

### Domestic Sentiment Tracker: February 2025

Published: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Fieldwork Period: 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025
- 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.

- February to March 2025 Intenders: Residents of the UK who claim their next domestic overnight trip will take place between <u>February to March 2025</u>
- April to June 2025 Intenders: Residents of the UK who claim their next domestic overnight trip will take place between <u>April to June 2025</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+



#### February 2025: Scorecard of Key Metrics

Key Metrics	February 2025	Change since January 2025
% of UK adults stating 'WORST IS STILL TO COME' regarding the cost of living crisis	51%	-1%
Proportion intending a UK overnight trip at any point in the next 12 months	81%	+1%
Proportion intending an overseas overnight trip at any point in the next 12 months	66%	=
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 (February 2024 – January 2025)	66%	-2%
Reduce the number of UK overnight trips due to cost of living crisis [NET 'fewer', 'not go', 'go day trips instead']	25%	+1%
Reduce the number of day trips due to cost of living crisis [NET 'fewer', 'not go on day trips']	27%	=
Top 3 barriers to taking a UK overnight trip in the next 6 months	1 <sup>st</sup> Rising cost of living; 2 <sup>nd</sup> UK weather; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rising costs of holidays/leisure.	'Rising costs of holidays/leisure' enters top 3 over 'Personal finances'





<sup>\*</sup> Represents a statistically significant change on previous wave N/A – due to new question wording meaning comparison to last wave cannot be done

#### February 2025: Scorecard of Key Themes

Key Theme	Question	February 2025	Change since January 2025
	% of UK adults mentioning 'Cost of Accommodation' as a barrier to taking UK holidays and short breaks in the next 6 months	44%	+1%
A	<b>Top 3 accommodation types</b> planning on staying in on next UK overnight trip in <u>February</u> to March 2025 – % choosing ' <b>Hotel / Motel / Inn'</b>	48%	+1%
Accommodation	Top 3 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight trip in <u>January</u> to March 2025 – % choosing 'rented house or similar'	23%	-4%*
	<b>Top 3 accommodation types</b> planning on staying in on next UK overnight trip in <u>February</u> to March 2025 – % choosing 'Friends or relatives' home'	16%	-2%*
Drinking/eating out	% of UK adults mentioning 'Cost of Drinking/Eating out' as a barrier to taking UK holidays and short breaks in the next 6 months	33%	+2%
	Activities for UK holidays and short breaks in February to March 2025 - % choosing 'Trying local food and drink'	40%	+1%
	% of UK adults mentioning 'Cost of Visitor Attraction' as a barrier to taking UK holidays and short breaks in the next 6 months	17%	-1%
Attractions	Activities for UK holidays and short breaks in February to March 2025 - % choosing to 'Visit heritage sites'	24%	-5%*
	Activities for UK holidays and short breaks in February to March 2025 - % choosing to 'Visit cultural attractions'	21%	-4%*
	Activities for UK holidays and short breaks <u>February to March 2025</u> - % choosing to 'Visit family attractions'	14%	-3%*

<sup>\*</sup> Represents a statistically significant change on previous wave N/A – due to new question wording meaning comparison to last wave cannot be done







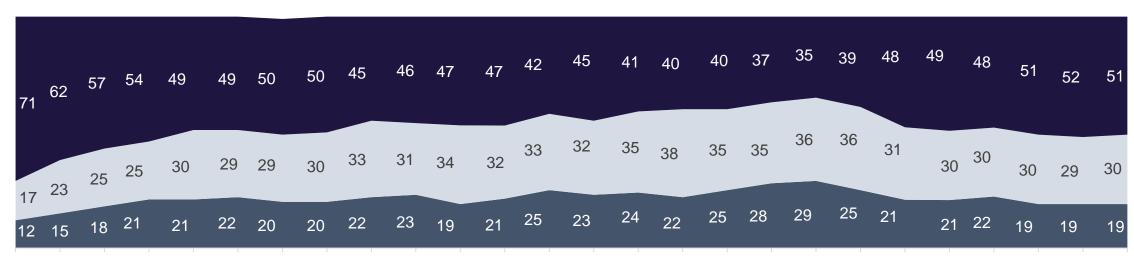
#### 1. Current General Sentiment



### Cost-of-living perceptions are in line with last month, with 51% saying 'the worst is still to come' reflecting latest inflation rebound

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

■ The worst is still to come ■ Things are going to stay the same ■ The worst has passed



Jan'23 Feb'23 Mar'23 Apr'23 May Jun' 23 Jul'23 Aug'23 Sep'23 Oct'23 Nov'23 Dec'23 Jan'24 Feb'24 Mar'24 Apr'24 May'24 Jun'24 Jul'24 Aug'24 Sep'24 Oct'24 Nov'24 Dec'24 Jan'25 Feb'25

