

Monthly Inbound Update

Final 2023 estimates

International Passenger Survey by the ONS

(Published May 2024)



Contents

1. Latest monthly inbound UK – final 2023 estimates

- Volume and value headlines
- Value (in real terms)
- Journey purpose
- Global Regions

2. Detailed monthly trends

3. Survey background

- About this data
- Impact of COVID-19 on IPS
- Definitions

Explore the 2023 data in more detail on the [VisitBritain website](#).

Make sure you get all the latest figures and reports by [signing-up for VisitBritain's e-newsletter](#)

1. Latest monthly inbound UK

Final 2023 estimates

Volume and Value Headlines

Total Visits (000)	2023	Change vs. 2019	Change vs. 2022	Total Spend (£m)	2023	Change vs. 2019	Change vs. 2022
January 2023	2,898	2%	246%	January 2023	2,106	28%	200%
February 2023	2,192	-8%	110%	February 2023	1,387	5%	76%
March 2023	2,596	-17%	40%	March 2023	2,129	16%	56%
April 2023	3,126	-2%	39%	April 2023	2,329	28%	25%
May 2023	3,300	-4%	21%	May 2023	2,654	13%	19%
June 2023	3,479	-7%	17%	June 2023	2,930	8%	6%
July 2023	4,012	-3%	16%	July 2023	3,650	18%	12%
August 2023	3,810	-14%	7%	August 2023	3,622	3%	14%
September 2023	3,106	-6%	5%	September 2023	2,841	10%	8%
October 2023	3,715	0%	12%	October 2023	3,095	17%	7%
November 2023	2,795	-10%	-14%	November 2023	2,109	-4%	-7%
December 2023	2,931	-15%	-4%	December 2023	2,224	-18%	-13%
2023 overall	37,960	-7%	21%	2023 overall	£31,070	-7%	21%

International Passenger Survey by the ONS 2023. All values and percentage changes in spend are in nominal terms. Sample sizes at the monthly level for some analysis and comparisons can be low and results should be treated with caution, especially for spending.

Journey Purpose Volume: Holiday and VFR

Holiday Visits (000)	2023	Change vs. 2019	Change vs. 2022	VFR Visits (000)	2023	Change vs. 2019	Change vs. 2022
January 2023	960	-1%	844%	January 2023	1,252	22%	138%
February 2023	773	-8%	195%	February 2023	759	5%	63%
March 2023	1,036	-10%	79%	March 2023	842	-9%	13%
April 2023	1,352	-4%	59%	April 2023	1,005	5%	17%
May 2023	1,459	5%	28%	May 2023	1,030	-6%	5%
June 2023	1,586	-8%	21%	June 2023	1,084	16%	7%
July 2023	1,905	2%	28%	July 2023	1,279	7%	10%
August 2023	1,893	-15%	13%	August 2023	1,323	1%	4%
September 2023	1,163	-9%	1%	September 2023	995	8%	-4%
October 2023	1,588	7%	26%	October 2023	1,247	9%	8%
November 2023	1,007	-15%	-17%	November 2023	928	-3%	-26%
December 2023	1,162	-17%	9%	December 2023	1,103	-10%	-15%
2023 overall	15,880	-6%	31%	2023 overall	12,850	3%	9%

International Passenger Survey by the ONS 2023. Sample sizes at the monthly level for some analysis and comparisons can be low and results should be treated with caution.

Journey Purpose Volume: Business and Misc

Business Visits (000)	2023	Change vs. 2019	Change vs. 2022	Misc. Visits (000)	2023	Change vs. 2019	Change vs. 2022
January 2023	465	-29%	190%	January 2023	222	23%	329%
February 2023	478	-23%	99%	February 2023	182	-1%	137%
March 2023	475	-44%	18%	March 2023	244	17%	87%
April 2023	530	-12%	42%	April 2023	239	3%	41%
May 2023	569	-25%	29%	May 2023	242	24%	45%
June 2023	598	-28%	25%	June 2023	211	-14%	18%
July 2023	533	-26%	2%	July 2023	294	-21%	8%
August 2023	354	-38%	-1%	August 2023	240	-25%	-1%
September 2023	699	-19%	24%	September 2023	248	13%	19%
October 2023	604	-29%	10%	October 2023	275	9%	-22%
November 2023	716	-11%	26%	November 2023	144	-20%	-27%
December 2023	456	-17%	-7%	December 2023	210	-21%	20%
2023 overall	6,470	-25%	26%	2023 overall	2,750	4%	26%

International Passenger Survey by the ONS 2023. Sample sizes at the monthly level for some analysis and comparisons can be low and results should be treated with caution.

