

Monthly Inbound Update

October & November 2022

International Passenger Survey by the ONS

(published 15th March 2023)



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1. Latest monthly inbound UK

October and November 2022

Summary of key points (1)

- **Visits:** Inbound visits continued to show strong recovery in October and November 2022 with 3.2 million visits in each month respectively. Visits were down 13% in October (vs 2019) and it was a particularly strong November with visits surpassing 2019 levels by 2%. Between January and November 2022, the UK welcomed 27.6 million visitors (77% of 2019 levels).
- **Spend:** Visitors spent a record £2.7bn (in nominal terms) in October 2022 whilst in the UK, up 3% on October 2019. Spend continued to recover well in November 2022 (just shy of the record) with visitors spending £2.1bn, down 4% on November 2019. Visitor spend in the first 11 months of 2022 reached £23.3bn (92% of 2019 levels). Taking inflation into account (which was up 12% between Jan-Nov 2022 vs Jan-Nov 2019), spend was down 20% in real terms from Jan-Nov 2022.

Summary of key points (2)

- **Journey Purpose:**

- **Holiday** visits continued to account for the largest share of visits in October and November 2022. There were 1.3 million visits in October 2022 and a record 1.2 million visits in November 2022 (2% above Nov 2019). From Jan-Nov 2022, there were 10.8 million holiday visits to the UK.
- **Visits to friends and relatives** continued to show strong recovery, surpassing the 1.0 million mark for the fifth consecutive month. November welcomed a record 1.2 million VFR visits (up 23% on 2019) which narrowed the share gap between VFR and holiday visits for this month (37% vs 38%). In the first 11 months of the year, 10.2 million inbound visitors came to the UK to visit friends and relatives.
- **Business** visits continued to increase in the most recent months but are still the slowest to recover out of any journey purpose. There were 570,000 business visits in October (down 33% on 2019) and 600,000 in November (down 25% on 2019). In 2022 so far, there have been 4.6 million business visits to the UK.
- All other visits under '**miscellaneous**', which includes study, showed strong growth in October and November (vs 2019). These visits contributed 2.0 million to the total UK inbound market in the 11 months to November 2022.

- **Global Regions:**

- **Europe** welcomed 2.3 million visits in October 2022 and a record 2.5 million visits in November 2022. Year-to-date visits reached 18.5 million accounting for 67% of all inbound visits. **EU15** markets accounted for more than half of visits in October and November but it was a particularly strong November for **Other EU** markets which saw the highest amount of visits across any month on record. **Rest of Europe** saw October visits above pre-pandemic levels but a weaker November 2022.
- Visits from **North America** set records from August to October 2022 with November visits just 5% below the record. From Jan-Nov 2022, there were 5.0 million visits from North America accounting for 18% of all inbound visits.
- Those visiting from the **Rest of World** are still recovering at the slowest pace with visits just over half the levels of 2019. There were 410,000 visits in October and 320,000 in November, with year-to-date visits just over the 4 million mark (15% of all inbound visits).

Monthly 2022 Headlines

Total	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	Year-to-date (Jan-Nov 2022)
Visits (000)	801	995	1,773	2,161	2,621	2,865	3,444	3,544	2,956	3,240	3,180	27,580
Spend (£m)	£672	£754	£1,305	£1,812	£2,169	£2,680	£3,252	£3,169	£2,631	£2,720	£2,110	£23,270

- **Visits:** Inbound visits continued to show strong recovery in October and November 2022 with 3.2 million visits in each month respectively. It was a particularly strong November with visits surpassing 2019 levels. Between January and November 2022, the UK welcomed 27.6 million visitors.
- **Spend:** Visitors spent a record £2.7bn (in nominal terms) in October 2022 whilst in the UK. Spend continued to recover well in November 2022 (just shy of the record) with visitors spending £2.1bn. Visitor spend in the first 11 months of 2022 reached £23.3bn.

Monthly Journey Purpose – Visits (000)

Total Visits (000)	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	Year-to-date (Jan-Nov 2022)
Holiday	99	253	559	807	1,079	1,242	1,487	1,668	1,148	1,250	1,210	10,800
VFR	501	442	709	837	963	996	1,161	1,274	1,033	1,070	1,170	10,160
Business	153	227	382	350	414	450	524	359	566	570	600	4,590
Miscellaneous	49	72	123	167	164	178	272	243	209	350	200	2,030

- **Holiday** visits continued to account for the largest share of visits in October and November 2022. There were 1.3 million visits in October 2022 and a record 1.2 million visits in November 2022. From Jan-Nov 2022, there were 10.8 million holiday visits to the UK.
- **Visits to friends and relatives** continued to show strong recovery, surpassing the 1.0 million mark for the fifth consecutive month. November welcomed a record 1.2 million VFR visits which narrowed the share gap between VFR and holiday visits for this month (37% vs 38%). In the first 11 months of the year, 10.2 million inbound visitors came to the UK to visit friends and relatives.
- **Business** visits continued to increase in the most recent months but are still the slowest to recover out of any journey purpose. There were 570,000 and 600,000 business visits in October and November respectively. In 2022 so far, there have been 4.6 million business visits to the UK.
- All other visits under ‘**miscellaneous**’, which includes study, contributed 2.0 million visits to the total UK inbound market in the 11 months to November 2022.