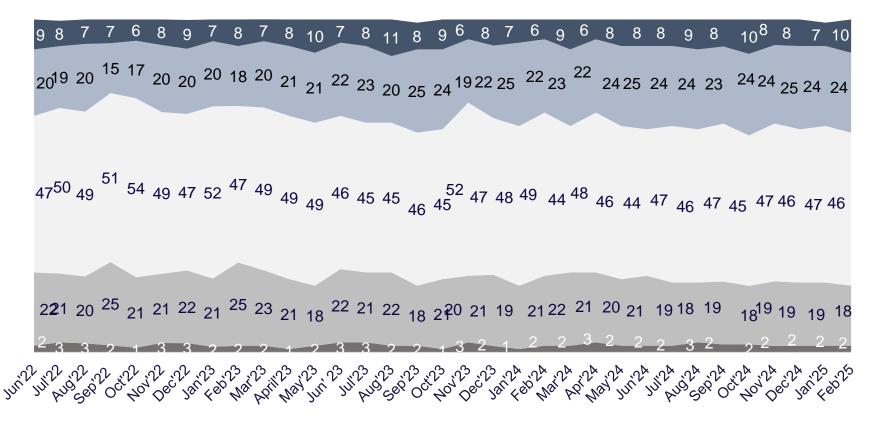
(in %)	Jan '23	Feb ' 23	Mar' 23	Apr' 23	May '23	Jun' 23	Jul' 23	Aug '23	Sep ' 23	Oct ' 23	Nov '23	Dec' 23	Jan ' 24		Mar' 24	Apr' 24	May ' 24	Jun ' 24	Jul' 24	Aug' 24	Sep '24	Oct' 24	Nov' 24	Dec' 24	Jan' 25	Feb' 25
CPI 12- month rate	10.1	10.4	10.1	8.7	8.7	7.9	6.8	6.7	6.7	4.6	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.4	3.2	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.2	1.7	2.3	2.6	2.5%	n/a	n/a
BOE Base rate	3.50	4.00	4.25	4.25	4.50	5.00	5.00	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.50





# Due to the cost-of-living crisis, most UK adults (64%) are either 'cautious and being very careful' (46%) or have been 'hit hard and are cutting back' (18%)

Figure 2. Feelings about situation during the 'cost of living crisis', Percentage wave-on-wave, 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





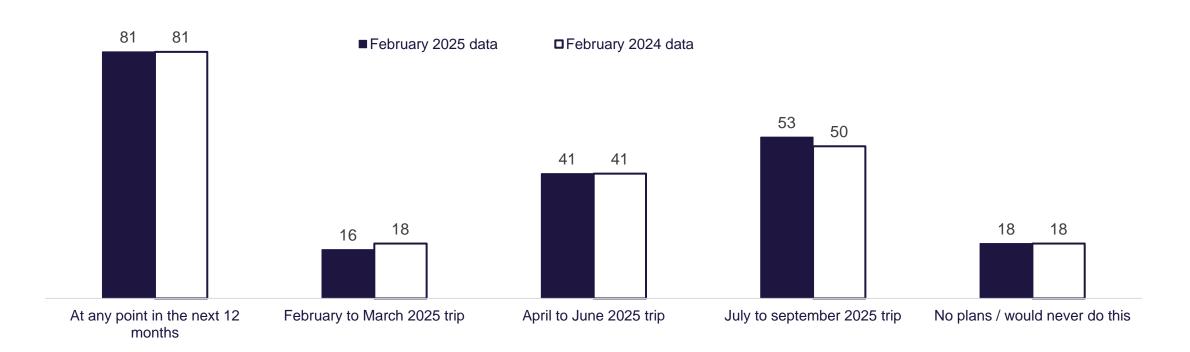


#### 2. Trip Intentions: UK and Overseas



# Overnight domestic trip intentions are generally in line with those anticipated in 2024. 81% are planning a trip in the next 12 months vs 82% planning to do so this time last year

Figure 5. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight UK trips, Percentage, February 2025, UK

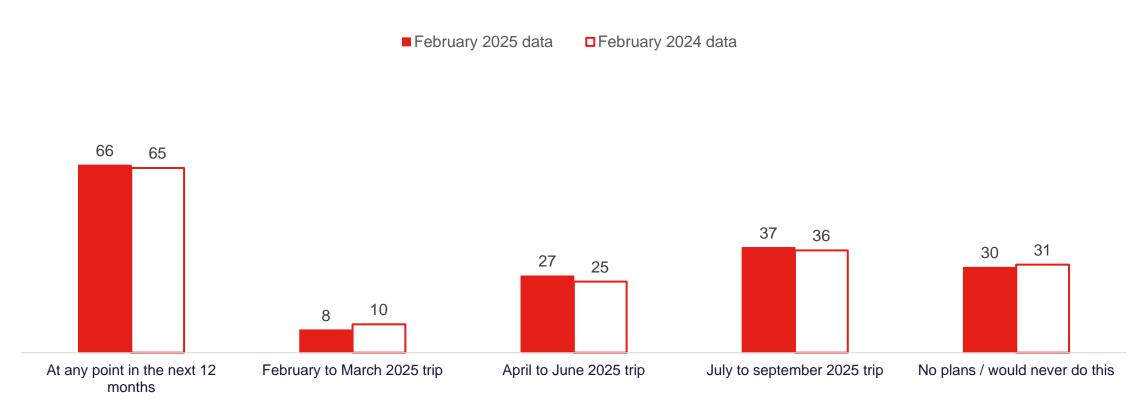






# For <u>overnight overseas trips</u>, intentions are slightly down on 2024 levels, 66% are planning an overseas trip in the next 12 months compared to 69% the year before

