

Monthly Inbound Update

December 2022

International Passenger Survey by the ONS

(published 26th April 2023)



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1. Latest monthly inbound UK

December 2022

Summary of key points (1)

- **Visits:**

- The UK welcomed 3.0 million inbound visits in **December 2022**, down 14% on December 2019.
- Provisional results for **2022** show that there were 30.5 million annual inbound visitors to the UK, 24% below 2019.

- **Spend:**

- In **December 2022**, visitors spent £2.4bn in the UK, 11% below December 2019 (in nominal terms). Provisional 2022 data shows that visitors spent £25.7bn in 2022, down 9% on 2019.
- Taking inflation into account, visitor spend was down 24% in December 2022 vs 2019. For 2022, spend was down 19% vs 2019 in real terms.

NB full year 2022 numbers will increase when the final results are released – please see note below and on slide 29.



Summary of key points (2)

- **Journey Purpose:**

- **Holiday** visits reached 1.1 million in December 2022 (36% of all visits), down 24% on December 2019. In 2022, there were 11.9 million holiday visits to the UK.
- **Visits to friends and relatives (VFR)** rose in December 2022 to 1.2 million (down 2% on Dec 2019), the second highest month for these visits across 2022. There were more VFR visits than holiday visits for the first time since April 2022, accounting for 41% of all inbound visits in December. In 2022, 11.4 million inbound visitors came to the UK to visit friends and relatives.
- There were 520,000 **business visits** to the UK in December 2022. This was the strongest month when tracking recovery vs 2019 with visits down just 5% vs December 2022. Business visits reached 5.1 million in 2022 overall.
- All other visits under '**miscellaneous**', which includes study, contributed 180,000 visits to the total in December 2022 and 2.2 million across 2022.

- **Global Regions:**

- **Europe** welcomed 2.2 million visits in December 2022 (73% of total visits), down 13% on December 2019. The **EU15** markets contributed to 75% of these European visits at 1.6 million visits, (down 11% vs Dec 2019) whilst **Other EU** markets totalled at 390,000 visits, down 7% vs 2019. December visits from the **Rest of Europe** totalled 150,000, down 36% on 2019. Overall in 2022, there were 20.7 million visits from Europe accounting for 68% of total inbound visits to the UK.
- Visits from **North America** rose to a record 380,000 million visits in December 2022 (up 2% vs Dec 2019). In 2022, there were 5.4 million visits from North America to the UK, just shy of the 2017 record.
- Those visiting from the **Rest of World** contributed 430,000 visits to UK inbound tourism in December 2022 (down 29% vs Dec 2019), and across 2022 this reached 4.5 million 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. *NB full year 2022 numbers will increase when the final results are released – please see note below and on slide 29.*

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	December 2022	Year-to-date (Jan-Dec 2022)
Visits (000)	801	995	1,773	2,161	2,621	2,865	3,444	3,544	2,956	3,240	3,180	2,960	30,540
Spend (£m)	£672	£754	£1,305	£1,812	£2,169	£2,680	£3,252	£3,169	£2,631	£2,720	£2,110	£2,410	£25,680

- **Visits:** The UK welcomed 3.0 million inbound visits in December 2022, a slight dip from November 2022. Provisional results for 2022 show that there were 30.5 million annual inbound visitors to the UK.
- **Spend:** Inbound visitors spent £2.4bn (in nominal terms) in December 2022, a rise from November 2022. Provisional inbound spend for 2022 reached £25.7bn across the 12 months.
- *NB Jan-June and full year 2022 numbers will increase when the final results are released – please see note below and on slide 29.*

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	December 2022	Year-to-date (Jan-Dec 2022)
Holiday	99	253	559	807	1,079	1,242	1,487	1,668	1,148	1,250	1,210	1,060	11,861
VFR	501	442	709	837	963	996	1,161	1,274	1,033	1,070	1,170	1,200	11,356
Business	153	227	382	350	414	450	524	359	566	570	600	520	5,115
Miscellaneous	49	72	123	167	164	178	272	243	209	350	200	180	2,208

- **Holiday** visits remained above the 1 million mark in December 2022 but dipped slightly from November. There were 1.1 million holiday visits which accounted for 36% of all inbound visits in December 2022. Overall in 2022 there were 11.9 million holiday visits to the UK.
- **Visits to friends and relatives (VFR)** rose in December 2022 to 1.2 million, the second highest month for these visits across 2022. There were more VFR visits than holiday visits for the first time since April 2022, accounting for 41% of all inbound visits in December. In 2022, 11.4 million inbound visitors came to the UK to visit friends and relatives.
- **Business** visits dipped slightly in December to 520,000 visits however, this was the strongest month when tracking recovery vs 2019. Business visits reached 5.1 million in 2022 overall.
- All other visits under '**miscellaneous**', which includes study, contributed 180,000 to the total inbound market in December 2022 and 2.2 million to annual inbound visits.

