Monthly Inbound Update December 2017

23rd March 2018

Contents

About this data

Our monthly update presents the latest International Passenger Survey (IPS) data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The Quarterly Release for this period (Q4, October – December 2017), which may contain some revisions, is scheduled to be released with the annual data **on 17th May 2018**. This will provide data on visits by markets and UK region visited in 2017.

The next Monthly Release, covering data for **January 2018** as well as **February 2018,** will be on **20th April 2018**.

The Inbound research & insights section of the VisitBritain website has much more detail on long term trends, visits from individual markets and to 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. All figures quoted are not "seasonally adjusted". Numbers in some tables / charts may not sum due to rounding.

The data is based on interviews with a sample of departing visitors. The number interviewed varies but is typically 3,000-4,000 per month.

Headlines – December 2017 (provisional)

	DECEMBER 2017		LAST 3 MONTHS (OCT - DEC)		PROVISIONAL 2017 (JAN - DEC 2017)	
		% change vs. Dec 2016		*% change vs. Oct '16 - Dec '16*		*% change vs. Jan - Dec '16*
ALL VISITS (000)	2,590	*-11%*	8,790	*-7%*	38,890	*3%*
Spend (£ million)	1,560	*-13%*	5,270	*-3%*	24,290	*8%*

- **Visits:** The UK welcomed 2.6 million overseas visits in December, down by 11% compared to December 2016. Between October and December 2017 there were 8.8 million inbound visits to the UK, down 7% on the same period in 2016. However, overseas visits in 2017 overall set a new record. There were 38.9 million visits to the UK in 2017 overall (up 3% on 2016).
- **Spending:** In December 2017 visitor spending fell 13% compared to December 2016 to reach £1.6 billion. Between October and December 2017 inbound visitors spent a total of £5.3 billion, down 3% on the last quarter of 2016. But with record results in each of the first nine months of the year and in November, inbound visitors' spending still shows record results for 2017 overall: international visitors spent £24.3 billion in 2017 (up 8% on 2016).
- **Spend per visit:** Spending growth has outpaced visits growth in 2017. In 2017 average spend per visit was £625, which is 4% above the average for 2016 (£599).

All monthly data is provisional. Final 2017 data to be released in 2018.

Journey Purpose

By journey purpose	DECEMBER 2017		LAST 3 MONTHS (OCT - DEC)		PROVISIONAL 2017 (JAN - DEC 2017)	
	Visits (000)	*% change vs. Dec 2016*	Visits (000)	*% change vs. Oct '16 - Dec '16*	Visits (000)	*% change vs. Jan - Dec '16*
Holiday	880	*-7%*	2,960	*-8%*	15,210	*9%*
VFR	960	*-8%*	2,940	*-3%*	11,920	*3%*
Business	550	*-10%*	2,190	*-9%*	8,750	*-5%*
Miscellaneous	200	*-37%*	700	*-7%*	3,020	*2%*

- **Holiday** visits were down 7% to 880,000 visits in December 2017, compared to December 2016, following on from the previous two months' trend of declining numbers. Holiday visits in October – December 2017 were down 8% on the same months a year ago. Despite that, holiday visits for 2017 overall set a new record: there were 15.2 million inbound holiday visits to the UK in 2017, up 9% on 2016.
- **Visits to friends and relatives** (VFR) were down 8% year on year to 960,000 visits in December 2017. 2.9 million VFR visits were made in October – December 2017, tracking down 3% compared to the last three months of 2016. However, there were still 3% more VFR visits in 2017 overall than in 2016, with 11.9 million VFR visits made in 2017, a new record.
- **Business** visits fell by 9% in the last quarter of 2017, compared to the same months in 2016. Business visits in December 2017 were down 10% on December 2016. With only January and May registering growth in 2017, there were 5% fewer business visits to the UK in 2017 overall, compared to 2016.
- **Miscellaneous** journey purpose visits are a combination of a wide range of different journey purposes, including (but not limited to) short term study, looking for work, shopping, attending a sports event and many more. In December 2017 visits to the UK for those miscellaneous purposes decreased by over a third on the same month a year ago (-37%). Visits in the last three months to December 2017 were down 7% on October – December 2016. But, with new records set in January, February, April, June and November 2017, there were still 2% more miscellaneous visits in 2017 overall than in 2016 (although not a record).

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.

Global Regions

By global region	DECEMBER 2017		LAST 3 MONTHS (OCT - DEC)		PROVISIONAL 2017 (JAN - DEC 2017)	
	Visits (000)	*% change vs. Dec 2016*	Visits (000)	*% change vs. Oct - Dec '16*	Visits (000)	*% change vs. Jan - Dec '16*
EU Total	1,760	*-14%*	5,930	*-11%*	25,470	*0%*
EU15	1,440	*-11%*	4,860	*-9%*	20,740	*0%*
Other EU	320	*-25%*	1,070	*-21%*	4,730	*0%*
Rest of Europe	170	*26%*	700	*21%*	2,550	*11%*
North America	240	*-17%*	880	*-8%*	4,630	*8%*
Rest of World	420	*-8%*	1,290	*8%*	6,260	*13%*