Global Region Volume: Total Europe, EU, EU15

Total Europe Visits (000)	2023	Change vs. 2019	Change vs. 2022	EU Visits (000)	2023	Change vs. 2019	Change vs. 2022	EU15 Visits (000)	2023	Change vs. 2019	Change vs. 2022
January 2023	1,972	2%	238%	January 2023	1,807	0%	248%	January 2023	1,445	-3%	276%
February 2023	1,666	-4%	102%	February 2023	1,512	-6%	99%	February 2023	1,215	-5%	97%
March 2023	1,829	-23%	29%	March 2023	1,649	-23%	28%	March 2023	1,295	-24%	22%
April 2023	2,203	-9%	35%	April 2023	1,996	-9%	37%	April 2023	1,715	-8%	37%
May 2023	2,071	-7%	13%	May 2023	1,865	-9%	12%	May 2023	1,484	-9%	8%
June 2023	1,982	-12%	15%	June 2023	1,811	-11%	15%	June 2023	1,494	-12%	12%
July 2023	2,354	-4%	15%	July 2023	2,077	-5%	15%	July 2023	1,734	-4%	17%
August 2023	2,274	-16%	3%	August 2023	2,119	-15%	5%	August 2023	1,773	-15%	3%
September 2023	1,968	-1%	8%	September 2023	1,799	-1%	10%	September 2023	1,474	-2%	10%
October 2023	2,453	-3%	8%	October 2023	2,225	-3%	12%	October 2023	1,815	-5%	9%
November 2023	1,946	-12%	-22%	November 2023	1,716	-13%	-24%	November 2023	1,360	-14%	-25%
December 2023	2,107	-15%	-1%	December 2023	1,924	-14%	-2%	December 2023	1,669	-8%	5%
2023 overall	24,830	-9%	18%	2023 overall	22,500	-9%	19%	2023 overall	18,470	-9%	18%

International Passenger Survey by the ONS 2023. Sample sizes at the monthly level for some analysis and comparisons can be low and results should be treated with caution.

Global Region Volume: Other EU, Rest of Europe

Other EU Visits (000)	2023	Change vs. 2019	Change vs. 2022	Rest of Europe Visits (000)	2023	Change vs. 2019	Change vs. 2022
January 2023	362	12%	180%	January 2023	165	28%	136%
February 2023	298	-10%	105%	February 2023	153	11%	149%
March 2023	352	-18%	52%	March 2023	182	-23%	52%
April 2023	282	-18%	33%	April 2023	206	-5%	22%
May 2023	379	-5%	31%	May 2023	208	9%	24%
June 2023	317	-7%	30%	June 2023	171	-14%	12%
July 2023	346	-10%	8%	July 2023	274	4%	10%
August 2023	345	-17%	13%	August 2023	156	-24%	-10%
September 2023	324	1%	6%	September 2023	170	-1%	-10%
October 2023	406	7%	25%	October 2023	232	-6%	-15%
November 2023	347	-14%	-25%	November 2023	239	3%	12%
December 2023	269	-36%	-27%	December 2023	169	-27%	-5%
2023 overall	4,030	-11%	21%	2023 overall	2,330	-6%	15%

International Passenger Survey by the ONS 2023. Sample sizes at the monthly level for some analysis and comparisons can be low and results should be treated with caution.

Global Region Volume: North America, Rest of World

North America Visits (000)	2023	Change vs. 2019	Change vs. 2022	Rest of World Visits (000)	2023	Change vs. 2019	Change vs. 2022
January 2023	372	13%	328%	January 2023	553	-2%	230%
February 2023	217	2%	119%	February 2023	309	-26%	152%
March 2023	405	14%	77%	March 2023	363	-11%	67%
April 2023	498	56%	48%	April 2023	425	-8%	52%
May 2023	684	20%	34%	May 2023	545	-16%	39%
June 2023	773	19%	4%	June 2023	725	-13%	42%
July 2023	758	9%	-4%	July 2023	900	-11%	50%
August 2023	659	11%	-8%	August 2023	877	-22%	40%
September 2023	513	13%	-21%	September 2023	624	-26%	30%
October 2023	567	24%	1%	October 2023	695	-6%	41%
November 2023	372	4%	1%	November 2023	476	-14%	23%
December 2023	307	-18%	-22%	December 2023	516	-14%	1%
2023 overall	6,130	14%	12%	2023 overall	7,010	-14%	47%

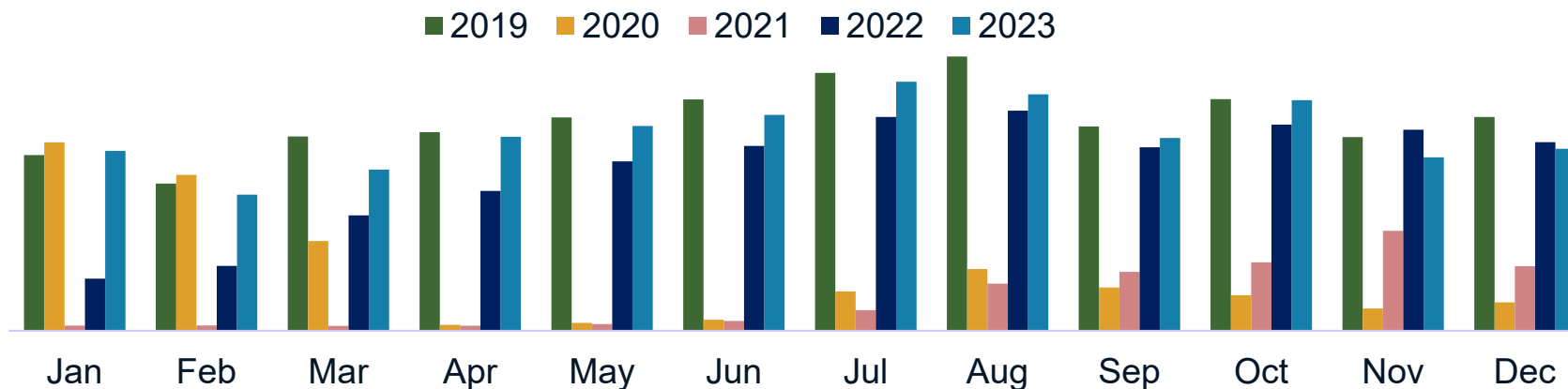
International Passenger Survey by the ONS 2023. Sample sizes at the monthly level for some analysis and comparisons can be low and results should be treated with caution.