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	December 2022	Year-to-date (Jan-Dec 2022)
Total Europe	551	777	1,333	1,559	1,743	1,648	2,050	2,200	1,828	2,290	2,510	2,150	20,639
→ EU	488	714	1,210	1,385	1,584	1,492	1,802	2,023	1,640	2,040	2,320	2,000	18,698
→ EU15	353	565	973	1,178	1,288	1,250	1,481	1,721	1,331	1,700	1,830	1,610	15,280
→ Other EU	133	150	239	211	291	243	320	305	307	340	490	390	3,418
→ Rest of Europe	65	62	122	170	165	154	250	173	190	250	190	150	1,941
North America	86	98	227	328	494	719	794	717	648	530	350	380	5,371
Rest of World	164	120	213	274	383	498	600	627	480	410	320	430	4,519

- **Europe** welcomed 2.2 million visits in December 2022 (73% of total visits). The **EU15** markets contributed to 75% of these European visits at 1.6 million visits whilst **Other EU** markets totalled at 390,000 in December 2022. There were 150,000 visits from the **Rest of Europe**.
- Overall in 2022, there were 20.7 million visits from Europe accounting for 68% of total inbound visits to the UK. Visits from **North America** rose to a record 380,000 million visits in December 2022. In 2022, there were 5.4 million visits from North America to the UK just shy of the 2017 record.
- Those visiting from the **Rest of World** contributed 430,000 visits to UK inbound tourism in December 2022, and across 2022 this totalled to 4.5 million 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 - Visits (000) and Spend (£m)

Total Visits (000)	2022	Change vs. 2019 [^]
December 2022	2,960	-14%
Last 3 months (October-December 2022)	9,380	-9%
Year-to-date (January-December 2022)	30,540	-24%

Total Spend (£m)	2022	Change vs. 2019 [^]
December 2022	2,410	-11%
Last 3 months (October-December 2022)	7,240	-4%
Year-to-date (January-December 2022)	25,680	-9%

- In **December 2022**, visitors spent £2.4bn in the UK, 11% below December 2019 (in nominal terms). In real terms, visitor spending was equivalent to £2.1bn in 2019 prices, down 24% on December 2019. Visits reached 3.0 million, down 14% on December 2019.
- Across the medium term period of **Oct-Dec 2022**, inbound visitors spent a record £7.2bn, down 4% on Oct-Dec 2019 (in nominal terms). During these 3 months, the UK welcomed 9.4 million visitors, down 9% on the same period in 2019.
- Provisional **2022** data shows that visitors spent £25.7bn in 2022, down 9% on 2019. If we take inflation into account, visitor spend would be 19% below 2019 levels at £22.8bn. Visits totalled 30.5 million in 2022, 24% below 2019.
- Overall the **average spend per visit** in 2022 was £841 vs £706 in 2019. The 2022 average spend is 19% higher (in nominal terms). In real terms, spend per visit in 2019 prices would be £745 in 2022, up 6% on 2019.

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)	December 2022	Change vs. 2019^	Last 3 months (October-December 2022)	Change vs. 2019^
Holiday	1,060	-24%	3,520	-13%
VFR	1,200	-2%	3,440	3%
Business	520	-5%	1,690	-23%
Miscellaneous	180	-32%	730	5%

- **Holiday** visits reached 1.1 million in December 2019, nearly one quarter below pre-pandemic levels. In the medium term (Oct-Dec 2022), holiday visits reached 87% of pre-pandemic levels (or -13% vs Q4 2019)
- **Visits to friends and relatives** were just 2% below pre-pandemic levels in December 2022. In the medium term (Oct-Dec 2022) VFR visits surpassed Q4 2019 by 3%.
- **Business** visits recovered to 95% of 2019 levels in December 2022 making it strongest month in the year in terms of recovery vs pre-pandemic levels. From Oct-Dec 2022 business visits were 23% below Oct-Dec 2019.
- **Miscellaneous** visits tend to be a smaller proportion of all inbound UK visits and results can fluctuate. Compared to 2019 levels these visits were around one third below pre-pandemic levels in December 2019 but surpassed them in the medium term.

