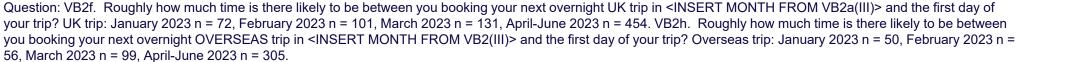
Looking at January trips, domestic are mostly booked within a month of going, while overseas trips are more likely than domestic trips to be booked 3 or more months ahead.

Figure 16. Time between booking the next UK and overseas overnight trip and first day of that trip, Percentage, December 2022, UK

56, March 2023 n = 99, April-June 2023 n = 305.

■ Up to 1 month ■ More than 1 month - 3 months ■ More than 3 months - 5 months ■ More than 5 months ■ I am unlikely to book in advance ■ Don't know/Not sure



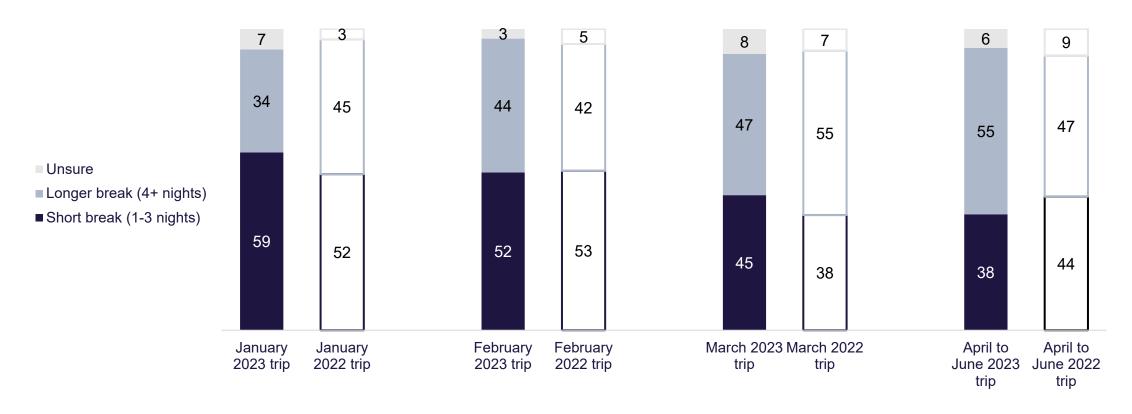






Short breaks are more common than longer breaks in January and February. In March, there is more of an equal split between short and long breaks intended.

Figure 17. Length of next UK holiday or short break by time period, Percentage, December 2022, UK







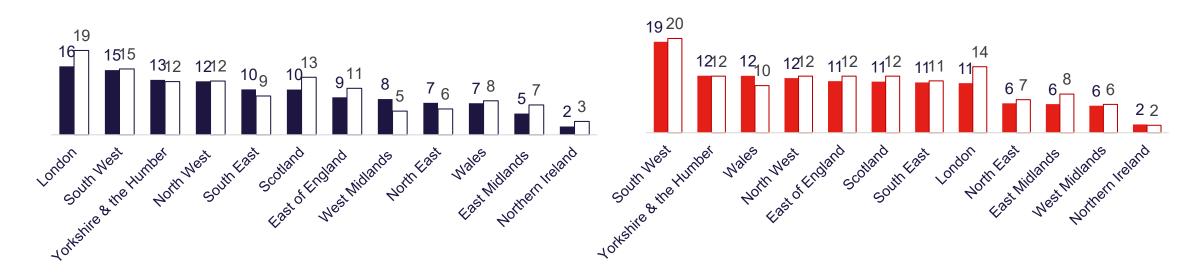
London is the most preferred UK overnight destination in January to March. In April to June, South West is the leading destination, similar to last year.

Figure 18. Where planning on staying on next UK overnight <u>trip in January to March 2023</u>, Percentage, November to December 2022, UK

Figure 19. Where planning on staying on next UK overnight <u>trip</u> in April to June 2023, Percentage, November to December 2022, UK

■ November/December 2022 data □ November/December 2021 data

■ November/December 2022 data □ November/December 2021 data







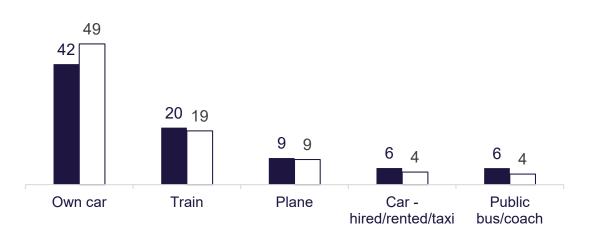
Own car is the most common mode of travel (more so in April to Jun), followed by train.

