

# Monthly Inbound Update

June 2022

International Passenger Survey by the ONS  
(published 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022)



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# 1. 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 **7<sup>th</sup> November 2022**. This data covers June 2022 and has been released at the same time quarterly release (Apr-Jun 2022). The data may be revised for the annual 2022 release.

[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.

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

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 percentage changes in spend are nominal.
- From 2021 data excludes the Irish land boarder data

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

# Important notice – continued 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 ports during 2022. 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. The data was not made available by Mode (and for some global regions), therefore we are unable to compare current AIR data to this period in 2020 and have opted to compare AIR data to 2019 instead.
- **2021** – data published for 2021 should be interpreted with the caveats that no data was collected for those travelling to the UK by Eurotunnel and data for those travelling via Dover was only collected from Q3. Please see [our 2021 inbound data page](#) for more information.
- **January to June 2022** – the ONS were unable to restart interviewing at Eurotunnel during this period due to COVID-19 restrictions so data for this timeframe excludes travel via this port in section 2 and 4. In section 3, we have carried out some analysis to exclude Eurotunnel from the 2019 IPS data so that we can make direct comparisons between Jan-June 2022 and Jan-June 2019.

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

## **2. Latest monthly inbound UK**

**June 2022**

# Summary

- **Visits:** The UK received 3.0 million visits in June 2022. Visits have continued to increase month-on-month as traveller confidence is built up again. For the first half of 2022 there were almost 12 million inbound visits.
- **Spending:** Inbound visitors spent £2.7bn in June 2022. Following the same pattern as visits, spend has continued to grow month-on-month with total inbound spend reaching £9.8bn for the first 6 months of 2022.
- **Journey Purpose:**
  - **Holiday** visits reached the 1 million mark in May and grew further in June. Holiday visits accounted for 44% of all visits in June, though only 36% across the first half of 2022.
  - There were over 1 million inbound visits to **friends and relatives** in the UK in June 2022. Despite holiday visits overtaking VFR as the number 1 journey purpose in the most recent couple of months (May and June), a strong start to 2022 means visiting friends and family still accounts for the highest proportion of visits in the first 6 months of 2022 (39%).
  - **Business** visits totalled 2.2 million in the first half of 2022. Business visits grew month on month, although posted a small dip in April.
- **Global region:**
  - **Europe** made up 68% of all inbound visits to the UK in the first half of 2022, equating to 8.2m visits. Visits to the UK from Europe peaked in May 2022. Visits from the EU15 markets accounted for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all Europe visits in between January-June 2022 – 6.1 m visits and half (51%) of all visits to the UK in the first 6 months of 2022.
  - There were 756,000 visits from **North America** in June 2022. During the first half of 2022 there were 2.1m inbound visits to the UK from North America.
  - The **Rest of the World** saw 514,000 visits to the UK in June 2022 with some of the markets in this region still under lockdown and subject to stricter travel rules throughout 2022.



# Headlines – June 2022

Please note that 2022 data excludes those travelling via Eurotunnel

Total	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	Year-to-date (Jan-Jun 2022)
Visits (000)	875	1,092	1,944	2,275	2,758	3,012	11,960
Spend	£730m	£819m	£1.4bn	£1.9bn	£2.2bn	£2.7bn	£9.8bn

- **Visits:** The UK received 3.0 million visits in June 2022. Visits have continued to increase month-on-month as traveller confidence is built up again. For the first half of 2022 there were almost 12 million inbound visits.
- **Spending:** Inbound visitors spent £2.7bn in June 2022. Following the same pattern as visits, spend has continued to grow month-on-month with total inbound spend reaching £9.8bn for the first 6 months of 2022.

# Journey Purpose – Visits (000) – June 2022

Please note that 2022 data excludes those travelling via Eurotunnel

Total Visits (000)	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	Year-to-date (Jan-Jun 2022)
<b>Holiday</b>	108	279	614	860	1,149	1,320	4,330
<b>Business</b>	169	253	424	376	444	481	2,150
<b>VFR</b>	544	481	771	867	996	1,028	4,690
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	54	79	135	172	169	182	790

- Across journey purposes, visits have continued to grow throughout the first 6 months of 2022, peaking in June 2022.
- **Holiday** visits reached the 1 million mark in May and grew further in June. Holiday visits accounted for 44% of all visits in June, though only 36% across the first half of 2022.
- There were over 1 million inbound visits to **friends and relatives** in the UK in June 2022. Despite holiday visits overtaking VFR as the number 1 journey purpose in the most recent couple of months (May and June), a strong start to 2022 means visiting friends and family still accounts for the highest proportion of visits in the first 6 months of 2022 (39%).
- **Business** visits totalled 2.2 million in the first half of 2022. Business visits grew month on month, although posted a small dip in April.
- All other visits, under '**miscellaneous**', which includes study, accounted for 182,000 visits in June 2022, totalling 790,000 in the first 6 months of 2022.