2. Detailed monthly trends

Final 2023 estimates

Detailed monthly trends: volume

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



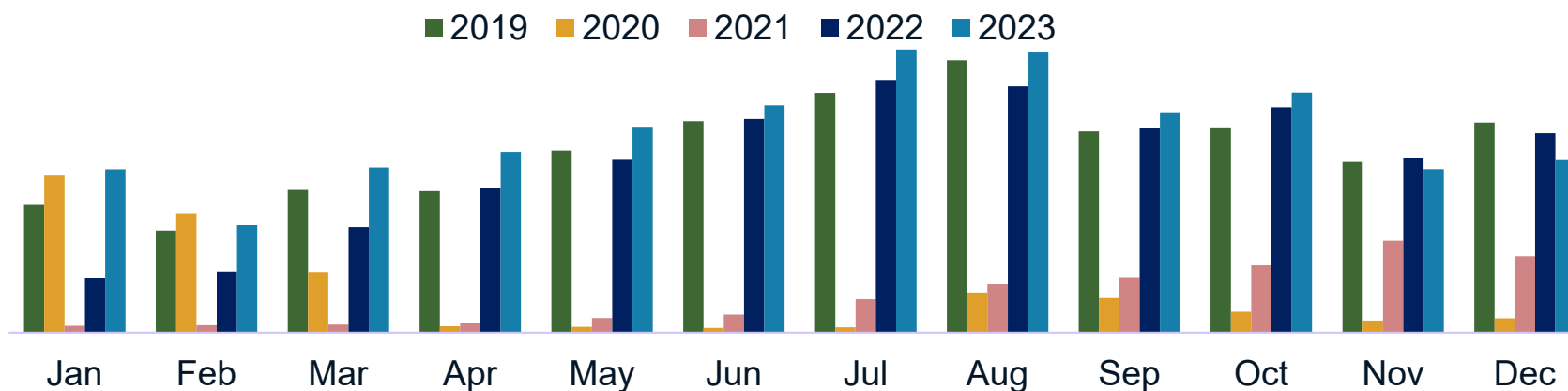
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	2,830	2,372	3,129	3,199	3,438	3,727	4,155	4,418	3,292	3,731	3,121	3,445
2020	3,036	2,512	1,446	95	127	176	633	993	696	570	358	458
2021	82	86	78	81	107	158	331	759	949	1,103	1,610	1,039
2022	839	1,045	1,860	2,252	2,728	2,977	3,445	3,545	2,956	3,322	3,238	3,038
2023	2,898	2,192	2,596	3,126	3,300	3,479	4,012	3,810	3,106	3,715	2,795	2,931

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: value

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

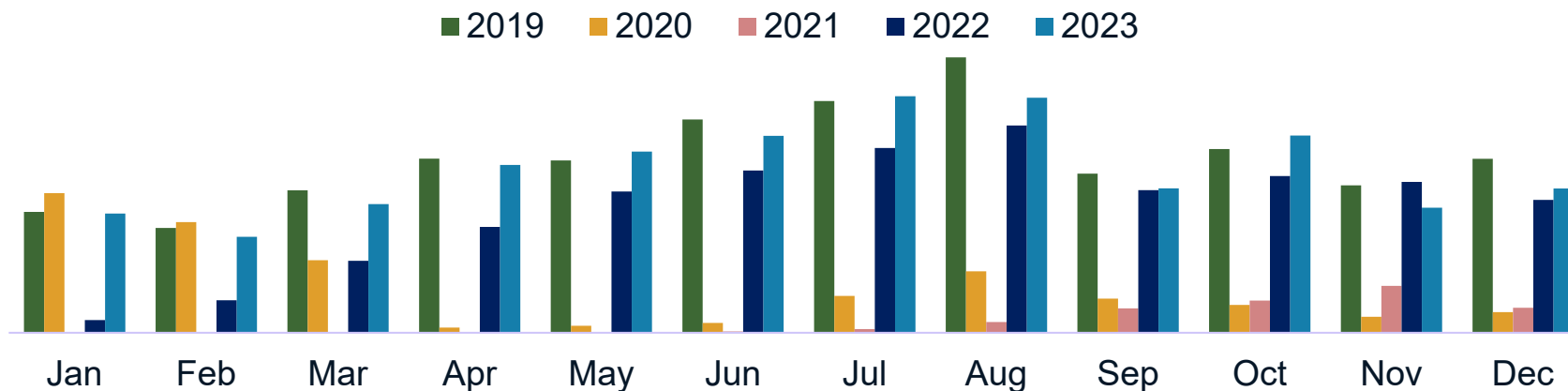


Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	1,646	1,318	1,840	1,824	2,347	2,725	3,090	3,510	2,593	2,645	2,201	2,708
2020	2,026	1,538	780	82	75	61	69	519	448	270	156	185
2021	89	95	103	122	189	234	433	626	716	867	1,186	985
2022	702	787	1,363	1,863	2,229	2,755	3,257	3,174	2,635	2,905	2,258	2,570
2023	2,106	1,387	2,129	2,329	2,654	2,930	3,650	3,622	2,841	3,095	2,109	2,224

