

GB TOURISM SURVEY – December 2013

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

1. Headlines

- In December 2013 there were 10.3 million domestic overnight trips in Great Britain, down 14% against 2012 when there were 12.1 million trips.
- Nights also fell to 32.5 million (-14%), with expenditure also down -20% compared with December 2012, falling from £1.9 to £1.6 billion.
- In the year 2013, 123 million trips were taken in Britain, equating to 374 million nights and generating £23bn in spend. Trips and spend declined by -3% compared with 2012, with nights falling by -4%.
- In England, 102 million trips were taken, equating to 297 million nights and £18.7bn in spend. This represents a decline of -3% for trips compared with 2012, and a fall of -4% for both nights and spend.

2. Context

- The weather in December was the wettest on record since 1978 and the windiest December since 1969, with heavy rain and frequent gusts of 60-70mph in many parts of the country.
- 2012 as a whole was an unusual year for tourism, with the Jubilee and Olympics impacting behavior, which can make it difficult to compare results for 2013 against 2012. As additional context, this summary also includes longer term trend data.

3. Trip Characteristics

- In the year from January to December, holiday trips and spend were slightly down on 2012. Trips fell by -1% to 57 million, and spend fell -2% to £13.5 billion. Shorter holiday trips of 1-3 nights fell by -2% and 4+ night holidays fell by -1%.
- Visits to friends and relatives also fell slightly (down -2% to 44.2m), though the drop in expenditure was more pronounced (-5% to £4.8bn).
- Business trips fell -6% to 17.8m, though expenditure did not record as great a fall (-2% to £4.4bn).
- Performance in 2013 varied by destination. Large cities / towns saw trips and expenditure fall by only -1%, and whilst countryside / village locations recorded a decrease in trips (-2%), expenditure increased (+2%). However, both trips and expenditure in small towns fell by -7%, whilst in seaside destinations trips (-4%) and expenditure (-8%) also fell further.
- Across England, trends varied by region. Trips and expenditure increased in the West Midlands (by +6% and +7% respectively), trips increased marginally in London (1% up, with spend unchanged) and remained flat in the South East, though spending fell back by 10%.
- There were declines in trip volumes in all other regions, including Yorkshire & the Humber (trips down -11%, though – with only a 1% drop in spending), the North East (-10% & -4%), the East (-9% and -16%) and the East Midlands (-7% and -18%). Considering social grade, trips and expenditure fell furthest amongst those in the least affluent social grades, with trips and spend down -6% and -9% respectively amongst C2s and down -5% and -6% amongst DEs.

KEY MEASURES



Year on Year Comparison – All Trips

	TRIPS (MILLIONS)			NIGHTS (MILLIONS)			SPEND (£M)		
	2012	2013	% +/-	2012	2013	% +/-	2012	2013	% +/-
December '13									
GB	12.1	10.3	-14%	37.8	32.5	-14%	1,948	1,565	-20%
England	10.2	8.9	-13%	30.9	27.6	-11%	1,574	1,254	-20%
Jan-Dec '13									
GB	126.0	122.9	-3%	388.2	373.6	-4%	23,976	23,294	-3%
England	104.5	101.8	-3%	310.2	297.2	-4%	19,497	18,710	-4%

Purpose of Trip – December 2013

	TRIPS (MILLIONS)			NIGHTS (MILLIONS)			SPEND (£M)		
	2012	2013	% +/-	2012	2013	% +/-	2012	2013	% +/-
GB									
Holiday	3.2	2.7	-15%	9.3	7.5	-20%	886	667	-25%
Business	1.3	1.1	-14%	2.9	2.5	-13%	299	286	-4%
VFR	7.3	6.3	-13%	25.2	22.1	-12%	729	601	-18%
England									
Holiday	2.7	2.2	-20%	7.6	6.0	-21%	710	506	-29%
Business	1.1	0.9	-16%	2.3	1.8	-22%	242	210	-13%
VFR	6.2	5.7	-9%	20.6	19.3	-6%	595	528	-11%

Purpose of Trip – Year to Date (January – December 2013)