- Visits to the UK from all **EU markets** in December 2017 confirmed the negative trend observed in previous months – down 14% on December 2016, which resulted in visits in the last three months being 11% behind October – December 2016. With record-breaking results in seven of the first nine months of 2017, EU visits in 2017 overall are still tracking on par with 2016's record levels, reaching 25.5 million visits overall.
- Looking at the **EU15** markets only, there were 1.4 million visits to the UK in December 2017, down 11% on December 2016. The last 3 months of 2017 were behind 2016 levels. As a consequence visits from EU15 markets in October – December 2017 were down 9% on October – December 2016 to 4.9 million visits. While monthly growth results for this high-volume region were uneven in 2017, visits from this area to the UK in 2017 were on par with 2016's record result.
- With 3 months of double-digit decreases, visits from all **Other EU** markets **in October – December 2017** were down 21% on the same months a year ago, with visits in December 2017 from those countries down 25% on December 2016 to 320,000 visits. However, visits from Other EU markets in 2017 overall are still about on par with the record set in 2016.
- Visits to the UK from the **Rest of Europe** rose 26% year-on-year in December 2017 to 170,000 visits (not a record though). With a total of 700,000 visits from the rest of Europe in October – December 2017, up 21% on the same months a year ago, 2017 sets a new record in visits from those markets for the last quarter. Overall, visits from the rest of Europe to the UK in 2017 reached a new record of almost 2.6 million visits, up 11% on 2016.
- There were 240,000 visits from **North America** in December 2017, the third month of year-on-year double-digit decline in 2017. Despite visits growing year-on-year in November 2017, visits in October – December 2017 were down 8% on those months in 2016. With 4 months of double-digit growth in 2017 though, visits from North America in 2017 overall are up 8% on 2016 though short of the record.
- Visits from the **'Rest of World' markets** in December 2017 were down 8% on December 2016. However, with records set in each month except August and September, 'Rest of World' markets set a new record in visits to the UK for both October – December (reaching 1.3 million visits in those months in 2017, up 8% on 2016), and 2017 overall (up 13% on 2016 to 6.3 million visits).

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. The Q4 2017 release scheduled for May 2018 will provide data on visits by market.

Outbound and Competitors

Travel abroad by UK residents

LAST THREE MONTHS: October – December 2017		
		% change vs. Oct – Dec 2016
Visits (000)	14,400	-3%
Spend (£ million)	£8,590	-7%

- UK residents took 14.4 million visits abroad in the last three months of 2017 – 3% fewer than the same period in 2016 – and spent £8.6 billion, down 7% (in nominal terms) on October – December 2016.
- Between October and December 2017, UK residents took 1% more holiday trips abroad than they did during the same time in 2016, but fewer business trips (-14%), fewer visits to friends and relatives (-3%) and fewer miscellaneous visits (-18%) compared to the same period in 2016.
- Visits by UK residents to Europe were down 1% between October and December 2017, compared to the same period the year before. There were 2% fewer visits to EU15 countries, while visits to other EU destinations were on par with October – December 2017 visits. Visits to North America decreased by 10% and Rest of World visits fell 7% year-on-year.

The international picture*

- With the exception of the USA all of the UK's main competitors on the table below reported an increase in visits at the start of 2017, with three countries reporting strong growth of at least 10% so far in 2017.
- Visits to the UK are up, but still below the growth rates showed by some of its main EU competitors, such as Italy, Spain, France, Germany, and the Republic of Ireland.
- Figures relate to different time periods so comparisons should be treated with caution.

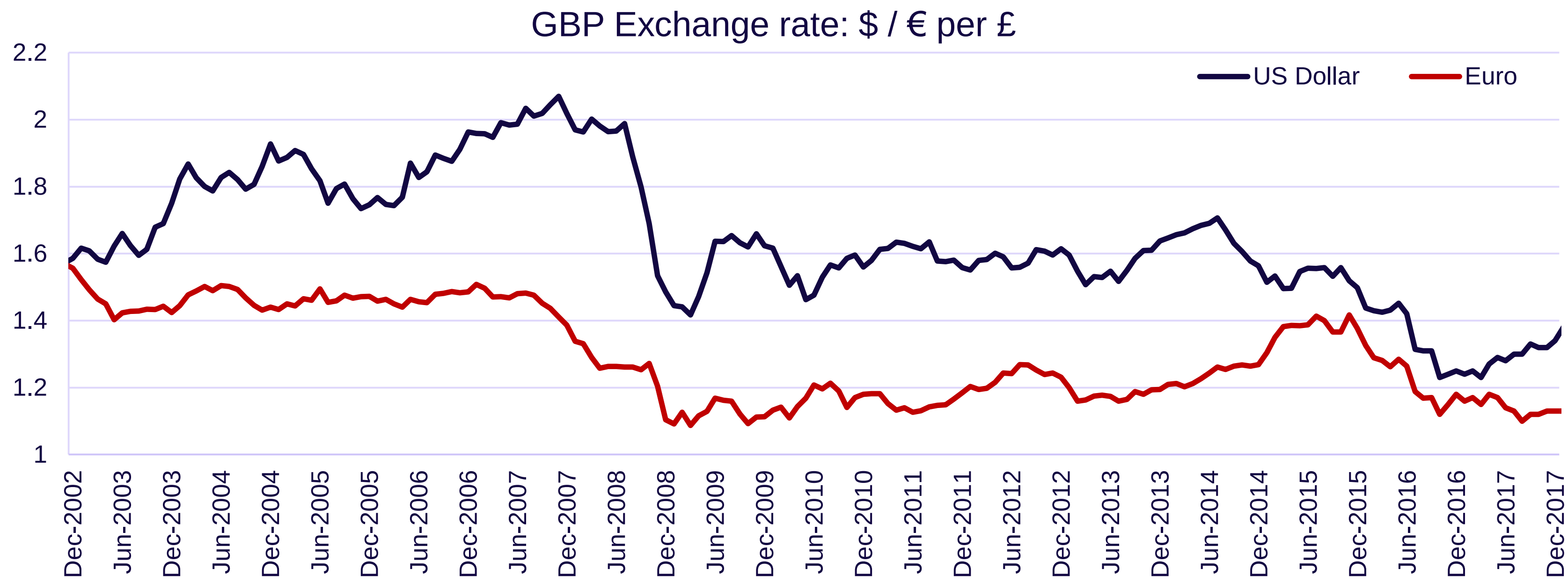
Destination	Growth in overseas visits	Period (Jan 2017 to …)
Turkey	30%	November
Netherlands	13%	September
Italy	10%	October
Spain	9%	December
France	8%	September
Australia	7%	October
Switzerland	7%	October
Germany	5%	October
Canada	4%	October
Rep. of Ireland	4%	November
UK	**3%**	**December**
USA	-4%	June