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 trend for journey purpose: holiday

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



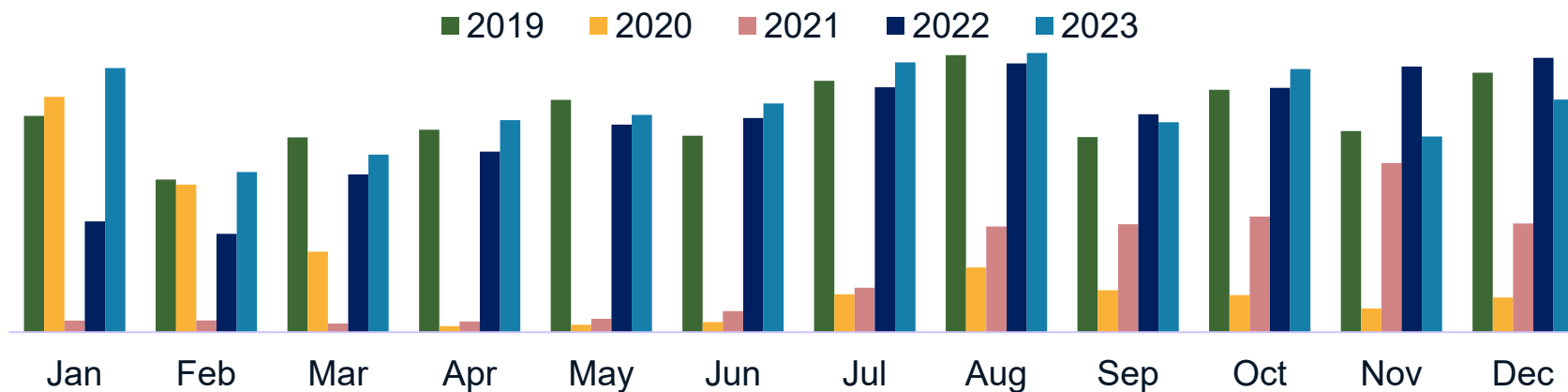
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	973	844	1,147	1,403	1,388	1,718	1,866	2,217	1,282	1,480	1,187	1,401
2020	1,125	891	584	42	57	79	296	495	275	224	128	167
2021	2	3	3	3	4	10	30	86	196	259	377	201
2022	102	262	579	853	1,138	1,307	1,488	1,669	1,149	1,262	1,215	1,070
2023	960	773	1,036	1,352	1,459	1,586	1,905	1,893	1,163	1,588	1,007	1,162

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 trend for journey purpose: VFR

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



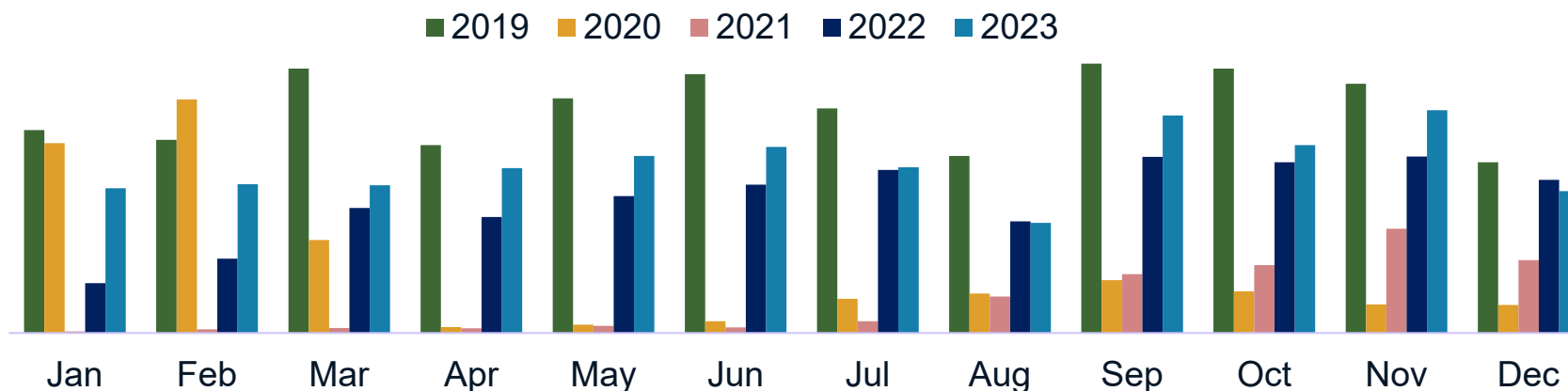
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	1,025	724	923	960	1,101	932	1,192	1,313	925	1,149	954	1,230
2020	1,115	700	382	29	35	48	180	307	199	176	113	165
2021	55	56	41	51	64	100	211	501	512	548	802	515
2022	525	466	748	856	984	1,015	1,161	1,274	1,033	1,158	1,259	1,300
2023	1,252	759	842	1,005	1,030	1,084	1,279	1,323	995	1,247	928	1,103