Figure 20. Top 5 main modes of travel to destination for <u>trip in January to March 2023</u>, Percentage, November to December 2022, UK

■ November/December 2022 data □ November/December 2021 data

Figure 21. Top 5 main modes of travel to destination for overnight trip in April to June 2023, Percentage, November to December 2022, UK

■ November/December 2022 data □ November/December 2021 data





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





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

Figure 22. Top 10 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight <u>trip January to March 2023</u>, Percentage, November to December 2022, UK

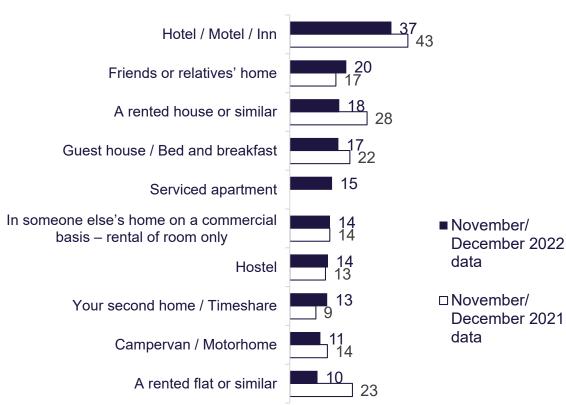
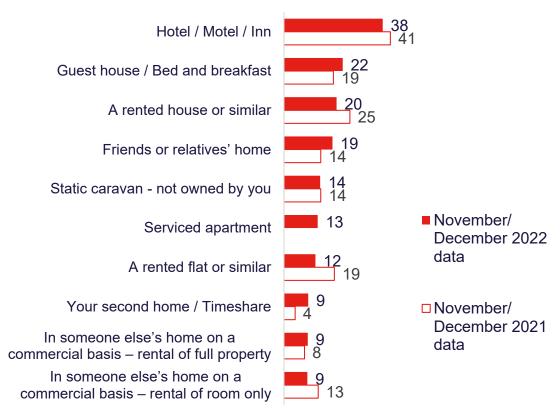


Figure 23. Top 10 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight <u>trip in April to June 2023</u>, Percentage, November to December 2022, UK



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? Base: All November to December respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK between January to March 2023 n = 631, April to June 2023 n = 856; January to March 2022 n = 510, April to June 2022 n = 585 See tables for full breakdown.





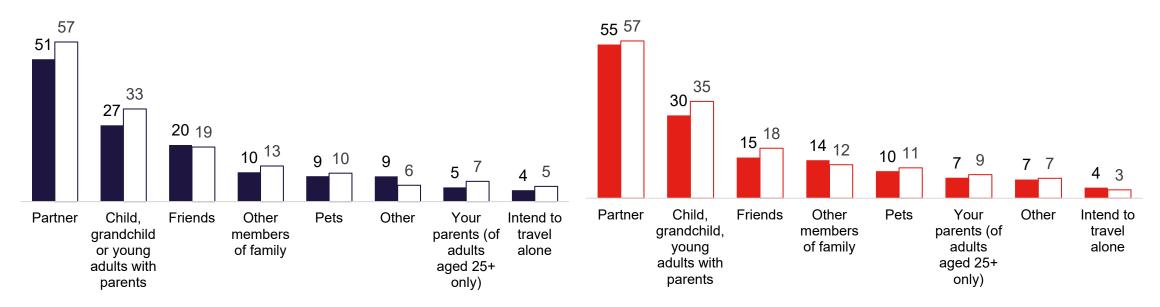
'Partner' is the most common companion, followed by 'child, grandchild or young adult' for both time periods.

Figure 24. Visitor party make-up for trip in January to March 2023, Percentage, November to December 2022, UK

■ November/December 2022 data □ November/December 2021 data

Figure 25. Visitor party make-up for trips taken from trip in April to June 2023, Percentage, November to December 2022, UK

November/December 2022 data □ November/December 2021 data



Question: QVB4d. With whom are you likely to be spending your holiday?



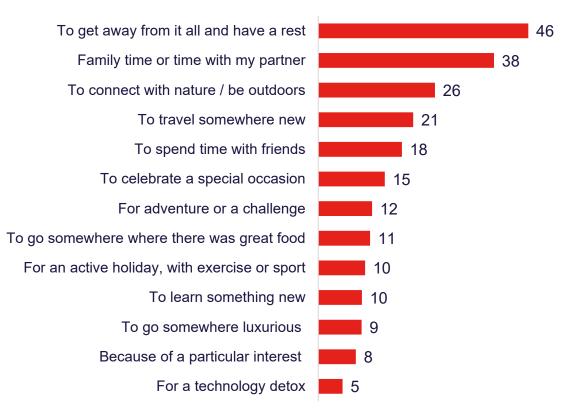
The top motivation for an overnight trip is:

- 'family time or time with my partner' in January-March, and,
- 'to get away from it all and have a rest' in April-June.

