

# Monthly Inbound Update

2022 monthly data

International Passenger Survey by the ONS

(published June 2023)



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Explore the 2022 data in more detail on the [VisitBritain website](#).

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# 1. Inbound UK monthly data 2022

# Monthly 2022 Headlines

Visits (000)	2022	Change vs 2019	Spend (£m)	2022	Change vs 2019
January 2022	839	-70%	January 2022	£702	-57%
February 2022	1,045	-56%	February 2022	£787	-40%
March 2022	1,860	-41%	March 2022	£1,363	-26%
April 2022	2,252	-30%	April 2022	£1,863	+2%
May 2022	2,728	-21%	May 2022	£2,229	-5%
June 2022	2,977	-20%	June 2022	£2,755	+1%
July 2022	3,445	-17%	July 2022	£3,257	+5%
August 2022	3,545	-20%	August 2022	£3,174	-10%
September 2022	2,956	-10%	September 2022	£2,635	+2%
October 2022	3,322	-11%	October 2022	£2,905	+10%
November 2022	3,238	+4%	November 2022	£2,258	+3%
December 2022	3,038	-12%	December 2022	£2,570	-5%
<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>31,240</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>£26,500</b>	<b>-7%</b>

- Visits:** Overall in 2022, the UK welcomed 31.2 million inbound visitors, down 24% on 2019. The year started off slow with the impact of Omicron seeing visits 70% below 2019 in January 2022. By summertime in June, inbound tourism visits improved to 80% of 2019 levels and in August visits peaked at 3.5 million. The last quarter of the year saw further improvements and in November 2022, visits surpassed pre-pandemic levels by 4%.
- Spend:** Inbound visitors spent £26.5bn in 2022 (in nominal terms), down 7% on 2019. Spend was 57% below 2019 levels in January 2022 but improved rapidly from then on. Spend surpassed pre-pandemic levels in April 2022 by 2% and went on to reach records in June, October and November. In real terms, spend in 2022 at 2019 prices would equate to £23.5bn, down 17% on 2019.

# Monthly Journey Purpose – Visits (000)

Visits (000)	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022	Total 2022
<b>Holiday</b>	102	262	579	853	1,138	1,307	1,488	1,669	1,149	1,262	1,215	1,070	12,090
<b>VFR</b>	525	466	748	856	984	1,015	1,161	1,274	1,033	1,158	1,259	1,300	11,780
<b>Business</b>	160	239	402	373	440	477	524	359	566	549	567	492	5,150
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	52	77	131	170	167	180	272	243	209	352	197	175	2,220

- **Holiday** visits reached 12.1 million in 2022 (down 28% vs 2019), accounting for 39% of all inbound tourism visits. Visits picked up gradually throughout the first 8 months of the year peaking in August at 1.7 million visits, at 75% of 2019 levels. Visits remained above the 1 million mark in the following months of the year setting a new November record at 1.2 million.
- **Visits to friends and relatives (VFR)** accounted for similar proportion of visits (38%) with 11.8 million visits, 5% below 2019. This was the fastest journey purpose to recover and reached records from September to December 2022.
- There were 5.1 million **business visits** in 2022, down 41% vs 2019. Business visits recovered at a slower pace in 2022 but by December 2022 they were 10% below pre-pandemic levels.
- All other visits under '**miscellaneous**', which includes study, contributed 2.2 million to the total inbound market in 2022 down 22% vs 2019.

# Monthly Global Region – Visits (000)

Visits (000)	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022	Total 2022
<b>Total Europe</b>	584	823	1,413	1,634	1,828	1,727	2,053	2,202	1,830	2,269	2,483	2,135	20,980
→ EU	520	761	1,289	1,459	1,668	1,572	1,804	2,026	1,642	1,993	2,270	1,956	18,960
→ EU15	385	617	1,062	1,253	1,370	1,330	1,484	1,725	1,334	1,671	1,805	1,586	15,620
→ Other EU	129	145	232	211	291	243	320	305	306	324	463	369	3,338
→ Rest of Europe	70	61	120	170	167	154	249	173	190	274	214	179	2,021
<b>North America</b>	87	99	229	338	509	741	793	716	648	560	370	394	5,480
<b>Rest of World</b>	168	122	217	280	391	509	599	626	479	493	386	509	4,780

