

Monthly Inbound Update December 2019

28th February 2020

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About this data

Our monthly update presents the latest International Passenger Survey (IPS) data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

December data were released on 28th February 2020. The next release will cover the 2019 Travel Trends annual data and is planned for 22nd May 2020. This will provide data on visits by market and UK region visited up to Q4 2019. It may contain some revisions.

[Read the 'Inbound research & insights' section of the VisitBritain website](#) for much more detail on long term trends, data for individual markets and UK regions.

Short term figures give an indication of the very latest trends, but should be used with caution. IPS is not designed to report accurately by month, and figures should be treated as indicative. Analysis of the last three months or longer is more reliable. All figures are provisional and subject to revision by the ONS. All figures quoted are not “seasonally adjusted”. All percentage changes for spend are nominal. Numbers in some tables / charts may not sum due to rounding.

The data is based on interviews with a sample of departing visitors. The number interviewed varies but is typically around 3,000 per month.

Headlines – December 2019 (provisional)

| | Visits (000) | Growth |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| November 2019 | 2,920 | -1% |
| December 2019 | 3,210 | +12% |
| Last 3 months (Oct-Dec'19) | 9,560 | +4% |
| Rolling 12 months (Provisional 2019) | 38,920 | +3% |

Visits: The UK received 2.9 million visits in November 2019, down 1% year-on-year (YoY). In December 2019 visits reached a record 3.2 million visits, up 12% on December 2018. Visits between October and December 2019 were up 4% on those months in 2018 reaching 9.6 million visits, achieving another record. Provisional results for visits in 2019 showed a 3% growth on 2018, up to 38.9 million. However, there were still 1% fewer visits than the 2017 record.

| | Spend (£ million) | Growth |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| November 2019 | 1,940 | +21% |
| December 2019 | 2,310 | +38% |
| Last 3 months (Oct-Dec'19) | 6,570 | +26% |
| Rolling 12 months (Provisional 2019) | 25,490 | +11% |

Spending: Inbound visitors spent a record £1.9 billion in November 2019, up 21% on November 2018, and a record £2.3 billion in December 2019, up 38% on a weak December 2018 though. It was the seventh month in a row showing double-figure YoY growth. Thanks to those strong results, inbound spending in October – December 2019 was up 26%, setting another record for this period with £6.6 billion spent. In 2019, provisional spend results beat the record for any rolling 12-month period with £25.5 billion, up 11% YoY.

Journey Purpose

Visits (000s) and growth on same period a year ago

| Journey purpose | November 2019 | Growth | December 2019 | Growth | Last 3 months (Oct-Dec'19) | Growth | Rolling 12 months (Provisional 2019) | Growth |
|-----------------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Holiday | 1,120 | +1% | 1,300 | +23% | 3,790 | +10% | 15,980 | +6% |
| VFR | 870 | -2% | 1,160 | +13% | 3,090 | +3% | 11,850 | +1% |
| Business | 760 | -2% | 510 | -11% | 2,060 | -1% | 8,470 | 0% |
| Miscellaneous | 170 | -3% | 240 | +10% | 640 | -1% | 2,640 | +2% |

Holiday visits reached a new record in both November 2019 and December 2019, with 1.1 million visits up 1% YoY and 1.3 million visits up 23% YoY respectively. Visits in October - December 2019 also set a new record with 3.8 million visits, up 10% on those months in 2018. Between January and December 2019, holiday visits beat the record for any 12-month period set before, reaching a record 16.0 million visits.

Visits to friends and relatives (VFR) in November 2019 were down 2% on those in November 2018, with 870,000 visits. However, in December 2019 visits were up 13% on December 2018 to a record 1.2 million. In October 2019 – December 2019, visits reached 3.1 million, up 3% on the same period in 2018, setting another record. Provisional results for 2019 show that VFR visits were up 1%, on 2018 with 11.9 million visits, and just 1% short of the 2017 record.

Business visits decreased in both November 2019 and December 2019: down 2% YoY to 760,000 visits and down 11% YoY to 510,000 visits respectively. There were 2.1 million visits during October 2019 – December 2019, down 1% on the same months in 2018. Overall, there were 8.5 million business inbound visits to the UK in 2019, on par with 2018.

Miscellaneous journey purpose visits (definition on slide 25) represent a smaller proportion of inbound UK visits and results do tend to fluctuate. Visits in October 2019 – December 2019 were down 1% YoY, but up 2% in 2019 with 2.6 million visits.

Global Regions

Visits (000s) and growth on same period a year ago

| Global region | November 2019 | Growth | December 2019 | Growth | Last 3 months (Oct-Dec'19) | Growth | Rolling 12 months (Provisional 2019) | Growth |
|----------------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Total Europe | 2,120 | -7% | 2,360 | +7% | 6,890 | 0% | 26,960 | 0% |
| EU Total | 1,910 | -9% | 2,150 | +7% | 6,240 | 0% | 24,650 | -1% |
| EU15 | 1,530 | -9% | 1,750 | +9% | 5,120 | +3% | 19,680 | -1% |
| Other EU | 380 | -8% | 400 | 0% | 1,120 | -10% | 4,970 | +2% |
| Rest of Europe | 210 | +13% | 210 | +6% | 650 | +1% | 2,306 | +3% |
| North America | 340 | +16% | 360 | +74% | 1,140 | +19% | 5,360 | +13% |
| Rest of World | 460 | +22% | 490 | +8% | 1,540 | +16% | 6,610 | +7% |

Visits from **Europe overall** in November 2019 were down 7% YoY, but up 7% YoY in December 2019 to a record 2.4 million visits. Visits in October – December 2019 and in 2019 were both on par with visits in the same periods in 2018, with 6.7 million and 26.7 million visits respectively.

Visits from **the EU** were down 9% YoY in November 2019, but up 7% YoY in December 2019 to a record 2.2 million. The latest three months were on par with the same months in 2018 with 6.2 million visits. But with no growth in 6 of the 12 months to December 2019, visits in 2019 were 1% down YoY with 24.7 million visits. Within this:

- Visits from the **EU15** markets broadly followed this trend in November and December. Visits in October – December 2019 were up 3% YoY, and in January to December 2019 down 1% on the previous 12-month period with 19.7 million.
- With October and November down YoY, visits from **Other EU** were down 10% YoY in the latest 3 months. However, with the first five months of 2019 setting new records, visits remained up 2% YoY in 2019, with a record 5.0 million visits.

Visits from **North America** were up 16% YoY in November 2019 with a record 340,000 visits. December 2019 also saw record visits up to 360,000. Records were also set in October – December 2019 with 1.1 million visits, the latest 12 months passed the 5-million-visit mark for the six months in a row, beating the record in any 12-month period with 5.4 million visits.

'**Rest of World**' markets saw a 22% increase YoY in visits in November 2019 and an 8% increase in December 2019, both setting new records. The record-setting continued for visits from those markets in the other periods with October – December 2019 up 16% YoY to a record 1.5 million visits and the 12-month period to December 2019 beating all previous records for any 12-month period with 6.6 million visits, up 7% YoY.

Outbound and Competitors

Travel abroad by UK residents in the last three months

| | Oct - Dec 2019 | Change vs. Aug – Oct 2018 |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Visits (000) | 14,800 | +3% |
| Spend (£ million) | £9,960 | +12% |

UK residents took 14.8 million visits abroad between October and December 2019, up 3% on the same months in 2018. These visitors spent £10.0 billion, up 12% on October – December 2018.

Between October and December 2019, UK residents took 1% more outbound business trips than in the same period in 2018, 2% more holiday visits, 8% more trips for visiting friends and relatives, and 9% more trips for miscellaneous purposes.

Visits by UK residents to Europe overall in October – December 2019 were up 3% on those months the year before, and up 2% YoY to the EU countries. Visits to the EU15 were on par with those in this quarter in 2018 but 12% more to destinations in Other EU countries YoY. Visits to North America in the same period were down 5% YoY, while those to the Rest of the World were up 6% YoY.