	TRIPS (MILLIONS)			NIGHTS (MILLIONS)			SPEND (£M)		
	2012	2013	% +/-	2012	2013	% +/-	2012	2013	% +/-
GB									
Holiday	57.7	57.0	-1%	203.1	198.2	-2%	13,763	13,472	-2%
Business	18.9	17.8	-6%	44.5	40.1	-10%	4,486	4,388	-2%
VFR	45.1	44.2	-2%	129.0	124.8	-3%	5,083	4,847	-5%
England									
Holiday	46.0	44.9	-2%	156.2	149.7	-4%	11,007	10,463	-5%
Business	15.9	15.1	-5%	36.8	32.3	-12%	3,750	3,655	-3%
VFR	38.9	38.2	-2%	107.2	105.9	-1%	4,192	4,078	-3%

Outbound Travel – UK Residents

	TRIPS (MILLIONS)			SPEND (£BN)		
	2012	2013	% +/-	2012	2013	% +/-
Dec 2013	3.1	3.1	0%	1.6	1.7	+7%
Jan '12– Dec '13	56.5	58.0	+3%	32.5	34.7	+7%

4. Longer term trends

- Looking at longer term trends, the volume of domestic trips taken have increased by +7% since 2008. However, there has been a slight decline (-3%) in GB trips since 2011, which was a record year for domestic overnight tourism trip volumes. The same pattern is evident for England.
- As with trip volumes, nights and spend have seen increases since 2008 (+2% and +15% respectively) at GB level, but are below the peak levels reached in 2012.
- Holiday trips have seen the greatest increases of all trip types since 2008 (+13% for trips and +23% for spend since 2008), giving rise to the 'staycation' effect. This compares with a +1% increase for business trips and +3% increase for VFR trips over the period.
- Across all trip purposes though, 2013 volumes and values are below previously recorded peaks.
- The following tables provide volume and value data for 2008-2013.

Year on Year Comparison – All Trips (2008-2013)

All spend data is presented in nominal terms

All Tourism - Trips (millions)						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
GB	114.442	122.537	115.711	126.635	126.019	122.905
England	94.782	102.249	95.503	104.280	104.458	101.756
All Tourism - Bednights (millions)						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
GB	367.635	387.448	361.398	387.329	388.240	373.607
England	292.814	310.077	284.992	306.806	310.193	297.199
All Tourism - Expenditure (£ millions)						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
GB	£20,168	£20,971	£19,797	£22,666	£23,976	£23,294
England	£16,079	£17,016	£15,842	£17,914	£19,497	£18,710

Purpose of Trip – Annual results (2008-2013)

Holiday Trips (millions)						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Trips						
GB	50.417	58.974	54.743	58.435	57.695	56.969
England	39.753	47.010	43.544	46.157	45.992	44.926
Nights						
GB	188.381	217.536	197.215	208.487	203.095	198.229
England	141.816	168.503	151.732	157.961	156.235	149.722
Spend						
GB	£10,936	£12,119	£11,534	£13,000	£13,763	£13,472
England	£8,478	£9,615	£9,072	£10,031	£11,007	£10,463

Business Trips (millions)						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Trips						
GB	17.625	17.453	16.341	18.572	18.944	17.772
England	14.966	14.873	13.454	15.502	15.901	15.122
Nights						
GB	41.644	40.774	37.695	41.762	44.470	40.143
England	34.322	33.144	29.925	33.718	36.837	32.261
Spend						
GB	£4,265	£4,185	£3,645	£4,400	£4,486	£4,388
England	£3,510	£3,467	£2,961	£3,538	£3,750	£3,655

VFR Trips (millions)						
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Trips						
GB	42.996	43.276	41.554	45.723	45.137	44.200
England	37.180	37.997	35.963	39.382	38.920	38.194
Nights						
GB	123.631	121.309	117.435	125.702	129.034	124.768
England	104.607	102.214	96.517	105.430	107.193	105.943
Spend						
GB	£4,492	£4,299	£4,193	£4,727	£5,083	£4,847
England	£3,711	£3,626	£3,478	£3,903	£4,192	£4,078