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)	December 2022	Change vs. 2019^	Last 3 months (October-December 2022)	Change vs. 2019^
Total Europe	2,150	-13%	6,950	-4%
→ EU	2,000	-11%	6,360	-2%
→ EU15	1,610	-11%	5,140	-3%
→ Other EU	390	-7%	1,220	1%
→ Rest of Europe	150	-36%	590	-17%
North America	380	2%	1,260	6%
Rest of World	430	-29%	1,160	-39%

- Visits from **Europe** remained 13% below 2019 levels in December 2022 at 2.2 million visits. In the medium term (Oct-Dec), visits were just 4% below 2019. Visits from the **EU** and **EU15** markets were 11% below December 2019 whilst visits from the **Rest of Europe** were down 36%. In Q4 2022, EU visits were 2% below 2019 whereas Rest of Europe visits were 17% below 2019.
- Inbound visits from **North America** continued to increase and surpassed December 2019 by 2% to a record 380,000 visits. In the last 3 months of 2022, visits surpassed 2019 by 6%.
- Visits from all other markets under **Rest of World** in December 2022 were 29% behind December 2019.

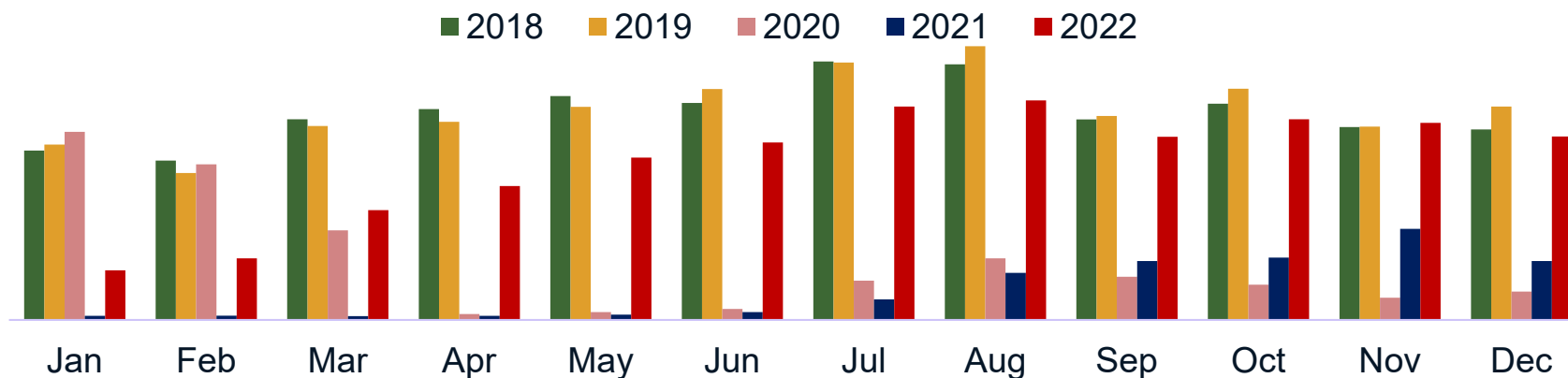
International Passenger Survey by the ONS 2022. ^Data from 2019 includes Irish land border data. Irish land border data is excluded from 2021 onwards. All values and percentage changes in spend are in nominal terms.

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	2,960

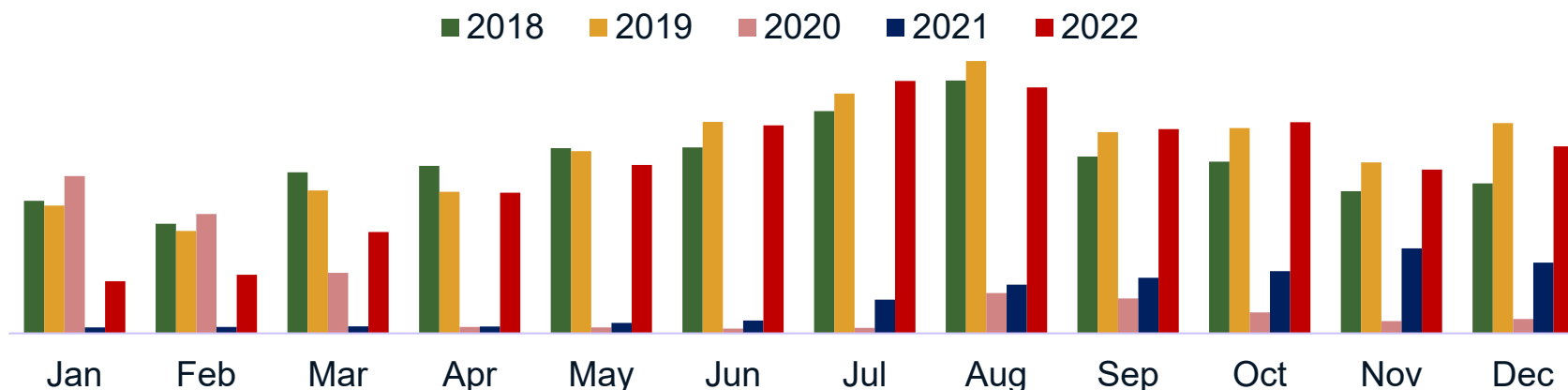
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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