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 trend for journey purpose: business

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



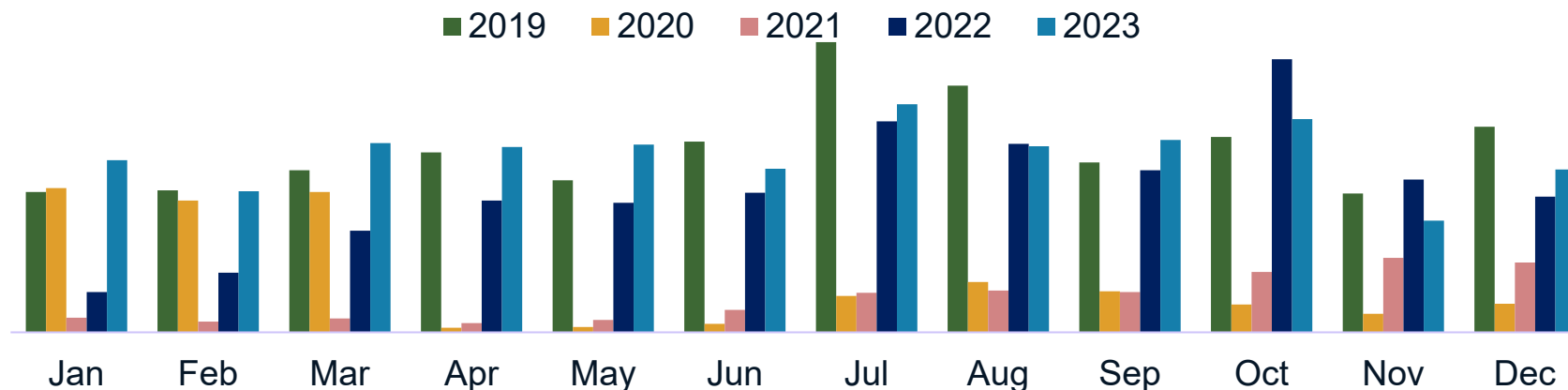
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	652	621	850	604	754	832	722	569	866	850	801	549
2020	610	751	299	19	27	38	110	127	170	134	92	90
2021	5	12	16	15	23	18	38	117	189	218	335	234
2022	160	239	402	373	440	477	524	359	566	549	567	492
2023	465	478	475	530	569	598	533	354	699	604	716	456

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 trend for journey purpose: misc

Overseas Visits to the UK - Miscellaneous (includes short-term study, 000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



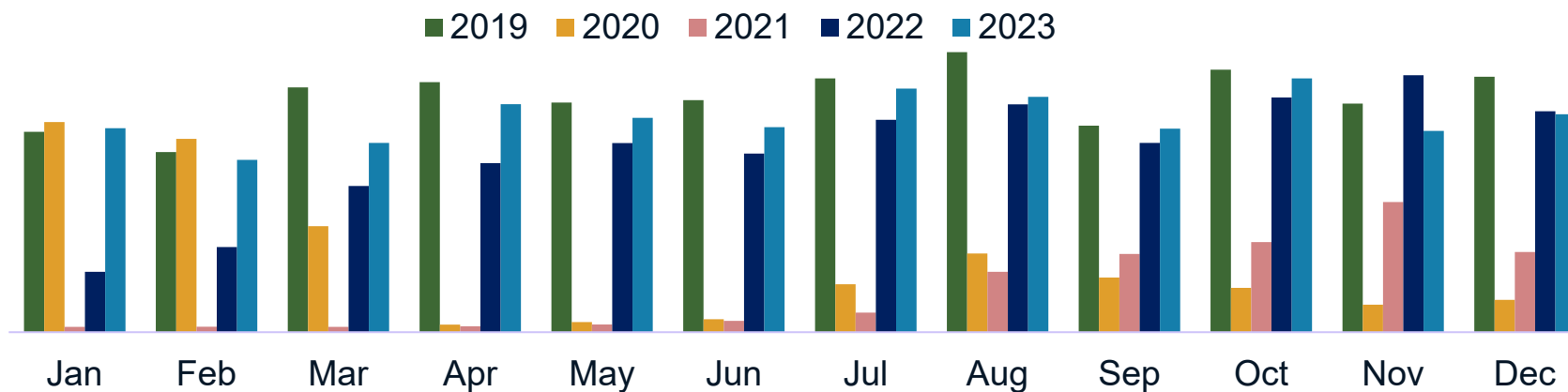
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	181	183	209	232	196	246	374	318	219	252	179	265
2020	186	170	181	6	7	11	47	65	53	36	24	37
2021	19	14	18	12	16	29	51	54	52	78	96	90
2022	52	77	131	170	167	180	272	243	209	352	197	175
2023	222	182	244	239	242	211	294	240	248	275	144	210