Figure 5b. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight overseas trips, Percentage, February 2025, UK



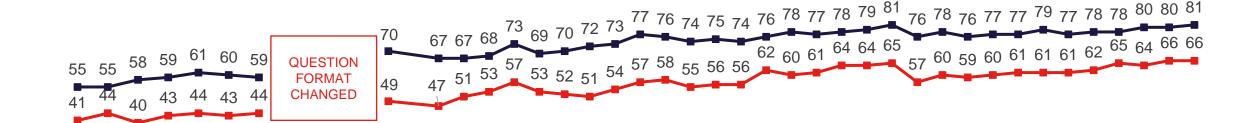


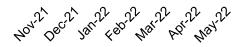


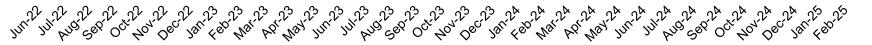
## In February 2025, both domestic and overseas trip intensions are similar to the record-high levels last seen in February 2024

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

UK overnight trip Overseas overnight trip











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 February 2025 = 1,755. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate taking multiple trips across several time periods. \*no data available for July 2022.

# Commitment is higher for overseas trips compared to UK trips – 74% are very committed to overseas trips in March 2025 compared to 69% for UK trips in the same month

Figure 7. Commitment to taking the next overnight UK trip, Percentage, February 2025, UK

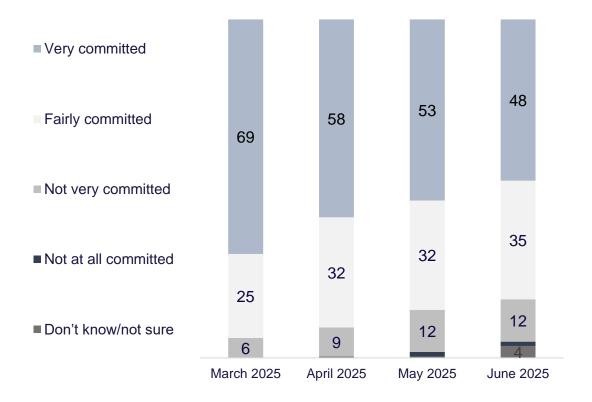
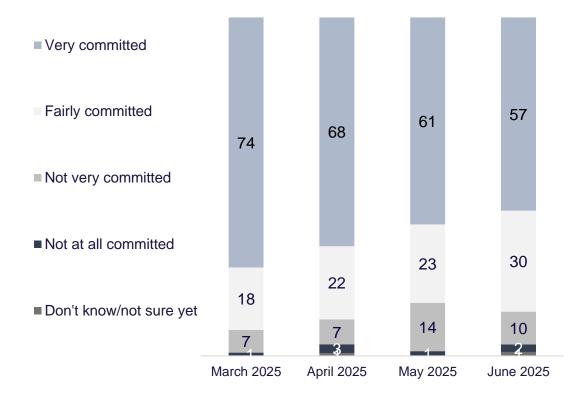


Figure 8. Commitment to taking the next overnight overseas trip, Percentage, February 2025, UK







#### The number of UK adults who are more likely to choose UK trips (33%) outweighs the proportion of those preferring to travel overseas (30%). UK holidays are easier to plan (53%), while overseas trips have the draw of better weather (53%)

Figure 9. Difference in short break/holiday choices in the next 6 months compared to last 12 months, Percentage, February 2025, UK

■ More likely to choose UK than overseas

■ More likely to choose overseas than UK

■ Broadly the same as past 12 months

■ Don't know/It depends on the situation

14 33 30

#### **TOP 5 reasons for UK preference**

- 1. UK holidays are easier to plan (53%)
  - 2. UK holidays are cheaper (49%)
  - 3. Shorter / quicker travel (46%)
- To avoid long queues at airports/ports or cancelled flights/voyages (33%)
- I want to take holidays in places I am familiar with (27%)

#### **TOP 5 reasons for Overseas preference**

- 1. Better weather (53%)
- I want to visit new places/experience new cultures (41%)
  - 3. Overseas holidays are cheaper (29%)
- I'm prioritising overseas trips after missing out in the last few years (24%)
  - To visit friends or relatives (22%)

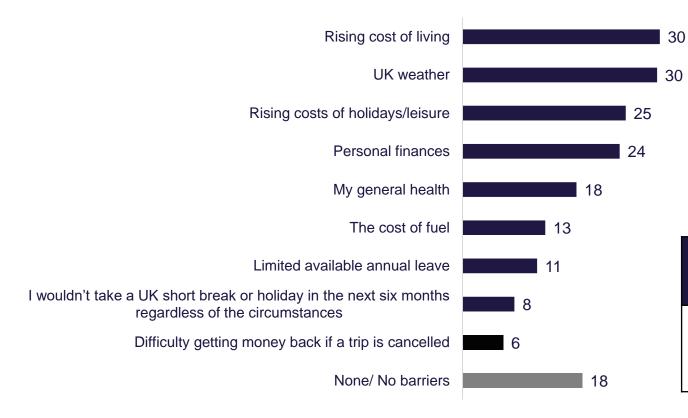
#### FOR THE FULL LIST OF REASONS, PLEASE SEE THE PUBLISHED TABLES.