For more on outbound travel from the UK [visit the ONS website](#). *Source: IPS for the UK, UNWTO for all other markets, periods for which we have data available vary by country, so figures are indicative and not necessarily directly comparable.

The international picture*

Most of the UK's main competitors shown on the table below have reported an increase in inbound arrivals in 2019 so far.

Strong growth in visits was seen in Turkey, whilst the USA dropped slightly. The UK saw some moderate growth, as did the Australia and other main competing destinations in Europe.

Figures relate to different time periods so comparisons should be treated with caution.

| Destination | Growth in overseas visits | Period (Jan 2019 to ...) |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Turkey | +14% | November |
| Netherlands | +8% | October |
| Italy | +5% | October |
| Canada | +5% | October |
| Australia | +3% | October |
| UK | +3% | December |
| Rep. of Ireland | +2% | November |
| Germany | +1% | October |
| Spain | +1% | November |
| Switzerland | +1% | November |
| France | +1% | October |
| USA | -1% | October |

Exchange rates

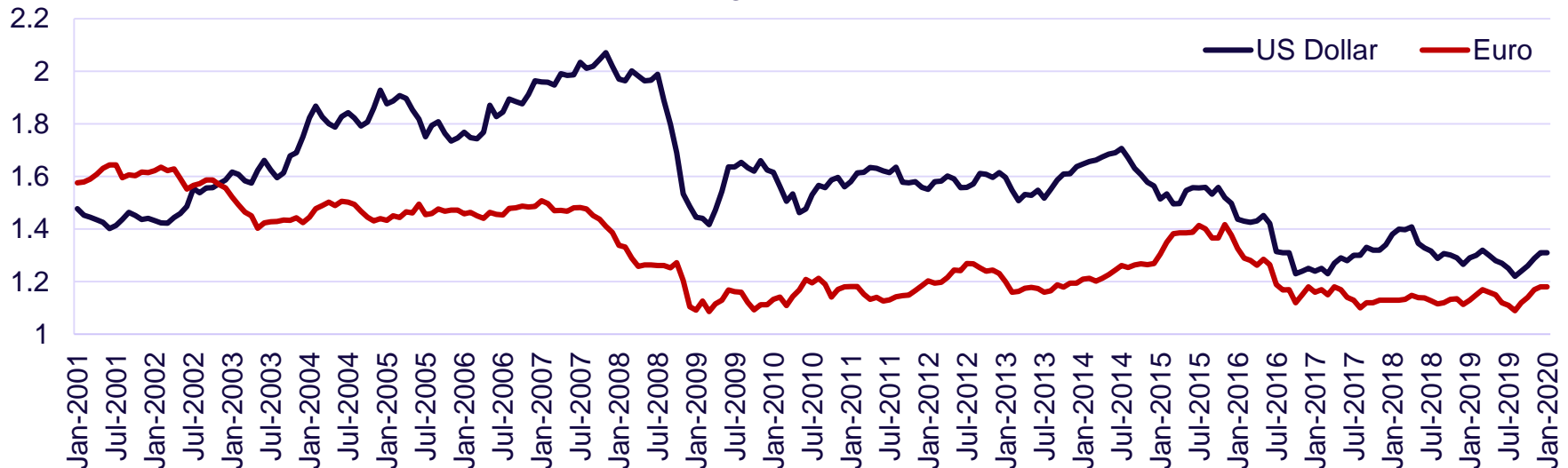
The cost of Sterling for those visiting the UK was high in 2015 but in 2016 it began to fluctuate due to political uncertainty. From late June 2016, the sharp depreciation of the pound following the referendum result made the UK a more affordable destination for many markets.

The value of Sterling against both the dollar and the euro has remained low since the low levels in October 2016, although it has been fluctuating since then: it rose against the dollar in 2017 before starting depreciating again in 2018 and reaching its weakest point in August 2019, after what it started appreciating again.

Sterling was up 3% year-on-year (YoY) at \$1.31 in December 2019. Against the euro, at €1.18 in December 2019, Sterling was 6% up on its value in December 2018. Compared to the Sterling value in December 2015 (before the referendum happened), it was down 13% and down 14% on its value against the US dollar and the euro respectively.

In December 2019, Sterling was up 8% against the Australian dollar, up 5% against the Chinese Yuan, and up 1% against the Canadian dollar compared to December 2018 (but down 8%, 5% and 16% on December 2015 respectively).

