

### Domestic Sentiment Tracker: May 2024

Published: 23rd May 2024

Fieldwork Period: 1st to 7th May 2024

**UK Results** 



#### **Contents**

- 1. Current General Sentiment (slides 7-9)
- 2. Trip Intentions: UK and Overseas (slides 10-21)
- 3. The Next Trip: Overnight and Day Trips (slides 22-29)
- 4. Past UK and Overseas Trips (slides 30-34)
- 5. Overnight Business Trip Intentions\* (slides 35-36)
- 6. Methodology & Further Data (slides 37-38)





#### Introduction

- VisitEngland, VisitScotland and Visit Wales have commissioned a Domestic Sentiment Tracker to understand the impact of major events, such as the cost of living crisis, on the UK public's intent to take overnight trips, both within the UK and abroad.
- The survey addresses areas, such as: current attitude to travel (incl. concerns around travel and reassurances needed from the tourism sector), intentions of UK residents to travel for day trips, short breaks and holidays, when they plan to book and when they plan to go on their trip, as well as the destination, type of location and accommodation for their intended trip.
- This tracker is based on a UK nationally representative sample of 1,500 adults aged 16+, with additional boosts for Scotland and Wales.
- Fieldwork tends to take place at the start of each month and this wave's fieldwork was conducted between 1st to 7th May 2024.
- The results (both, reports and data tables) are made publicly available and updated each wave at the following website:

https://www.visitbritain.org/domestic-sentiment-tracker

#### **Definitions used within this report**

In this report, we look at the behaviour and attitudes of a number of separate audiences depending on when they intend to take an overnight domestic trip.

- May to June 2024 Intenders: Residents of the UK who claim their next domestic overnight trip will take place between May to June 2024
- July to September 2024 Intenders: Residents of the UK who claim their next domestic overnight trip will take place between <u>July to September 2024</u>

We also segment respondents by life stage and use the following definitions:

- Pre-Nesters: Aged 16-34 without children in household
- Families: Aged 16-64 with children in household
- Older Independents: Aged 35-64 without children in household
- Retirement age: Aged 65+





#### **May 2024: Scorecard of Key Metrics**

Key Metrics	May 2024	Change since April 2024
% of UK adults stating 'WORST IS STILL TO COME' regarding the cost of living crisis	40%	=
Proportion intending a UK overnight trip at any point in the next 12 months	76%	-2%
Proportion intending an overseas overnight trip at any point in the next 12 months	59%	-1%
Preference for UK over overseas in the next 12 months (vs past 12 months)	33%	-2%
Took a domestic overnight trip in the past 12 months (May 2023 – April 2024)	61%	-2%
Reduce the number of UK overnight trips due to cost of living crisis [NET 'fewer', 'not go', 'go day trips instead']	28%	+2%
Reduce the number of day trips due to cost of living crisis [NET 'fewer', 'not go on day trips']	30%	=
Top 3 barriers to taking a UK overnight trip in the next 6 months	1 <sup>st</sup> Rising cost of living; 2 <sup>nd</sup> UK weather 3 <sup>rd</sup> Personal Finances	None





<sup>\*</sup> Represents a statistically significant change on previous wave N/A – due to new question wording meaning comparison to last wave cannot be done

#### **May 2024: Scorecard of Key Themes**

Key Theme	Question	May 2024	Change since April 2024
	% of UK adults mentioning 'Cost of Accommodation' as a barrier to taking UK holidays and short breaks in the next 6 months	42%	-2%
Accommodation	<b>Top 3 accommodation types</b> planning on staying in on next UK overnight trip in <u>July to</u> <u>September 2024</u> – % choosing ' <b>Hotel / Motel / Inn'</b>	38%	+1%
Accommodation	<b>Top 3 accommodation types</b> planning on staying in on next UK overnight trip in <u>July to</u> <u>September 2024</u> – % choosing ' <b>Friends or relatives' home'</b>	17%	+2%
	Top 3 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight trip in <u>July to</u> <u>September 2024</u> – % choosing 'Guest house / Bed and Breakfast'	16%	-1%
Drinking/eating out	% of UK adults mentioning 'Cost of Drinking/Eating out' as a barrier to taking UK holidays and short breaks in the next 6 months	34%	-3%
	Activities for UK holidays and short breaks in <u>July to September 2024</u> - % choosing ' <b>Trying local food and drink</b> '	33%	-3%
	% of UK adults mentioning 'Cost of Visitor Attraction' as a barrier to taking UK holidays and short breaks in the next 6 months	21%	+2%
Attractions	Activities for UK holidays and short breaks in <u>July to September 2024</u> - % choosing to ' <b>Visit</b> heritage sites'	28%	=
	Activities for UK holidays and short breaks in <u>July to September 2024</u> - % choosing to <b>'Visit</b> cultural attractions'	23%	-3%
	Activities for UK holidays and short breaks <u>July to September 2024</u> - % choosing to 'Visit family attractions'	19%	-3%