# The top potential barriers to taking overnight UK trips in the next 6 months are 'Rising cost of living' and 'UK weather' - both at 30%. The 'costs and finances' barrier remains stable in February 2025 compared to last month

Figure 10. Top 10 Barriers to taking an overnight UK trip in next 6 months, Percentage, February 2025, UK



	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
	2024	2024	2025	2025
	data	data	data	data
NET: Costs and finances	57%	54%	54%	55%

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

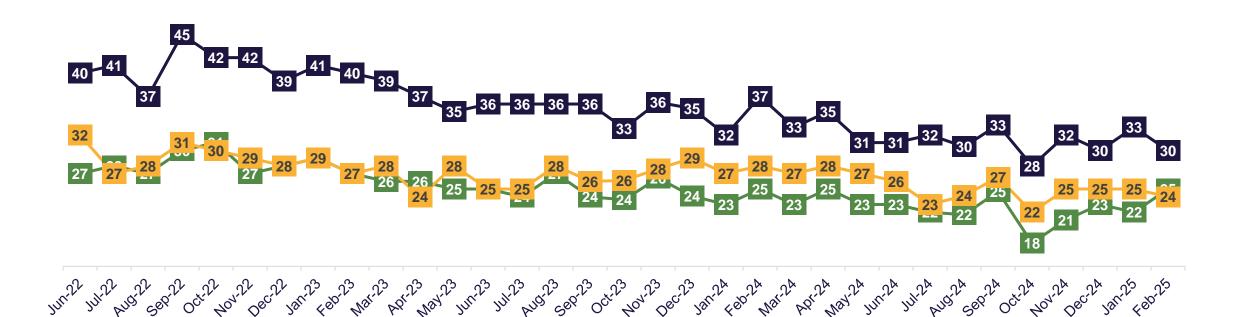




#### The perception of personal financial barriers to domestic travel are somewhat consistent with the past three months

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



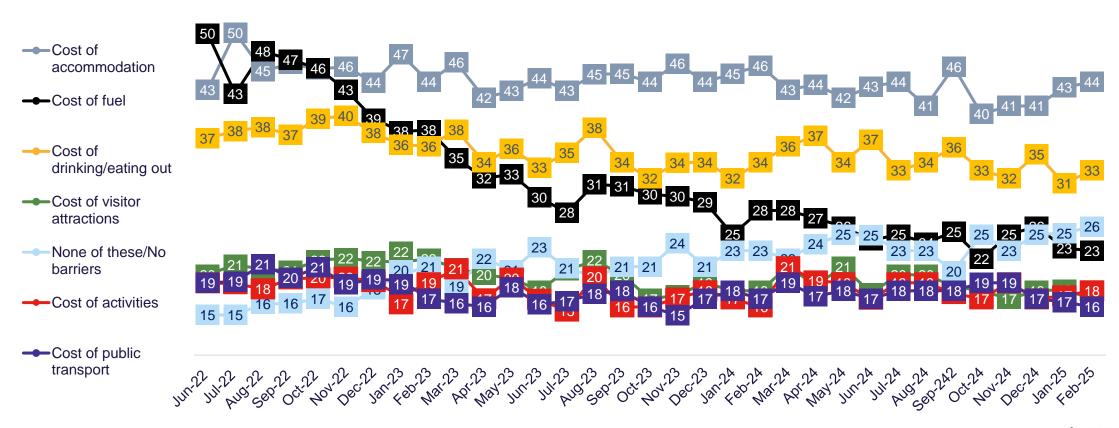




Question: VB7b. Which, if any, of the following factors do you see as potential barriers to you taking a UK short break or holiday in the next six months? Base: All asked each question. February 2025 = 1,755.

#### Focusing on barriers related directly to the cost of a domestic overnight trip, the 'cost of accommodation' remains at the top

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: February 2025 = 1,755.

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

Figure 13a. 'Cost of living' impact on UK holidays and short breaks, Percentage, February 2025, UK, Full list



Reduce the number of UK overnight trips	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
	2024	2024	2025	2025
	data	data	data	data
NET 'fewer', 'not go', 'go day trips instead'	26%	26%	24%	25%





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: February 2025 = 949. \*Question format changed in March 2024.