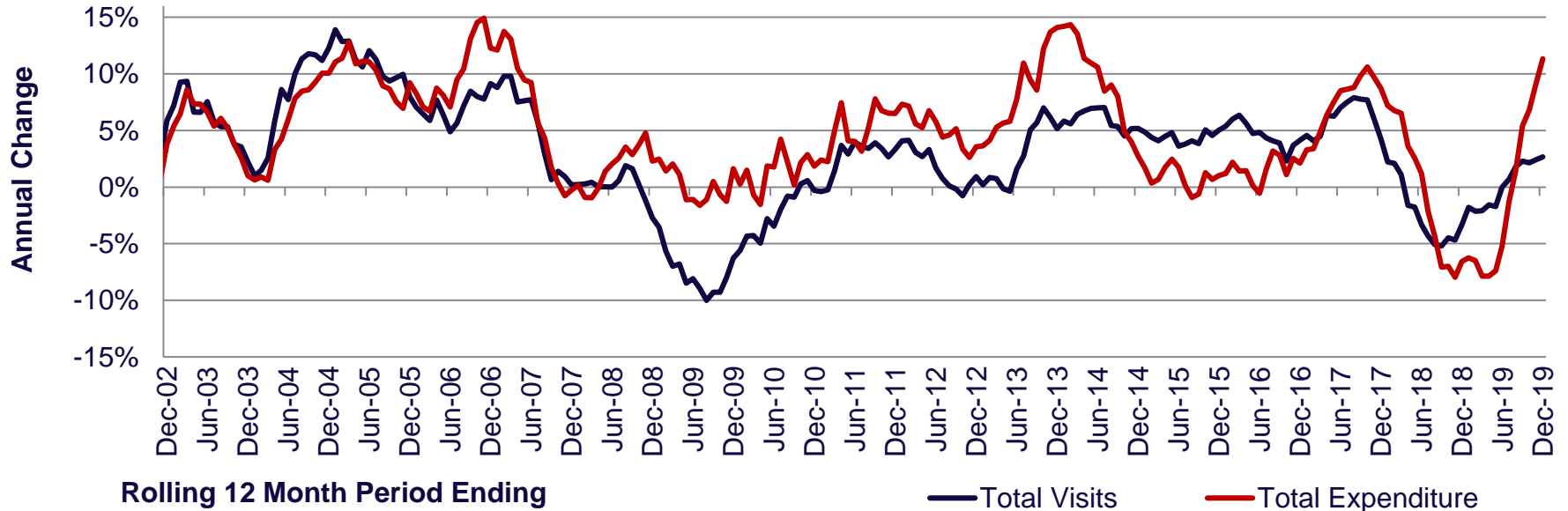
GBP Exchange rate: \$ / € per £



Source: Bank of England

Longer term trends

Visits and spend since 2002



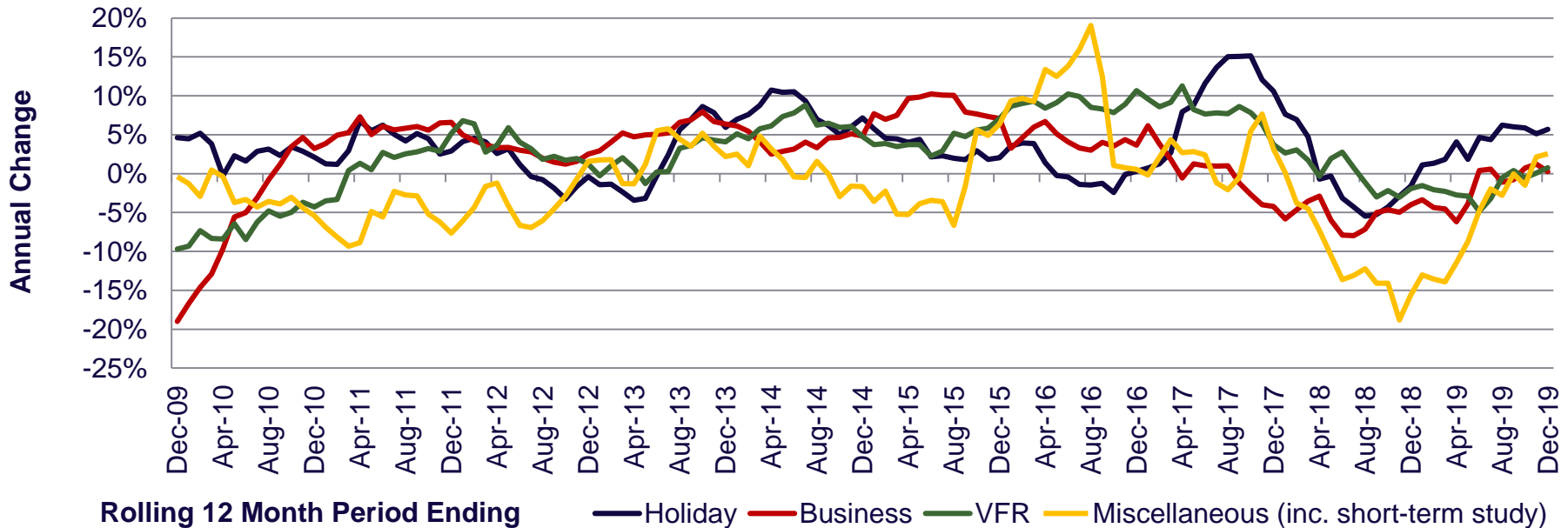
This chart shows the year-on-year change in headline IPS results based on a 'rolling twelve-month' basis. Presenting the data in this way enables us to spot emerging trends and helps to 'smooth out' erratic results for any single month.

The impact of the global economic crisis can be seen in 2009 followed by slow but reasonably steady recovery until late 2017. In 2018, however, there was a decline in visits and spend that continued into the first months of 2019. We started observing a more positive trend in the most recent rolling 12-month periods.

Whilst visits growth has remained positive in the years to 2018, spend has fluctuated more. As of December 2019, visits in the last twelve months were tracking 3% up and inbound spend 11% up compared to the twelve months to December 2018.

Longer term trends

Trends in inbound tourism by purpose since 2009



By journey purpose holiday visits were far more resilient to the recession in the late 2000s and mostly have shown long term growth. There has been some variability in recent years. In the most recent 12 months, holiday visits were up 6% YoY.

After a significant downturn in 2009, business visits have generally seen steady growth since, which intensified in 2015. However, they have been decreasing for most of the past two years, and in the most recent 12 months there were just on par with 2018 business visits.

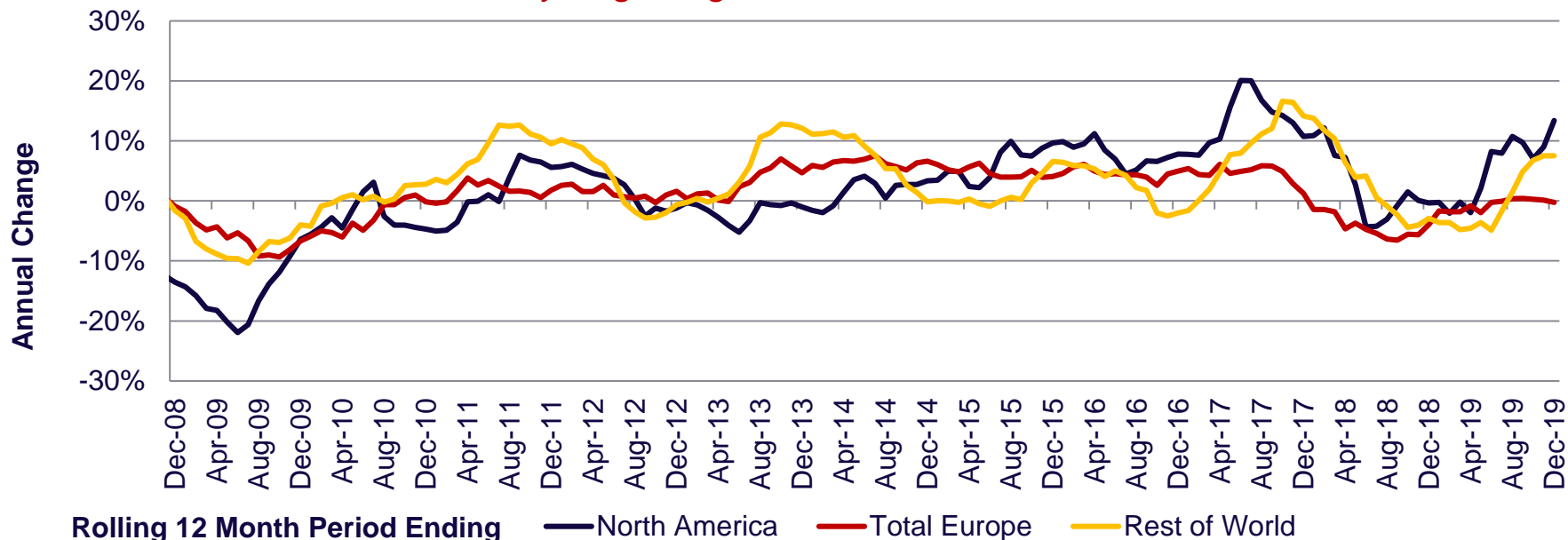
Trips to visit friends and relatives have largely shown growth in recent years, and stayed in positive territory since mid-2013 until a decline in 2018 and in the first months of 2019. Provisional results showed VFR visits in 2019 up 1% on 2018.

Trips for other (miscellaneous) purposes account for a smaller number of visits and show the most variation with a downward trend since early 2018. Miscellaneous visits were up 2% YoY in the 12 months to December 2019.

[More data on long term trend are available here](#)

Longer term trends

Trends in inbound tourism by origin region since 2008



This chart shows the longer term picture and the varying rates of recovery in visit numbers after the global financial crisis. Until 2017, visits from Total Europe grew at a steady pace; they fell in 2018 but have been stable recently. At the end of 2019, they were on par with the previous twelve months, January – December 2018.

Visits from North America initially struggled to recover since 2009 but showed steady growth between 2014 and 2017. They were about stable in 2018, though more recent results were up again. In the latest 12 months to December 2019 they were up 13% on 2018.

Visits from the 'Rest of World' region remained broadly in positive territory until late 2016, when they started fluctuating more. Late 2017 showed strong growth, with a decline in 2018 and early 2019 before returning to strong growth recently. Provisional results show those visits in 2019 up 7% on 2018.