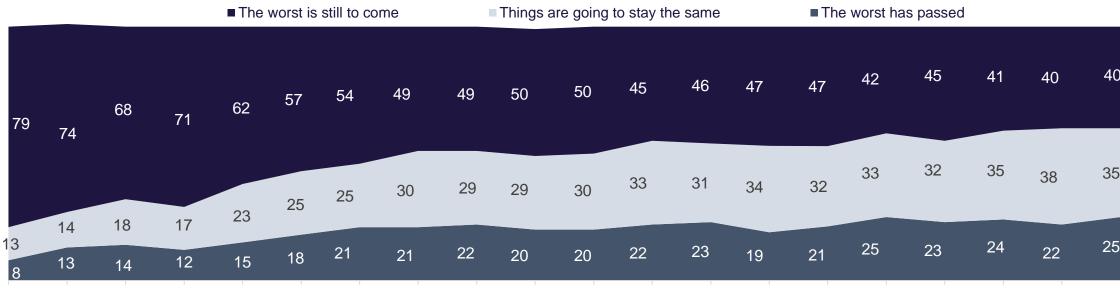


#### 1. Current General Sentiment



#### 40% think 'the worst is still to come' in relation to the cost-of-living crisis, in line with figures recorded in April 2024

Figure 1. Perception of the situation with regards to cost of living crisis, Percentage wave-on-wave, UK



Oct'22 Nov'22 Dec'22 Jan'23 Feb'23 Mar'23 Apr'23 May '23 Jun' 23 Jul'23 Sep'23 Oct'23 Nov'23 Dec'23 Jan'24 Feb'24 Mar'24 Apr'24 May'24

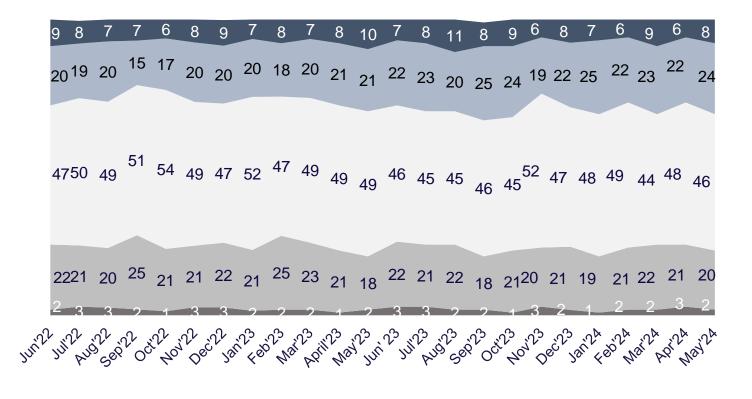
(in %)	Oct'22	Nov'22	Dec'2 2	Jan'23	Feb' 23	Mar'23	Apr'23	May'23	Jun' 23	Jul'23	Aug'23	Sep'2 3	Oct'23	Nov'23	Dec'23	Jan'24	Feb'24	Mar'2 4	Apr' 24	May'24
CPI 12- month rate	11.1	10.7	10.5	10.1	10.4	10.1	8.7	8.7	7.9	6.8	6.7	6.7	4.6	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.4	3.2	n/a	n/a
BOE Base rate	2.25	3.00	3.50	3.50	4.00	4.25	4.25	4.50	5.00	5.00	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25





# Due to the cost-of-living crisis, most UK adults (66%) are either 'cautious and being very careful' (46%) or have been 'hit hard and are cutting back' (20%)

Figure 2. Feelings about situation during the 'cost of living crisis', Percentage wave-on-wave, UK



- I'm one of the lucky ones better off than before the crisis
- I'm alright the 'cost of living crisis' has not really affected me and confident it won't
- I'm cautious things are OK but I feel I have to be very careful
- I've been hit hard no option but to cut back on spending
- Although I've been hit hard and should cut back, I'll spend today and let tomorrow look after itself







#### 2. Trip Intentions: UK and Overseas



## Overnight domestic trip intentions are the same as levels anticipated back in May 2023. 76% are planning a trip in the next 12 months compared to 76% a year earlier

Figure 5. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight UK trips, Percentage, May 2024, UK

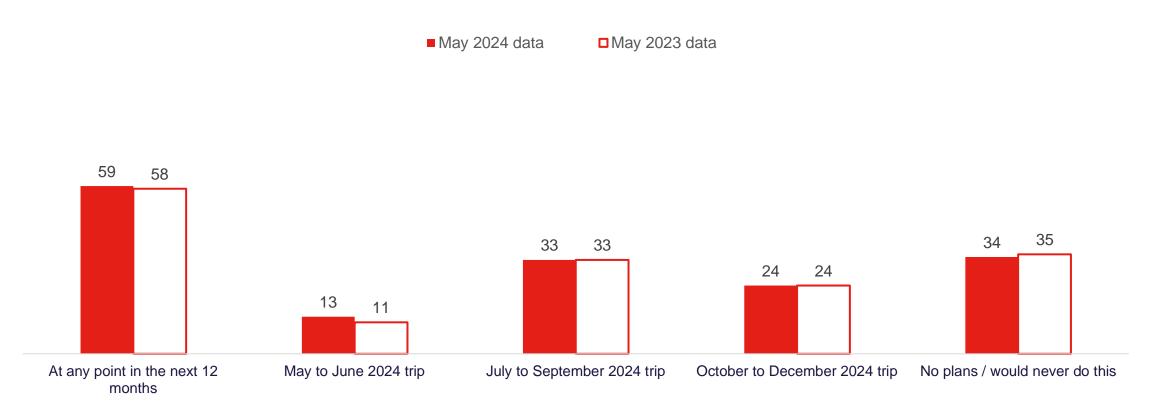






## For <u>overnight overseas trips</u>, intentions are similar to 2023 levels, 59% are planning an overseas trip in the next 12 months compared to 58% the year before