# In terms of <u>UK day trips</u>, 20% of UK adults intend to 'spend less on eating out' and 19% will 'look for more 'free things' to do'. 27% will take fewer day trips or not go on any at all

Figure 13b. 'Cost of living' impact on day trips, Percentage, February 2025, UK, Full list



Reduce the number of day trips	Nov 2024 data	Dec 2024 data	Jan 2025 data	Feb 2025 data
NET 'fewer', 'not go on day trips'	29%	27%	27%	27%





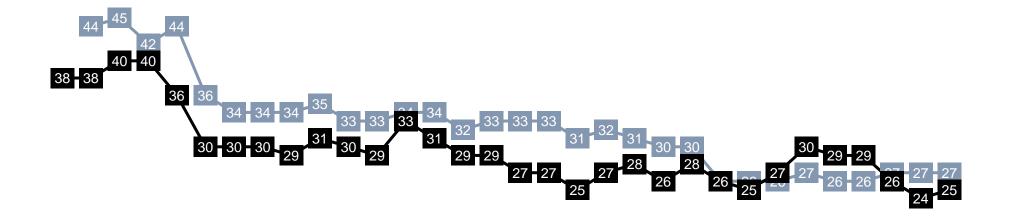
Question: VB7Cii. How, if at all, would you say the 'cost of living crisis' is likely to influence your day trips in the next few months? Base: February 2025 = 851. \*Question format changed in March 2024.

# UK adults are now more likely to reduce the number of UK day trips compared to UK overnight trips due to the cost of living (27% and 25% respectively)

Figure 13c. 'Cost of living' impact on UK holidays and short breaks and day trips, Percentage, Wave-on-wave 2024, UK,

Reduce the number of day trips

Reduce the number of UK overnight trips



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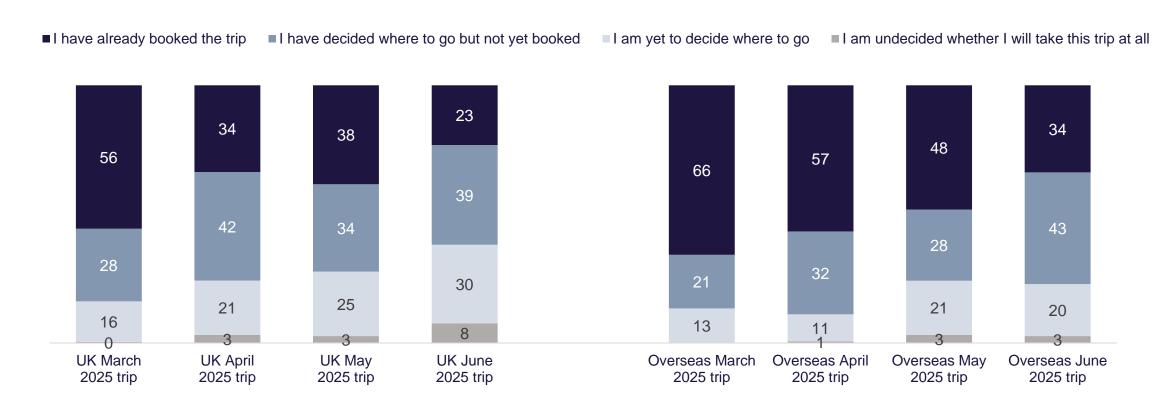


#### 3. The Next Trip: Overnight and Day Trips



# 56% of UK intenders have already booked their <u>domestic</u> trips for March 2025, while 66% 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, February 2025, UK

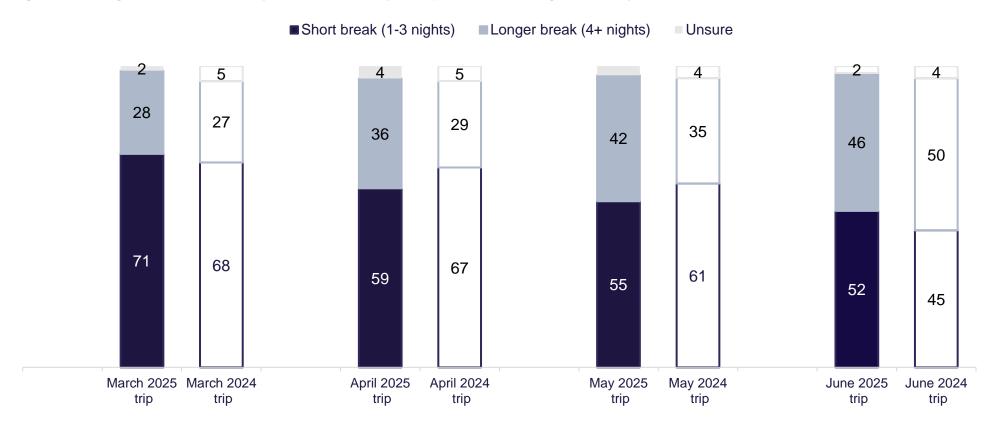






# Domestic trips are more likely to be shorter (1-3 nights) than longer (4+ nights) in the coming months. This trend is broadly in line with intention in 2024 when short breaks also dominated, with the exception of June 2024

Figure 17. Length of next UK holiday or short break by time period, Percentage, February 2025, 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)?