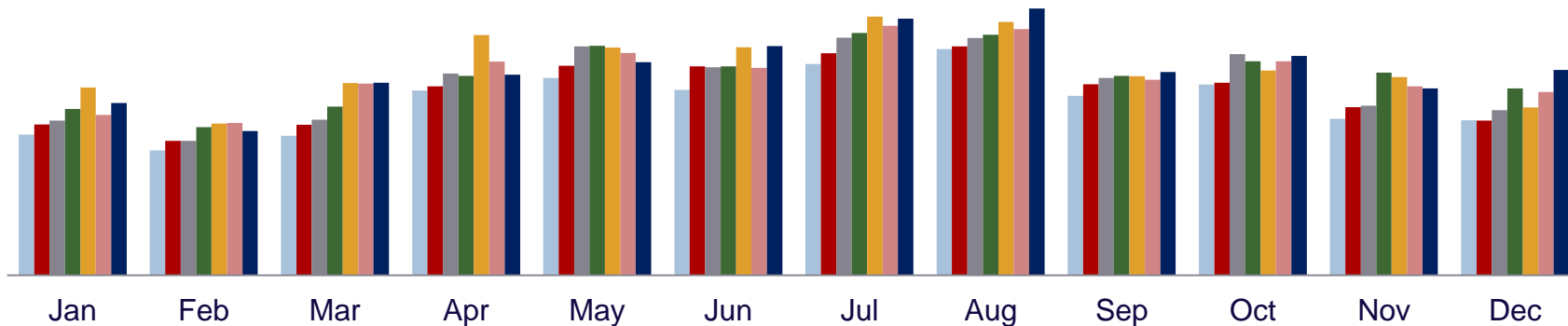
Detailed monthly trends

Visits

Overseas Visits to the UK - Total Visits (000)

Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



| Years | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2013 | 2,200 | 1,951 | 2,181 | 2,888 | 3,084 | 2,897 | 3,304 | 3,535 | 2,806 | 2,980 | 2,443 | 2,420 |
| 2014 | 2,359 | 2,099 | 2,352 | 2,952 | 3,274 | 3,264 | 3,470 | 3,576 | 2,984 | 3,008 | 2,625 | 2,417 |
| 2015 | 2,419 | 2,099 | 2,431 | 3,155 | 3,578 | 3,250 | 3,710 | 3,708 | 3,081 | 3,454 | 2,648 | 2,581 |
| 2016 | 2,599 | 2,314 | 2,638 | 3,115 | 3,586 | 3,267 | 3,786 | 3,757 | 3,116 | 3,346 | 3,167 | 2,919 |
| 2017 | 2,935 | 2,370 | 3,002 | 3,756 | 3,559 | 3,562 | 4,043 | 3,957 | 3,110 | 3,202 | 3,095 | 2,624 |
| 2018 | 2,507 | 2,380 | 2,996 | 3,338 | 3,475 | 3,243 | 3,901 | 3,848 | 3,054 | 3,343 | 2,955 | 2,866 |
| 2019 | 2,693 | 2,254 | 3,009 | 3,133 | 3,331 | 3,581 | 4,012 | 4,168 | 3,179 | 3,430 | 2,920 | 3,210 |

Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

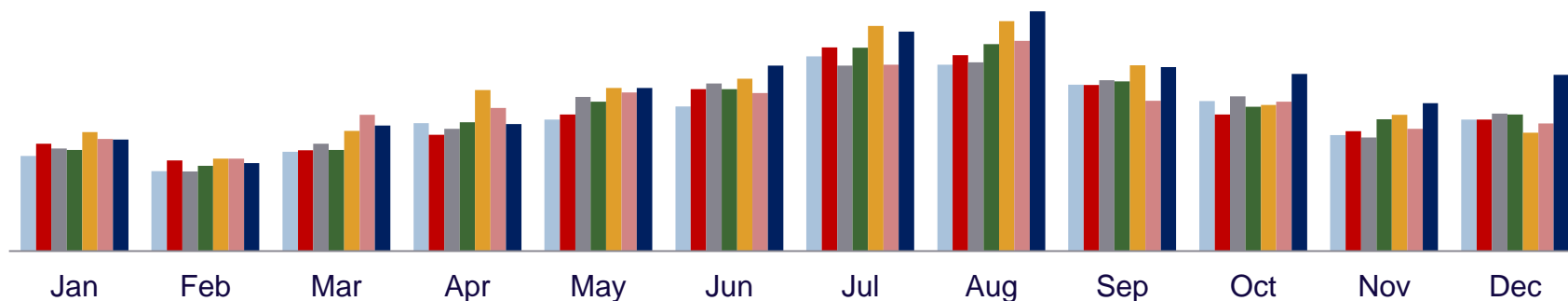
Detailed monthly trends

Spend

Overseas Visits to the UK - Total Spend (£m)

Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



| Years | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2013 | 1,245 | 1,046 | 1,300 | 1,677 | 1,723 | 1,894 | 2,550 | 2,443 | 2,179 | 1,967 | 1,520 | 1,725 |
| 2014 | 1,405 | 1,187 | 1,320 | 1,526 | 1,791 | 2,121 | 2,669 | 2,568 | 2,178 | 1,790 | 1,571 | 1,725 |
| 2015 | 1,346 | 1,043 | 1,405 | 1,604 | 2,019 | 2,195 | 2,429 | 2,473 | 2,239 | 2,028 | 1,490 | 1,802 |
| 2016 | 1,324 | 1,116 | 1,325 | 1,687 | 1,957 | 2,122 | 2,667 | 2,714 | 2,222 | 1,892 | 1,728 | 1,789 |
| 2017 | 1,559 | 1,213 | 1,573 | 2,110 | 2,137 | 2,260 | 2,952 | 3,014 | 2,435 | 1,915 | 1,787 | 1,552 |
| 2018 | 1,470 | 1,213 | 1,786 | 1,876 | 2,077 | 2,072 | 2,444 | 2,755 | 1,971 | 1,957 | 1,602 | 1,674 |
| 2019 | 1,463 | 1,154 | 1,646 | 1,664 | 2,139 | 2,429 | 2,876 | 3,144 | 2,410 | 2,320 | 1,940 | 2,310 |

Note: Spending in million pounds. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

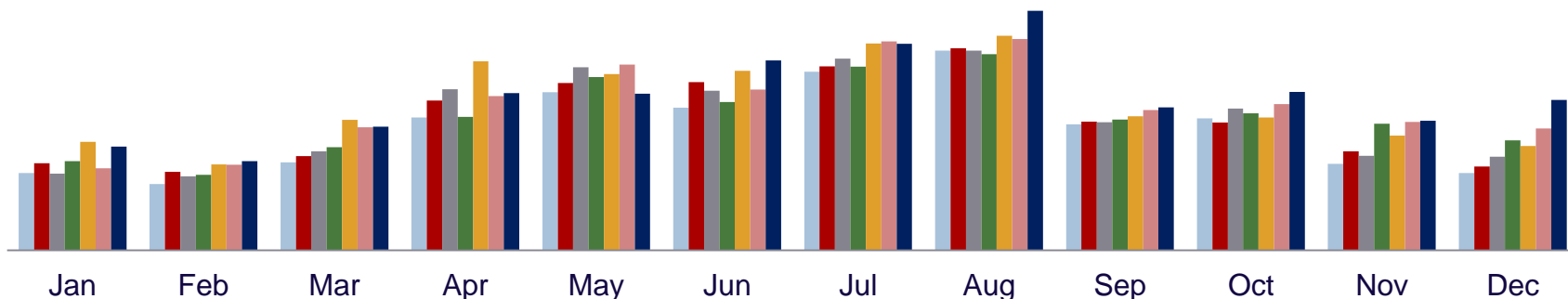
Detailed monthly trends

Journey Purpose (1 of 4) – Holiday

Overseas Visits to the UK - Holiday Visits (000)

Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey

■ 2013 ■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019



| Years | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2013 | 669 | 572 | 762 | 1,149 | 1,367 | 1,234 | 1,544 | 1,727 | 1,090 | 1,141 | 747 | 669 |
| 2014 | 754 | 679 | 814 | 1,296 | 1,448 | 1,455 | 1,590 | 1,747 | 1,112 | 1,105 | 855 | 725 |
| 2015 | 663 | 640 | 856 | 1,392 | 1,584 | 1,381 | 1,657 | 1,726 | 1,108 | 1,225 | 816 | 810 |
| 2016 | 770 | 654 | 893 | 1,153 | 1,499 | 1,282 | 1,589 | 1,697 | 1,131 | 1,184 | 1,095 | 951 |
| 2017 | 938 | 744 | 1,128 | 1,635 | 1,524 | 1,552 | 1,789 | 1,855 | 1,158 | 1,149 | 993 | 903 |
| 2018 | 710 | 741 | 1,063 | 1,333 | 1,606 | 1,390 | 1,807 | 1,828 | 1,213 | 1,265 | 1,110 | 1,053 |
| 2019 | 898 | 772 | 1,070 | 1,360 | 1,355 | 1,641 | 1,785 | 2,072 | 1,237 | 1,370 | 1,120 | 1,300 |