International Passenger Survey by the ONS 2022. Jan-Jun excludes those travelling via Eurotunnel - please see notes on slide 29 for further info. All values and percentage changes in spend are in nominal terms.

Monthly Global Region – Visits (000)

Total Visits (000)	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	Year-to-date (Jan-Nov 2022)
Total Europe	551	777	1,333	1,559	1,743	1,648	2,050	2,200	1,828	2,290	2,510	18,490
→ EU	488	714	1,210	1,385	1,584	1,492	1,802	2,023	1,640	2,040	2,320	16,700
→ EU15	353	565	973	1,178	1,288	1,250	1,481	1,721	1,331	1,700	1,830	13,670
→ Other EU	133	150	239	211	291	243	320	305	307	340	490	3,030
→ Rest of Europe	65	62	122	170	165	154	250	173	190	250	190	1,790
North America	86	98	227	328	494	719	794	717	648	530	350	4,990
Rest of World	164	120	213	274	383	498	600	627	480	410	320	4,090

- **Europe** welcomed 2.3 million visits in October 2022 and a record 2.5 million visits in November 2022. Year-to-date visits reached 18.5 million accounting for 67% of all inbound visits. **EU15** markets accounted for more than half of visits in October and November but it was a particularly strong November for **Other EU** markets which saw the highest amount of visits across any month on record.
- Visits from **North America** set records from August to October 2022 with November visits just 5% below the record. From Jan-Nov 2022, there were 5.0 million visits from North America accounting for 18% of all inbound visits.
- Those visiting from the **Rest of World** contributed 410,000 visits in October and 320,000 in November to UK inbound tourism, with year-to-date visits just over the 4 million mark (15% of all inbound visits).

International Passenger Survey by the ONS 2022. Jan-Jun excludes those travelling via Eurotunnel - please see notes on slide 29 for further info. All values and percentage changes in spend are in nominal terms.

2. 2019 Comparisons

Latest 3 months and Year to Date

2019 Comparisons - Visit (000) and Spend (£m)

Total Visits (000)	2022	Change vs. 2019 [^]
October	3,240	-13%
November	3,180	2%
Last 3 months (September-November)	9,380	-8%
Year to date (January-November)	27,580	-23%

Total Spend (£m)	2022	Change vs. 2019 [^]
October	2,720	3%
November	2,110	-4%
Last 3 months (September-November)	7,460	0%
Year to date (January-November)	23,270	-8%

- In **October 2022**, visitors spent a record £2.7bn in the UK, 3% above October 2019 levels (in nominal terms). Visits reached 3.2 million, down 13% on 2019. There were also 3.2 million visits in **November 2022**, up 2% on November 2019 (and just 2% below the record) with visitor spend at £2.1bn (down 4% on November 2019).
- Across the medium term period of **Sep-Nov 2022**, the UK welcomed 9.4 million visits, down 8% on the same period in 2019. During these 3 months, inbound visitors spent a record £7.5bn, similar to Sep-Nov 2019 (in nominal terms).
- In the **11 months to November 2022**, visits reached 27.6 million (77% of 2019 levels) whilst spend recovered at a faster rate to £23.3bn (92% of 2019 levels). If we take inflation into account (which was up 12% between Jan-Nov 2022 vs Jan-Nov 2019), spend would only account for 80% of 2019 levels.
- Overall the **average spend per visit** in 2022 (January to November) was £844 vs £703 for the same period of 2019. The 2022 average spend is 20% higher – in part due to a longer average length of stay seen in the first 9 months of 2022 as well as inflation.

International Passenger Survey by the ONS 2022. Jan-Jun 2022 and 2019 excludes those travelling via Eurotunnel - please see notes on slide 29 for further info. [^]Data from 2019 includes Irish land border data. Irish land border data is excluded from 2021 onwards. All values and percentage changes in spend are in nominal terms.

2019 Comparisons - Journey Purpose – Visits (000)

Total Visits (000)	October 2022	Change vs. 2019^	November 2022	Change vs. 2019^	Last 3 months (Sep-Nov)	Change vs. 2019^
Holiday	1,250	-16%	1,210	2%	3,610	-9%
VFR	1,070	-7%	1,170	23%	3,270	8%
Business	570	-33%	600	-25%	1,740	-31%
Miscellaneous	350	39%	200	11%	760	17%

- **Holiday** visits surpassed pre-pandemic levels for the first time in November 2022, also reaching a new record 1.2 million visits. In the medium term (Sep-Nov 2022), holiday visits remained behind 2019 levels.
- **Visits to friends and relatives** also surpassed pre-pandemic levels in November 2022, by nearly one quarter (+23%) to a record 1.2 million visits. From Sep-Nov, visits were 8% above 2019.
- **Business** visits continue to be the slowest journey purpose to recover, 25% behind 2019 levels in November 2022 and 31% down over the medium term.
- **Miscellaneous** visits tend to be a smaller proportion of all inbound UK visits and results can fluctuate. Compared to 2019 levels these visits surpassed pre pandemic levels across the short and medium terms measures presented here.