Figure 26. Motivations for UK holidays and short breaks <u>in January-March 2023</u>, Percentage, December 2022, UK, Full list



Figure 27. Motivations for UK holidays and short breaks <u>in April-June</u> <u>2023</u>, Percentage, December 2022, UK, Full list





Base: All December respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK between January to March 2023 n = 304, April to June 2023 n =454.

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





In January-March, 'trying local food and drink' is the top activity for the next overnight trip. In April-June, 'walking, hiking, or rambling' is top, followed by 'trying local food and drink'.

Figure 28. Activities for UK holidays and short breaks, <u>in</u> <u>January-March 2023</u>, Percentage, December 2022, UK, Full list

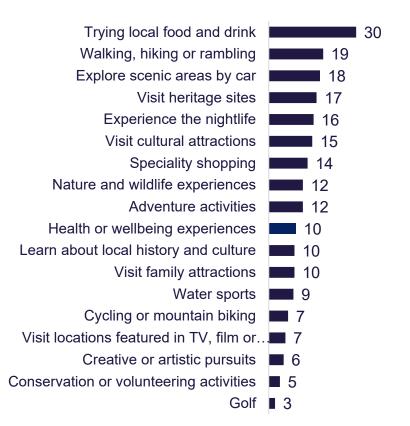
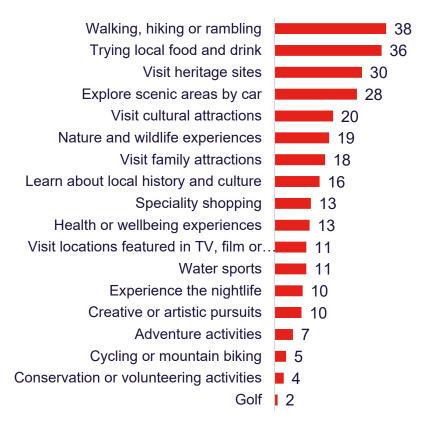


Figure 29. Activities for UK holidays and short breaks <u>in April-June 2023</u>, Percentage, December 2022, UK, Full list







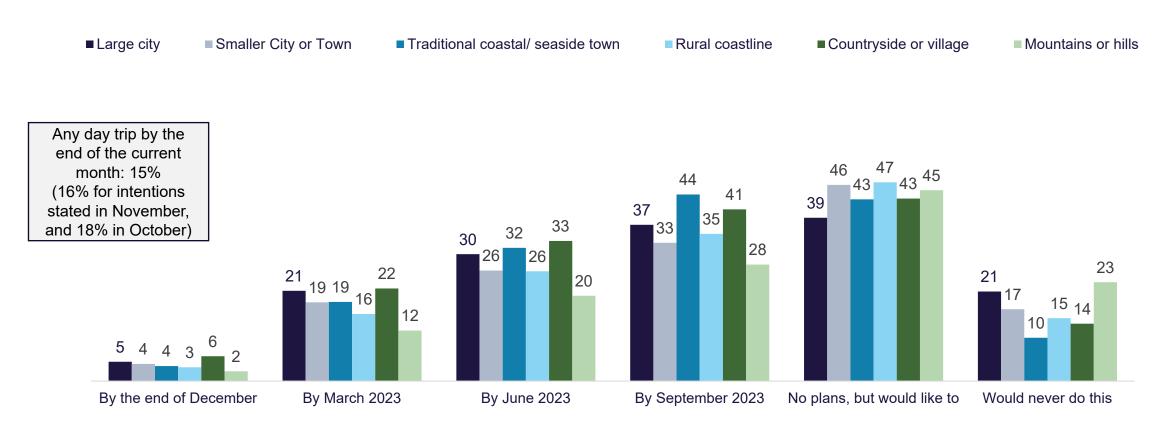
Question: VB6fiii. Which, if any, of these activities are you likely to do on your next UK short break or holiday in <INSERT MONTH FROM VB2A>?

Base: All December respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK between January to March 2023 n = 304, April to June 2023 n = 454.

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

In the first week of December, 15% of UK adults intended to take any day trip by the end of the month. 'Countryside or village' is the top day trip destination in the coming months.