Figure 5b. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight overseas trips, Percentage, May 2024, UK



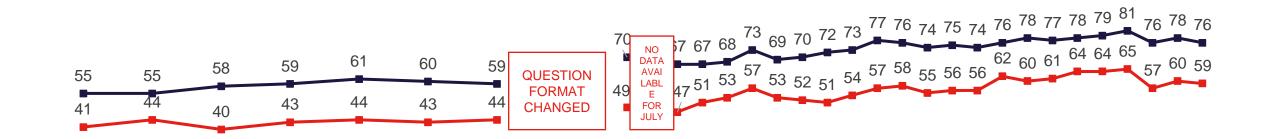




## In May, long term domestic and overseas overnight trip intentions are stable with last wave, and not yet recovered to the peak seen in February 2024

Figure 6. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight UK and overseas trips in the NEXT 12 MONTHS, Percentage, May 2024, UK

■ UK overnight trip Overseas overnight trip



Nov-21 Dec-21 Jan-22 Feb-22 Mar-22 Apr-22 May-22

S S



Question: QVB2a. Thinking of your next UK holiday or short break, when are you likely to go on this trip? QVB2b. And when else do you anticipate going on a UK holiday or short break? QVB2c. Thinking of your next OVERSEAS holiday or short break, when are you likely to go on this trip? QVB2d. And when else do you anticipate going on an overseas holiday or short break? Base: All respondents May 2024 = 1,761. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate taking multiple trips across several time periods.

## Commitment is higher for overseas trips compared to trips in the UK – 85% are very committed for May-June overseas trips compared to 76% for UK trips in the same period

Figure 7. Commitment to taking the next overnight UK trip, Percentage, May 2024, UK

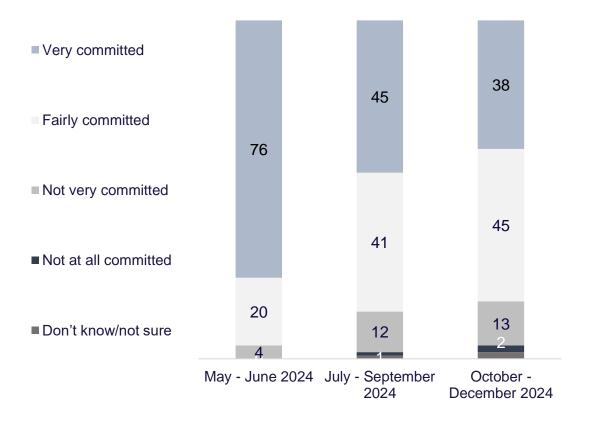
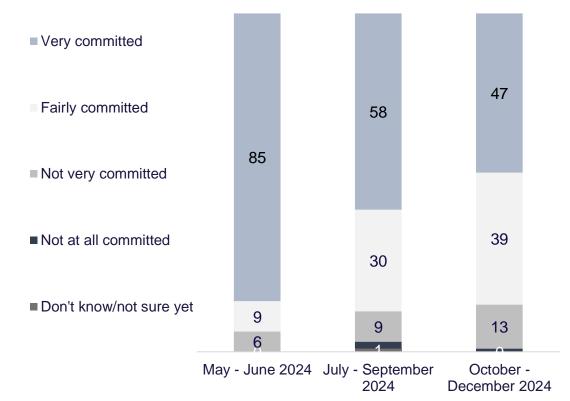


Figure 8. Commitment to taking the next overnight overseas trip, Percentage, May 2024, UK







# 33% of respondents indicated they are more likely to choose a trip in the UK than overseas compared to the last 12 months – the top reason being 'UK holidays are easier to plan' (53%)

Figure 9. Difference in short break/holiday choices in the next 6 months compared to last 12 months, Percentage, May 2024, UK



#### **TOP 5 reasons for UK preference**

- 1. UK holidays are easier to plan (53%)
  - 2. UK holidays are cheaper (48%)
  - 3. Shorter / quicker travel (40%)
- 4. To avoid long queues at airports/cancelled flights (34%)
- 5. I want to take holidays in places I am familiar with (29%)

#### **TOP 5 reasons for Overseas preference**

- 1. Better weather (51%)
- 2. I want to visit new places/experience new cultures (44%)
- 3. I'm prioritising overseas trips after missing out in the last few years (29%)
  - 4. Overseas holidays are cheaper (25%)
    - 5. To visit friends or relatives (21%)

