

Domestic Sentiment Tracker: January 2023

Published: Fieldwork Period: January 2023 3rd – 9th January 2023

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 3rd – 9th January 2023
- 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+



January 2023: Scorecard of Key Metrics

Key Metrics	January 2023	Change since December 2022
% of UK adults stating 'WORST IS STILL TO COME' in regard to cost of living crisis	71%	+3%
Proportion intending a UK overnight trip at any point in the next 12 months	70%	+1%
Proportion intending an overseas overnight trip at any point in the next 12 months	52%	-1%
Preference for UK over overseas in the next 6 months (vs pre-pandemic)	31%	-4%*
Took a domestic overnight trip in the past 12 months (Jan - Dec 2022)	61%	+3%
Net proportion of UK trips in the next 12 months vs pre-pandemic [% 'more' minus % 'fewer' trips]	7%	+4%*
Net proportion of overseas trips in the next 12 months vs pre-pandemic [% 'more' minus % 'fewer' trips]	-15%	+4%*
Reduce the number of UK overnight trips due to cost of living crisis [NET 'fewer', 'not go', 'go day trips instead']	29%	-1%
Reduce the number of day trips due to cost of living crisis [NET 'fewer', 'not go on day trips']	34%	-2%
Top 3 barriers to taking a UK overnight trip in the next 6 months	 1st Rising cost of living; 2nd Personal finances; 3rd Rising costs of holidays 	Personal finances moves to 2 nd ; Rising costs of holidays moves to 3 nd



* Represents a statistically significant change on previous wave



1. Current General Sentiment



With regards to the cost of living crisis, about 7 in 10 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



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 2023 = 1,758

The majority of UK adults (75%) are either cautious (52%) or have been 'hit hard' (23%) by the cost of living crisis.

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



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Question: Q17: There has been a lot of talk about how the 'cost of living crisis' has affected people's financial circumstances. If you had to choose, which ONE of the following statements would best describe your feelings about your own situation, right now? Base: All respondents. January 2023 = 1,758.

Comfort with everyday activities is slightly declining. In January, the 'average comfort score' was at 3.1.

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



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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. January 2023 = 1,758 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 are also very slightly declining. 25% now think that 'the worst is still to come', slightly more than in the previous 5 months.





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. January 2023 = 1,758 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



<u>Overnight domestic trip</u> intentions are well above the levels anticipated in January 2022, 16% planning a trip in January to March 2023, and 35% between April and June.

Figure 5. Proportion anticipating going on <u>any</u> overnight UK trips, Percentage, January 2023, 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? Base: All respondents. January 2022 = 1,755, January 2023 = 1,758. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate taking multiple trips across several time periods. ***January 2022 fieldwork was within the period of time when Omicron was highly prevalent**



For <u>overnight overseas trips</u>, intentions are also much higher than in January 2022, in particular between April and June.

Figure 5b. Proportion anticipating going on <u>any</u> overnight overseas trips, Percentage, January 2023, UK



Question: 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 2022 = 1,755, January 2023 = 1,758. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate taking multiple trips across several time periods.



Long term domestic and overseas overnight trip intentions are stable when compared to December 2022.

Figure 6. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight UK and overseas trips in the NEXT 12 MONTHS, Percentage, January 2023, 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. January 2023 = 1,758. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate taking multiple trips across several time periods.



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



Figure 7. Number of UK overnight trips likely to take in next

12 months compared to pre-pandemic, Percentage, January

Figure 8. Number of <u>Overseas</u> overnight trips likely to take in next 12 months compared to pre-pandemic, Percentage, January 2023, UK





Question: VB1a. Thinking about the next 12 months, are you likely to take more, fewer or about the same number of UK and overseas holidays/short breaks as you took before the COVID-19 pandemic? Base: All respondents. January 2023 = 1,758.

31% of respondents indicated they are more likely to choose a trip in the UK than overseas, compared to pre-pandemic – the top reason being 'UK holidays are easier to plan' (60%).