# Global Region – Visits (000) – June 2022

Please note that 2022 data excludes those travelling via Eurotunnel

Total (Visits 000)	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	Year-to-date (Jan-Jun 2022)
Europe	611	861	1,478	1,648	1,843	1,742	8,180
→ EU	544	797	1,350	1,471	1,682	1,585	7,430
→ EU15	403	646	1,112	1,260	1,377	1,337	6,130
→ Other EU	136	152	243	217	298	250	1,300
→ Rest of Europe	66	64	128	177	161	157	754
North America	91	104	241	345	520	756	2,060
Rest of World	173	126	224	283	395	514	1,720

- **Europe** made up 68% of all inbound visits to the UK in the first half of 2022, equating to 8.2m visits. Visits to the UK from Europe peaked in May 2022. Visits from the EU15 markets accounted for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all Europe visits in between January-June 2022 – 6.1 m visits and half (51%) of all visits to the UK in the first 6 months of 2022.
- There were 756,000 visits from **North America** in June 2022. During the first half of 2022 there were 2.1m inbound visits to the UK from North America.
- The **Rest of the World** saw 514,000 visits to the UK in June 2022 with some of the markets in this region still under lockdown and subject to stricter travel rules throughout 2022.

# 3. Comparison to 2019, excluding Eurotunnel

June 2022

# 2019 vs 2022, excluding Eurotunnel

As mentioned on slide 5, the ONS were unable to interview travellers at Eurotunnel during the first 6 months of 2022, due to COVID-19 restrictions. In order to gain a better understanding of how 2022 inbound tourism is performing compared to previous years, we have carried out analysis to exclude the Eurotunnel data from 2019 so that we can directly compare the 2022 data to that dataset. Please find this analysis available on the next slide.

# Headlines – comparison to 2019 excluding Eurotunnel

Please note the data on this slide excludes those travelling via Eurotunnel

Visits (000) (excl Eurotunnel)	2019	2022	% change
January	2,590	875	-66%
February	2,330	1,092	-53%
March	3,010	1,944	-35%
April	3,060	2,275	-26%
May	3,310	2,758	-17%
June	3,570	3,012	-16%
YTD (Jan –Jun)	17,870	11,956	-33%

Spend (excl Eurotunnel)	2019	2022	% change
January	£1.6bn	£730m	-54%
February	£1.3bn	£819m	-36%
March	£1.8bn	£1.4bn	-22%
April	£1.8bn	£1.9bn	4%
May	£2.3bn	£2.2bn	-4%
June	£2.7bn	£2.7bn	2%
YTD (Jan –Jun)	£11.5bn	£9.8bn	-15%

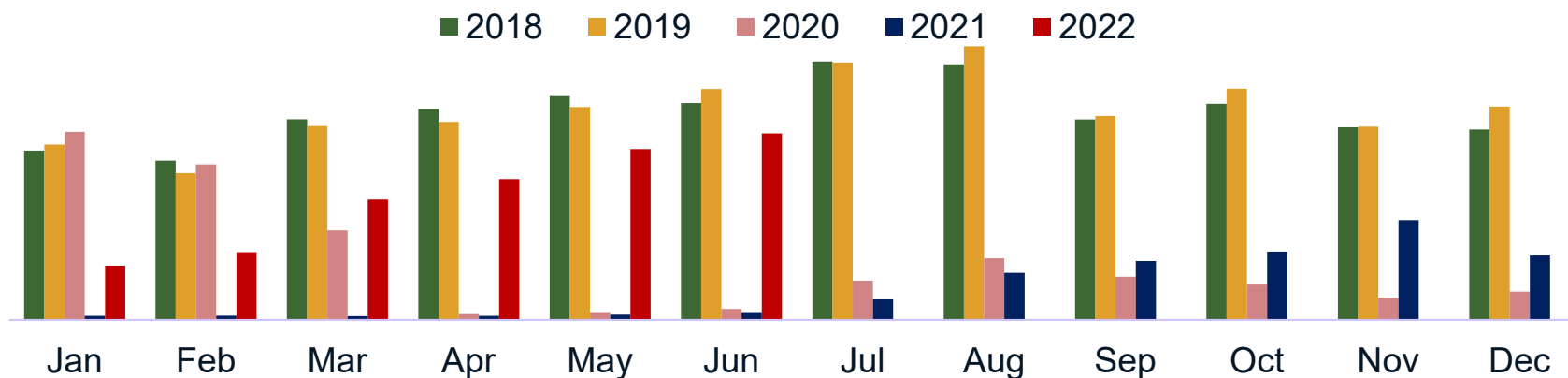
- Removing Eurotunnel data from the inbound picture, **visits** in June 2022 were down 16% on June 2019 showing vast improvements from January when visits were down 66% on 2019. Year-to-date figures (January to June) show that visits were down a third (33%) compared to the first 6 months of 2019.
- Overall inbound **spend** has shown stronger recovery compared to visits. In fact, inbound spend during June 2021 was 2% higher than June 2019. Inbound spend for the first half of 2022 was down 15% on start of 2019. At the total level this was supported by longer length of stay although there were differences by journey purpose – please see our Q2 report for more details.