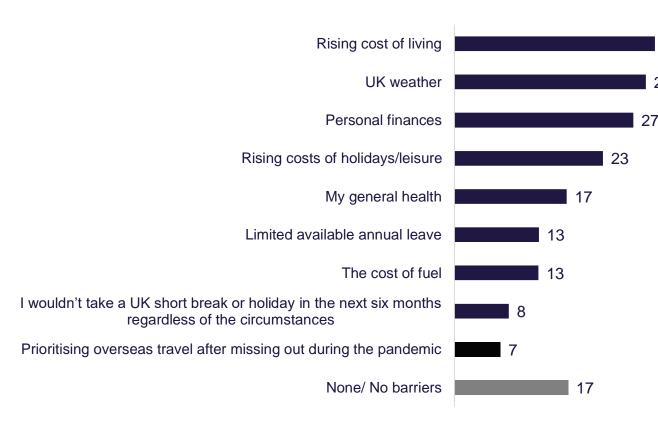
#### FOR THE FULL LIST OF REASONS, PLEASE SEE THE PUBLISHED TABLES.



# The top potential barrier to taking overnight UK trips in the next 6 months is the 'rising cost of living' (31%), followed by 'UK weather' (29%) and 'personal finances' (27%)

31

Figure 10. Top 10 Barriers to taking an overnight UK trip in next 6 months, Percentage, May 2024, UK



	February	March	April	May
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	data	data	data	data
NET: Costs and finances	60%	57%	58%	56%

#### FOR THE FULL LIST OF BARRIERS, PLEASE SEE THE PUBLISHED TABLES.

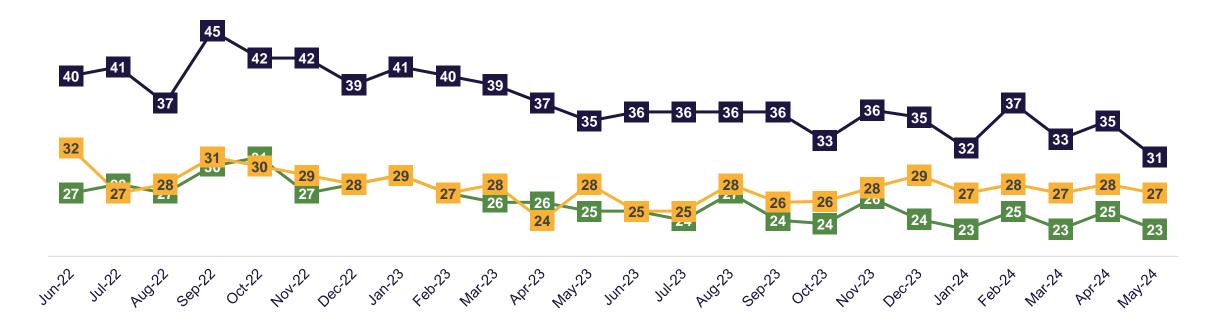




#### In the last year, financial factors have been perceived as less of a barrier to domestic travel than previously

Figure 10b. Perceived financial barriers to an overnight trip in the UK in next 6 months, Wave-on-wave, Percentage, UK







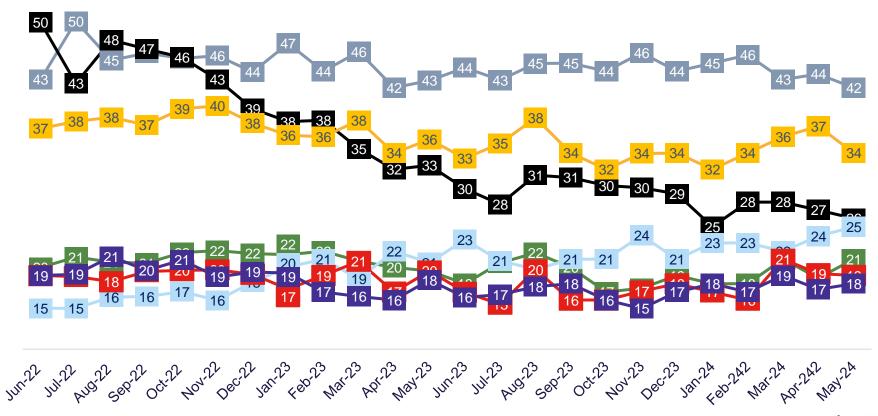


# Focusing on barriers related directly to the cost of a domestic overnight trip, the 'cost of accommodation' remains at the top, followed by 'cost of drinking/eating out' – the latter decreasing after rising the previous 3 waves

Figure 12. Individual costs barrier to taking UK holidays and short breaks in next 6 months, Wave-on-wave, Percentage, UK



- ---Cost of fuel
- Cost of drinking/eating out
- Cost of visitor attractions
- None of these/No barriers
- Cost of activities
- Cost of public transport



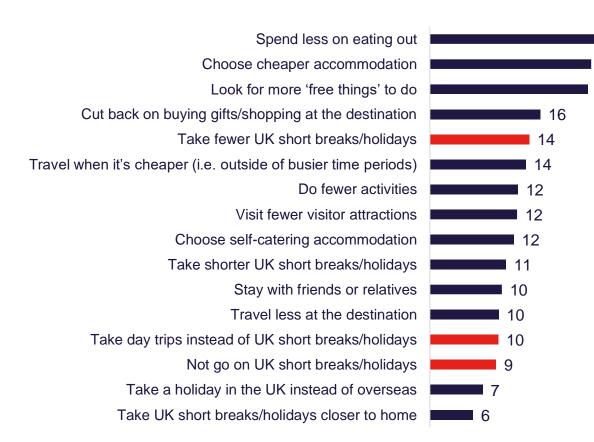




Question: VB7bii. Which, if any, of these costs are the main financial barriers to you taking a UK short break or holiday in the next six months? Base: May 2024 = 1,761.