5. Regional Results

	TRIPS (MILLIONS)			NIGHTS (MILLIONS)			SPEND (£M)		
	2012	2013	% +/-	2012	2013	% +/-	2012	2013	% +/-
East of England	9.882	8.959	-9.3%	31.623	27.292	-13.7%	£1,674	£1,415	-15.5%
East Midlands	8.501	7.897	-7.1%	23.696	20.910	-11.8%	£1,339	£1,103	-17.6%
London	12.152	12.310	+1.3%	27.687	27.437	-1.9%	£2,784	£2,793	+0.3%
North East	4.313	3.901	-9.6%	11.983	10.960	-8.5%	£777	£749	-3.6%
North West	14.194	13.984	-1.5%	38.035	35.823	-5.8%	£2,664	£2,458	-7.7%
South East	17.925	17.934	+0.1%	48.793	49.773	+2.0%	£2,929	£2,648	-9.6%
South West	19.737	19.399	-1.7%	75.43	74.283	-1.5%	£4,181	£4,291	+2.6%
West Midlands	8.498	9.023	+6.2%	20.72	20.711	-0.0%	£1,234	£1,318	+6.8%
Yorks & Humb	11.249	10.011	-11.0%	30.342	27.828	-8.3%	£1,807	£1,792	-0.8%

6. Overseas Travel by UK Resident

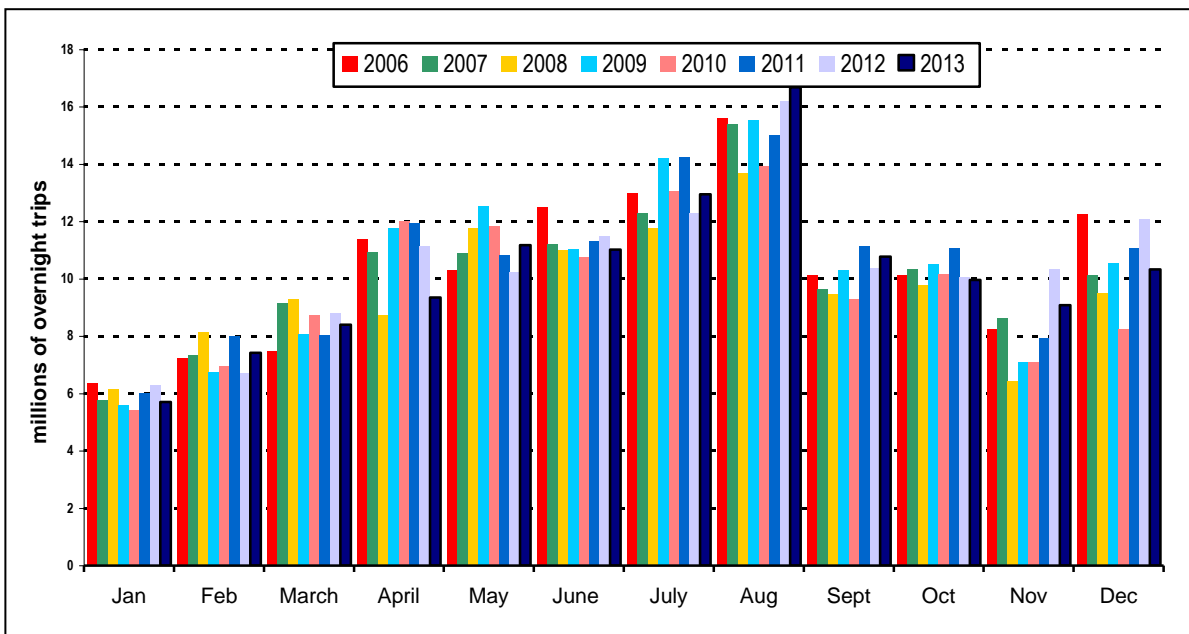
- The number of trips taken abroad by UK residents in December remained flat when compared with December 2012, with expenditure up +7%. Looking at the full year data for 2013, trips were up +3% and spend was up 7%.