## 4. Detailed monthly trends

# Detailed monthly trends - visits

Please see notes on slide 5 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	875	1,092	1,944	2,275	2,758	3,012						

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

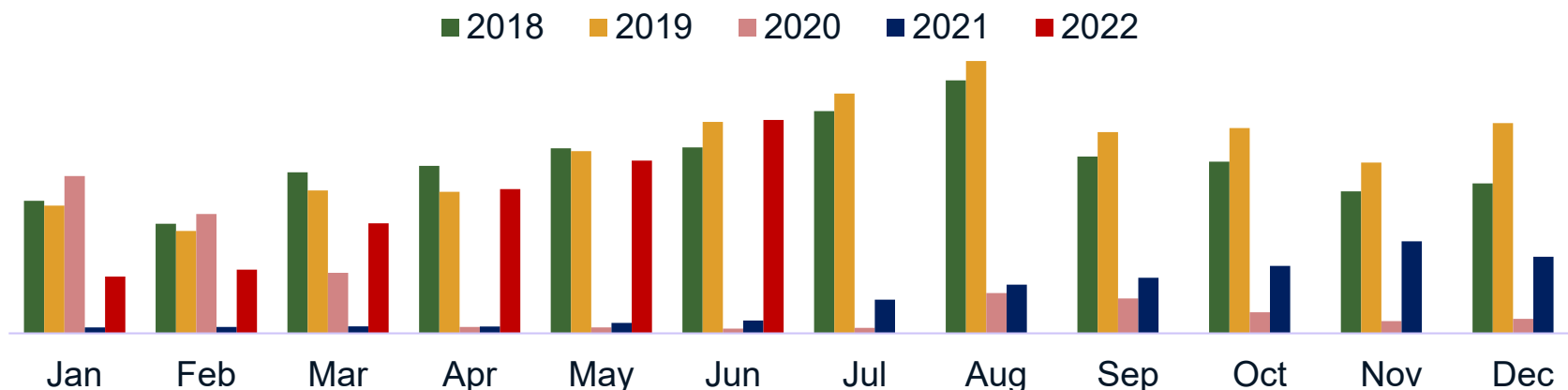
[Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)



# Detailed monthly trends - spend

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

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



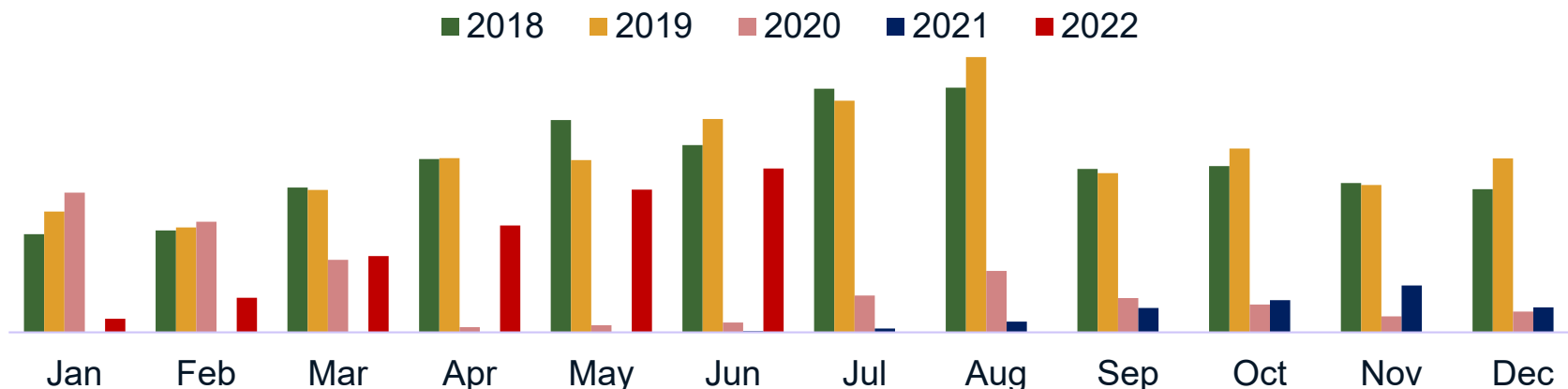
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	1,708	1,412	2,074	2,157	2,385	2,396	2,864	3,259	2,278	2,212	1,830	1,931
2019	1,646	1,318	1,840	1,824	2,347	2,725	3,090	3,510	2,593	2,645	2,201	2,708
2020	2,026	1,538	780	82	75	61	69	519	448	270	156	185
2021	76	82	89	87	134	165	433	626	716	867	1,186	985
2022	730	819	1,418	1,859	2,225	2,749						