International Passenger Survey by the ONS 2022. ^Data from 2019 includes Irish land border data. Irish land border data is excluded from 2021 onwards. All values and percentage changes in spend are in nominal terms.

2019 Comparisons - Global Region – Visits (000)

Total Visits (000)	October 2022	Change vs. 2019^	November 2022	Change vs. 2019^	Last 3 months (Sep-Nov)	Change vs. 2019^
Total Europe	2,290	-10%	2,510	14%	6,630	-2%
→ EU	2,040	-11%	2,320	17%	6,000	-1%
→ EU15	1,700	-11%	1,830	16%	4,860	-3%
→ Other EU	340	-10%	490	21%	1,140	3%
→ Rest of Europe	250	1%	190	-18%	630	-3%
North America	530	16%	350	-3%	1,530	20%
Rest of World	410	-44%	320	-42%	1,210	-43%

- Visits from **Europe** surpassed 2019 levels in November 2022 as well as reaching a new record 2.5 million visits. In the medium term (Sep-Nov), visits were just 2% below 2019. It was also a record November for the **EU**, and **Other EU** within this category. **Rest of Europe** saw October visits above pre-pandemic levels but a weaker November 2022.
- Inbound visits from **North America** continued to surpass pre-pandemic levels in October 2022, reaching a record 530,000 visits whilst visits dipped to 350,000 in November, 3% below pre-pandemic levels. In the last 3 months, visits were one fifth above pre-pandemic levels on average, particularly due to a strong September.
- All other markets under **Rest of World** showed a relatively stagnant recovery across the reported measures above, just above half of pre-pandemic levels.

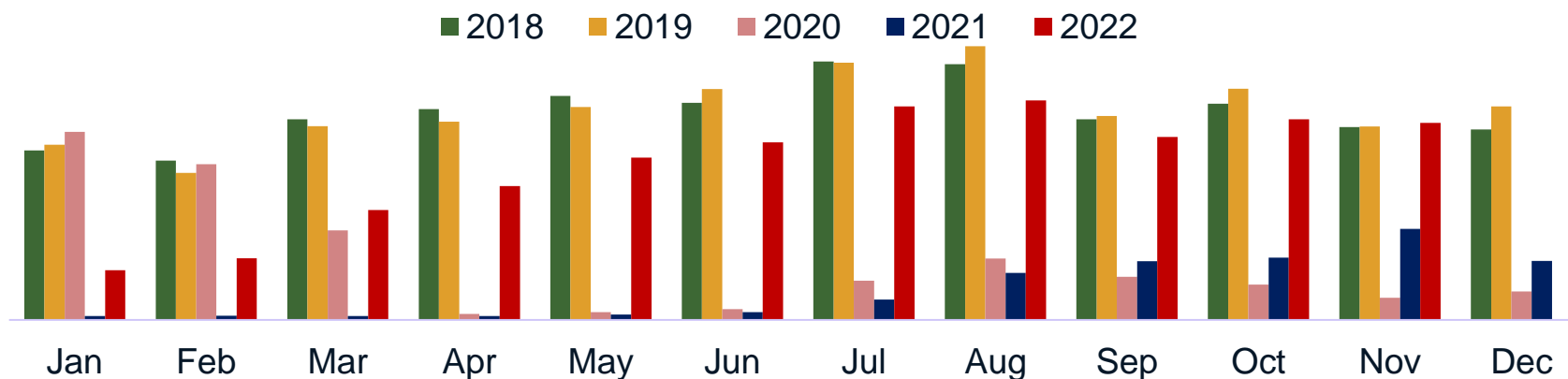
International Passenger Survey by the ONS 2022. ^Data from 2019 includes Irish land border data. Irish land border data is excluded from 2021 onwards. All values and percentage changes in spend are in nominal terms.

3. Detailed monthly trends

Detailed monthly trends - visits

Please see notes on slide 29 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	1,006	1,470	951
2022	801	995	1,773	2,161	2,621	2,865	3,444	3,544	2,956	3,240	3,180	