Figure 30. Next UK day trip intention between December 2022 and September 2023, Cumulative percentages, December 2022, UK







Question: QVB16a. When are you next likely to take a day trip to the following types of places? Please select just the next occasion for each type of destination. Base: December 2022 = 1,760



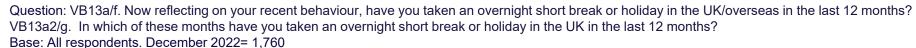
4. Past UK and Overseas Trips



Almost 3 in 5 (58%) took a UK overnight trip between December 2021 and November 2022, while only 37% took an overseas overnight trip in that period.

Figure 31. Proportion taken an overnight UK or overseas trip in below time period, Percentage, December 2022, UK





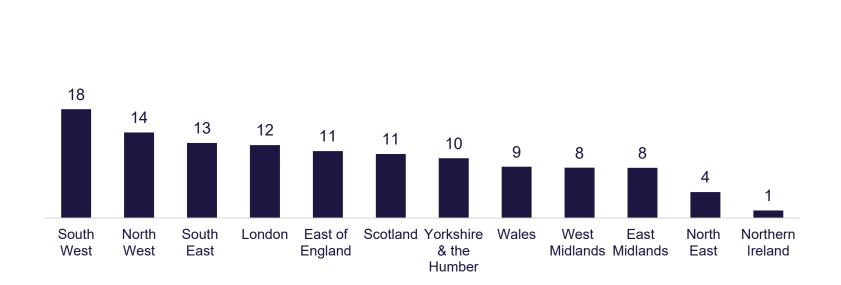


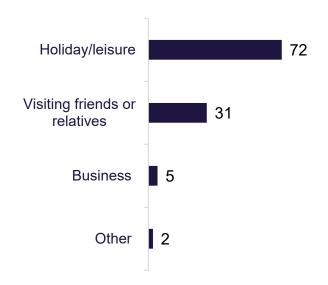


The South West of England was the most popular destination for trips in the past three months (18% stayed there). 31% say their trip included staying with / visiting friends or relatives.

Figure 32. Destination of overnight trips taken in UK in the past three months, Percentage, December 2022, UK

Figure 33. Purpose of overnight UK trip taken in the past three months, Percentage, December 2022, 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 December 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 (November data)



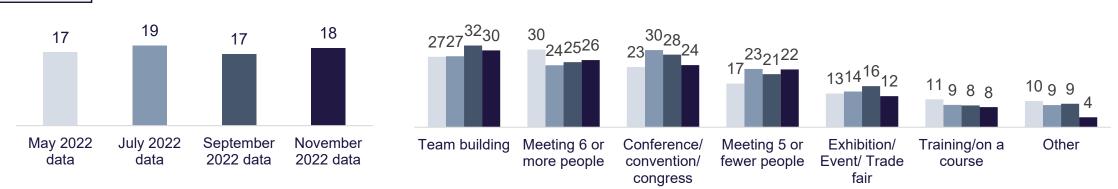
18% of UK adults in employment plan on taking an overnight business trip in the next 3 months. 'Team building' is the leading reason (30%), followed by 'meeting 6 or more people' (at 26%).

Figure 34. Proportion anticipating an overnight business trip in next 3 months, Percentage, November 2022, <u>UK adults in employment</u>

Figure 35. Reasons for taking an overnight business trip in next 3 months, Percentage, November 2022, UK adults in employment planning a trip

■ May 2022 data
■ July 2022 data
■ September 2022 data
■ November 2022 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: November 2022 respondents currently in employment n = 1,361. All taking a business trip n=296.



Methodology & Further Data



Methodology

- This report presents findings from the December 2022 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 5th phase of this project started in June 2022 and will run until March 2023.
- With this newly commissioned phase, the questionnaire was updated to address the cost of living crisis' impact on trips intentions, in addition to continued tracking of Covid-19 impact. It now also covers the preference for domestic vs overseas overnight trips.
- Please note that as a result of the questionnaire updates, some questions are not comparable between this 5th phase and the previous phases / waves.
- This affects for example sl. 11 Trips Intentions by month to make space for new, more topical questions, this
 question was simplified, and this small structural change means that we cannot compare the 5th phase data vs
 previous months.



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 pre-pandemic
 - VB5b. Reasons for not planning to stay in a large city during your next UK holiday or short break
 - VB9a/b. Intention to visit leisure places in the UK in the next 12 months/ in the next month
 - VB9c. Attractions/events would normally visit in the next 12 months, but will avoid due to COVID-19-related reasons
 - VB10a/b. Intention to conduct leisure activities in the UK in the next 12 months/ in the next month
 - VB10c. Leisure activities would you normally do in the next 12 months, but will avoid due to COVID-19-related reasons
 - Q63. Conditions essential for indoor tourism and leisure providers to have in place for you to visit/use them over the next 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.