**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 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

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



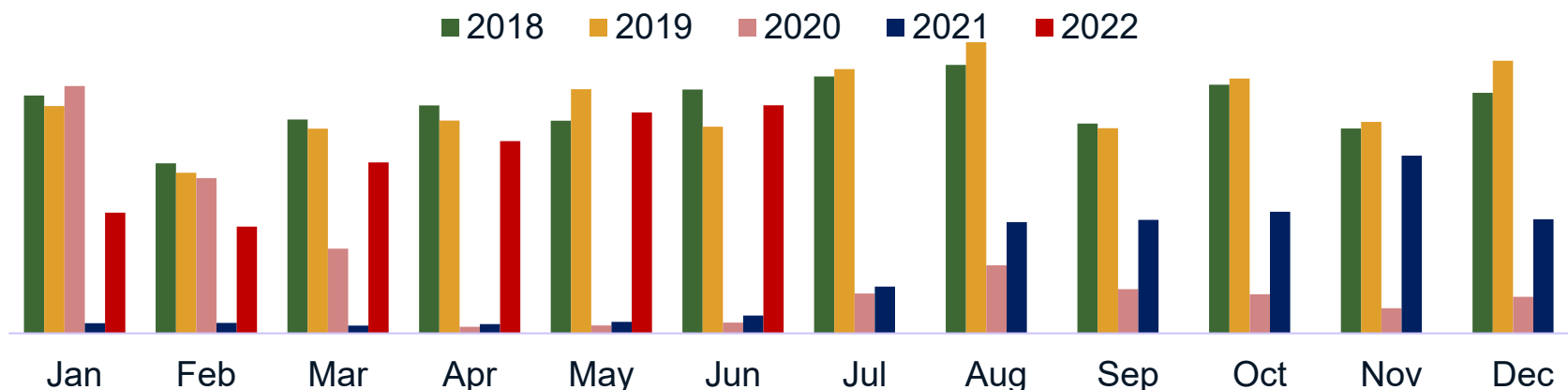
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	790	820	1,167	1,396	1,710	1,508	1,962	1,971	1,317	1,339	1,202	1,153
2019	973	844	1,147	1,403	1,388	1,718	1,866	2,217	1,282	1,480	1,187	1,401
2020	1,125	891	584	42	57	79	296	495	275	224	128	167
2021	1	3	3	2	3	8	30	86	196	259	377	201
2022	108	279	614	860	1,149	1,320						

**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 5 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	942	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	544	481	771	867	996	1,028						