More: *VisitBritain attracts inbound visitors to Britain. For outbound travel from the UK visit ONS website*

**Source: UNWTO Periods for which we have data available varies by country, so figures are indicative and not necessarily directly comparable.*

Exchange rates

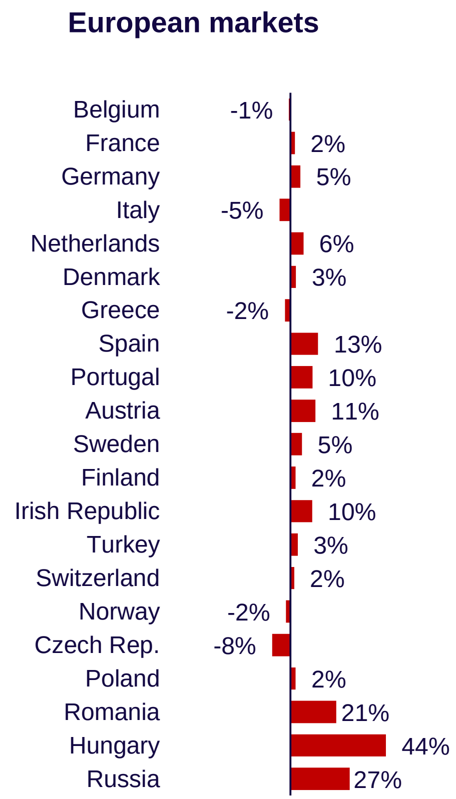
- The cost of Sterling for those visiting the UK was high in 2015 but in 2016 it began to fluctuate due to political uncertainty. From late June 2016, the sharp depreciation of the pound following the referendum result made the UK a more affordable destination for many markets. However, Sterling has started appreciating against many currencies again recently.
- The value of Sterling against both the dollar and the euro has remained low since its weakest point in October 2016, although the pound rose against the US dollar in 2017. Sterling was up 7% year on year at $1.34 in December 2017, having gained from its most recent low point in March 2017; however, the pound was still 11% cheaper than two years ago. Against the euro, in December 2017 Sterling was 4% down compared to its value in December 2016 and compared to December 2015 Sterling was down 18% against the euro at €1.13.
- In December 2017, Sterling was 3% up against the Australian dollar, 3% up against the Canadian dollar and 2% up the Chinese Yuan compared to December 2016; but respectively down 15%, 17% and 9% compared to December 2015.

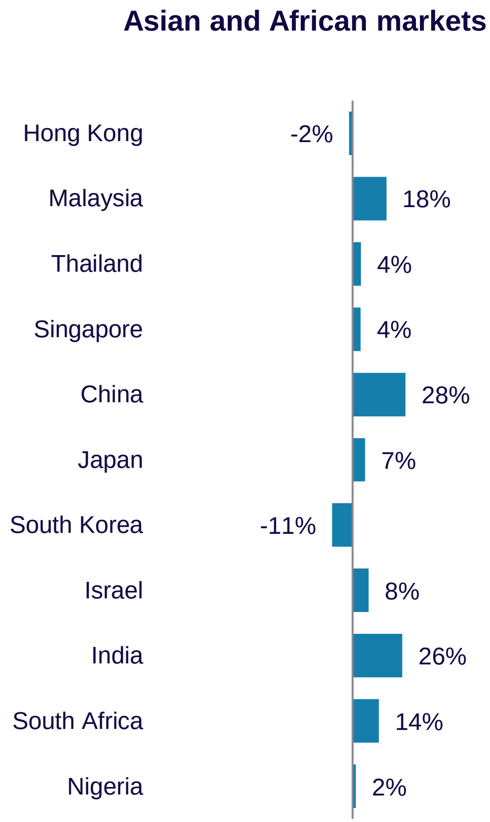


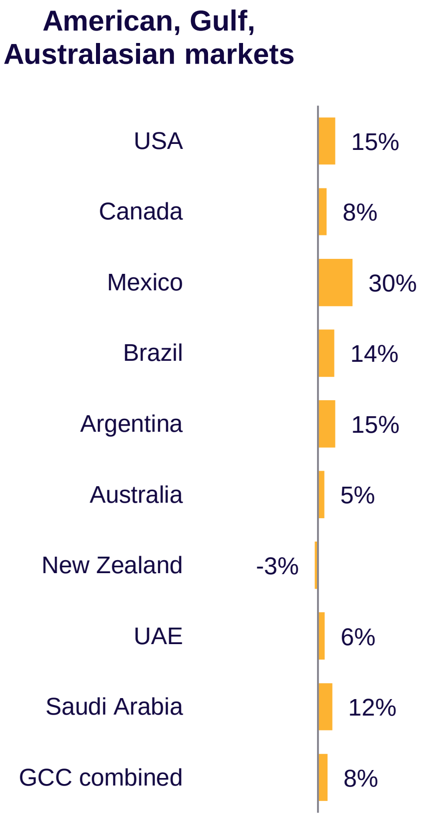
Source: *Bank of England*

Individual markets – quarterly results

Using the latest available market level data, the following three charts show the percentage change in visits to the UK from a number of markets in the latest rolling year of data (the latest four quarters compared to the previous four quarters, in this case from ***October 2016 – September 2017 v October 2015 – September 2016***.