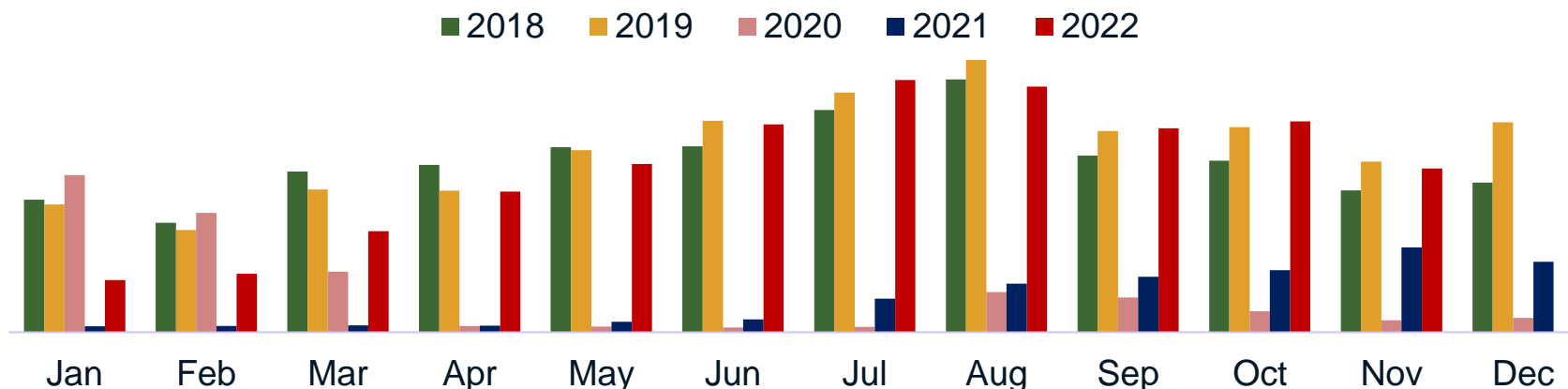
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

[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 29 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	801	1,095	910
2022	672	754	1,305	1,812	2,169	2,680	3,252	3,169	2,631	2,720	2,110	

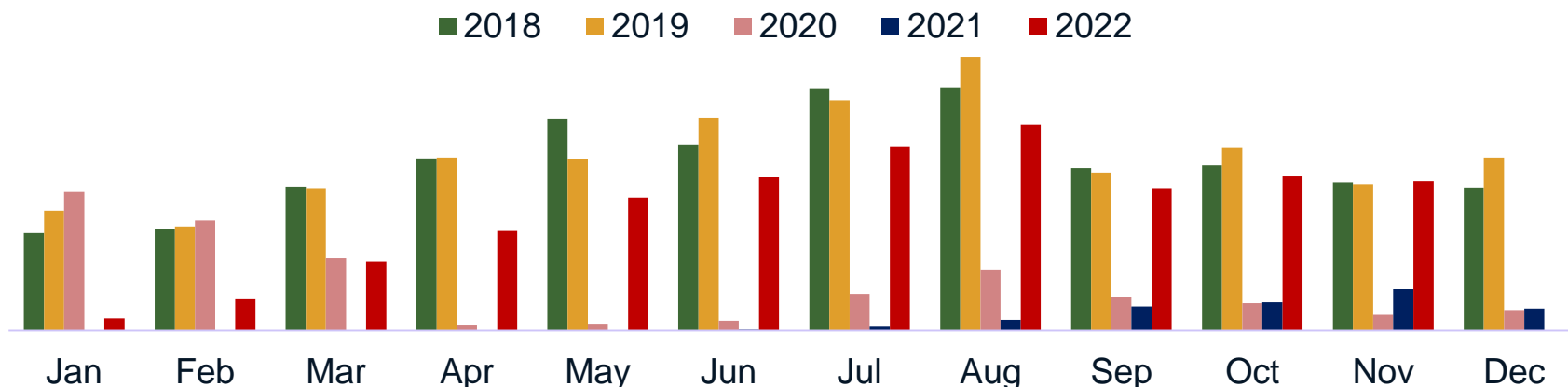
Note: Spending in million pounds. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

[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 29 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	230	335	179
2022	99	253	559	807	1,079	1,242	1,487	1,668	1,148	1,250	1,210	

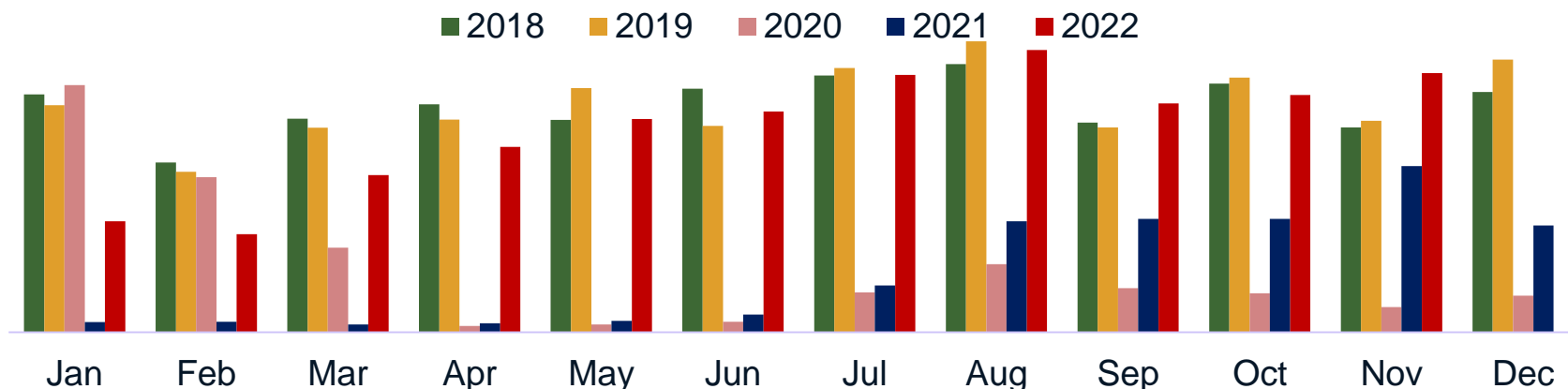
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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