## South West is the most preferred UK overnight destination for trips in both February to March 2025 and April to June 2025 periods

Figure 18. Where planning on staying on next UK overnight <u>trip in February to March 2025</u>, Percentage, January 2025 and February 2025, UK

■ January / February 2025 data

□ January / February 2024 data

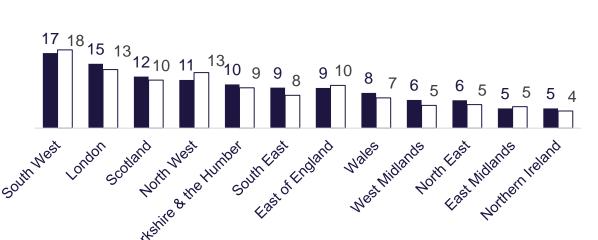
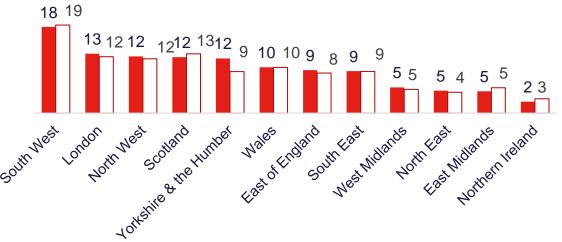


Figure 19. Where planning on staying on next UK overnight <u>trip</u> in April to June 2025, Percentage, January 2025 and February 2025, UK

■ January / February 2025 data

□ January / February 2024 data







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

Base: All January 2025 and February 2025 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the February to March 2024 n = 606, April to June 2024 n = 1,127; February to March 2025 n = 585, April to June 2024 n = 1,179. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate staying in more than one location.

### The top destination type for both February-March 2025 trips and April-June 2025 trips is 'A city or large town', followed by 'Countryside or village'

Figure 20. Types of destination for <u>trip in February to March</u> <u>2025</u>, Percentage, January 2025 and February 2025, UK

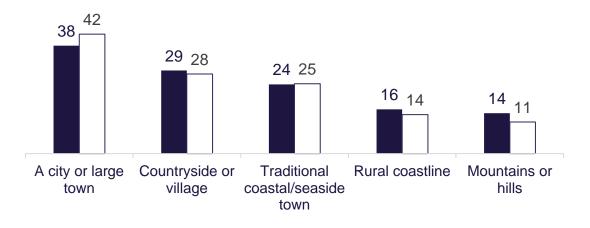
■ January / February 2025 data

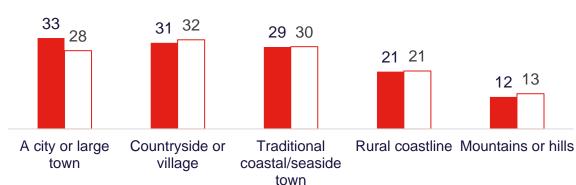
□ January / February 2024 data

Figure 21. Types of destination for overnight trip in April to June 2025, Percentage, January 2025 and February 2025, UK

■ January / February 2025 data

□ January / February 2024 data









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

Figure 24. Top 10 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight <u>trip in February to March 2025</u>, Percentage, January 2025 and February 2025, UK

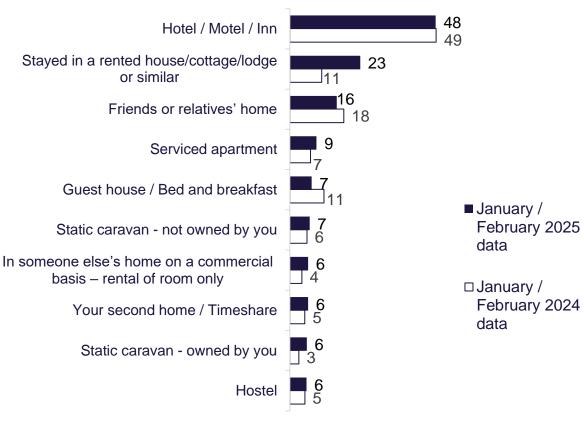
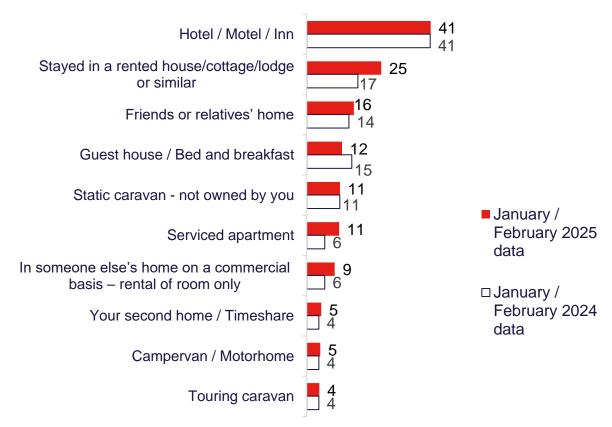


Figure 24. Top 10 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight <u>trip in April to June 2025</u>, Percentage, January 2025 and February 2025, UK



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

wave.