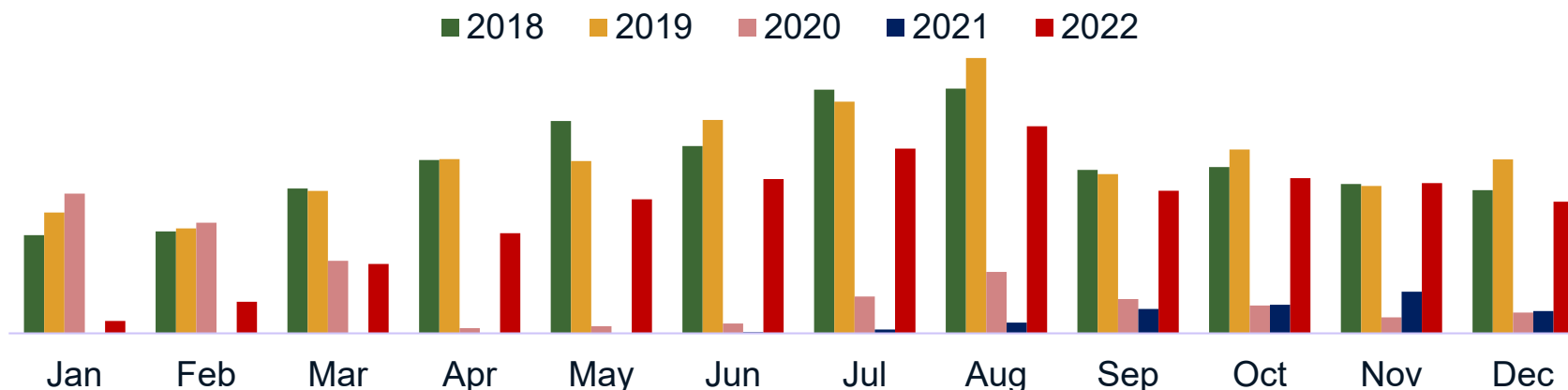
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	1,708	1,412	2,074	2,157	2,385	2,396	2,864	3,259	2,278	2,212	1,830	1,931
2019	1,646	1,318	1,840	1,824	2,347	2,725	3,090	3,510	2,593	2,645	2,201	2,708
2020	2,026	1,538	780	82	75	61	69	519	448	270	156	185
2021	76	82	89	87	134	165	433	626	716	801	1,095	910
2022	672	754	1,305	1,812	2,169	2,680	3,252	3,169	2,631	2,720	2,110	2,410

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	1,060

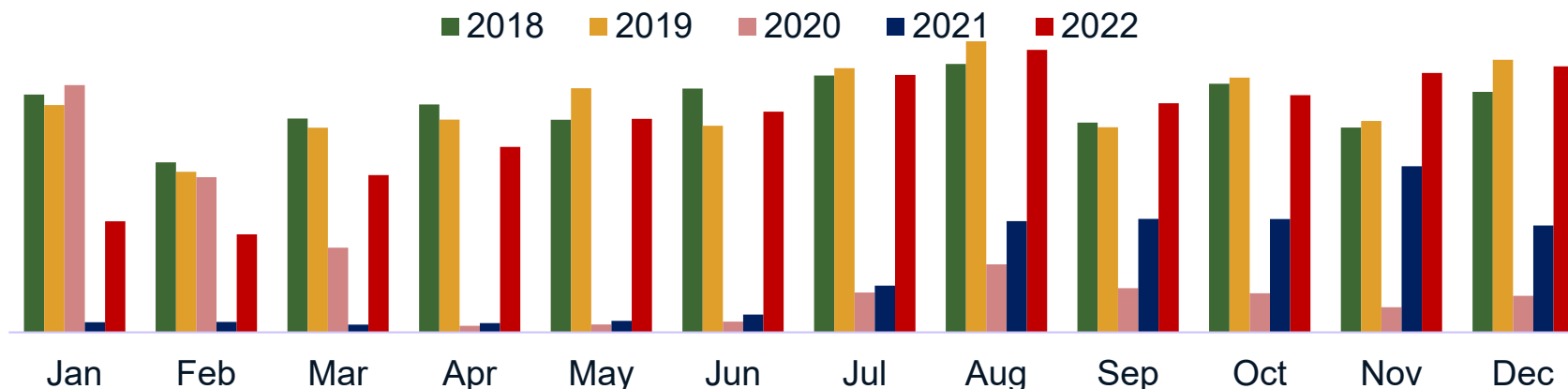
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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	1,200