Detailed monthly trends – journey purpose - VFR

Please see notes on slide 29 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	511	749	482
2022	501	442	709	837	963	996	1,161	1,274	1,033	1,070	1,170	

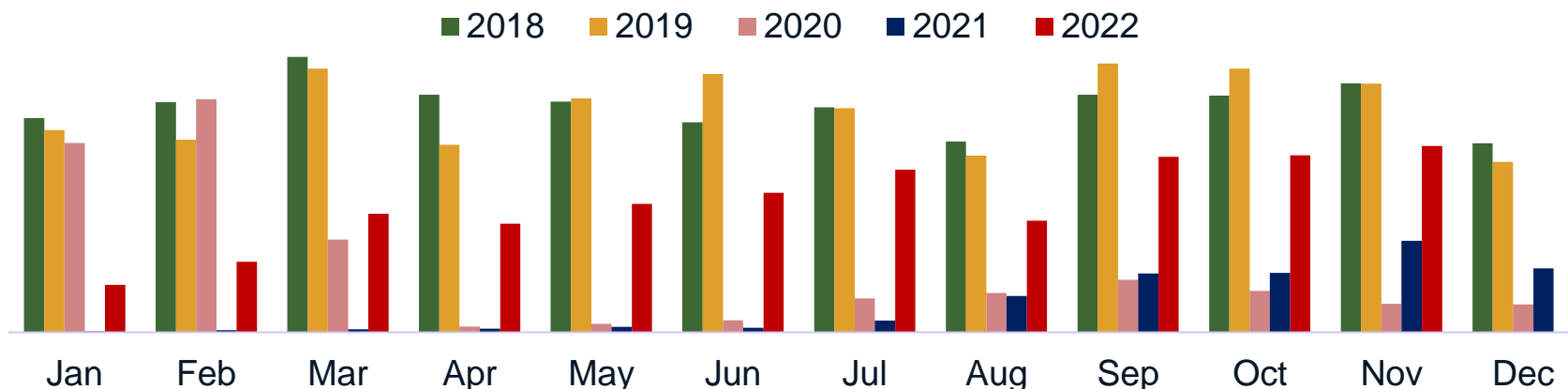
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

[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 29 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	192	295	206
2022	153	227	382	350	414	450	524	359	566	570	600	

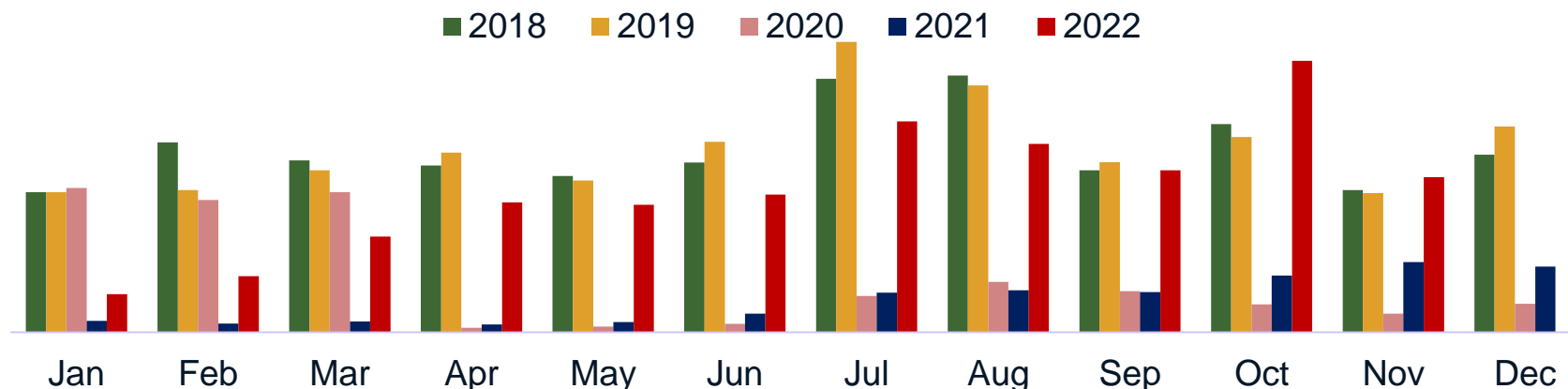
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

[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 29 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	73	91	85
2022	49	72	123	167	164	178	272	243	209	350	200	