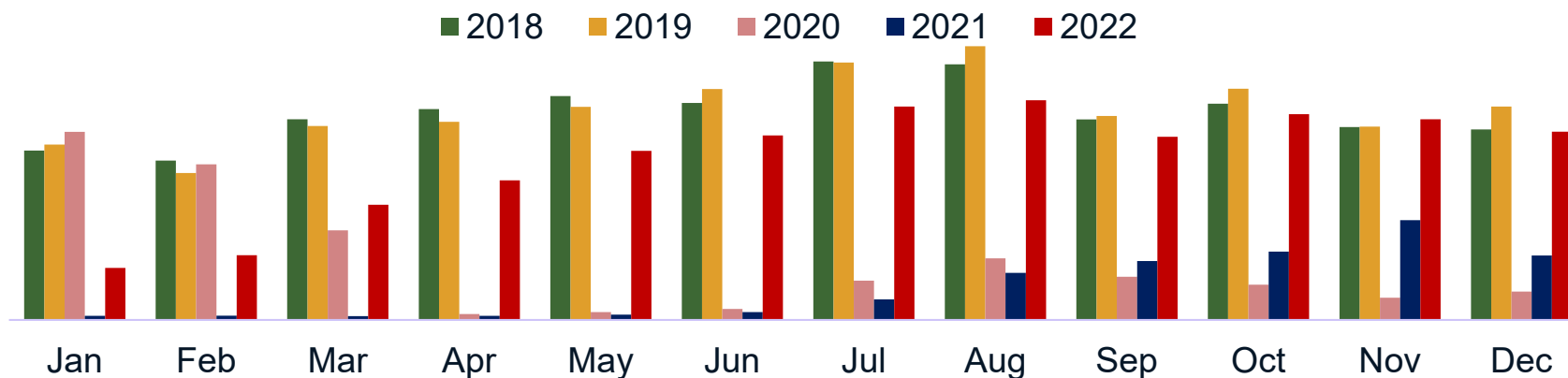
- Across 2022, the UK welcomed 21.0 million visits from **Europe**, down 23% vs 2019 with 74% of these visits from the EU15 markets. European visits neared closer to pre-pandemic levels in the second half of the year and surpassed them in November reaching a new record at 2.5 million visits.
- Visits from **North America** rose to 5.5 million visits in 2022 just shy of the 5.54 record in 2017. From July to December 2022, visits set new monthly records for this region.
- Those visiting from the **Rest of World** contributed 4.8 million visits to UK inbound tourism in 2022 down 42% vs 2019. Throughout the year, visits improved at a slower pace compared to other regions reached 84% of 2019 levels by December 2022.

## 2. Detailed monthly trends

# Detailed monthly trends - Visits

Please see notes on slide 23 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

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



Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	2,734	2,573	3,240	3,404	3,614	3,503	4,172	4,126	3,237	3,491	3,112	3,075
2019	2,830	2,372	3,129	3,199	3,438	3,727	4,155	4,418	3,292	3,731	3,121	3,445
2020	3,036	2,512	1,446	95	127	176	633	993	696	570	358	458
2021	65	69	61	65	86	126	331	759	949	1,103	1,610	1,039
2022	839	1,045	1,860	2,252	2,728	2,977	3,445	3,545	2,956	3,322	3,238	3,038

**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

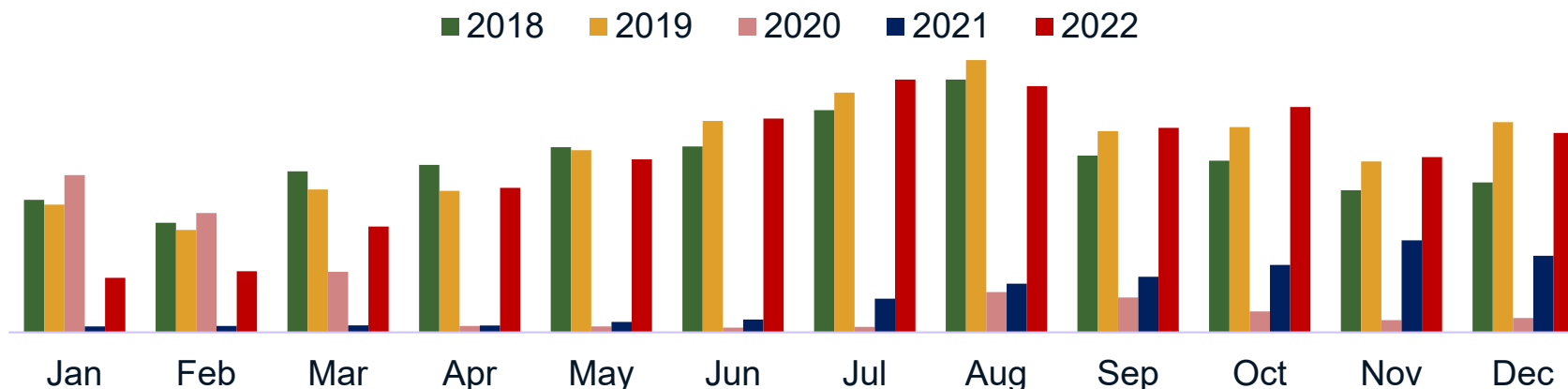
[Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)



# Detailed monthly trends - Spend

Please see notes on slide 23 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK - Total Spend (£m)  
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