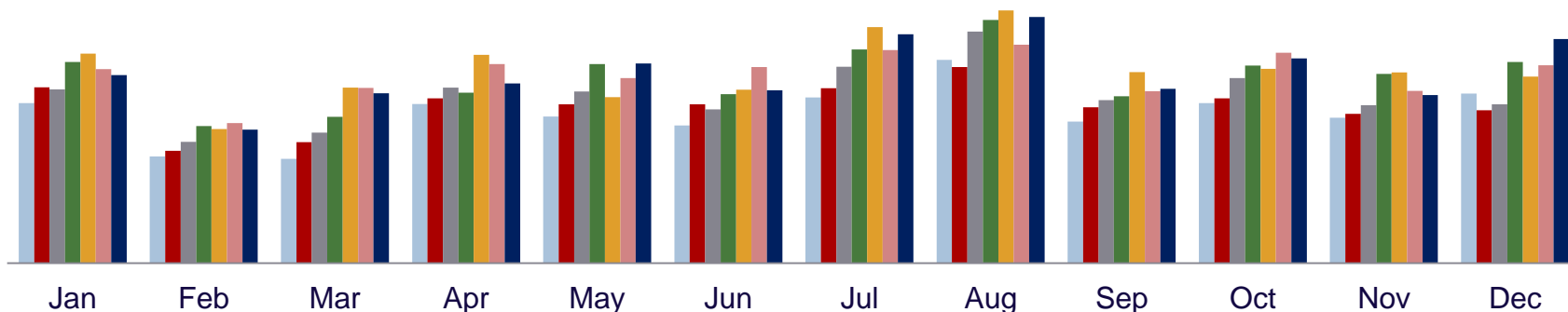
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed monthly trends

Journey Purpose (2 of 4) – VFR

Overseas Visits to the UK - Visits to Friends and Relatives (000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey

■ 2013 ■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019



| Years | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|
| 2013 | 828 | 552 | 540 | 824 | 758 | 712 | 858 | 1,051 | 732 | 828 | 753 | 878 |
| 2014 | 910 | 582 | 626 | 853 | 822 | 822 | 905 | 1,014 | 807 | 853 | 772 | 791 |
| 2015 | 899 | 627 | 676 | 908 | 888 | 795 | 1,016 | 1,198 | 844 | 958 | 818 | 822 |
| 2016 | 1,041 | 710 | 757 | 882 | 1,030 | 875 | 1,106 | 1,258 | 863 | 1,023 | 979 | 1,041 |
| 2017 | 1,084 | 694 | 908 | 1,078 | 859 | 897 | 1,221 | 1,308 | 989 | 1,005 | 987 | 966 |
| 2018 | 1,004 | 725 | 907 | 1,030 | 957 | 1,015 | 1,102 | 1,130 | 890 | 1,088 | 892 | 1,023 |
| 2019 | 973 | 690 | 880 | 930 | 1,033 | 894 | 1,185 | 1,274 | 902 | 1,060 | 870 | 1,160 |

Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

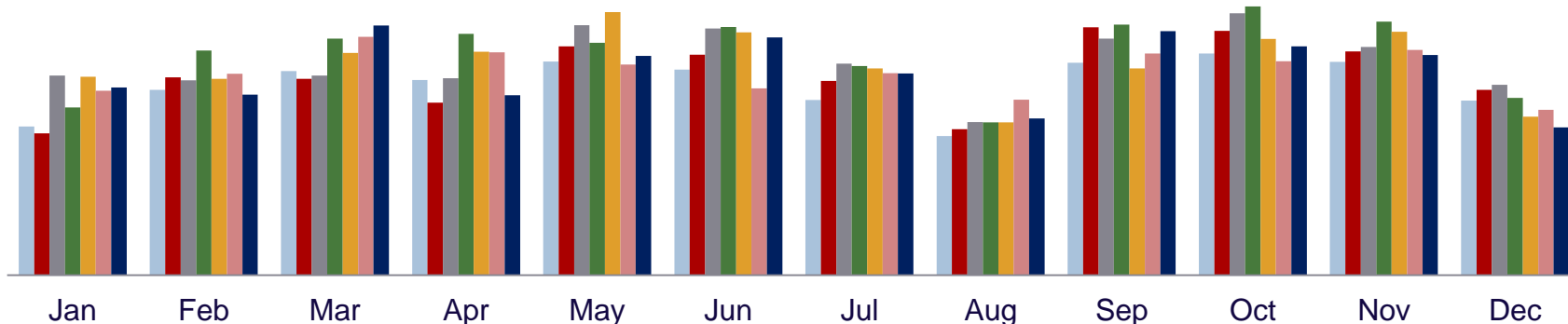
Detailed monthly trends

Journey Purpose (3 of 4) – Business

Overseas Visits to the UK - Business Visits (000)

Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



| Years | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2013 | 513 | 639 | 704 | 673 | 737 | 709 | 604 | 480 | 733 | 765 | 736 | 602 |
| 2014 | 489 | 683 | 677 | 595 | 790 | 761 | 670 | 504 | 855 | 843 | 772 | 639 |
| 2015 | 689 | 672 | 689 | 680 | 862 | 851 | 730 | 528 | 816 | 904 | 787 | 657 |
| 2016 | 579 | 775 | 816 | 833 | 802 | 856 | 722 | 527 | 865 | 927 | 875 | 612 |
| 2017 | 685 | 677 | 767 | 771 | 908 | 838 | 713 | 527 | 713 | 815 | 840 | 547 |
| 2018 | 636 | 695 | 822 | 769 | 727 | 645 | 697 | 605 | 764 | 738 | 777 | 570 |
| 2019 | 648 | 623 | 861 | 620 | 757 | 820 | 696 | 541 | 842 | 790 | 760 | 510 |

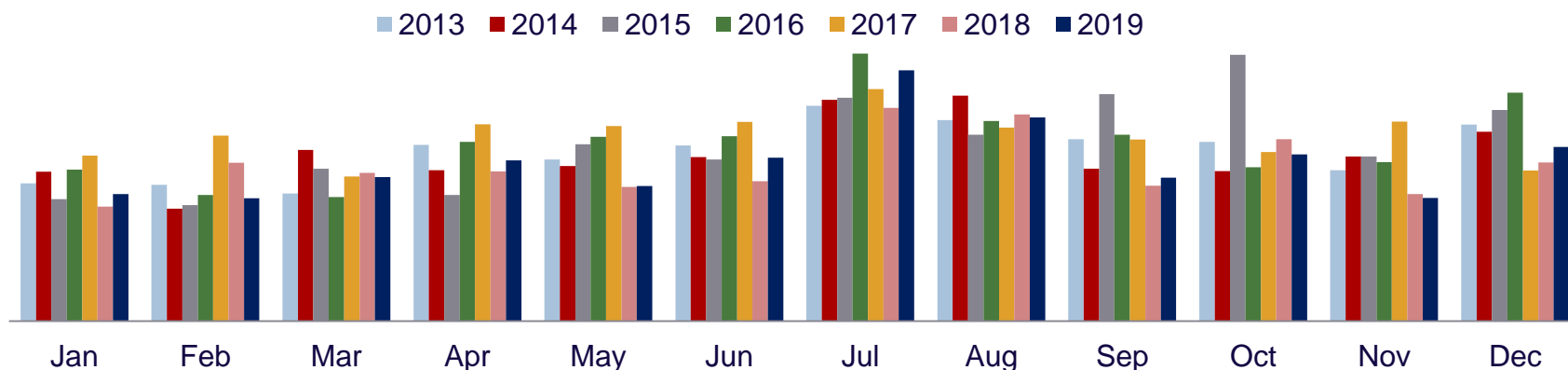
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed monthly trends