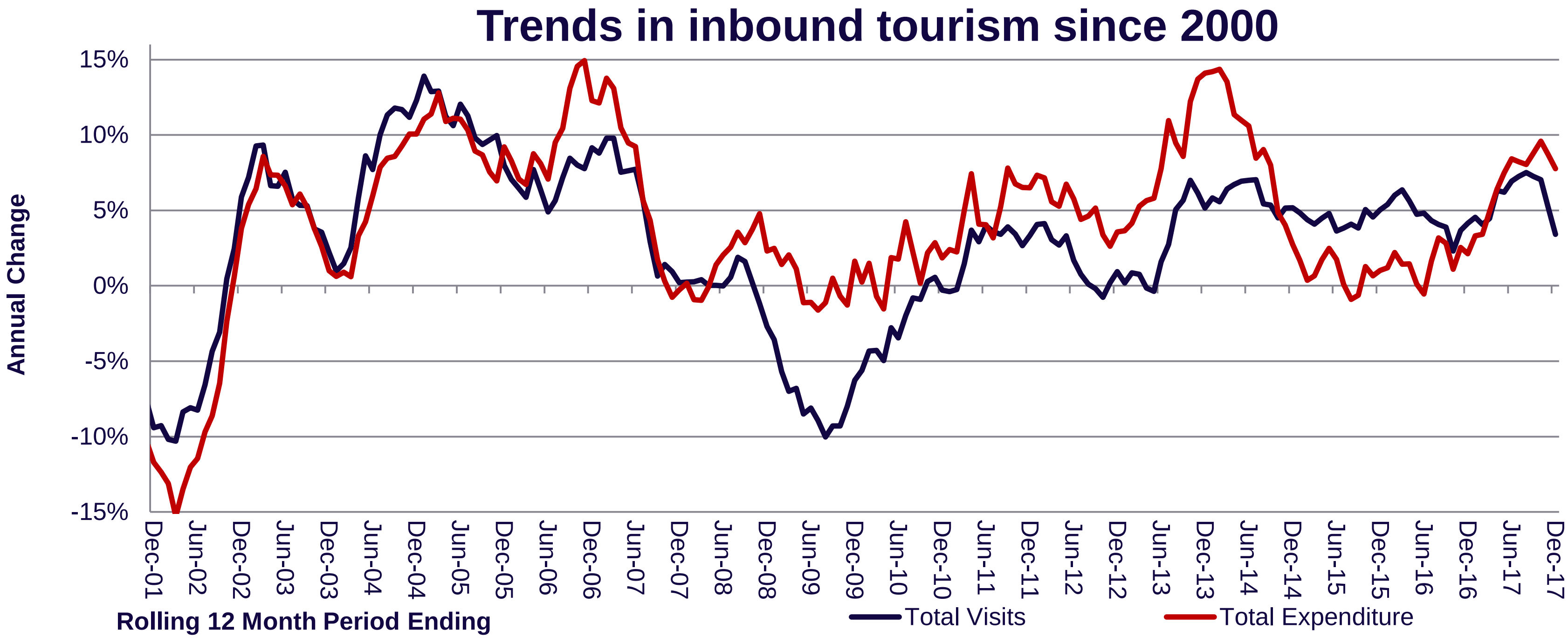




More: *Long term trends in visits from individual origin markets and world regions available here.*