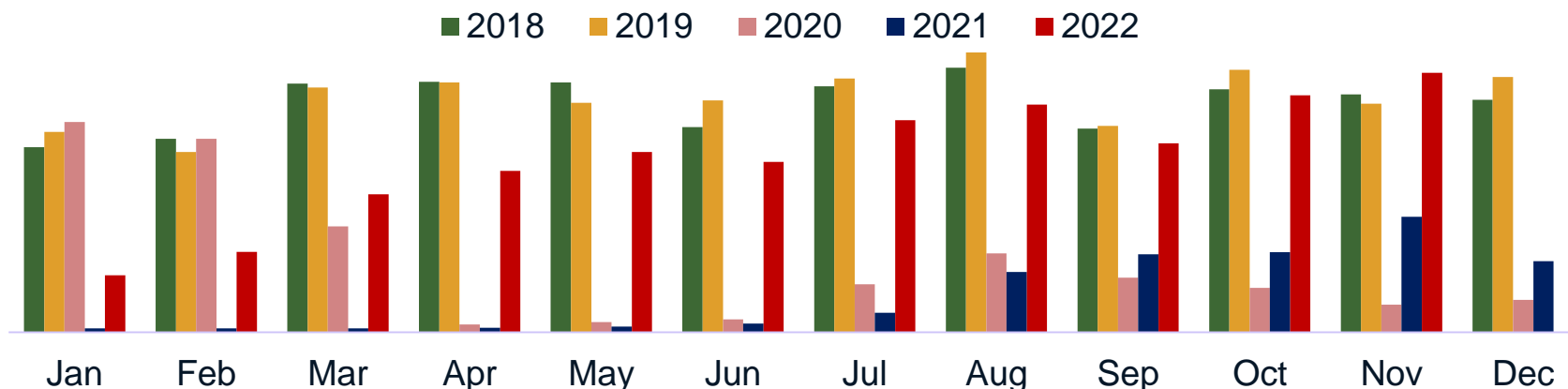
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

[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 29 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	773	1,117	688
2022	551	777	1,333	1,559	1,743	1,648	2,050	2,200	1,828	2,290	2,510	

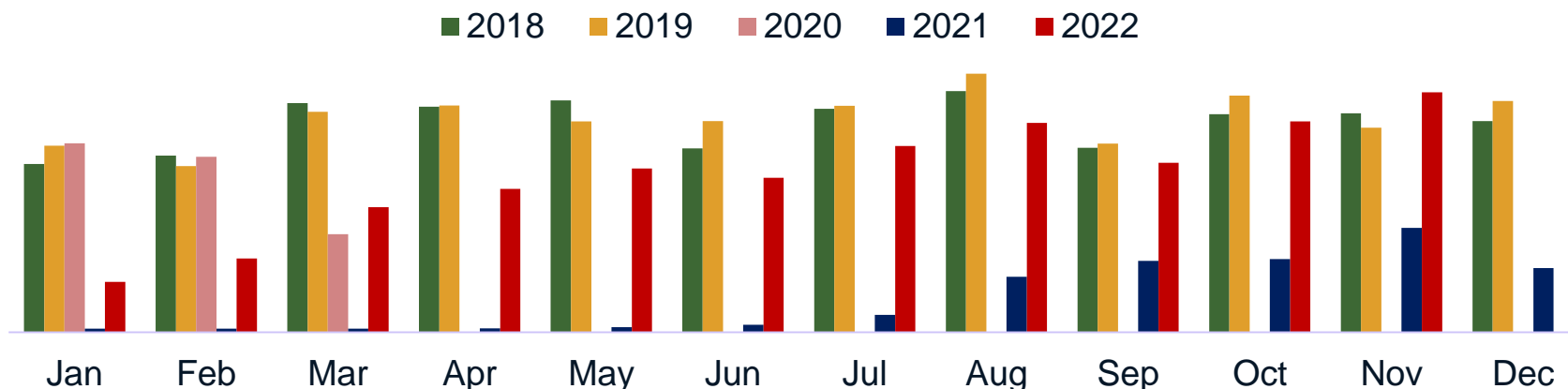
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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

Detailed monthly trends – global regions - EU

Please see notes on slide 29 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	708	1,011	620
2022	488	714	1,210	1,385	1,584	1,492	1,802	2,023	1,640	2,040	2,320	-

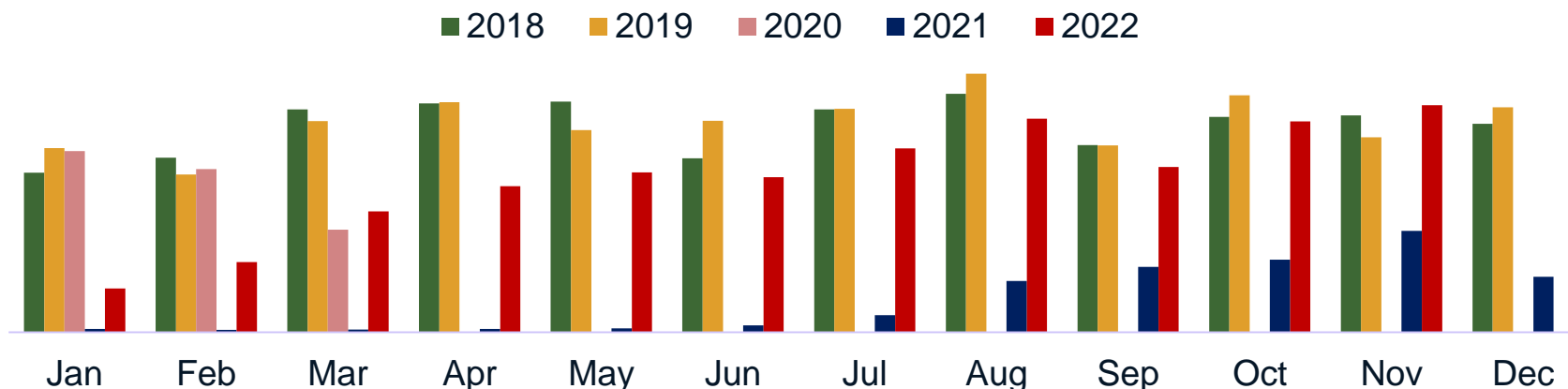
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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