Figure 9. Difference in short break/holiday choices in the next 6 months compared to pre-pandemic, Percentage, January 2023, UK

	■ More likely to choose UK than overseas	Mor	e likely to choose overseas than UK	Broadly the same as pre-pandemic	∎ Don't	know/It depends on the situation
	31		20	30		19
-						

TOP 5 reasons for UK preference

- 1. UK holidays are easier to plan (60%)
 - 2. UK holidays are cheaper (48%)
- 3. To avoid long queues at airports/cancelled flights (40%)
 - 4. Shorter / quicker travel (39%)
- 5. Uncertainty around restrictions at overseas destinations

(32%)

TOP 5 reasons for Overseas preference

- 1. Better weather (40%)
- 2. I want to visit new places (34%)
- 3. I want to explore other cultures (29%)
- 4. Overseas holidays are cheaper (24%)
- 5. I'm prioritising overseas trips after missing out during the pandemic (23%)

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

Question: VB2j. Thinking of the next 6 months, how different do you think your short break/holiday choices will be compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic? Base: All respondents. January 2023 = 1,758. VB2k. Why are you more likely to choose a UK trip than an overseas trip compared to before the pandemic? January 2023 = 587, VB2l. Why are you more likely to choose an overseas trip than a UK trip compared to before the pandemic? January 2023 = 357



However, the proportion of those more likely to choose domestic over holidays overseas has been declining over the past 6 months.

Figure 9b. Preference for UK vs overseas short break/holidays in the next 6 months, compared to pre-pandemic, Percentage, January 2023, UK



June 2022 July 2022 data Aug 2022 data Sep 2022 data Oct 2022 data Nov 2022 data Dec 2022 data Jan 2023 data data



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

Figure 10. Top 10 Barriers to taking an overnight UK trip in next 6 months, Percentage, January 2023, UK



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

Question: VB7b. Which, if any, of the following factors do you see as potential barriers to you taking a UK short break or holiday in the next six months? . Base: All asked each question. January 2023 = 1,758. *NET: Cost and finances includes 'rising cost of living', 'personal finances', 'the cost of fuel', 'rising costs of holidays/leisure' and 'difficulty getting money back if a trip is cancelled'



The individual financial barriers vary slightly month on month, with 'rising cost of living' peaking in September 2022.

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

-Rising cost of living -Rising costs of holidays/leisure -Personal finances



Question: VB7b. Which, if any, of the following factors do you see as potential barriers to you taking a UK short break or holiday in the next six months? Base: All asked each question. January 2023 = 1,758.



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

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, January 2023, UK





Question: VB7b. Which, if any, of the following factors do you see as potential barriers to you taking a UK short break or holiday in the next six months? Base: January 2023 fieldwork period; Pre-Nesters (364), Families (592); Older Independents (471); Retirees (331)

Focusing on barriers related directly to cost of domestic overnight trip, with fuel cost declining, cost of accommodation is now at the top. More are now saying 'no barriers' (20%).

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





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 2023 = 1758.

UK adults plan to cut their <u>overnight trip spending</u> mainly on activities, accommodation and eating out. 29% will cut the number of trips, this has progressively declined since October.

Figure 13a. 'Cost of living' impact on UK holidays and short breaks, Percentage, January 2023, UK, Full list





In terms of <u>UK day trips</u>, UK adults intend to spend less on activities and on eating out. 34% will reduce the number of day trips, fewer UK adults saying that than in previous months.

Figure 13b. 'Cost of living' impact on day trips, Percentage, January 2023, UK, Full list





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 2023 = 1758.

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

Figure 14. Overnight trips intentions in next year by destination type, Percentage, January 2023, UK

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





Question: VB6g. Now thinking of all potential overnight trips (not just the next one), when, if at all, are you likely to take a UK holiday or short break to the following types of places? Please select all possible occasions, not just the next one. Base: January 2023 = 1,758.



3. The Next Trip: Overnight and Day Trips



53% of UK adults have already booked their domestic trips for February, while 71% have already booked their overseas trips for February.

Figure 15. Planning and booking the next intended UK and overseas overnight trip, Percentage, January 2023, 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: February 2023 n = 88, March 2023 n = 128, April-June 2023 n = 504. 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: February 2023 n = 34, March 2023 n = 74, April-June 2023 n = 307. * Low Base < 50

Domestic February trips are mostly booked within a month of going, while overseas February trips are more likely to be booked 1 to 3 months ahead.