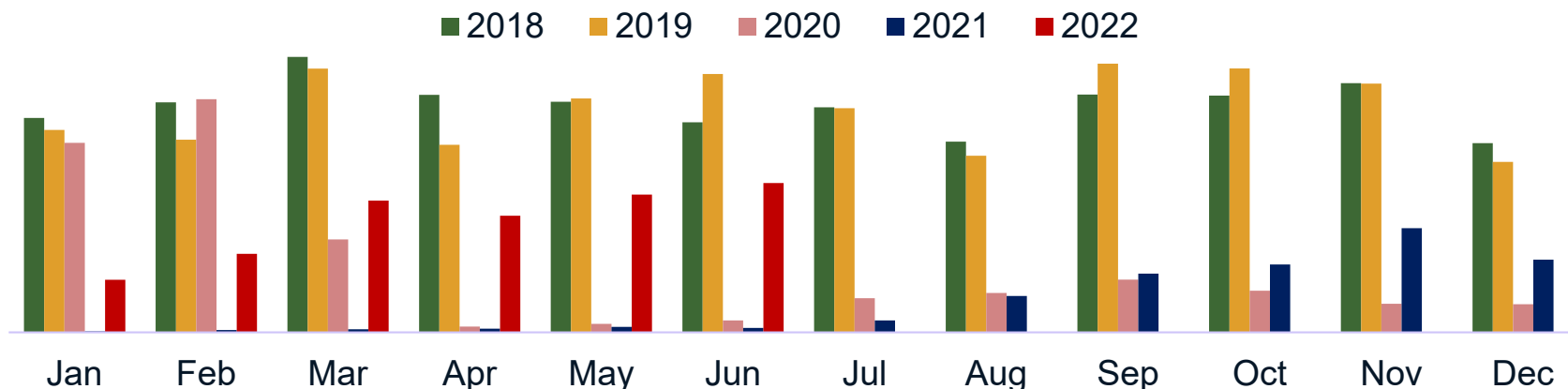
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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 5 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	169	253	424	376	444	481						

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

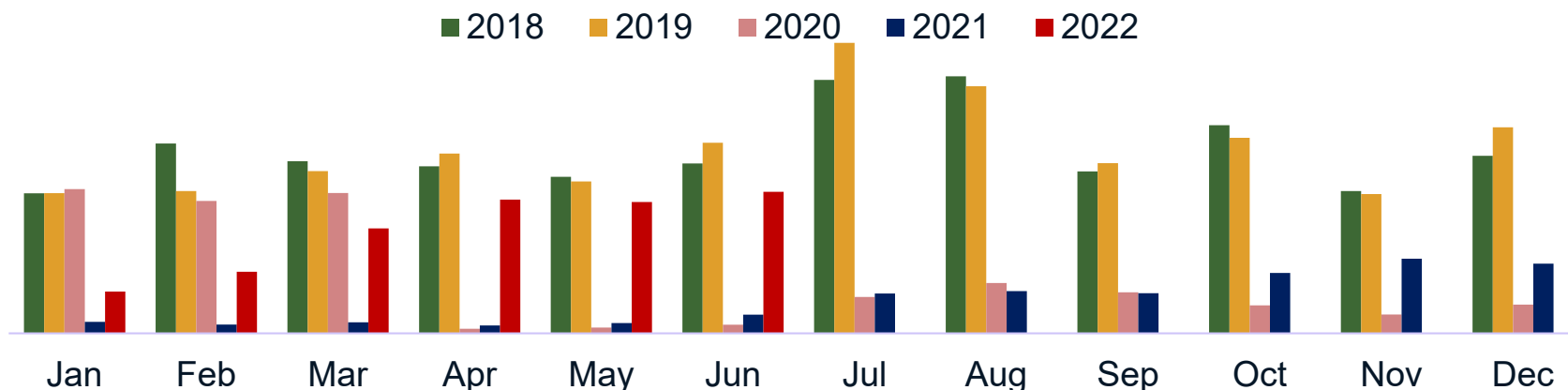
Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available [here](#).

# Detailed monthly trends – journey purpose - misc

Please see notes on slide 5 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	54	79	135	172	169	182						

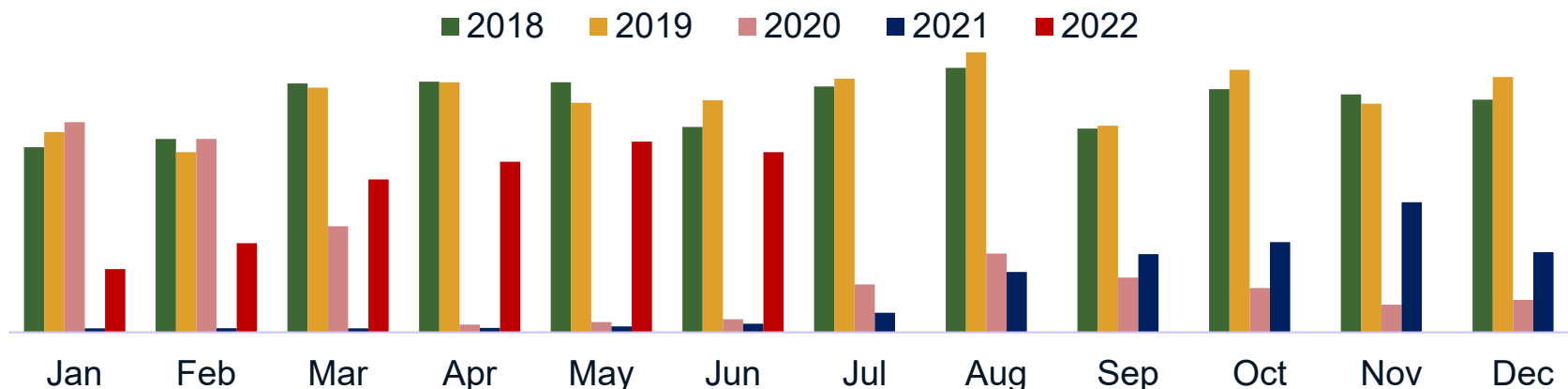
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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 5 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	2,577	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	611	861	1,478	1,648	1,843	1,742						