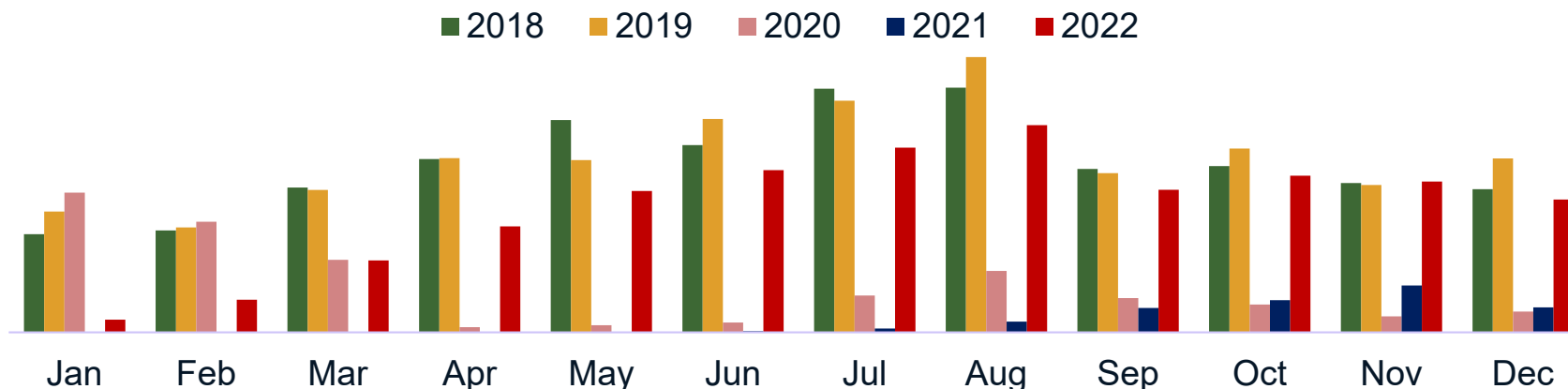
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	£1,708	£1,412	£2,074	£2,157	£2,385	£2,396	£2,864	£3,259	£2,278	£2,212	£1,830	£1,931
2019	£1,646	£1,318	£1,840	£1,824	£2,347	£2,725	£3,090	£3,510	£2,593	£2,645	£2,201	£2,708
2020	£2,026	£1,538	£780	£82	£75	£61	£69	£519	£448	£270	£156	£185
2021	£76	£82	£89	£87	£134	£165	£433	£626	£716	£867	£1,186	£985
2022	£702	£787	£1,363	£1,863	£2,229	£2,755	£3,257	£3,174	£2,635	£2,905	£2,258	£2,570

**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 – Holiday

Please see notes on slide 23 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

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



Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	790	820	1,167	1,396	1,710	1,508	1,962	1,971	1,317	1,339	1,202	1,153
2019	973	844	1,147	1,403	1,388	1,718	1,866	2,217	1,282	1,480	1,187	1,401
2020	1,125	891	584	42	57	79	296	495	275	224	128	167
2021	1	3	3	2	3	8	30	86	196	259	377	201
2022	102	262	579	853	1,138	1,307	1,488	1,669	1,149	1,262	1,215	1,070

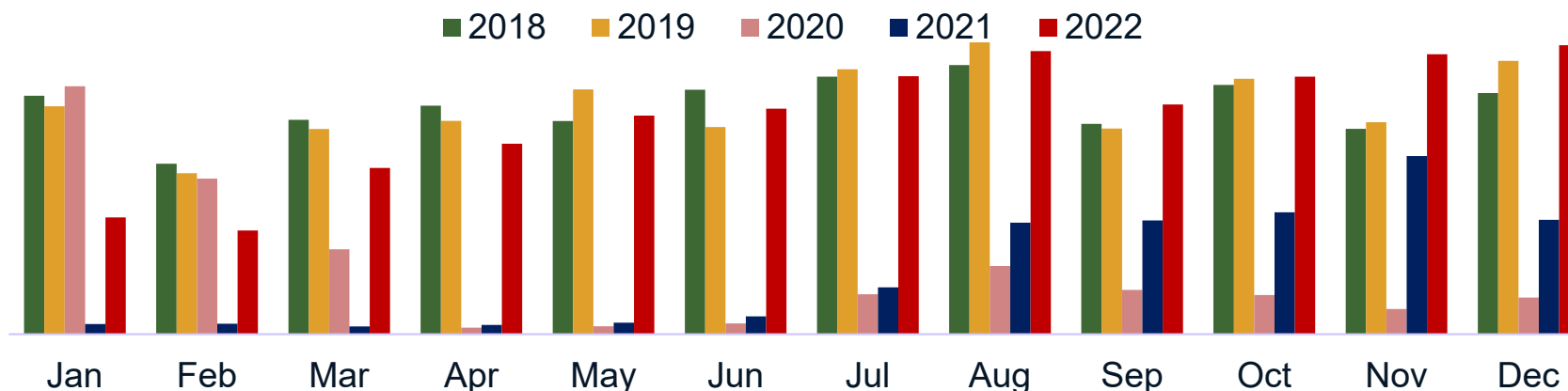
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.