Longer term trends

Visits and spend since 2001

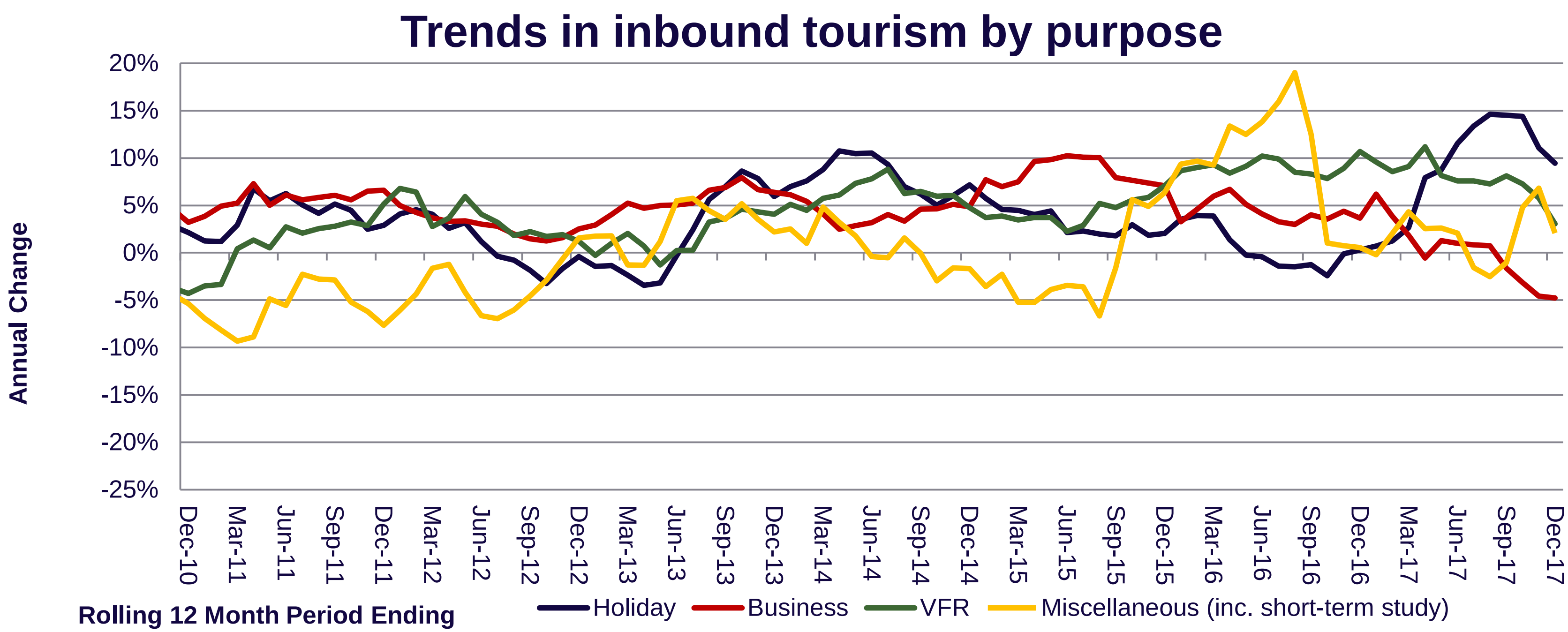


- This chart shows the year-on-year change in headline IPS results based on a ‘rolling twelve-month’ basis. Presenting the data in this way enables us to spot emerging trends and helps to ‘smooth out’ erratic results for any single month.
- This clearly illustrates the dip in inbound tourism seen post 9/11 in 2002, and subsequent recovery in the mid-2000s. The impact of the global economic crisis can be seen in 2009 followed by slow but reasonably steady recovery over the more recent years.
- Whilst visits growth has remained positive in recent years, spend has fluctuated more. Results for 2017 show visits tracking 3% higher and spend up 8% compared to 2016 although both have slowed down in the last three months of 2017.

More: *Data on long term trends are available here*

Longer term trends

Journey Purpose



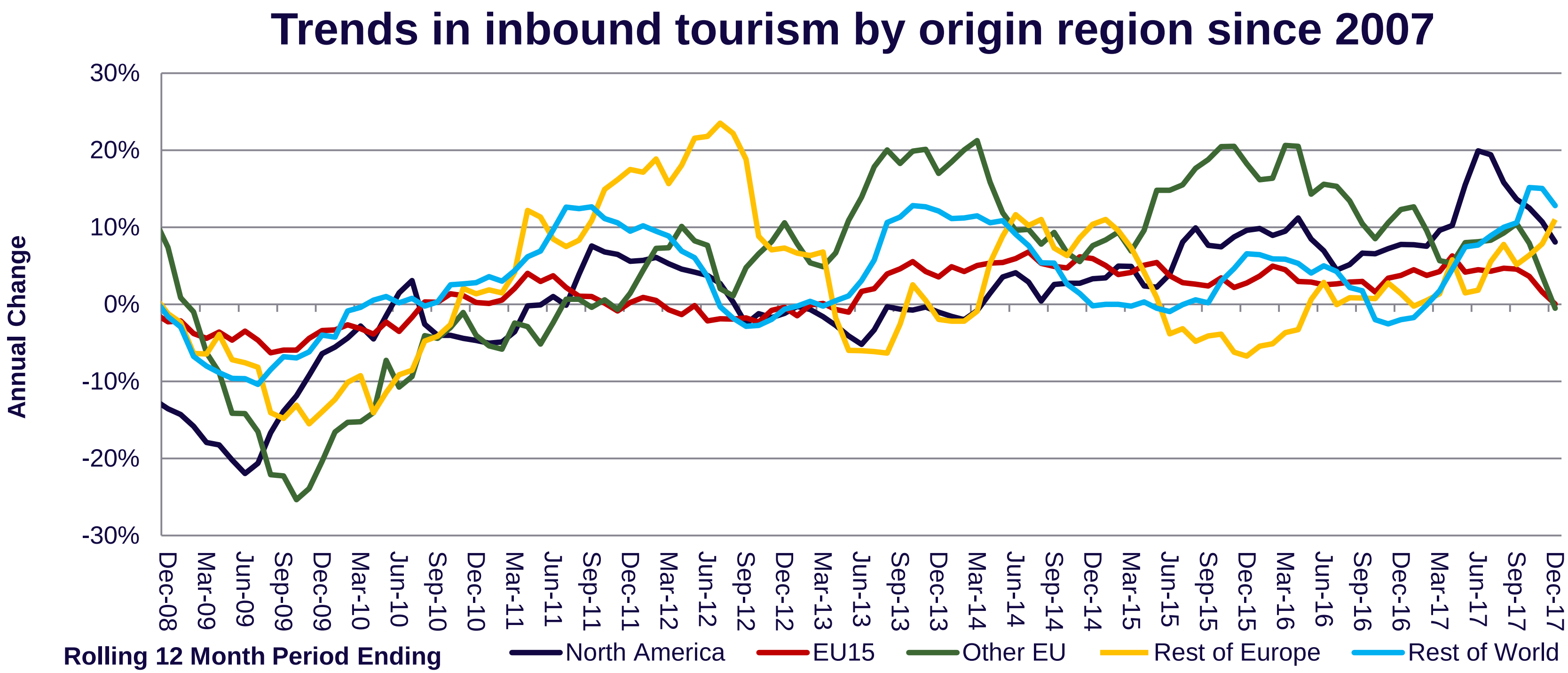
- By journey purpose holiday visits were far more resilient to the economic downturn in the late 2000s and showed long term growth. There has been some variability in recent years; trends in 2014 and 2015 were positive but visit numbers for 2016 were flat. Despite a slowdown in growth in recent months, holiday visits are up 9% for 2017, late 2016 having been a turning point.
- After a significant downturn in 2009, business visits have generally seen steady growth since, which intensified in 2015 and through 2016. Results for 2017 show inbound business visits for 2017 down 5% year-on-year.
- Since 2011, trips to visit friends and relatives have largely shown growth in recent years, and have stayed in positive growth territory since mid-2013. Trips for other (miscellaneous) purposes account for a smaller number of visits and show the most variation.