Detailed monthly trends – global regions – EU15

Please see notes on slide 29 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	586	817	448
2022	353	565	973	1,178	1,288	1,250	1,481	1,721	1,331	1,700	1,830	

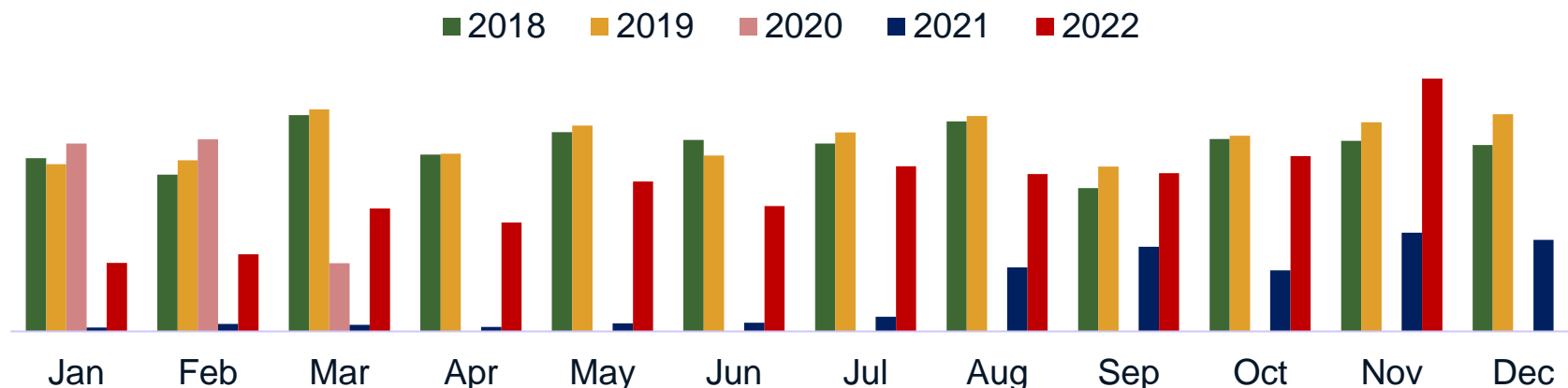
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

[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 29 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	118	191	177
2022	133	150	239	211	291	243	320	305	307	340	490	-

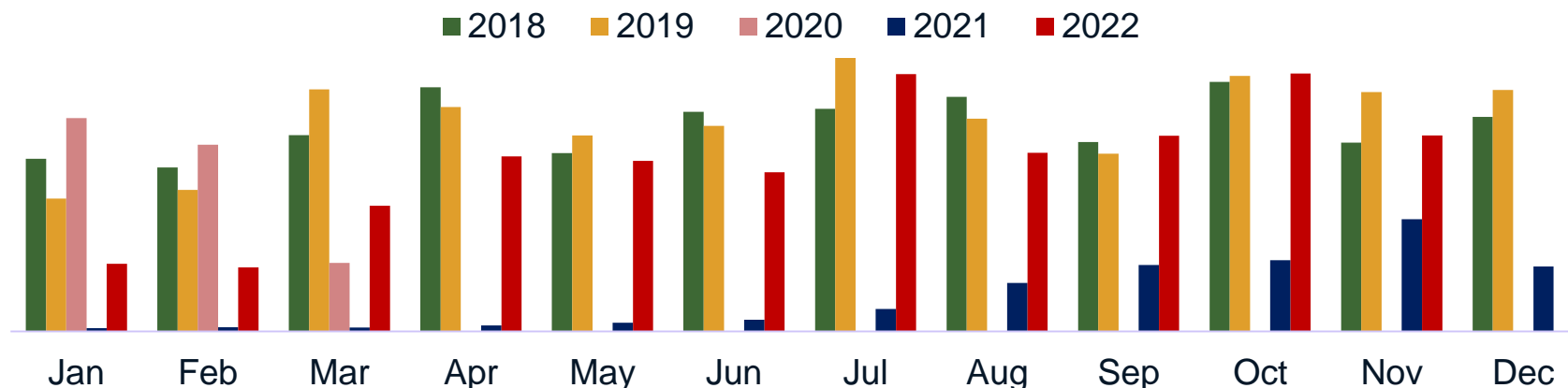
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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