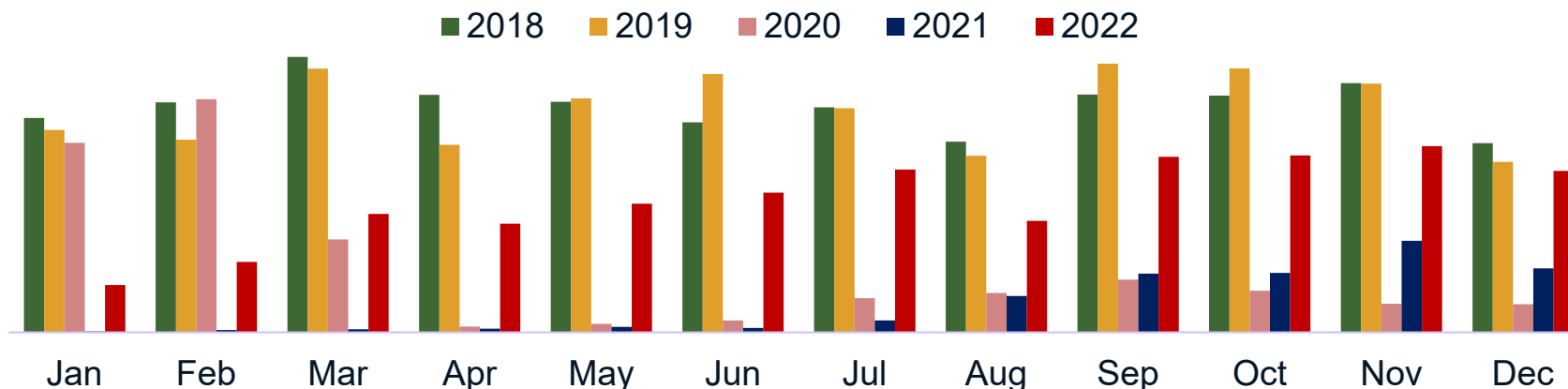
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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

Detailed monthly trends – 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	520

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

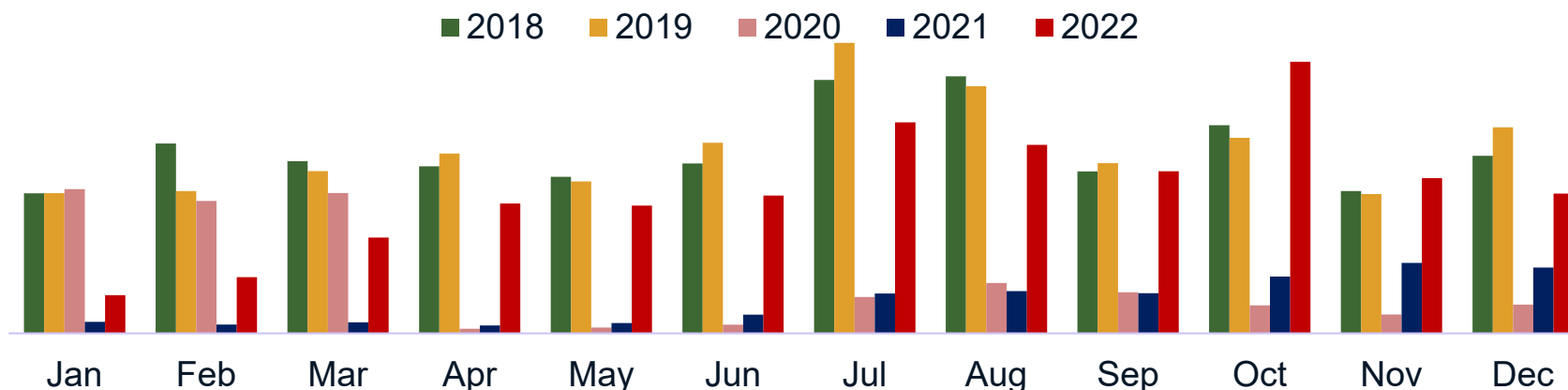
Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.