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 January 2025 and February 2025 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK February to March 2024 n = 606, April to June 2024 n = 1,179. \*New format of question including new code 'Staying in a rented house/ cottage/ flat/apartment or similar' added in July 2024





## The top motivation for overnight trip is 'Family time or time with my partner' in both February to March 2025 and April to June 2025 periods

Figure 28. Motivations for UK holidays and short <u>trip in February to March 2025</u>, Percentage, February 2025, UK, Full list



Figure 29. Motivations for UK holidays and short breaks <u>in April to June</u> <u>2025</u>, Percentage, February 2025, UK, Full list



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

Base: All February 2025 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK between February to March 2025 n = 288, April to June 2025 n = 587.

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





### The top activities in both January to March 2025 and April to June 2025 is 'Trying local food and drink' followed by 'Walking, Hiking or Rambling'

Figure 30. Activities for UK holidays and short breaks, in February to March 2025, Percentage, February 2025, UK, Full list

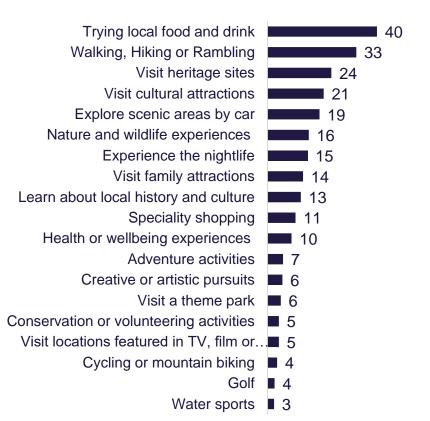
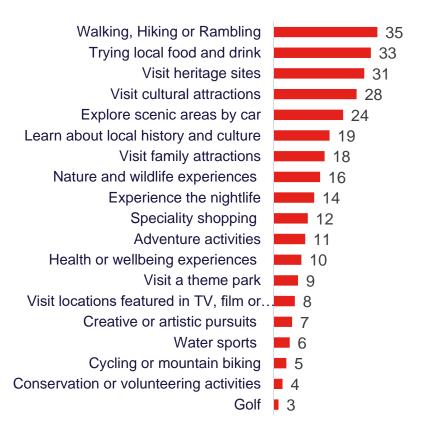


Figure 31. Activities for UK holidays and short breaks in April to June 2025, Percentage, February 2025, UK, Full list







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 February 2025 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK between February to March 2025 n = 288, April to June 2025 n = 587.

Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100%. \*Visited theme parks was added to the list in March 2024



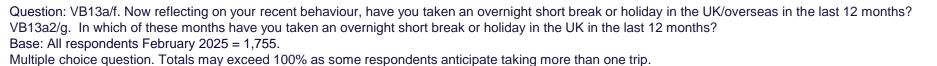
#### 4. Past UK and Overseas Trips



# 2 in 3 (66%) have taken a UK overnight trip in the past 12 months, while 46% 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, February 2025, UK



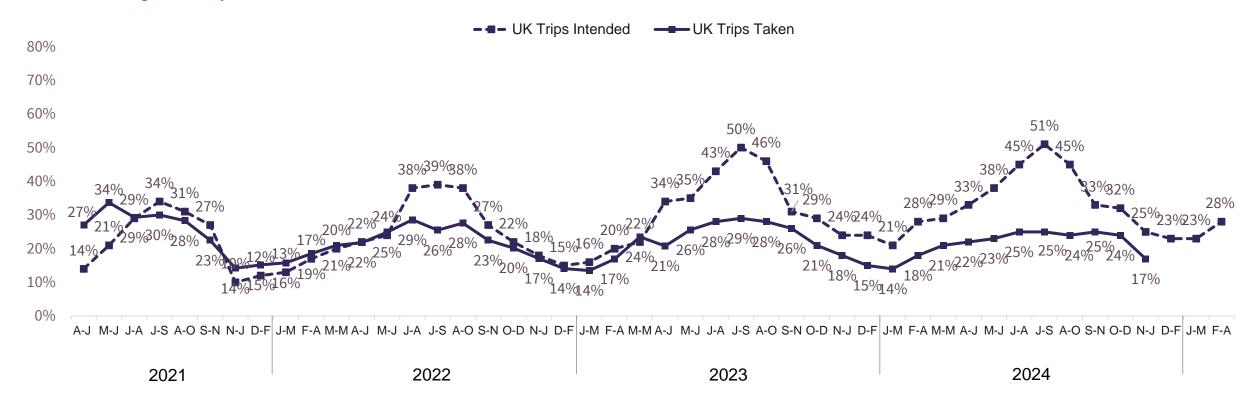


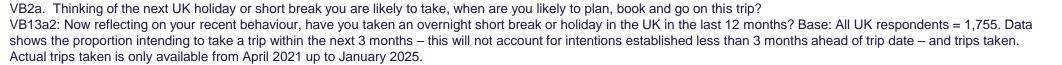




# 17% of respondents went on a domestic overnight trip between November 2024 and January 2025, which is in line with the same period in 2023 (18%)