# Detailed monthly trends – Journey Purpose - VFR

Please see notes on slide 23 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

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



Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	1,073	766	964	1,028	959	1,099	1,159	1,210	946	1,122	924	1,085
2019	1,025	724	923	960	1,101	932	1,192	1,313	925	1,149	954	1,230
2020	1,115	700	382	29	35	48	180	307	199	176	113	165
2021	46	47	35	41	52	80	211	501	512	548	802	515
2022	525	466	748	856	984	1,015	1,161	1,274	1,033	1,158	1,259	1,300

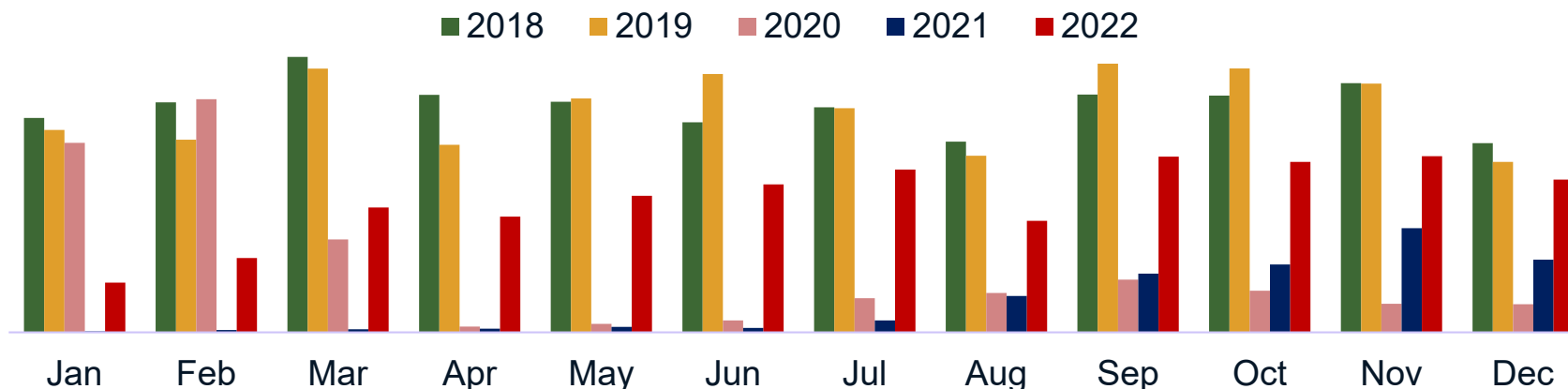
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available [here](#).

# Detailed monthly trends – Journey Purpose - Business

Please see notes on slide 23 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

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



Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	691	741	887	765	743	677	725	614	766	763	803	609
2019	652	621	850	604	754	832	722	569	866	850	801	549
2020	610	751	299	19	27	38	110	127	170	134	92	90
2021	3	7	10	12	18	14	38	117	189	218	335	234
2022	160	239	402	373	440	477	524	359	566	549	567	492

**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

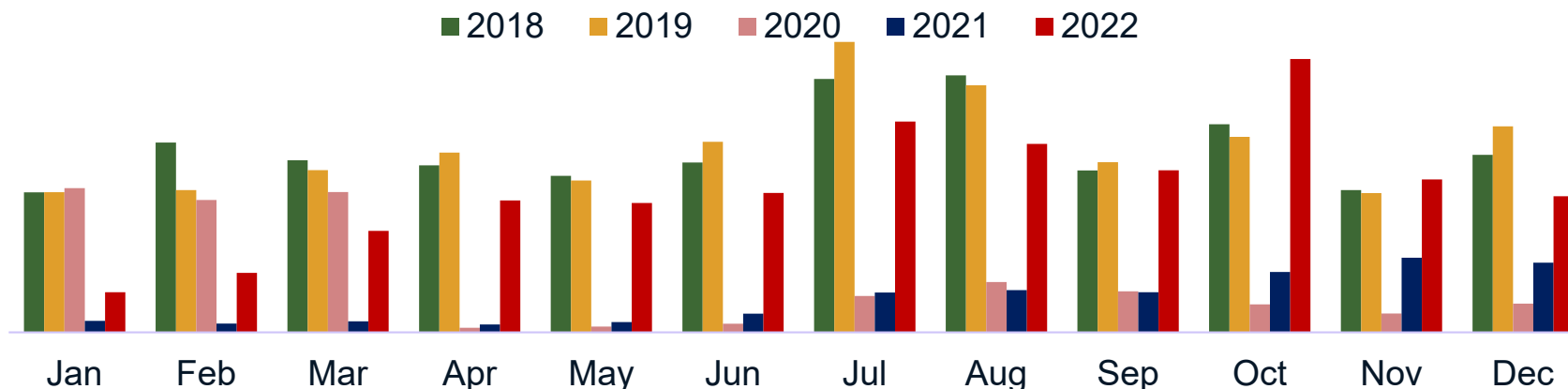
Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available [here](#).