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 trend for global regions: Europe

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



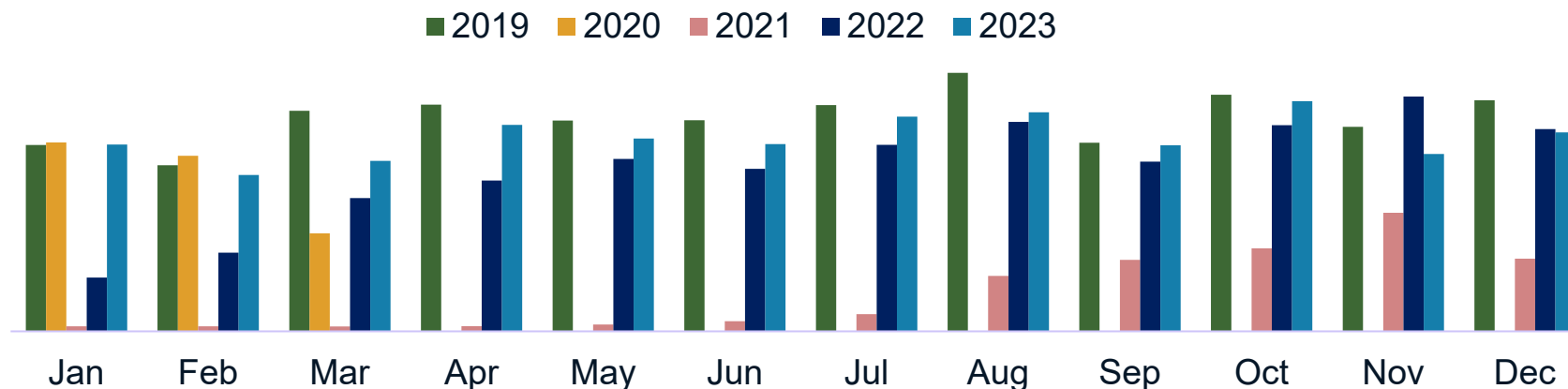
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	1,936	1,742	2,365	2,417	2,219	2,243	2,453	2,707	1,996	2,537	2,209	2,469
2020	2,032	1,869	1,025	74	98	126	463	761	529	429	267	313
2021	52	54	52	57	75	110	189	584	756	871	1,258	775
2022	584	823	1,413	1,634	1,828	1,727	2,053	2,202	1,830	2,269	2,483	2,135
2023	1,972	1,666	1,829	2,203	2,071	1,982	2,354	2,274	1,968	2,453	1,946	2,107

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 trend for global regions: EU

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



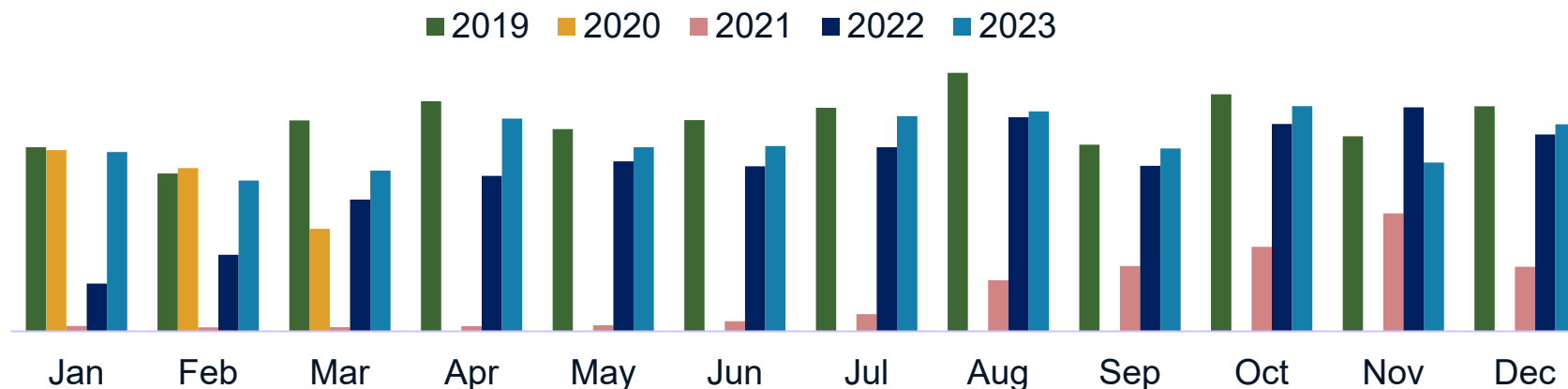
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	1,803	1,607	2,133	2,192	2,039	2,041	2,188	2,499	1,825	2,289	1,978	2,235
2020	1,827	1,697	948									
2021	49	50	48	51	66	99	167	537	691	803	1,147	703
2022	520	761	1,289	1,459	1,668	1,572	1,804	2,026	1,642	1,993	2,270	1,956
2023	1,807	1,512	1,649	1,996	1,865	1,811	2,077	2,119	1,799	2,225	1,716	1,924

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 trend for global regions: EU15