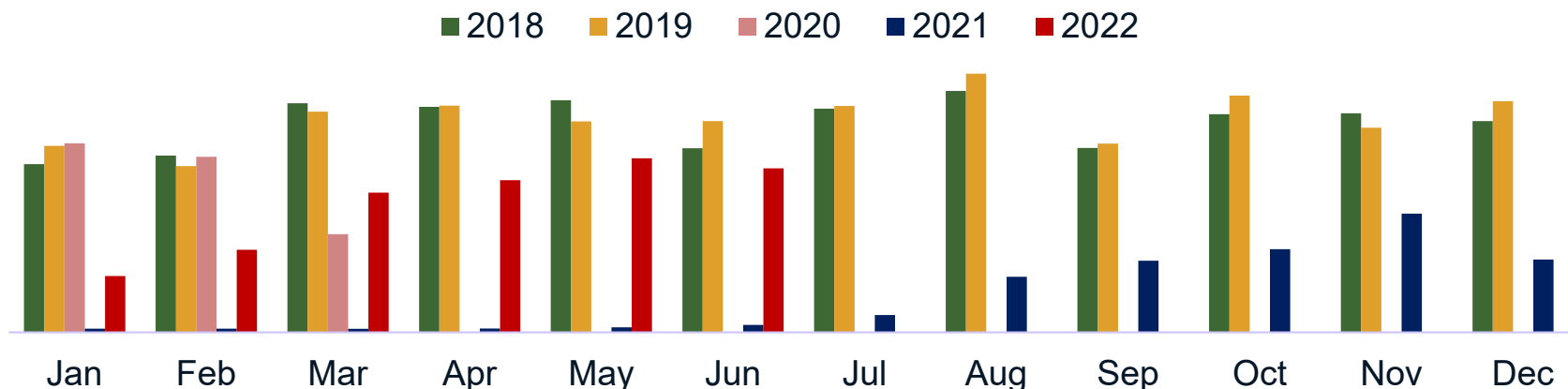
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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 5 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	544	797	1,350	1,471	1,682	1,585	-	-	-	-	-	-

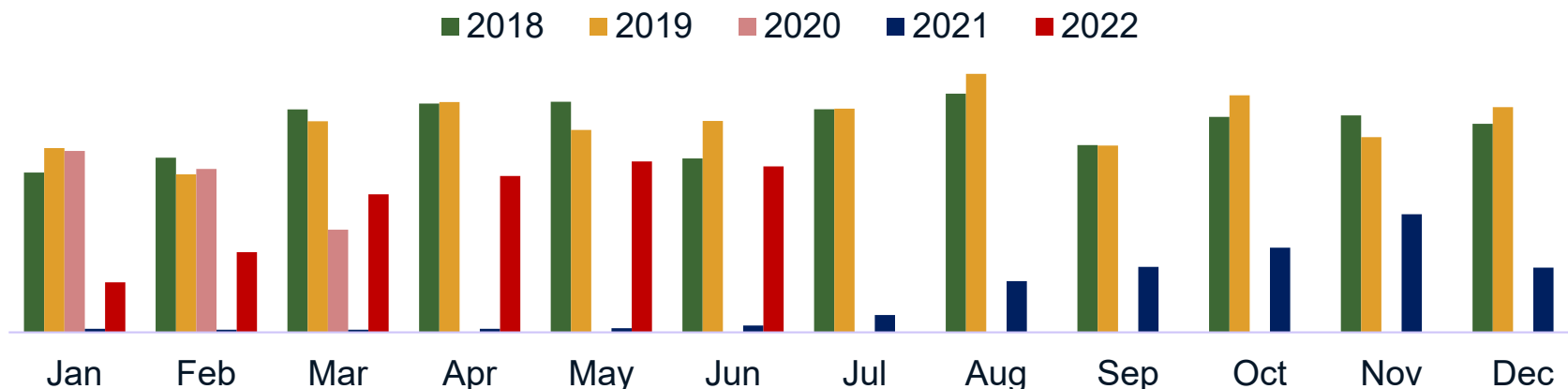
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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 5 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	403	646	1,112	1,260	1,377	1,337						