Detailed monthly trends – global regions – Rest of Europe

Please see notes on slide 29 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	69	109	63
2022	65	62	122	170	165	154	250	173	190	250	190	-

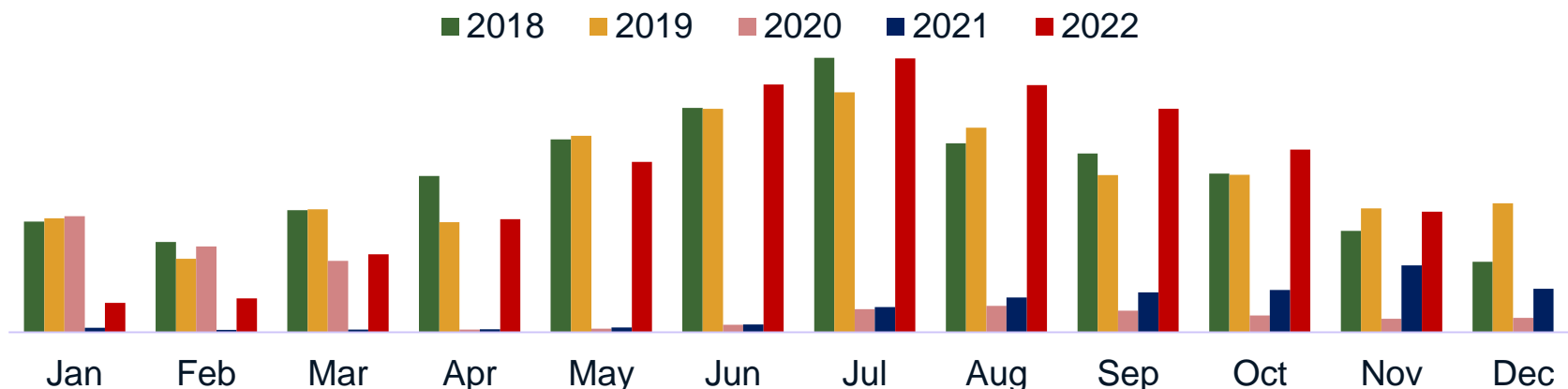
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

[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 29 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	123	194	126
2022	86	98	227	328	494	719	794	717	648	530	350	

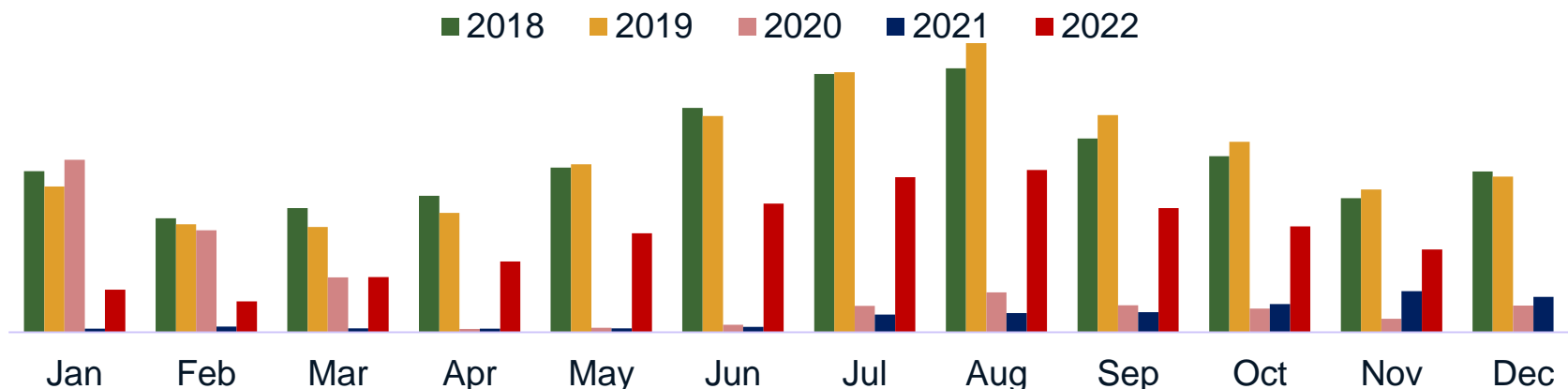
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

[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 29 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	109	159	137
2022	164	120	213	274	383	498	600	627	480	410	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.](#)

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 **15th March 2023**. This data covers provisional October and November 2022 data but may be revised again for the annual 2022 release in May 2023. Due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on the IPS interviews from January to June 2022, there are some caveats to the data noted on slide 29.

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. For absolute clarity we have included sample sizes within this report where breakdowns have been provided.

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. The data was not made available by Mode, 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. 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 so data for this timeframe excludes those travelling via Eurotunnel. Eurotunnel data has been excluded from 2019 for Q1 and Q2 in order to make comparisons on slides 9 for year-to-date. 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

October & November 2022

International Passenger Survey by the ONS

(published 15th March 2023)