# Detailed monthly trends – Journey Purpose - Misc

Please see notes on slide 23 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

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
2018	180	245	222	215	202	219	327	331	209	268	183	229
2019	181	183	209	232	196	246	374	318	219	252	179	265
2020	186	170	181	6	7	11	47	65	53	36	24	37
2021	15	11	14	10	13	24	51	54	52	78	96	90
2022	52	77	131	170	167	180	272	243	209	352	197	175

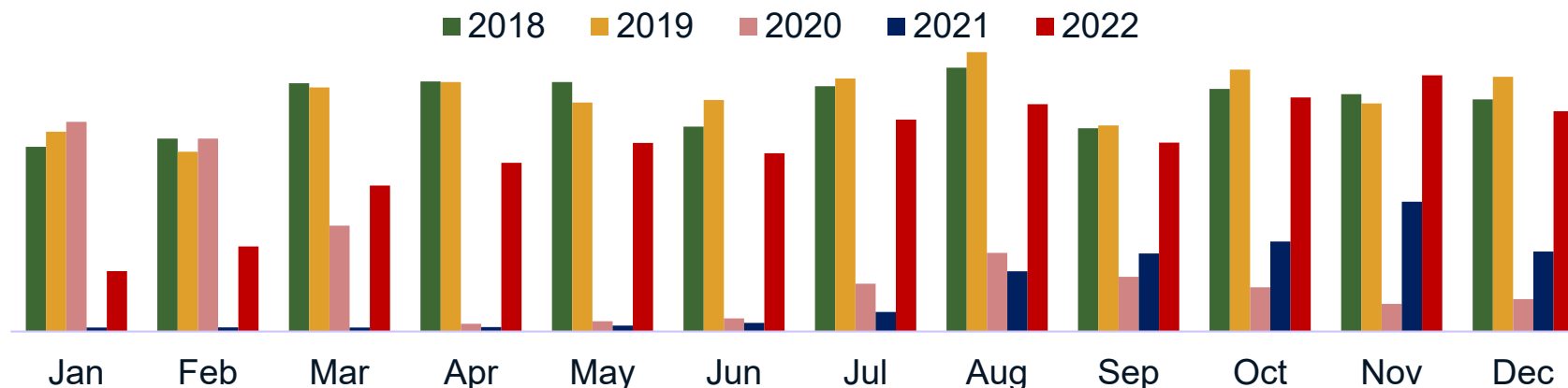
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available [here](#).

# Detailed monthly trends – Global Regions - Europe

Please see notes on slide 23 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK - 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
2018	1,790	1,870	2,405	2,423	2,417	1,985	2,377	2,557	1,970	2,350	2,300	2,249
2019	1,936	1,742	2,365	2,417	2,219	2,243	2,453	2,707	1,996	2,537	2,209	2,469
2020	2,032	1,869	1,025	74	98	126	463	761	529	429	267	313
2021	38	39	38	43	57	83	189	584	756	871	1,258	775
2022	584	823	1,413	1,634	1,828	1,727	2,053	2,202	1,830	2,269	2,483	2,135

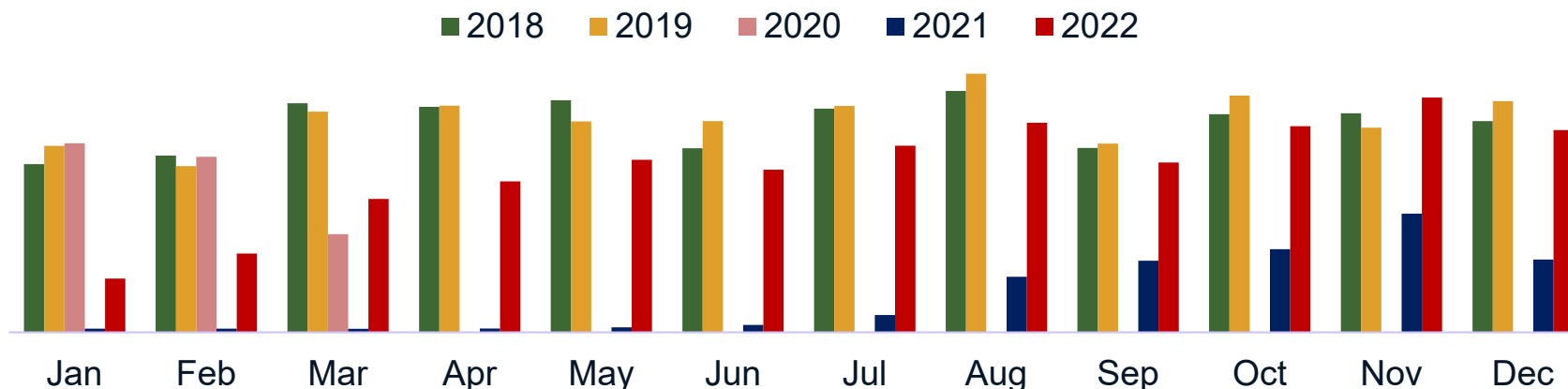
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available [here](#).