## UK adults plan to cut their <u>overnight trip spending</u> mainly on eating out, accommodation and activities. 28% will cut the number of trips they will take

Figure 13a. 'Cost of living' impact on UK holidays and short breaks, Percentage, May 2024, UK, Full list



Reduce the number of UK overnight trips	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	data	data	data	data
NET 'fewer', 'not go', 'go day trips instead'	27%	28%	26%	28%





Question: VB7c. How, if at all, would you say the 'cost of living crisis' is likely to influence your UK short breaks or holidays in the next six months? Base: May 2024 = 944. \*Question format changed in March 2024.

#### In terms of <u>UK day trips</u>, 21% of UK adults intend to spend less on eating out. 30% will reduce the number of day trips.

Figure 13b. 'Cost of living' impact on day trips, Percentage, May 2024, UK, Full list



Reduce the number of day trips	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	data	data	data	data
NET 'fewer', 'not go on day trips'	32%	31%	30%	30%





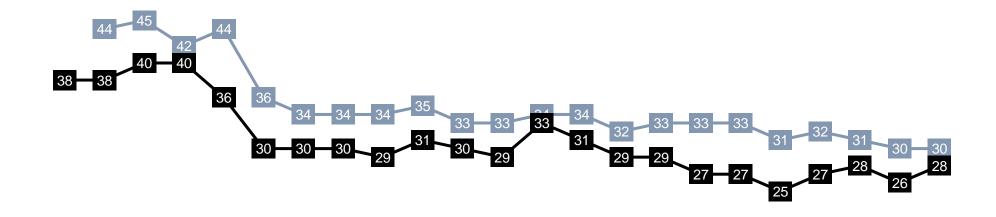
Question: VB7Cii. How, if at all, would you say the 'cost of living crisis' is likely to influence your day trips in the next few months? Base: May 2024 = 873. \*Question format changed in March 2024.

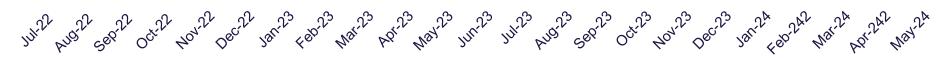
# A similar proportion of UK adults will reduce the number of UK overnight trips and day trips due to the cost of living (30% and 28% respectively)

Figure 13c. 'Cost of living' impact on UK holidays and short breaks and day trips, Percentage, May 2024, UK,

Reduce the number of day trips

Reduce the number of UK overnight trips









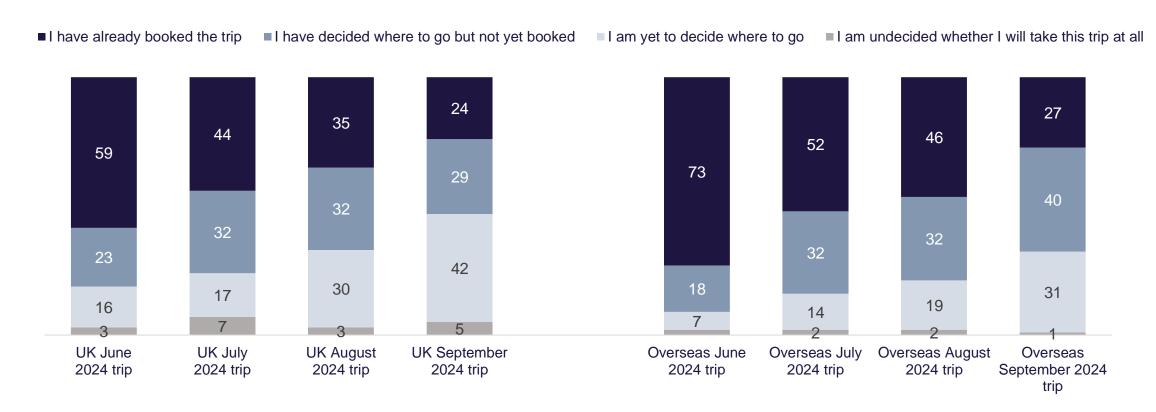


#### 3. The Next Trip: Overnight and Day Trips



### 59% of UK intenders have already booked their <u>domestic</u> trips for June, while 73% have already booked their <u>overseas</u> trips for the same month

Figure 15. Planning and booking the next intended UK and overseas overnight trip, Percentage, May 2024, UK