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



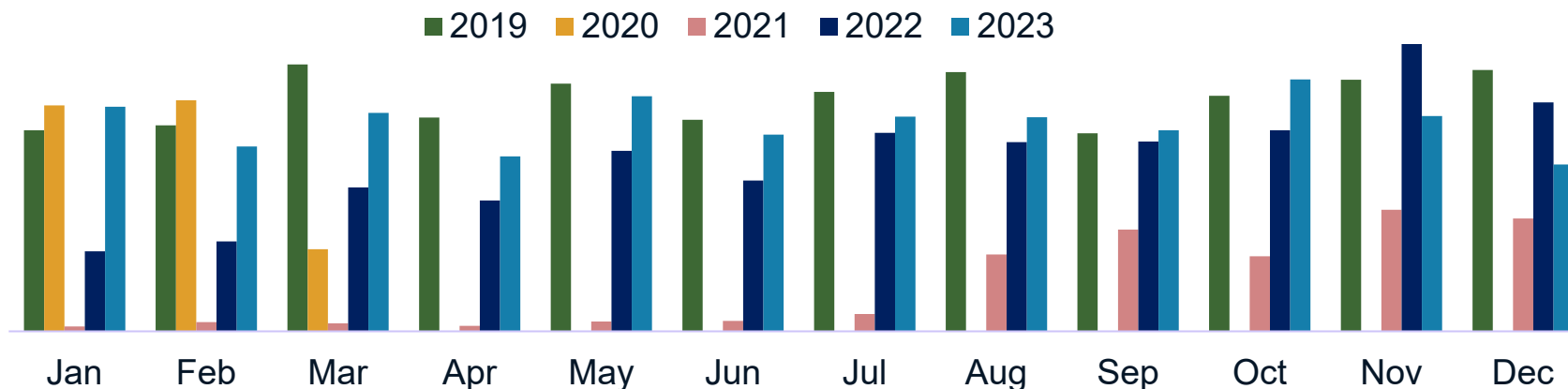
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	1,483	1,272	1,701	1,854	1,630	1,703	1,802	2,083	1,505	1,910	1,572	1,814
2020	1,461	1,316	826									
2021	44	33	34	42	49	82	139	412	527	682	951	521
2022	385	617	1,062	1,253	1,370	1,330	1,484	1,725	1,334	1,671	1,805	1,586
2023	1,445	1,215	1,295	1,715	1,484	1,494	1,734	1,773	1,474	1,815	1,360	1,669

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 trend for global regions: EU Other

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



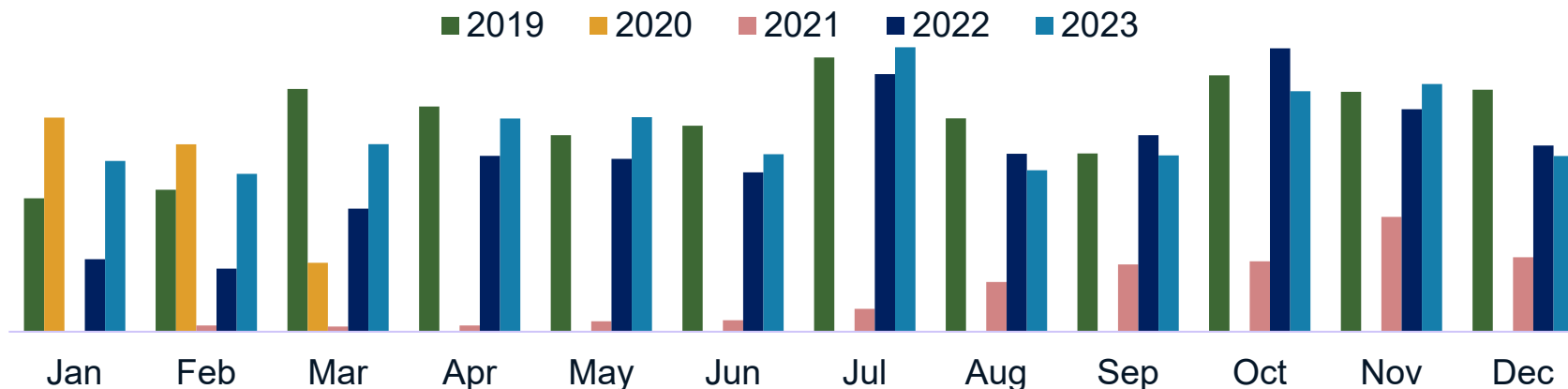
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	324	332	430	345	399	341	386	418	319	380	405	421
2020	364	372	132									
2021	8	15	13	9	16	17	28	124	164	121	196	182
2022	129	145	232	211	291	243	320	305	306	324	463	369
2023	362	298	352	282	379	317	346	345	324	406	347	269

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 trend for global regions: Rest of Europe