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	180

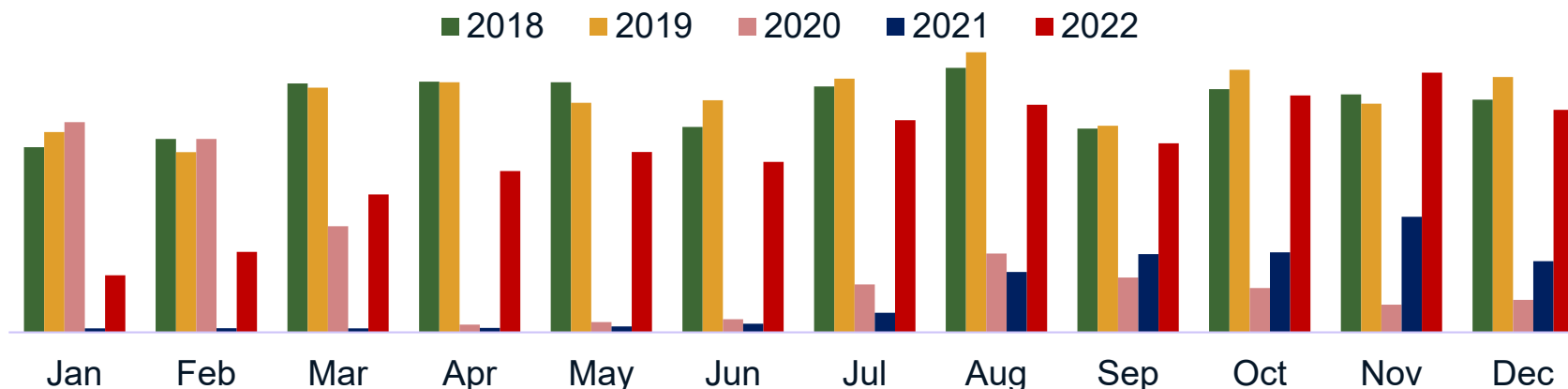
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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

Detailed monthly trends – 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	2,150

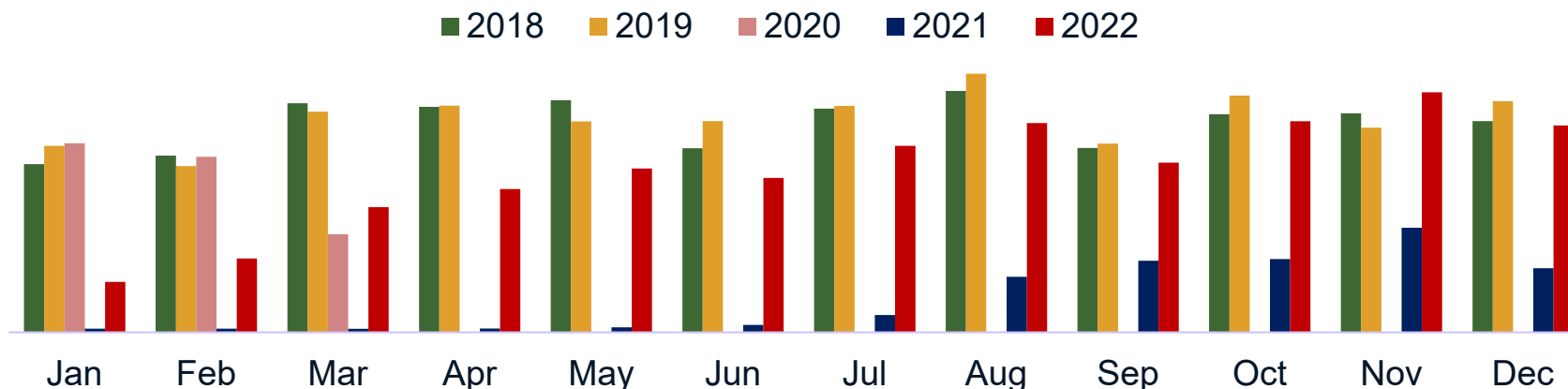
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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	2,000

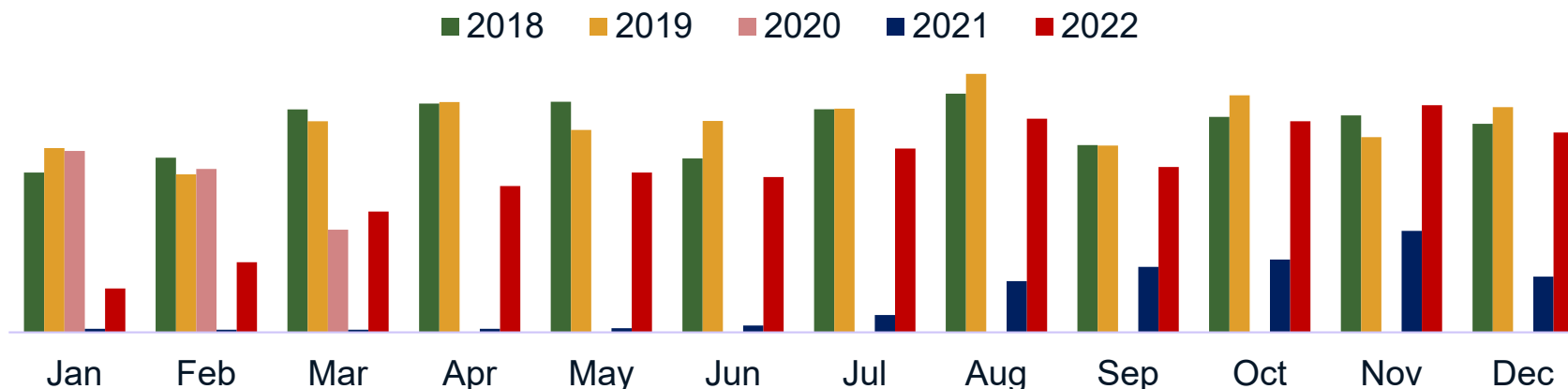
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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	1,610