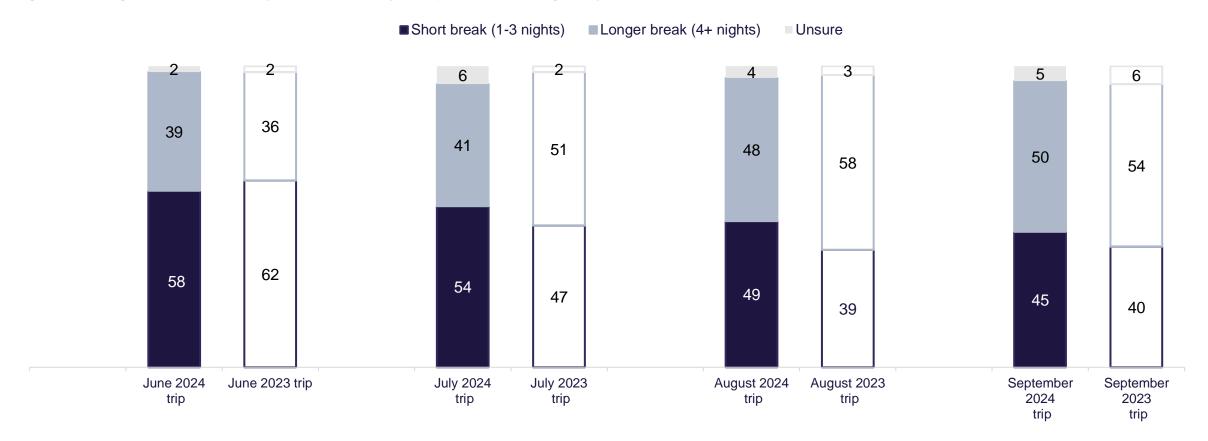






## Domestic trips are more likely to be short (1-3 nights) than longer (4+ nights) for the next 3 months, with the propensity towards shorter trips generally stronger than in 2023

Figure 17. Length of next UK holiday or short break by time period, Percentage, May 2024, UK







#### The South West is the most preferred UK overnight destination in both May to June 2024 and July to September 2024

Figure 18. Where planning on staying on next UK overnight <u>trip in</u> May to June 2024, Percentage, April and May 2024, UK

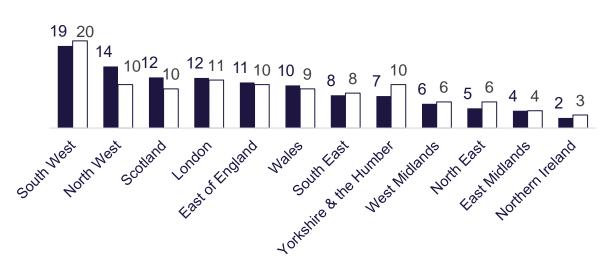
■ April 2024 / May 2024 data

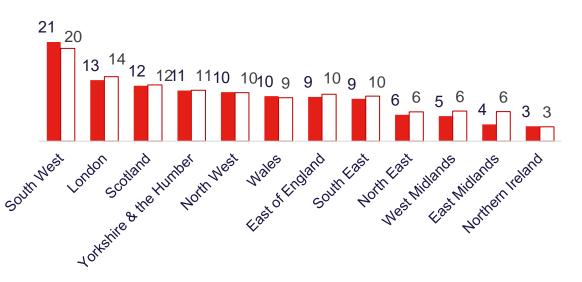
□ April 2023 / May 2023 data

Figure 19. Where planning on staying on next UK overnight <u>trip</u> in July to September 2024, Percentage, April and May 2024, UK

April 2024 / May 2024 data

□ April 2023 / May 2023 data









Question: QVB4a. Where in the UK are you likely to stay on this next trip in <insert month>?

Base: All April 2024 and May 2024 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK May to June 2023 n = 772. July to September 2023 n = 1,348;

May to June 2024 n = 885, July to September 2024 n = 1,308. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate staying in more than one location.

### The top destination type for overnight trips in both time periods is 'a city or large town'. In May to June 2024, 'countryside or village' is a close second

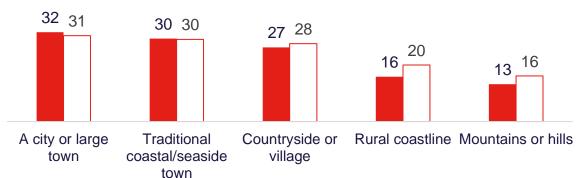
Figure 20. Types of destination for <u>trip in May to June 2024</u>, Percentage, April and May 2024, UK

- April 2024 / May 2024 data
- □ April 2023 / May 2023 data

Figure 21. Types of destination for overnight trip in July to September 2024, Percentage, April and May 2024, UK

- April 2024 / May 2024 data
- □ April 2023 / May 2023 data









### For the next overnight trip in both time periods, 'hotel / motel / inn' is the leading accommodation type, followed by a 'friends or relatives' home'

Figure 24. Top 10 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight <u>trip in May to June 2024</u>, Percentage, April and May 2024, UK





FOR THE FULL LIST OF ACCOMMODATION TYPES, PLEASE SEE THE PUBLISHED TABLES.

Question: VB6a. What type/s of accommodation do you expect to be staying in during your next UK holiday or short break in <INSERT DESTINATION FROM VB4A> in <INSERT MONTH FROM VB2A Base: All April 2024 and May 2024 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK May to June 2023 n = 772. July to September 2023 n = 1,348; May to June 2024 n = 885, July to September 2024 n = 1,308.