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



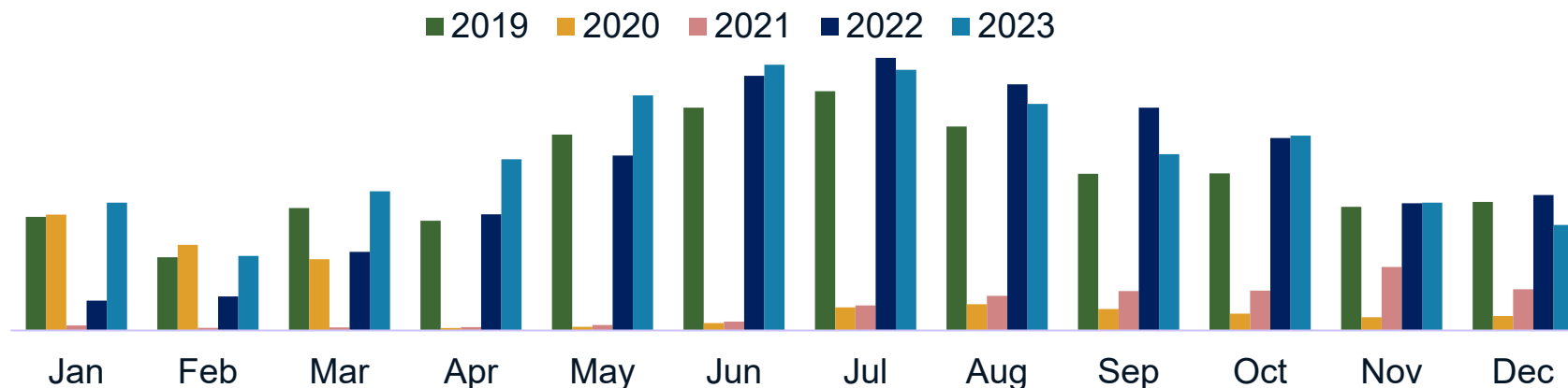
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	129	138	234	218	190	199	265	206	172	247	232	234
2020	207	181	67									
2021	0	6	5	6	10	11	22	48	65	68	111	72
2022	70	61	119	170	167	154	248	172	190	274	215	180
2023	165	153	182	206	208	171	274	156	170	232	239	169

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 trend for global regions: North America

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



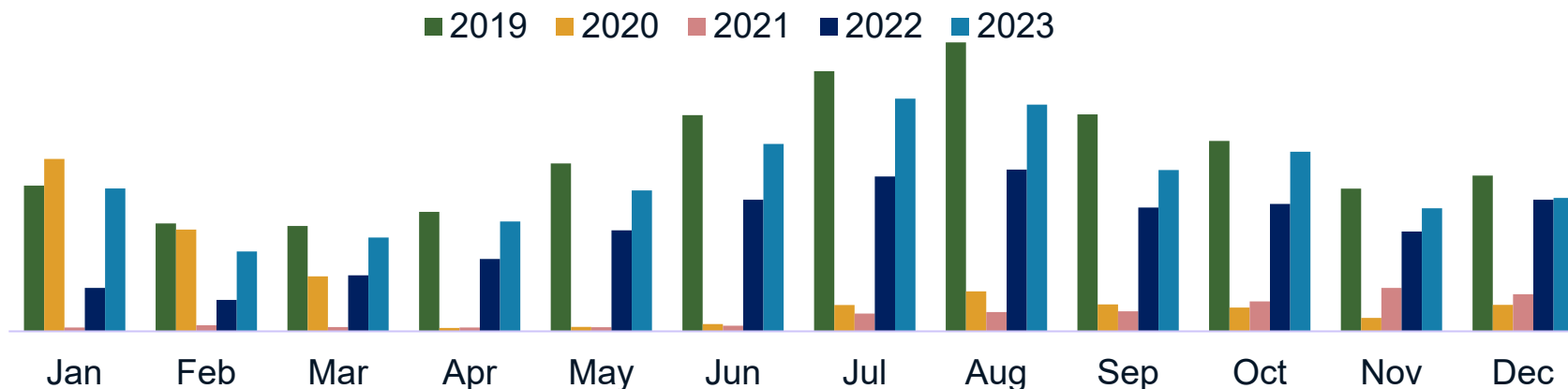
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	330	213	356	319	570	648	696	593	456	457	360	374
2020	337	249	208	7	11	22	67	77	63	49	39	42
2021	15	8	9	10	16	26	73	101	115	116	185	120
2022	87	99	229	338	509	741	793	716	648	560	370	394
2023	372	217	405	498	684	773	758	659	513	567	372	307

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 trend for global regions: Rest of World

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
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	15	24	17	15	16	22	69	75	78	116	168	144
2022	168	122	217	280	391	509	599	626	479	493	386	509
2023	553	309	363	425	545	725	900	877	624	695	476	516

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.](#)

3. Survey background

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 **17th May 2024**. These are the final monthly estimates for 2023. The ONS will be pausing monthly publications for Jan-Jun 2024 so the next monthly data will be available in the Q1 release in July 2024.

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 and quarterly level (for some analysis and comparisons) can be low and results should be treated with caution, especially for spending. Please refer to the [ONS website](#) for information on confidence levels, which can be found in the 2022 travel trends publications.

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), unless stated otherwise.
- From 2021, data excludes those travelling across the Irish Land Border.
- Figures in this report are rounded to align with the published ONS results.

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

Visit the [VisitBritain IPS webpage](#) to explore the IPS data in more detail.

Important notice for interpreting data

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.
- **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
- **MoM** – month on month
- **YTD** – year to date

**For more information contact:
Research@visitbritain.org**