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

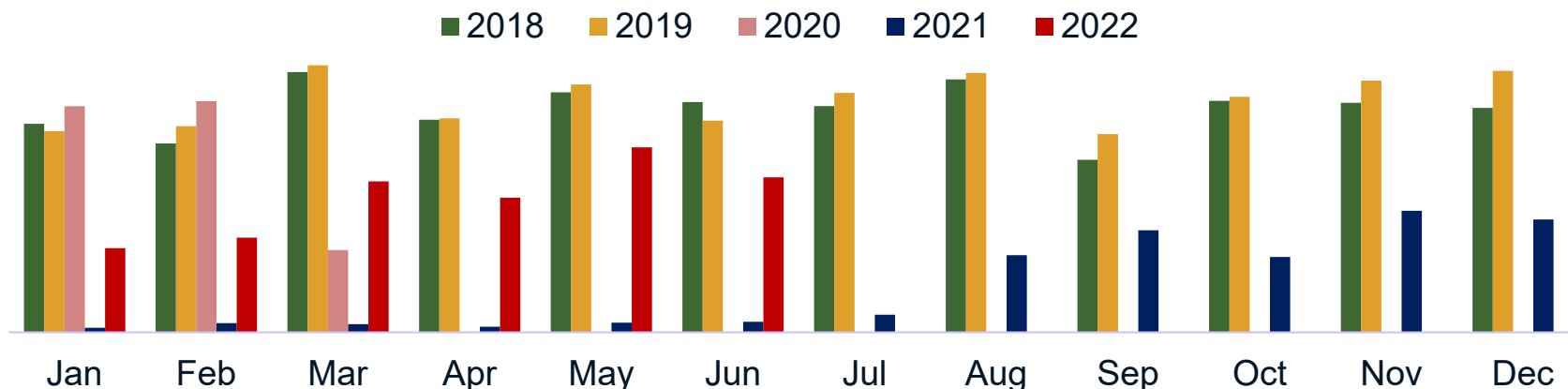
Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.



# Detailed monthly trends – global regions – EU Other

Please see notes on slide 5 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	136	152	243	217	298	250						

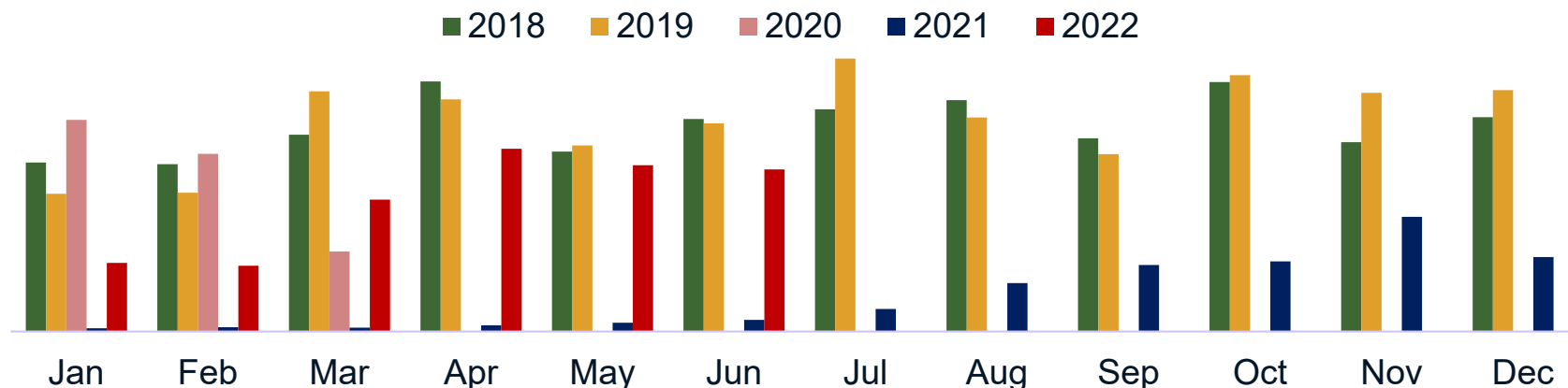
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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 5 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	164	162	191	242	174	206	215	224	187	242	183	208
2019	133	134	233	225	180	202	264	207	172	248	231	234
2020	205	172	77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	3	4	4	6	8	11	22	47	64	68	111	72
2022	66	64	128	177	161	157	-	-	-	-	-	-