## The top motivation for overnight trips in May to June 2024 and July to September 2024 is 'family time or time with my partner' and 'getting away from it all and have rest'

Figure 28. Motivations for UK holidays and short breaks <u>in May to June 2024</u>, Percentage, May 2024, UK, Full list



Figure 29. Motivations for UK holidays and short breaks in July to September 2024, Percentage, May 2024, UK, Full list







Question: VB6fii. Which of the following best describe your motivation/s for this trip?

Base: All May 2024 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK between May to June 2024 n = 441, July to September 2024 n = 682. Note:

Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100%.

#### The top activity in both time periods is 'trying local food and drink'

Figure 30. Activities for UK holidays and short breaks, in May to June 2024, Percentage, May 2024, UK, Full list

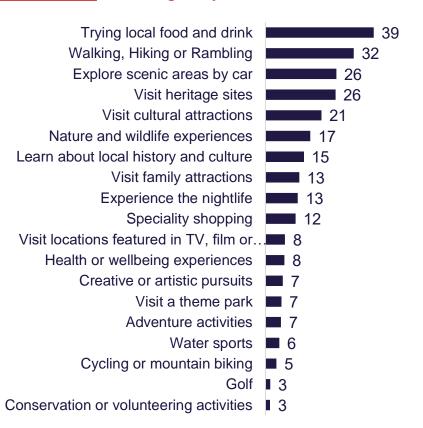
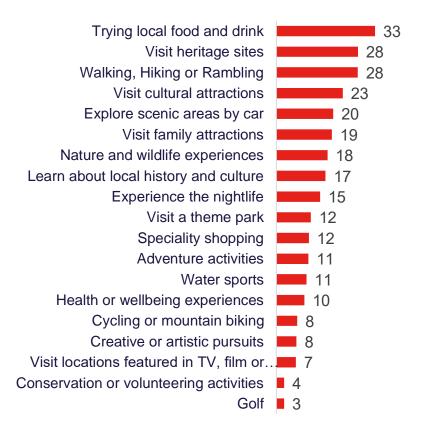


Figure 31. Activities for UK holidays and short breaks in July to September 2024, Percentage, May 2024, UK, Full list









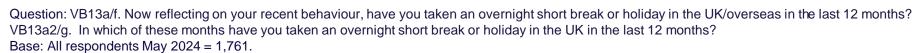
#### 4. Past UK and Overseas Trips



## About 3 in 5 (61%) have taken a UK overnight trip between May 2023 and April 2024, while 40% have taken an overseas overnight trip during the same time period

Figure 32. Proportion UK adult population who have taken an overnight UK or overseas trip in below time period, Percentage, May 2024, UK



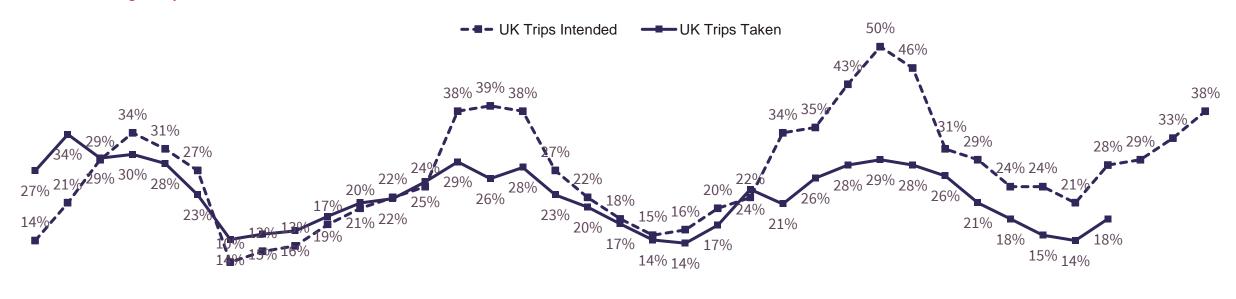






# 18% of respondents went on a domestic overnight trip between February and April 2024, compared to 28% who had previously intended to do so

Figure 32b. Incidence of UK short breaks or holidays intended within next 3 month and taken in last 3 months of UK adult population, Percentage, May 2024, UK



VB2a. Thinking of the next UK holiday or short break you are likely to take, when are you likely to plan, book and go on this trip?

VB13a2: Now reflecting on your recent behaviour, have you taken an overnight short break or holiday in the UK in the last 12 months? Base: All UK respondents = 1761. Data shows the proportion intending to take a trip within the next 3 months – this will not account for intentions established less than 3 months ahead of trip date – and trips taken. Actual trips taken is only available from April 2021 up to March 2024.