# Detailed monthly trends – Global Regions - EU

Please see notes on slide 23 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

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



Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	1,626	1,708	2,215	2,180	2,243	1,779	2,161	2,333	1,782	2,108	2,117	2,041
2019	1,803	1,607	2,133	2,192	2,039	2,041	2,188	2,499	1,825	2,289	1,978	2,235
2020	1,827	1,697	948	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	35	35	34	37	48	72	167	537	691	803	1,147	703
2022	520	761	1,289	1,459	1,668	1,572	1,804	2,026	1,642	1,993	2,270	1,956

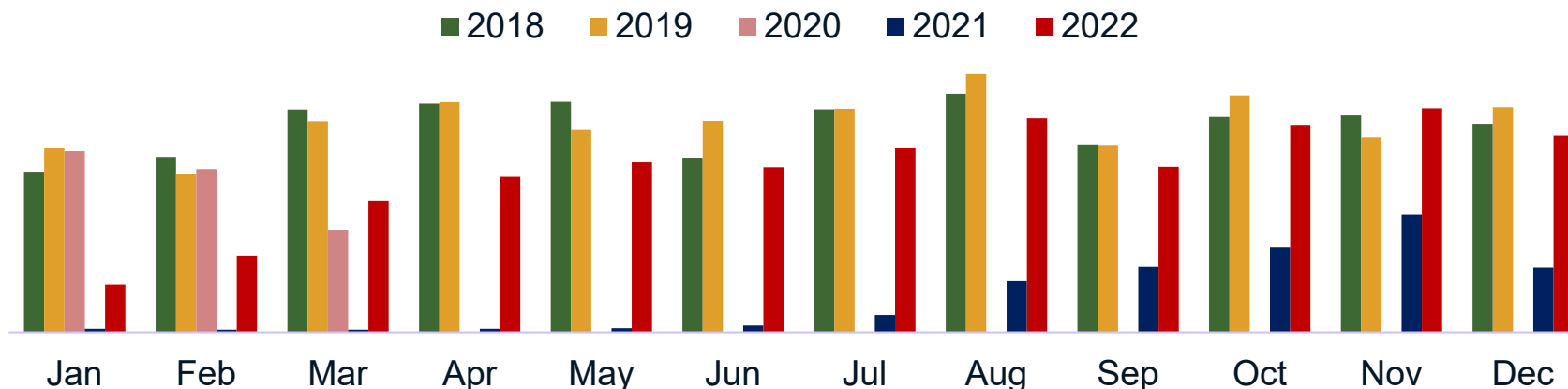
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available [here](#).

# Detailed monthly trends – Global Regions – EU15

Please see notes on slide 23 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK - to the UK from EU15 (000)  
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	1,287	1,407	1,796	1,843	1,857	1,401	1,796	1,922	1,508	1,735	1,748	1,679
2019	1,483	1,272	1,701	1,854	1,630	1,703	1,802	2,083	1,505	1,910	1,572	1,814
2020	1,461	1,316	826	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	28	21	21	28	33	55	139	412	527	682	951	521
2022	385	617	1,062	1,253	1,370	1,330	1,484	1,725	1,334	1,671	1,805	1,586

**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

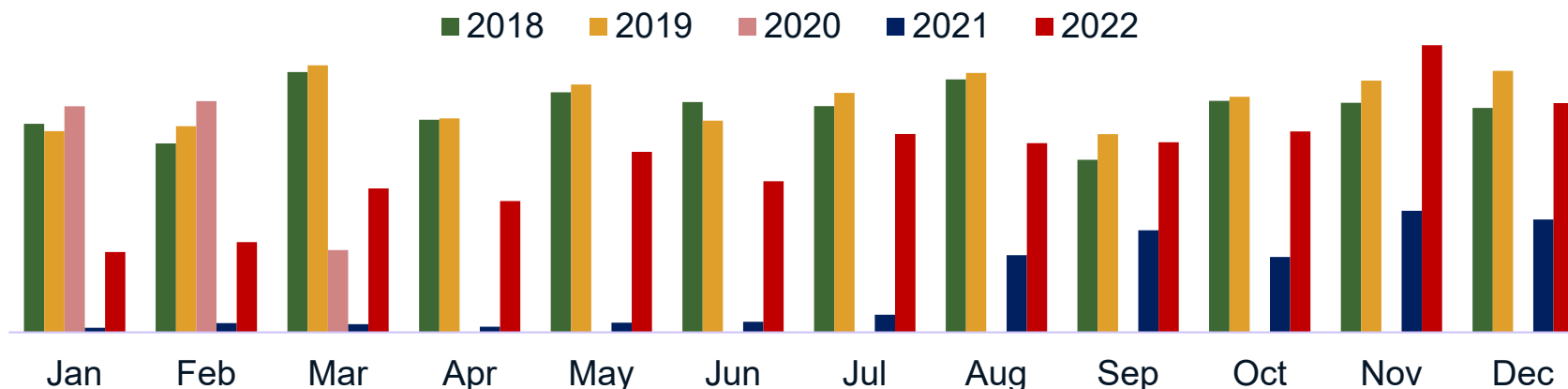
Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.