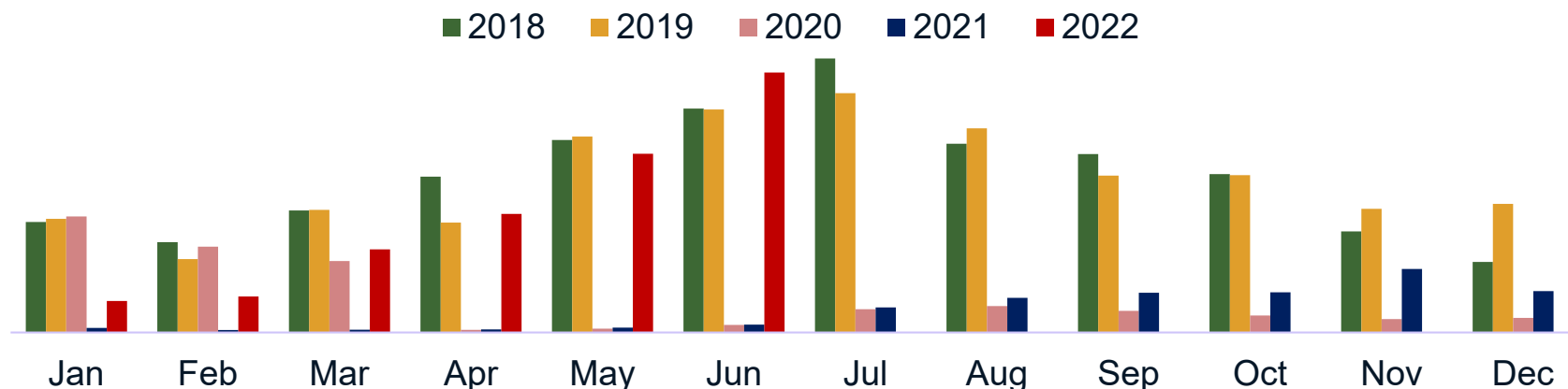
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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 5 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	91	104	241	345	520	756						

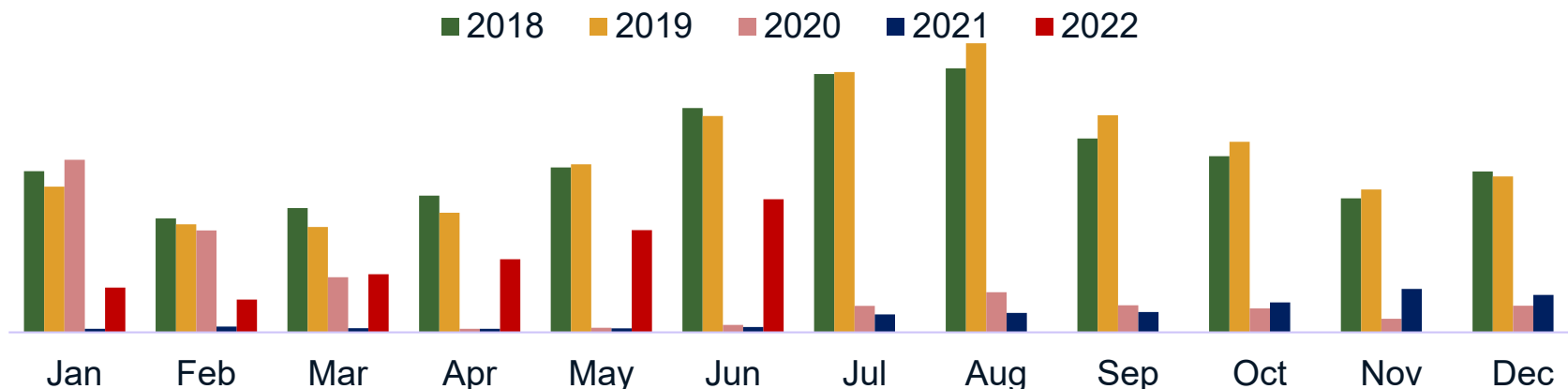
**Note:** Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

[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 5 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	173	126	224	283	395	514						

**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](#).

# Monthly Inbound Update

June 2022

International Passenger Survey by the ONS  
(published 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022)