7. Other Tourism Surveys

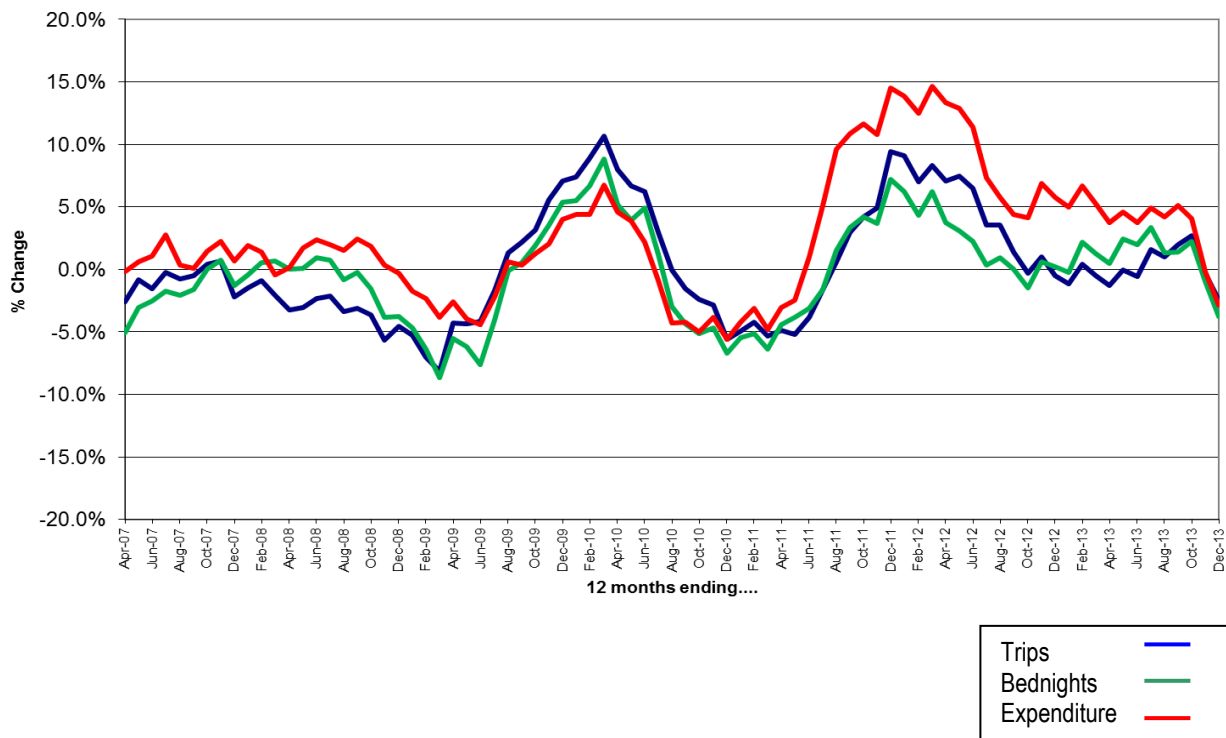
- Room occupancy in December increased by +3% compared with the same period in 2012, rising to 59%, with bedspace occupancy remaining broadly flat (+1%), at 43%. Both measures of occupancy increased by +2% for the year.
- Results from the January wave of the Tourism Business Monitor suggest that over half of accommodation and attractions businesses saw an increase in visitor numbers for the year, with around one in four reporting a decline.

TREND CHARTS

GB All Trips – Domestic Trip Volume by Month



GB All Trips - Annual Percentage Change



Year on Year Comparison, by Trip Characteristic

Important Note

The analysis on the following page shows year-on-year comparisons across a number of trip characteristics, considering:

- Month (December 2012 vs. December 2013)
- Year to date (Jan-Dec 2012 vs. Jan-Dec 2013)
- 12 month rolling (Jan-Dec 2012 vs. Jan-Dec 2013)

Percentage changes are colour coded:

Green indicates a change of over 5 percentage points **better** than the average across all trips (so a drop of -4% would be shaded green if all trips had declined by 10% over the same period)

Yellow indicates a change of within +/- 5 percentage points of the average

Orange indicates a change of more than 5 percentage points **worse** than the average

This analysis does **not necessarily indicate differences that are statistically significant**. For many of the categories included, particularly when reviewing single month data, changes would need to be much larger than the +/-5% cut-off point used to be statistically significant, and should always be reviewed in the context of the longer term trends. Even so, we feel that this analysis is helpful in understanding some of the market dynamics behind the overall monthly figures.

Sample sizes (underlying numbers of trips) are indicated on the spreadsheet – those with a very low base (fewer than 75 trips) have been “greyed out” to highlight that results should be treated with caution.