***More:** Data on long term trends are available here*

VisitBritain

Longer term trends

Global Region



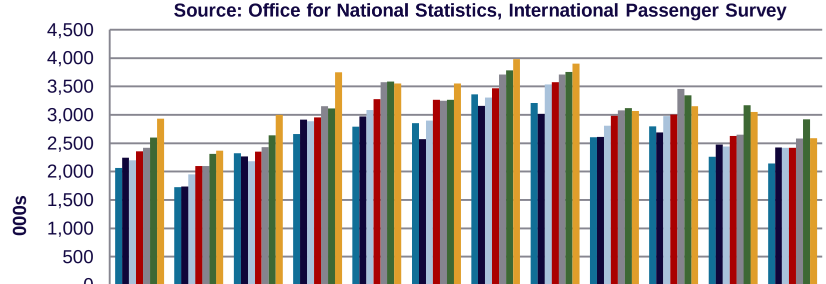
- This chart shows the longer term picture and the varying rates of recovery in visit numbers after the global financial crisis.
- Until recently, visits from EU markets were growing at a steady pace, but they slowed down in the last few months and in 2017 overall were just on par with 2016. Visits from 'Other EU' regions had stronger visit growth in recent years, although they have been inconsistent in recent months. Visits from the 'Rest of Europe' had the strongest recovery growth between 2011/2012 although have shown to be more volatile over the past couple of years, maintaining a positive trend in 2017.
- After a period of gradual recovery post global financial crisis, visits from North America have grown strongly at the start of 2017 although have slowed recently. Visits from the 'Rest of World' region were growing for most of 2017, before slowing down in recent months.

More: *Data on long term trends are available here*

Detailed monthly trends

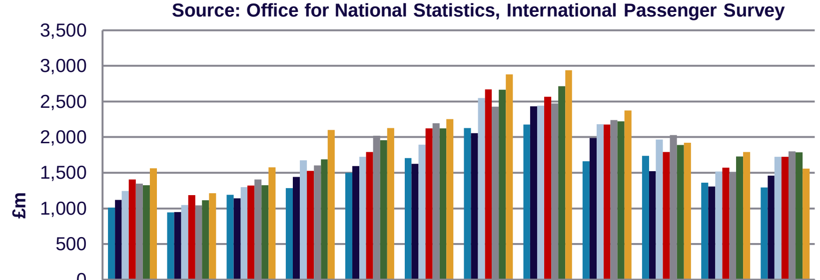
Visits and spend

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



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1,185	2,065	1,725	2,323	2,663	2,789	2,856	3,362	3,206	2,604	2,798	2,264	2,143
2012	2,246	1,736	2,267	2,917	2,970	2,570	3,158	3,016	2,612	2,690	2,476	2,427
2013	2,200	1,951	2,181	2,888	3,084	2,897	3,304	3,535	2,806	2,980	2,443	2,420
2014	2,359	2,099	2,352	2,952	3,274	3,264	3,470	3,576	2,984	3,008	2,625	2,417
2015	2,419	2,099	2,431	3,155	3,578	3,250	3,710	3,708	3,081	3,454	2,648	2,581
2016	2,599	2,314	2,638	3,115	3,586	3,267	3,786	3,757	3,116	3,346	3,167	2,919
2017	2,931	2,368	2,999	3,750	3,553	3,555	3,982	3,902	3,066	3,150	3,050	2,590

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



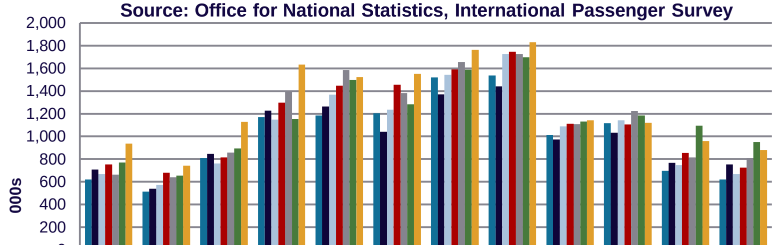
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	1,011	944	1,189	1,287	1,498	1,707	2,130	2,175	1,661	1,739	1,361	1,296
2012	1,119	950	1,143	1,443	1,594	1,624	2,055	2,432	1,988	1,524	1,306	1,462
2013	1,245	1,046	1,300	1,677	1,723	1,894	2,550	2,443	2,179	1,967	1,520	1,725
2014	1,405	1,187	1,320	1,526	1,791	2,121	2,669	2,568	2,178	1,790	1,571	1,725
2015	1,346	1,043	1,405	1,604	2,019	2,195	2,429	2,473	2,239	2,028	1,490	1,802
2016	1,324	1,116	1,325	1,687	1,957	2,122	2,667	2,714	2,222	1,892	1,728	1,789
2017	1,561	1,215	1,575	2,102	2,129	2,251	2,878	2,938	2,373	1,920	1,790	1,560

***More:** Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. Long term trends showing percentage change annually by and more is available here*

Detailed monthly trends

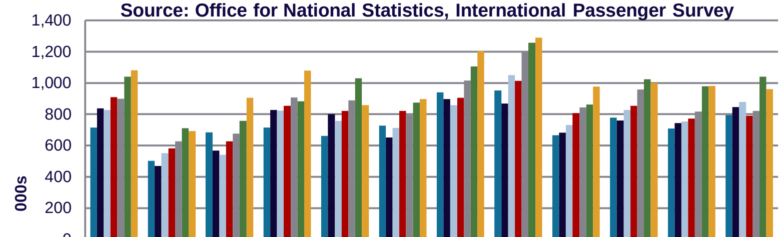
Journey Purpose

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



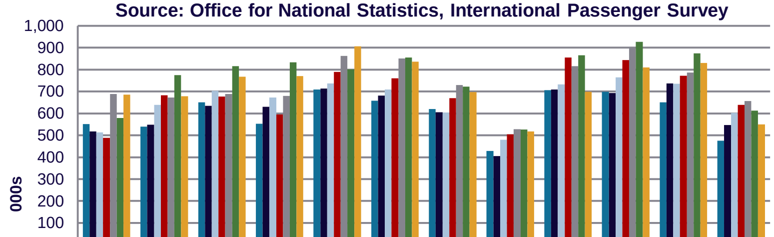
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	619	513	809	1,170	1,185	1,204	1,521	1,536	1,014	1,116	698	622
2012	708	538	846	1,226	1,263	1,041	1,370	1,441	974	1,033	766	754
2013	669	572	762	1,149	1,367	1,234	1,544	1,727	1,090	1,141	747	669
2014	754	679	814	1,296	1,448	1,455	1,590	1,747	1,112	1,105	855	725
2015	663	640	856	1,392	1,584	1,381	1,657	1,726	1,108	1,225	816	810
2016	770	654	893	1,153	1,499	1,282	1,589	1,697	1,131	1,184	1,095	951
2017	937	743	1,127	1,634	1,522	1,550	1,763	1,831	1,143	1,120	960	880