# Detailed monthly trends – Global Regions – EU Other

Please see notes on slide 23 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

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



Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	336	304	419	343	387	371	365	407	278	373	370	362
2019	324	332	430	345	399	341	386	418	319	380	405	421
2020	364	372	132	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	7	15	13	9	16	17	28	124	164	121	196	182
2022	129	145	232	211	291	243	320	305	306	324	463	369

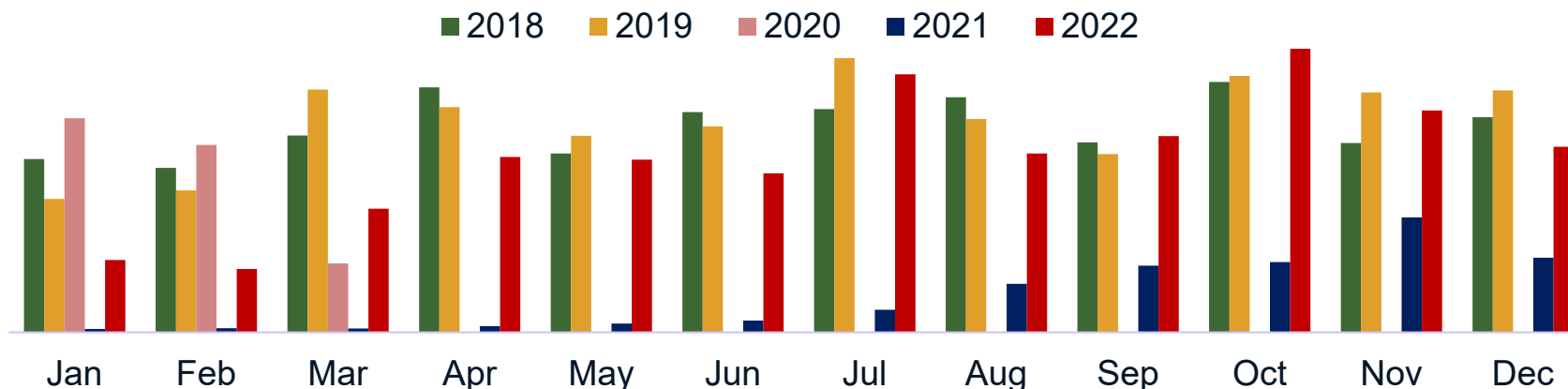
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.

# Detailed monthly trends – Global Regions – Rest of Europe

Please see notes on slide 23 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK - to the UK from Rest of Europe (000)  
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	167	159	190	237	173	213	216	227	184	242	183	208
2019	129	137	235	218	190	199	265	206	172	248	232	234
2020	207	181	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	3	4	4	6	8	11	22	47	64	68	111	72
2022	70	61	120	170	167	154	249	173	190	274	214	179

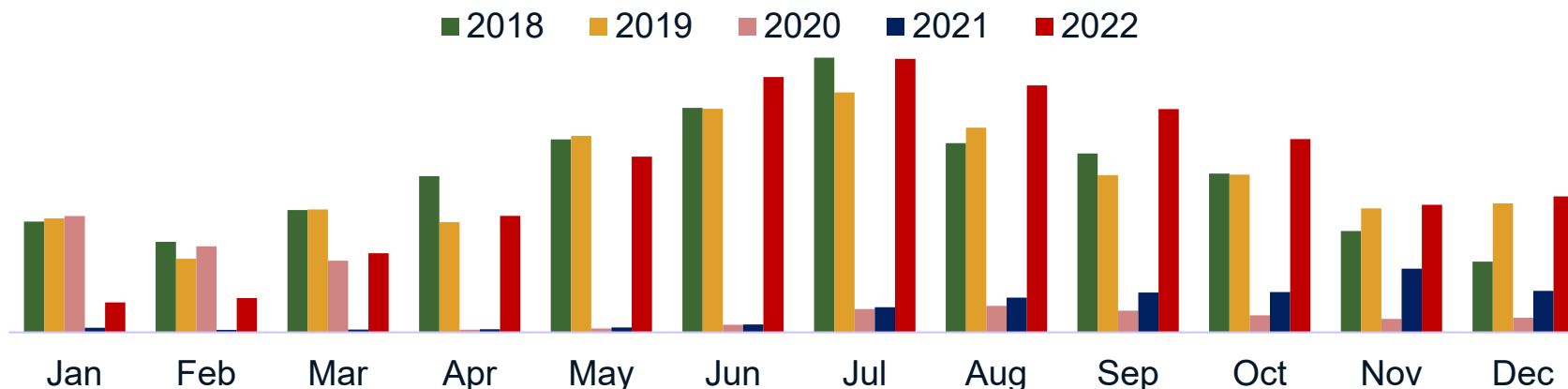
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.