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, February 2025, UK



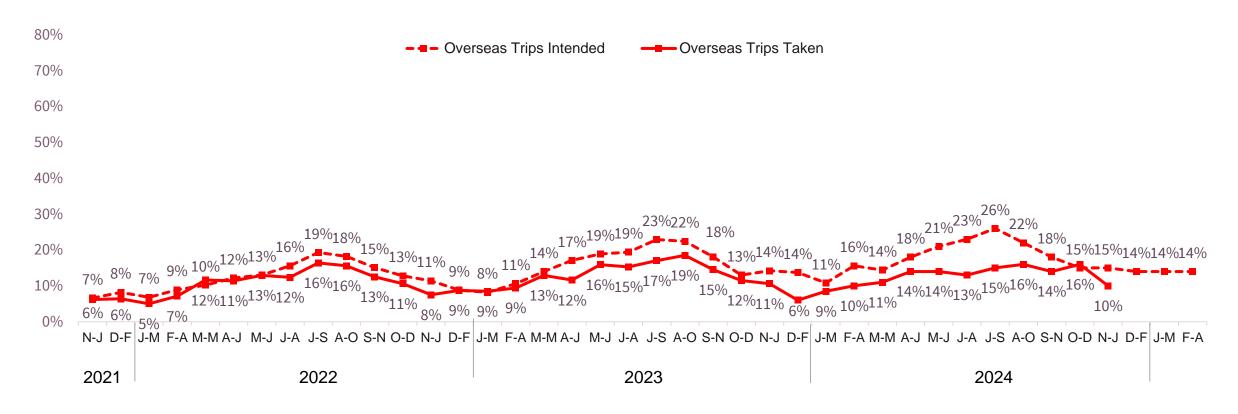


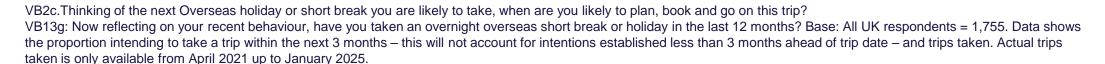




# 10% went on an overseas holiday between November 2024 and February 2025, versus 11% for the same period in 2023. The gap between intention and trips taken is smaller for overseas than domestic trips

Figure 32c. Incidence of overseas short breaks or holidays intended within next 3 month and taken in last 3 months of UK adult population, Percentage, February 2025, UK









#### London and South West were the most popular destinations for domestic trips in the past three months

Figure 33. Destination of overnight trips taken in UK in the past three months, Percentage, February 2025, UK

■ Last three months - 2025 □ Last three months - 2024



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 February 2025 respondents that took an overnight trips in the last three months n = 286, February 2024 respondents = 302.

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 (February 2025 data)

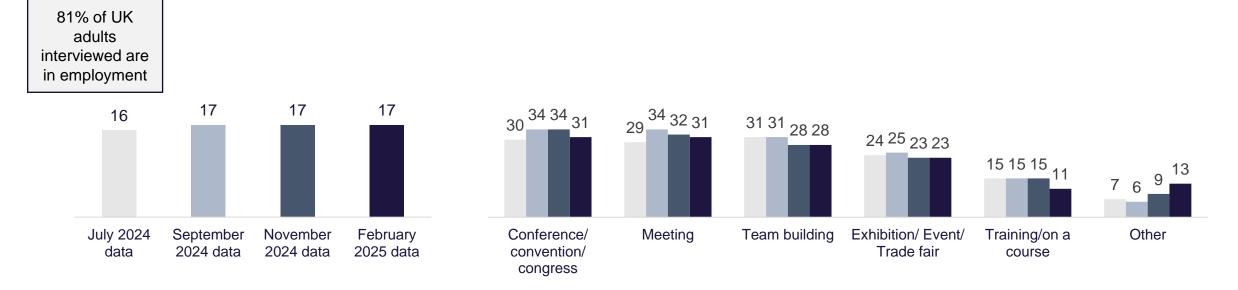


# 17% of UK adults in employment plan on taking an overnight business trip in the next 3 months. 'Conference' (31%) and 'Meeting' (31%) are the leading reasons

Figure 35. Proportion anticipating an overnight business trip in next 3 months, Percentage, February 2025, <u>UK adults in</u> employment

Figure 36. Reasons for taking an overnight business trip in next 3 months, Percentage, February 2025, UK adults in employment planning a trip

■ July 2024 data ■ September 2024 data ■ November 2024 data ■ February 2025 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: February 2025 respondents currently in employment n = 1,755. All taking a business trip n = 336.







#### **Methodology & Further Data**



#### **Methodology**

- This report presents findings from the February 2025 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 phase of this project started in April 2023 and will run until March 2025.
- 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 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: <a href="https://www.visitbritain.org/domestic-sentiment-tracker">https://www.visitbritain.org/domestic-sentiment-tracker</a>
  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.