Overseas Visits to the UK - Visits to Friends and Relatives
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



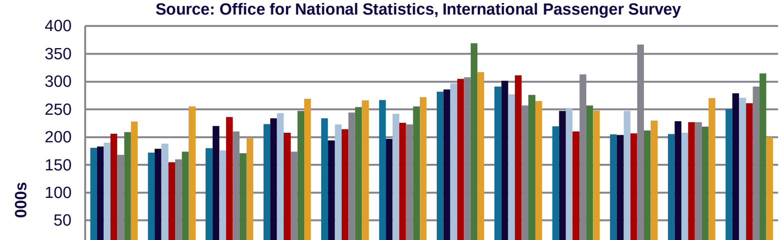
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	714	501	683	716	661	727	939	951	665	778	709	795
2012	837	470	567	827	800	651	896	869	682	759	744	846
2013	828	552	540	824	758	712	858	1,051	732	828	753	878
2014	910	582	626	853	822	822	905	1,014	807	853	772	791
2015	899	627	676	908	888	795	1,016	1,198	844	958	818	822
2016	1,041	710	757	882	1,030	875	1,106	1,258	863	1,023	979	1,041
2017	1,081	692	905	1,078	858	896	1,203	1,290	976	1,000	980	960

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



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	551	539	650	553	709	658	620	428	706	698	651	476
2012	517	549	635	630	713	681	605	405	709	694	737	547
2013	513	639	704	673	737	709	604	480	733	765	736	602
2014	489	683	677	595	790	761	670	504	855	843	772	639
2015	689	672	689	680	862	851	730	528	816	904	787	657
2016	579	775	816	833	802	856	722	527	865	927	875	612
2017	686	678	768	770	907	837	698	517	699	810	830	550

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



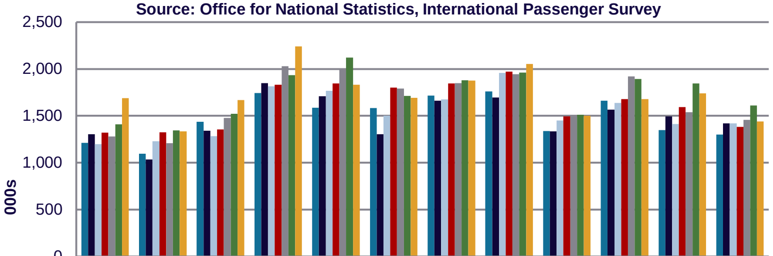
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	181	172	180	223	234	267	282	291	219	205	206	251
2012	183	179	220	234	194	197	286	301	247	204	229	279
2013	190	188	176	243	223	242	297	277	251	247	208	271
2014	206	155	236	208	214	226	305	311	210	207	227	261
2015	168	160	210	174	244	223	308	257	313	367	227	291
2016	209	174	171	247	254	255	369	276	257	212	219	315
2017	228	255	199	269	266	272	317	265	248	230	270	200

More: *Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. Long term trends showing percentage change annually by and more is available here. Pease note that different scales are used on these charts to allow differences to be identified.*

Detailed monthly trends

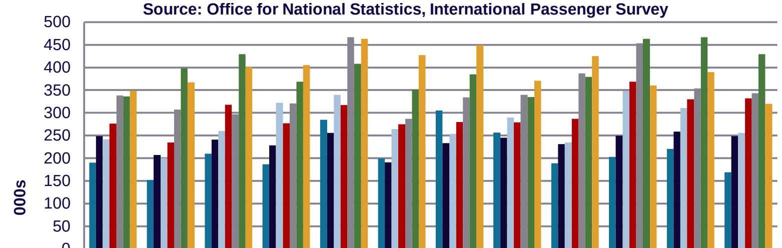
Global Regions (1 of 2)

Overseas Visits to the UK from the EU15 countries
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



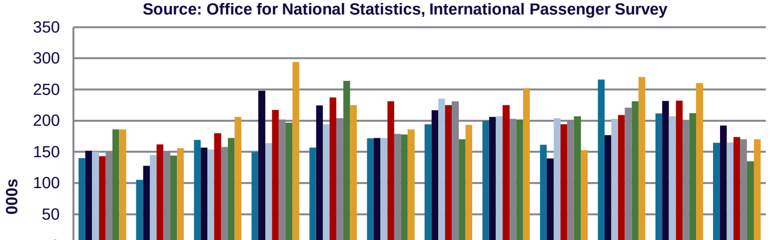
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	1,212	1,096	1,438	1,742	1,586	1,583	1,715	1,762	1,338	1,660	1,349	1,299
2012	1,303	1,035	1,342	1,850	1,707	1,304	1,663	1,696	1,335	1,566	1,494	1,418
2013	1,197	1,228	1,282	1,814	1,767	1,502	1,676	1,959	1,449	1,637	1,414	1,419
2014	1,320	1,323	1,354	1,832	1,845	1,802	1,845	1,970	1,495	1,677	1,594	1,381
2015	1,279	1,210	1,478	2,028	1,991	1,792	1,847	1,944	1,495	1,919	1,540	1,457
2016	1,408	1,343	1,521	1,933	2,121	1,712	1,879	1,960	1,510	1,892	1,846	1,610
2017	1,687	1,333	1,668	2,240	1,833	1,691	1,876	2,054	1,500	1,680	1,740	1,440