# Detailed monthly trends – Global Regions – North America

Please see notes on slide 23 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK - to the UK from North America (000)  
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	321	262	354	453	560	651	797	548	519	460	294	205
2019	330	213	356	319	570	648	696	593	456	457	360	374
2020	337	249	208	7	11	22	67	77	63	49	39	42
2021	13	7	8	9	14	23	73	101	115	116	185	120
2022	87	99	229	338	509	741	793	716	648	560	370	394

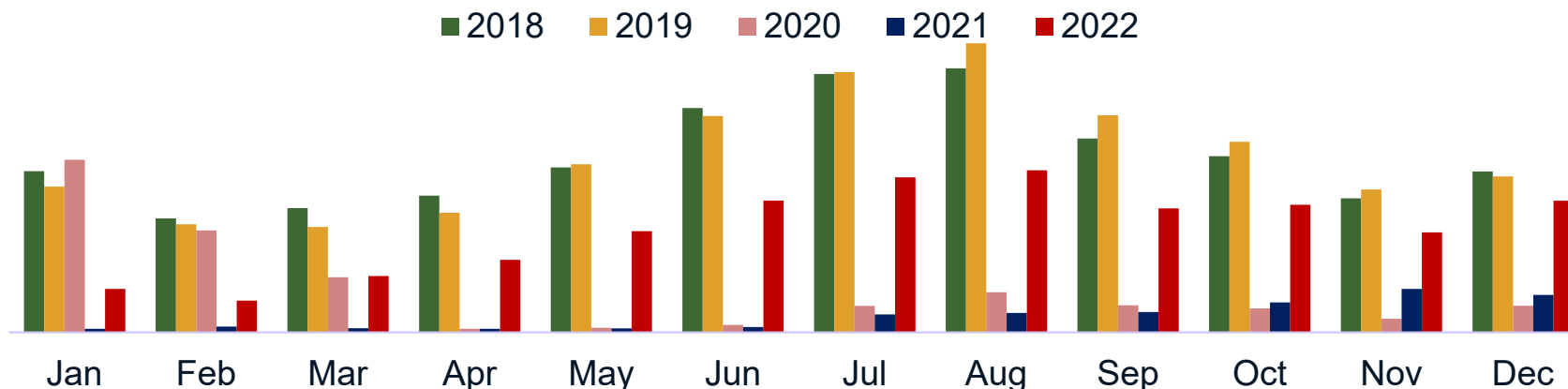
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available [here](#).

# Detailed monthly trends – Global Regions – Rest of World

Please see notes on slide 23 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK - to the UK from Rest of World (000)  
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	623	440	480	528	637	867	999	1,021	749	681	518	622
2019	563	418	407	462	650	836	1,006	1,118	840	737	552	602
2020	667	394	213	13	17	29	102	155	105	92	52	103
2021	13	22	16	14	15	20	69	75	78	116	168	144
2022	168	122	217	280	391	509	599	626	479	493	386	509

**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](#).

## 4. About this data

# About this data

This report is based on the latest International Passenger Survey (IPS) data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the morning of **26<sup>th</sup> May 2023**. This data covers the revised monthly data for 2022. The ONS will be pausing monthly publications for Jan-Mar 2022. The next data release will be for Q1 2023 which will include the quarterly and monthly data from this time period.

The IPS data is based on interviews with a sample of departing visitors. The number interviewed varies but is typically around 3,000 per month. Sample sizes at the monthly level for some analysis and comparisons can be low and results should be treated with caution, especially for spending.

Please also note:

- All data is sourced from the International Passenger Survey by the Office for National Statistics.
- All figures quoted are not “seasonally adjusted”.
- Numbers in some tables / charts may not sum due to rounding.
- All values and percentage changes in spend are in nominal terms (i.e. not taking inflation into account).
- From 2021, data excludes the Irish land border data

Refer to the [ONS website](#) for more on IPS methodology and UK outbound travel.

# Important notice – impact of COVID-19 on IPS

The International Passenger Survey (IPS) was suspended on 16 March 2020 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Interviewing initially began at UK airports at the start of 2021, though the IPS remained suspended at some sea ports and train stations during the year. To produce statistics for the periods impacted the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have applied the following processes to the data since March 2020:

- **March 2020** - With the data collected for most of March when the IPS was running the ONS had part of the data needed for the month. To produce estimates for the full month of March the ONS worked on the assumption that passenger characteristics in the second, unsampled, half of the month were represented by those sampled in the first half.
- **April – December 2020 (Q2, Q3, Q4 2020)** - The travel and tourism figures for this period are based entirely on administrative sources and modelling as no data was collected during this period. In producing these results the ONS have made assumptions that some previous trends have continued, for example, the proportions of passengers travelling for business or holidays.
- **2021** – The ONS were unable to restart interviewing at Eurotunnel (but continued at Eurostar) in Q4 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. The ONS has used passenger numbers to model the Eurotunnel data for this quarter. Data for those travelling via Dover was only collected from Q3 2021. In addition, no estimates are included for any travel across the Irish border. Please see [our 2021 inbound data page](#) for more information.
- **January to June 2022** – The ONS were unable to restart interviewing at Eurotunnel (but continued at Eurostar) during this period due to COVID-19 restrictions. The ONS has used passenger numbers to model the Eurotunnel data for Q1-Q2 2022. The ONS restarted IPS interviews at all ports from July 2022. Please see our [2022 inbound page](#) for more information.

Please refer to the [ONS website for the official release and more information on IPS methodology and UK outbound travel](#)

# Definitions

## Regions:

- **Total Europe** includes **EU15** (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden); **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) and **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)

## Journey purpose:

- **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

## Other:

- **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



# Monthly Inbound Update

2022 monthly data

International Passenger Survey by the ONS

(published June 2023)