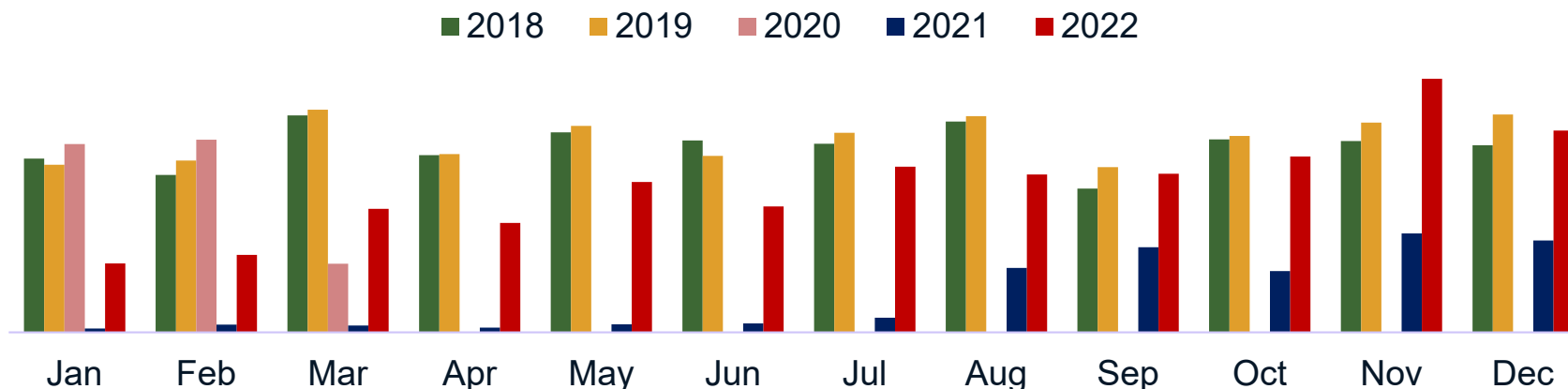
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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	390

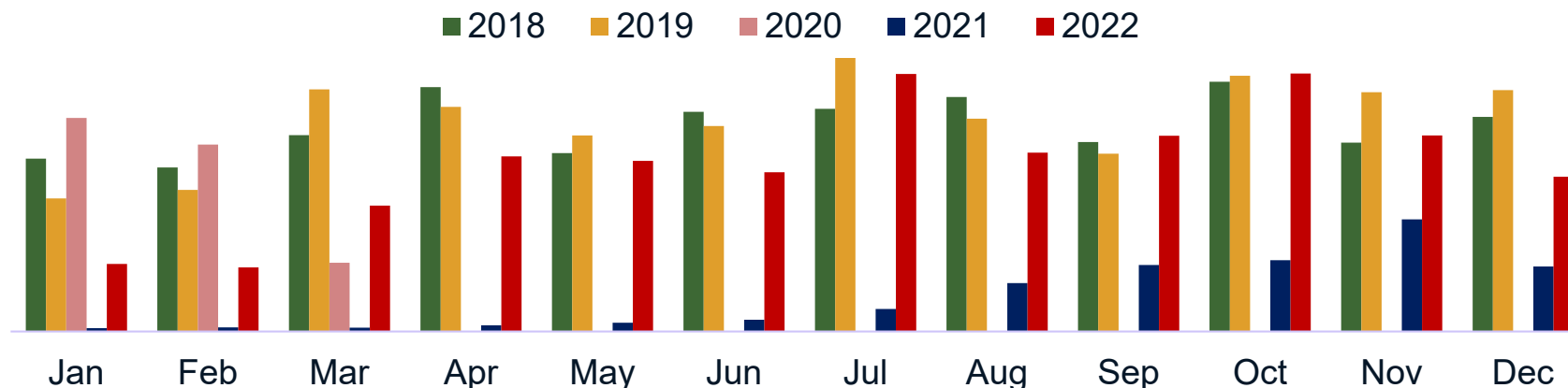
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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	150