Figure 16. Time between booking the <u>next</u> UK and overseas overnight trip and first day of that trip, Percentage, January 2023, UK





Question: VB2f. Roughly how much time is there likely to be between you booking your next overnight UK trip in <INSERT MONTH FROM VB2a(III)> and the first day of your trip? UK trip: February 2023 n = 88, March 2023 n = 128, April-June 2023 n = 504. VB2h. Roughly how much time is there likely to be between you booking your next overnight OVERSEAS trip in <INSERT MONTH FROM VB2(III)> and the first day of your trip? Overseas trip: February 2023 n = 34, March 2023 n = 74, April-June 2023 n = 307.* Low Base < 50



In February and March, short breaks are more common than longer breaks. During April to June, longer breaks are more likely.

Figure 17. Length of next UK holiday or short break by time period, Percentage, January 2023, UK





The South West is the most preferred UK overnight destination in both time periods. Fewer expect to visit London in January to March 2023 compared to a year ago.

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

December 2022/January 2023 data December 2021/January 2022 data

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

■ December 2022/January 2023 data December 2021/January 2022 data



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

Base: All December 2022 to January 2023 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 2022 n = 451, April to June 2022 n = 633. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate staying in more than one location.



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

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

■ December 2022/January 2023 data □ December 2021/January 2022 data

Figure 21. Top 5 main modes of travel to destination for overnight <u>trip in April to June 2023</u>, Percentage, December 2022 to January 2023, UK

December 2022/January 2023 data December 2021/January 2022 data





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

Question: QVB4c. What do you anticipate being the main mode of travel to your holiday or short break destination? Base: All December 2022 to January 2023 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 2022 n = 451, April to June 2022 n = 633



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, December 2022 to January 2023, UK



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



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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 December 2022 to January 2023 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 2022 n = 451, April to June 2022 n = 633 See tables for full breakdown.

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

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

December 2022/January 2023 data December 2021/January 2022 data

Figure 25. Visitor party make-up for <u>trips taken from trip in April</u> to June 2023, Percentage, December 2022 to January 2023, UK

December 2022/January 2023 data December 2021/January 2022 data





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

Base: All December 2022 to January 2023 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 2022 n = 451, April to June 2022 n = 633. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate a range of party types.



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

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

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





BVO BDRC-

Question: VB6fii. Which of the following best describe your motivation/s for this trip?

Base: All January respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK between January to March 2023 n = 268, April to June 2023 n = 504. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100%.

In January to March, 'trying local food and drink' is the top activity for the next overnight trip. In April to June, 'walking, hiking' is the top activity.

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



Figure 29. Activities for UK holidays and short breaks <u>in April-June 2023</u>, Percentage, January 2023, 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 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK between January to March 2023 n = 268, April to June 2023 n =504. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100%.



In the first week of January, 14% of UK adults intend to take any day trip by the end of the month. 'Countryside or village' is the top day trip destination for the next 6 months.

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







4. Past UK and Overseas Trips



More than 3 in 5 (61%) have taken a UK overnight trip between January and December 2022, while around 2 in 5 (39%) have taken an overseas overnight trip in that period.

Figure 31. Proportion taken an overnight UK or overseas trip in below time period, Percentage, January 2023, UK



BVa BDR

Question: VB13a/f. Now reflecting on your recent behaviour, have you taken an overnight short break or holiday in the UK/overseas in the last 12 months? VB13a2/g. In which of these months have you taken an overnight short break or holiday in the UK in the last 12 months? Base: All respondents. January 2023 = 1,758.

Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate taking more than one trip

The South West of England was the most popular destination for trips in the past three months (19% stayed there). 29% say they stayed with / visited friends or relatives.

Figure 32. Destination of overnight trips taken in UK in the past three months, Percentage, January 2023, 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 2023 respondents that took an overnight trips in the last three months n= 359.

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)



Note: * Overnight Business Trip Intentions questions are asked every second month

16% of UK adults in employment plan on taking an overnight business trip in the next 3 months. 'Team building' is the leading reason (31%), followed by 'meeting 6 or more people' (at 27%).

Figure 34. Proportion anticipating an overnight business trip in next 3 months, Percentage, January 2023, <u>UK adults in</u> employment

Figure 35. Reasons for taking an overnight business trip in next 3 months, Percentage, January 2023, UK adults in employment planning a trip

July 2022 data September 2022 data November 2022 data January 2023 data

BVa BDRC

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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 2023 respondents currently in employment n = 1,271. All taking a business trip n=237.



Methodology & Further Data



Methodology

- This report presents findings from the January 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.