Journey Purpose (4 of 4) – Miscellaneous

Overseas Visits to the UK - Miscellaneous (includes short-term study, 000)

Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



| Years | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2013 | 190 | 188 | 176 | 243 | 223 | 242 | 297 | 277 | 251 | 247 | 208 | 271 |
| 2014 | 206 | 155 | 236 | 208 | 214 | 226 | 305 | 311 | 210 | 207 | 227 | 261 |
| 2015 | 168 | 160 | 210 | 174 | 244 | 223 | 308 | 257 | 313 | 367 | 227 | 291 |
| 2016 | 209 | 174 | 171 | 247 | 254 | 255 | 369 | 276 | 257 | 212 | 219 | 315 |
| 2017 | 228 | 256 | 200 | 271 | 269 | 275 | 320 | 267 | 250 | 233 | 275 | 208 |
| 2018 | 158 | 218 | 205 | 207 | 185 | 193 | 294 | 285 | 187 | 251 | 175 | 219 |
| 2019 | 175 | 170 | 199 | 222 | 186 | 225 | 346 | 281 | 198 | 230 | 170 | 240 |

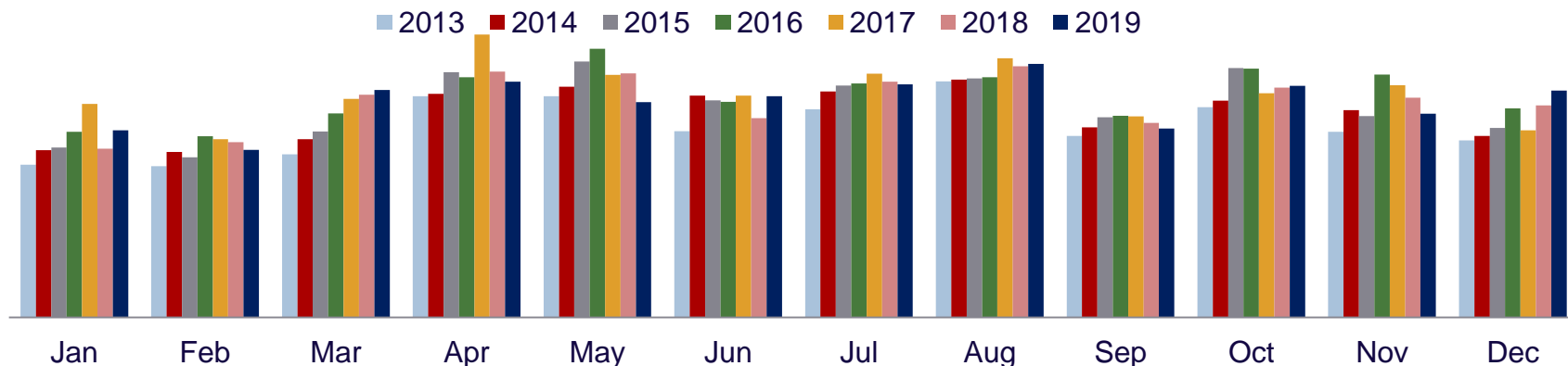
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed monthly trends

Global Regions (1 of 7) – Europe total

Overseas Visits to the UK from Europe (000)

Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



| Years | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2013 | 1,589 | 1,573 | 1,696 | 2,300 | 2,301 | 1,938 | 2,165 | 2,456 | 1,888 | 2,188 | 1,932 | 1,840 |
| 2014 | 1,739 | 1,720 | 1,852 | 2,326 | 2,399 | 2,308 | 2,350 | 2,474 | 1,976 | 2,255 | 2,156 | 1,887 |
| 2015 | 1,766 | 1,666 | 1,933 | 2,551 | 2,662 | 2,258 | 2,412 | 2,487 | 2,083 | 2,593 | 2,093 | 1,970 |
| 2016 | 1,930 | 1,885 | 2,122 | 2,499 | 2,793 | 2,241 | 2,434 | 2,497 | 2,096 | 2,586 | 2,525 | 2,174 |
| 2017 | 2,220 | 1,855 | 2,274 | 2,943 | 2,524 | 2,307 | 2,535 | 2,696 | 2,092 | 2,333 | 2,414 | 1,947 |
| 2018 | 1,756 | 1,823 | 2,316 | 2,558 | 2,539 | 2,073 | 2,450 | 2,613 | 2,022 | 2,391 | 2,284 | 2,205 |
| 2019 | 1,947 | 1,742 | 2,364 | 2,453 | 2,240 | 2,301 | 2,424 | 2,638 | 1,964 | 2,410 | 2,120 | 2,360 |

Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

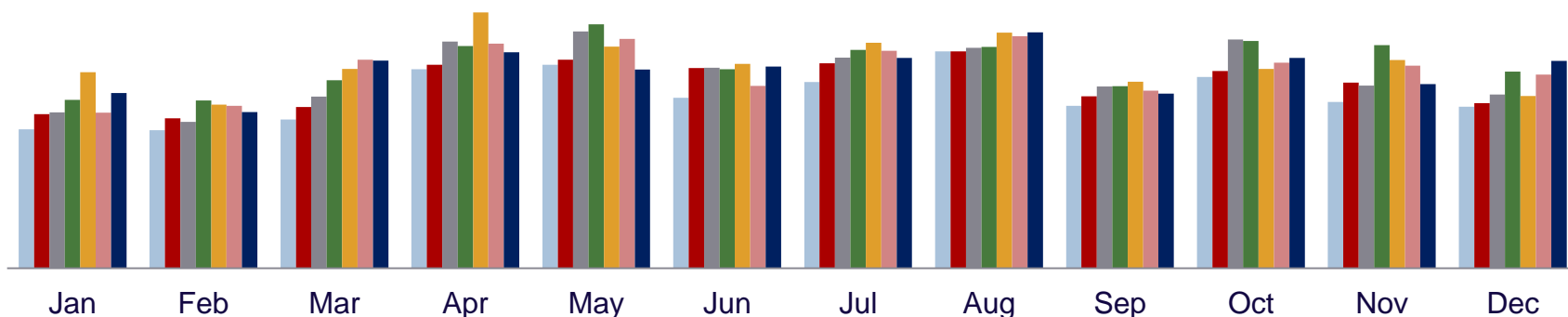
Detailed monthly trends

Global Regions (2 of 7) – Total EU

Overseas Visits to the UK from the EU (000)

Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



| Years | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2013 | 1,439 | 1,430 | 1,541 | 2,063 | 2,108 | 1,766 | 1,931 | 2,249 | 1,685 | 1,984 | 1,725 | 1,675 |
| 2014 | 1,596 | 1,555 | 1,673 | 2,110 | 2,161 | 2,077 | 2,125 | 2,249 | 1,781 | 2,046 | 1,924 | 1,712 |
| 2015 | 1,616 | 1,516 | 1,778 | 2,351 | 2,454 | 2,080 | 2,182 | 2,286 | 1,883 | 2,371 | 1,895 | 1,800 |
| 2016 | 1,747 | 1,739 | 1,950 | 2,303 | 2,529 | 2,062 | 2,264 | 2,296 | 1,888 | 2,356 | 2,313 | 2,038 |
| 2017 | 2,031 | 1,696 | 2,065 | 2,652 | 2,296 | 2,118 | 2,339 | 2,443 | 1,935 | 2,066 | 2,159 | 1,785 |
| 2018 | 1,614 | 1,685 | 2,163 | 2,328 | 2,379 | 1,889 | 2,254 | 2,404 | 1,841 | 2,131 | 2,099 | 2,008 |
| 2019 | 1,816 | 1,618 | 2,154 | 2,239 | 2,060 | 2,091 | 2,179 | 2,446 | 1,811 | 2,180 | 1,910 | 2,150 |

Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

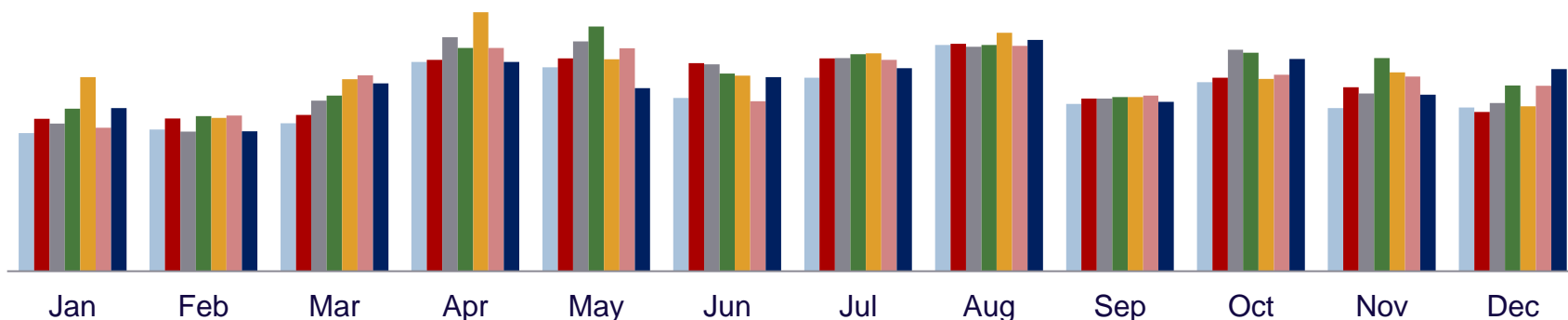
Detailed monthly trends

Global Regions (3 of 7) – EU 15

Overseas Visits to the UK from the EU15 countries (000)

Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



| Years | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2013 | 1,197 | 1,228 | 1,282 | 1,814 | 1,767 | 1,502 | 1,676 | 1,959 | 1,449 | 1,637 | 1,414 | 1,419 |
| 2014 | 1,320 | 1,323 | 1,354 | 1,832 | 1,845 | 1,802 | 1,845 | 1,970 | 1,495 | 1,677 | 1,594 | 1,381 |
| 2015 | 1,279 | 1,210 | 1,478 | 2,028 | 1,991 | 1,792 | 1,847 | 1,944 | 1,495 | 1,919 | 1,540 | 1,457 |
| 2016 | 1,408 | 1,343 | 1,521 | 1,933 | 2,121 | 1,712 | 1,879 | 1,960 | 1,510 | 1,892 | 1,846 | 1,610 |
| 2017 | 1,682 | 1,329 | 1,663 | 2,243 | 1,835 | 1,693 | 1,887 | 2,066 | 1,509 | 1,667 | 1,724 | 1,428 |
| 2018 | 1,243 | 1,349 | 1,698 | 1,934 | 1,933 | 1,474 | 1,832 | 1,952 | 1,521 | 1,703 | 1,687 | 1,607 |
| 2019 | 1,414 | 1,212 | 1,627 | 1,812 | 1,587 | 1,681 | 1,758 | 2,003 | 1,467 | 1,840 | 1,530 | 1,750 |

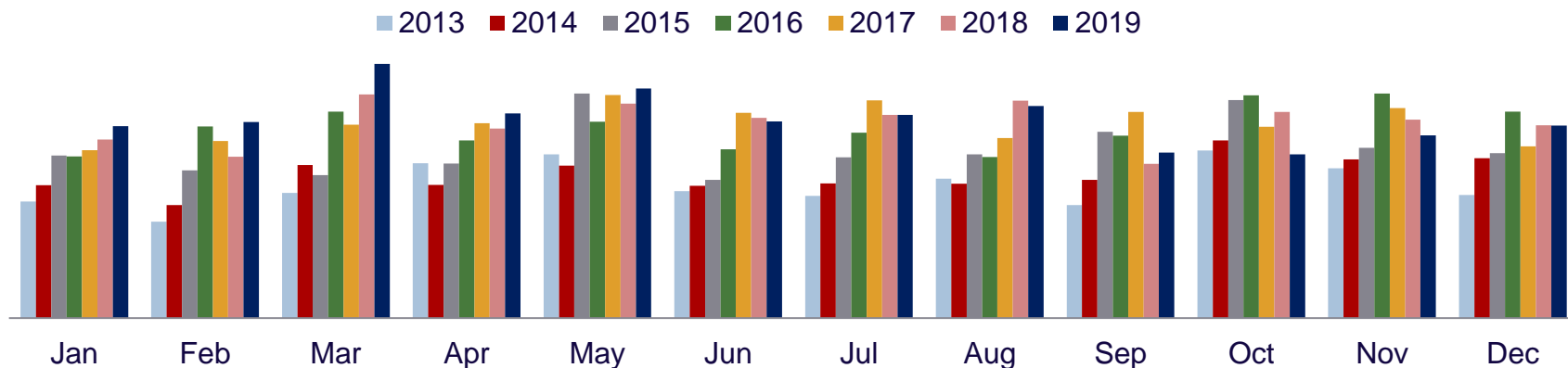
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed monthly trends

Global Regions (4 of 7) – Other EU

Overseas Visits to the UK from other EU countries (000)

Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



| Years | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2013 | 242 | 200 | 260 | 322 | 340 | 264 | 254 | 290 | 235 | 348 | 311 | 256 |
| 2014 | 276 | 235 | 318 | 277 | 317 | 275 | 280 | 279 | 287 | 369 | 330 | 332 |
| 2015 | 338 | 307 | 297 | 321 | 467 | 287 | 334 | 340 | 387 | 453 | 354 | 343 |
| 2016 | 336 | 398 | 429 | 369 | 408 | 351 | 385 | 335 | 379 | 463 | 467 | 429 |
| 2017 | 349 | 368 | 402 | 405 | 463 | 427 | 452 | 374 | 428 | 398 | 436 | 357 |
| 2018 | 371 | 335 | 465 | 394 | 446 | 416 | 422 | 452 | 321 | 428 | 412 | 400 |
| 2019 | 399 | 408 | 528 | 425 | 477 | 409 | 422 | 441 | 344 | 340 | 380 | 400 |

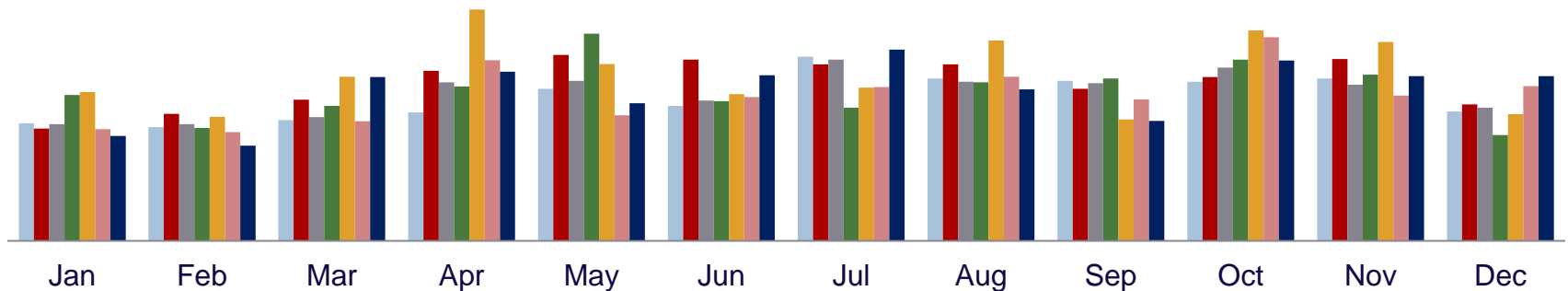
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed monthly trends

Global Regions (5 of 7) – Rest of Europe

Overseas Visits to the UK from non-EU countries in Europe (000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey

■ 2013 ■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019



| Years | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2013 | 150 | 145 | 154 | 164 | 194 | 172 | 235 | 207 | 204 | 203 | 207 | 165 |
| 2014 | 143 | 162 | 180 | 217 | 237 | 231 | 225 | 225 | 194 | 209 | 232 | 174 |
| 2015 | 149 | 149 | 158 | 202 | 204 | 179 | 231 | 203 | 201 | 221 | 199 | 170 |
| 2016 | 186 | 144 | 172 | 197 | 264 | 178 | 170 | 202 | 207 | 231 | 212 | 135 |
| 2017 | 190 | 158 | 209 | 295 | 226 | 187 | 195 | 256 | 155 | 268 | 254 | 162 |
| 2018 | 143 | 139 | 153 | 230 | 160 | 183 | 196 | 209 | 180 | 260 | 185 | 197 |
| 2019 | 134 | 121 | 209 | 216 | 176 | 211 | 244 | 194 | 153 | 230 | 210 | 210 |

Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

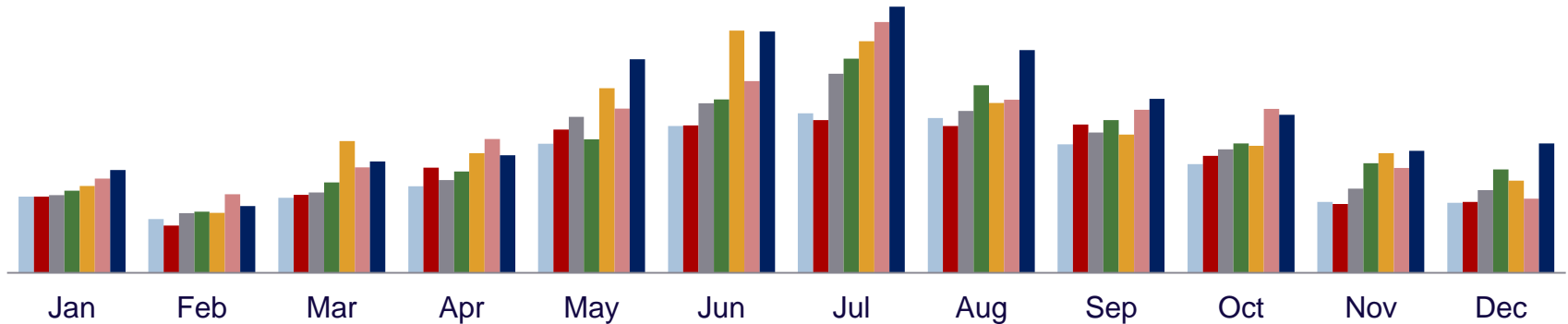
Detailed monthly trends

Global Regions (6 of 7) – North America

Overseas Visits to the UK from North America (000)

Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



| Years | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2013 | 212 | 150 | 209 | 241 | 359 | 409 | 444 | 431 | 358 | 303 | 197 | 195 |
| 2014 | 212 | 132 | 217 | 293 | 399 | 410 | 425 | 409 | 413 | 326 | 192 | 197 |
| 2015 | 216 | 166 | 224 | 258 | 434 | 472 | 554 | 451 | 391 | 344 | 234 | 230 |
| 2016 | 229 | 170 | 252 | 282 | 372 | 483 | 596 | 522 | 425 | 360 | 305 | 288 |
| 2017 | 242 | 167 | 367 | 333 | 514 | 674 | 645 | 473 | 385 | 354 | 333 | 257 |
| 2018 | 262 | 219 | 294 | 372 | 457 | 534 | 698 | 482 | 454 | 457 | 292 | 206 |
| 2019 | 286 | 185 | 310 | 327 | 594 | 672 | 741 | 620 | 485 | 440 | 340 | 360 |

Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

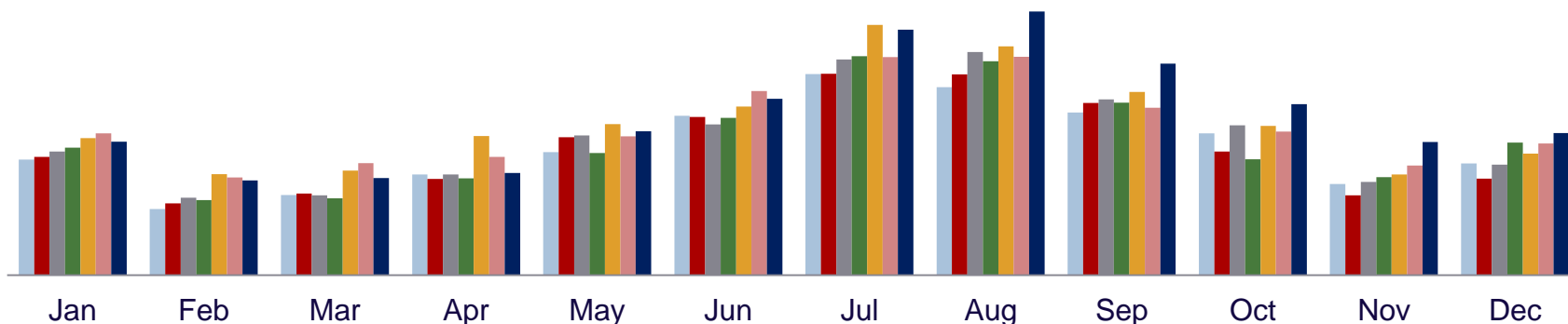
Detailed monthly trends

Global Regions (7 of 7) – Rest of the World

Overseas Visits to the UK from Rest of the World (000)

Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



| Years | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2013 | 399 | 228 | 277 | 347 | 425 | 550 | 694 | 649 | 561 | 489 | 315 | 385 |
| 2014 | 408 | 248 | 282 | 332 | 476 | 546 | 695 | 693 | 594 | 427 | 276 | 333 |
| 2015 | 427 | 267 | 275 | 347 | 482 | 520 | 744 | 770 | 607 | 517 | 322 | 381 |
| 2016 | 440 | 259 | 265 | 334 | 421 | 543 | 756 | 738 | 595 | 400 | 338 | 457 |
| 2017 | 473 | 348 | 361 | 480 | 521 | 582 | 863 | 789 | 632 | 515 | 347 | 419 |
| 2018 | 489 | 337 | 387 | 408 | 479 | 636 | 752 | 753 | 578 | 495 | 378 | 454 |
| 2019 | 461 | 327 | 335 | 353 | 497 | 608 | 847 | 910 | 730 | 590 | 460 | 490 |

Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Definitions

EU15 - Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. Note that the UK is among the 15 countries that formed the European Union prior to January 2004, but due to the inbound nature of the data displayed in the IPS reference tables data for the UK is excluded.

Other EU - Bulgaria, Cyprus (South), Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Note that Croatia has been included in the 'Other EU' category since it joined in July 2013, before July 2013 this group was labelled as A12.

EU – Total EU, therefore combined EU15 and Other EU (as defined above).

Rest of Europe – European countries outside the EU (including Russia, Norway and Switzerland). Before July 2013 Croatia was also included here, but from July 2013 appears in Other EU.

North America - Canada (including Greenland and St Pierre et Miquelon), USA (including Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands)

Rest of World – Countries outside Europe and North America (Africa, Asia, Central America, Middle East, Oceania, South America)

VFR - Visiting Friends and Relatives

Miscellaneous visits - includes those for short term study, to attend sports events, for personal shopping, health or religious purposes, accompanying others and many more

Visit - all departing visits from overseas residents (including those who may be UK nationals but live elsewhere, excluding other nationals who have been in the UK for 12 months or longer)

Spend - the amount visitors report spending in the UK during their stay

YoY - Year on Year

More information

Read the Inbound research & insights section of the VisitBritain website for much more detail on long term trends, data for individual markets and UK regions

Refer to the ONS website for more on IPS methodology and UK outbound travel

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