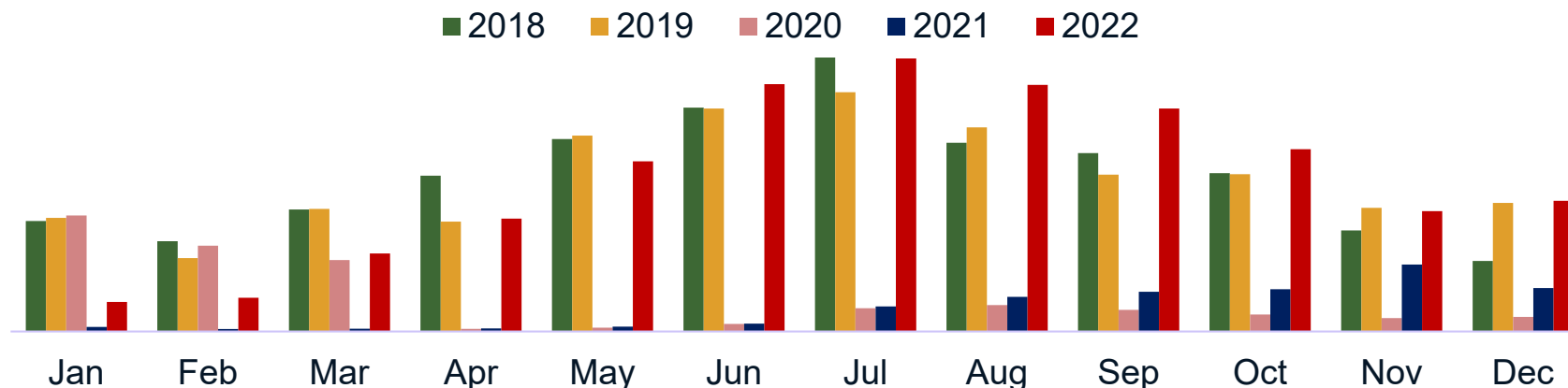
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

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	380

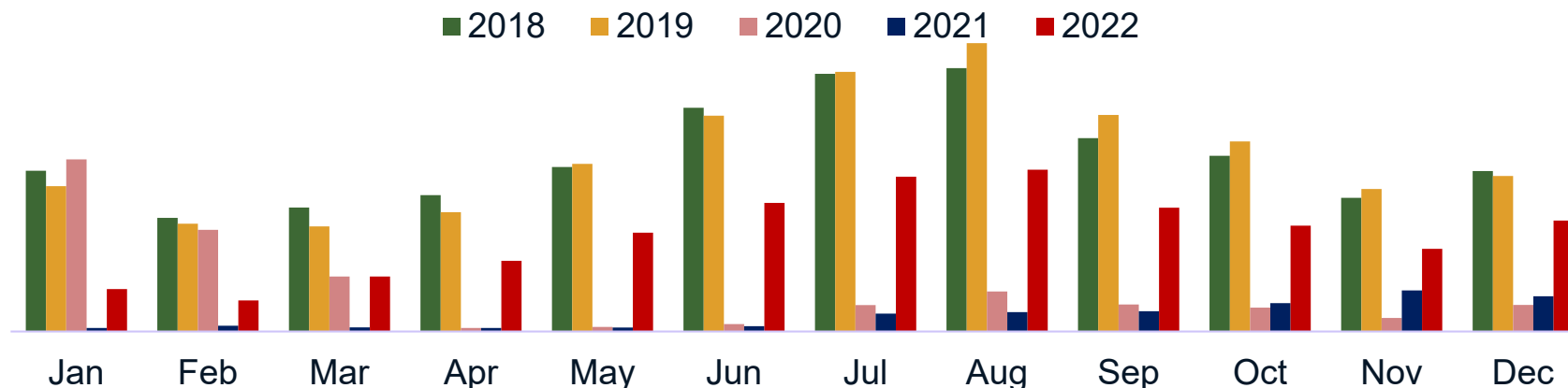
Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data.

[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	430

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 **26th April 2023**. This data covers provisional December 2022 data but may be revised again for the annual 2022 release currently scheduled for 26th 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 10 for year-to-date. The ONS restarted IPS interviews at all ports from July 2022. Please see our [2022 inbound page](#) for more information. For the 2022 annual release, the ONS are planning to model the missing Eurotunnel data into the first half of the year so the provisional 2022 figures in this report are likely to be revised up.

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

December 2022

International Passenger Survey by the ONS

(published 26th April 2023)