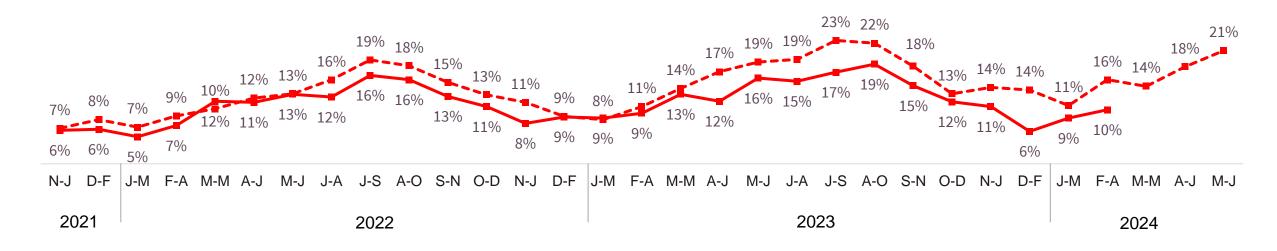




# 10% went on an overseas holiday between February and April, compared to 16% that planned to. The gap between intention and trips taken is smaller for overseas than domestic trips

Figure 32c. Incidence of overseas short breaks or holidays intended within next 3 month and taken in last 3 months of UK adult population, Percentage, May 2024, UK

Overseas Trips IntendedOverseas Trips Taken



VB2c. Thinking of the next overseas holiday or short break you are likely to take, when are you likely to plan, book and go on this trip?

VB13g: Now reflecting on your recent behaviour, have you taken an overnight overseas short break or holiday in the last 12 months? Base: All UK respondents = 1761. Data shows the proportion intending to take a trip within the next 3 months – this will not account for intentions established less than 3 months ahead of trip date – and trips taken. Actual trips taken is only available from April 2021 up to March 2024.





## North West of England was the most popular destination for domestic trips in the past three months, followed by Scotland and South West of England

Figure 33. Destination of overnight trips taken in UK in the past three months, Percentage, May 2024, UK

■ Last three months - 2024 □ Last three months - 2023



Question: VB13c. Where in the UK did you stay on your most recent trip in <INSERT MOST RECENT MONTH>? VB13e. And which of the following best describe the purpose/s of your most recent trip in <INSERT MOST RECENT MONTH >?

Base: All May 2024 respondents that took an overnight trips in the last three months n= 317, All May 2023 respondents = 294

Note: Multiple choice guestions. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents stayed in more than one location or travelled for more than one purpose







### 5. Overnight Business Trip Intentions (May 2024 data)



# 16% of UK adults in employment plan on taking an overnight business trip in the next 3 months. 'Conference' is the leading reason (30%), followed by 'meeting' (28%)

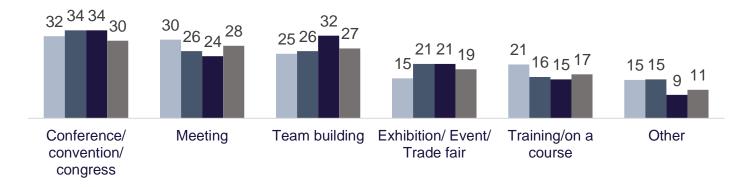
Figure 35. Proportion anticipating an overnight business trip in next 3 months, Percentage, May 2024, <u>UK adults in employment</u>

Figure 36. Reasons for taking an overnight business trip in next 3 months, Percentage, May 2024, UK adults in employment planning a trip

■ November 2023 data
■ January 2024 data
■ March 2024 data
■ May 2024 data

80% of UK adults interviewed are in employment





Question: VB14a. Now looking ahead again, are you intending to take any overnight business trips in the UK in the next three months? Please only answer yes if the overnight business trips are not a feature of your job. For example, if you are a long-distance lorry driver, airline crew or delivery service, an overnight stay would be a feature of the job so you would answer 'no'. Please also answer 'no' if your only overnight business trip is a regular trip to your main place of work (e.g. a weekly or monthly trip to your office). Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate more than one business reason.

VB14b: What would be the main reason for this overnight business trip? Base: May 2024 respondents currently in employment n = 1,761. All taking a business trip n= 274.







#### **Methodology & Further Data**



#### **Methodology**

- This report presents findings from the May 2024 wave of the Domestic Sentiment Tracker, with comparisons to previous months where appropriate.
- The survey is conducted online, among a sample of the UK adult population.
- In the first stage, a nationally representative core sample of 1,500 is recruited and interviewed. This sample is then 'boosted' for Wales and Scotland to ensure sufficient base sizes for separate nation analysis. The data are then weighted to make the sample representative of the UK overall and within each nation.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- The current phase of this project started in April 2023 and will run until March 2025.
- With this newly commissioned phase, the questionnaire was updated to address the cost of living crisis' impact on trips intentions. It also covers the preference for domestic vs overseas overnight trips.
- Please note that because of the questionnaire updates, some questions are not comparable between this phase and the previous phases / waves.



#### **Master Data Table**

- The full data tables are published on the VisitBritain website alongside this report and questions' data not shown in this report are available to view there: <a href="https://www.visitbritain.org/domestic-sentiment-tracker">https://www.visitbritain.org/domestic-sentiment-tracker</a>
  Extra questions available in the tables are:
  - VB1b. Likely to spend more, less or about the same on holidays in the next 12 months, vs last 12 months
  - VB9a/b. More/Less likely to visit leisure places in the UK in the next 12 months, vs last 12 months
  - VB10a/b. More/Less likely to conduct leisure activities in the UK in the next 12 months, vs last 12 months
- To access a .csv file of the data contained within the charts, please open this report with Adobe Reader. When you have done so, navigate to the left-hand side of the page to the attachments area, symbolised by a paperclip icon, and click on the file to open the attachment.