Overseas Visits to the UK from other EU countries
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



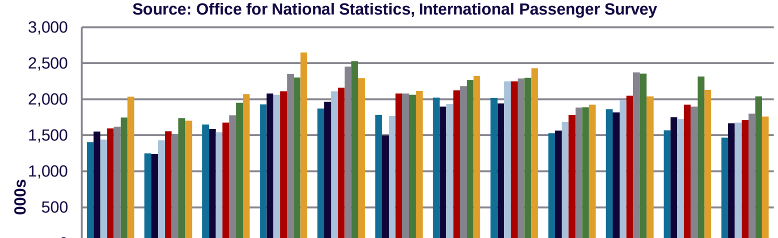
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	191	152	210	187	285	200	306	256	189	203	221	169
2012	249	207	241	229	256	191	233	245	231	250	258	249
2013	242	200	260	322	340	264	254	290	235	348	311	256
2014	276	235	318	277	317	275	280	279	287	369	330	332
2015	338	307	297	321	467	287	334	340	387	453	354	343
2016	336	398	429	369	408	351	385	335	379	463	467	429
2017	348	367	401	405	463	427	449	371	425	360	390	320

Overseas Visits to the UK from non-EU countries in Europe
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	140	105	169	150	157	172	194	200	161	266	212	164
2012	152	128	157	248	224	172	217	206	139	177	232	192
2013	150	145	154	164	194	172	235	207	204	203	207	165
2014	143	162	180	217	237	231	225	225	194	209	232	174
2015	149	149	158	202	204	179	231	203	201	221	199	170
2016	186	144	172	197	264	178	170	202	207	231	212	135
2017	186	156	206	294	225	186	193	252	153	270	260	170

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

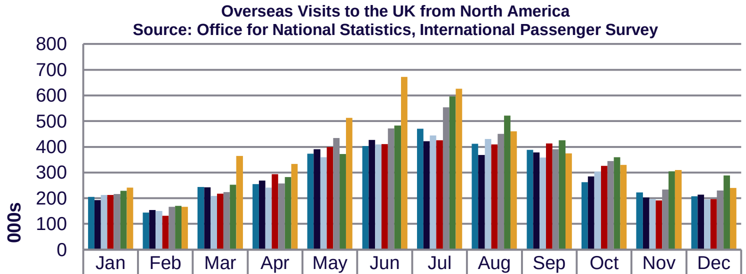


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	1,403	1,248	1,648	1,928	1,871	1,783	2,021	2,017	1,527	1,863	1,569	1,469
2012	1,552	1,241	1,584	2,078	1,964	1,496	1,896	1,941	1,566	1,815	1,752	1,667
2013	1,439	1,430	1,541	2,063	2,108	1,766	1,931	2,249	1,685	1,984	1,725	1,675
2014	1,596	1,555	1,673	2,110	2,161	2,077	2,125	2,249	1,781	2,046	1,924	1,712
2015	1,616	1,516	1,778	2,351	2,454	2,080	2,182	2,286	1,883	2,371	1,895	1,800
2016	1,747	1,739	1,950	2,303	2,529	2,062	2,264	2,296	1,888	2,356	2,313	2,038
2017	2,036	1,700	2,069	2,649	2,294	2,115	2,325	2,428	1,923	2,040	2,130	1,760

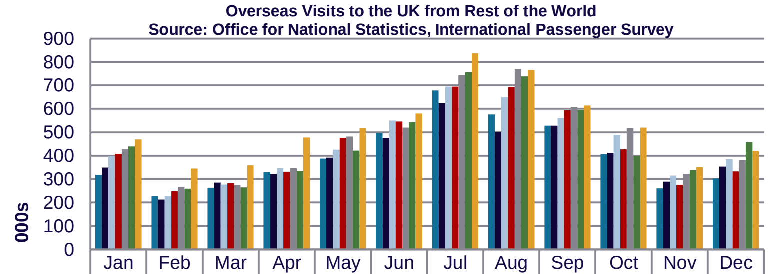
More: *Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. Long term trends showing percentage change annually by and more is available here. Pease note that different scales are used on these charts to allow differences to be identified.*

Detailed monthly trends

Global Regions (2 of 2)



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	205	144	243	255	373	403	470	412	388	262	222	208
2012	192	154	243	269	391	427	422	368	378	285	202	213
2013	212	150	209	241	359	409	444	431	358	303	197	195
2014	212	132	217	293	399	410	425	409	413	326	192	197
2015	216	166	224	258	434	472	554	451	391	344	234	230
2016	229	170	252	282	372	483	596	522	425	360	305	288
2017	241	167	365	333	513	672	626	460	374	330	310	240



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	317	228	263	330	388	497	678	576	528	407	260	303
2012	349	213	285	322	391	476	624	502	528	412	289	354
2013	399	228	277	347	425	550	694	649	561	489	315	385
2014	408	248	282	332	476	546	695	693	594	427	276	333
2015	427	267	275	347	482	520	744	770	607	517	322	381
2016	440	259	265	334	421	543	756	738	595	400	338	457
2017	469	345	359	478	519	580	837	765	614	520	350	420

***More:** Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. Long term trends showing percentage change annually by and more is available here. Pease note that different scales are used on these charts to allow differences to be identified.*

Definitions

EU15 - Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. Note that the UK is among the 15 countries that formed the European Union prior to January 2004, but due to the inbound nature of the data displayed in the IPS reference tables data for the UK is excluded.

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.

EU – Total EU, therefore combined EU15 and Other EU (as defined above).

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)

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

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

More information

The Inbound research & insights section of the VisitBritain website has much more detail on long term trends, data for individual markets and UK regions

Refer to the ONS website for more on IPS methodology and UK outbound travel

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Monthly Inbound Update

December 2017