

19 December
2022

Christmas and New Year travel intentions survey



Introduction

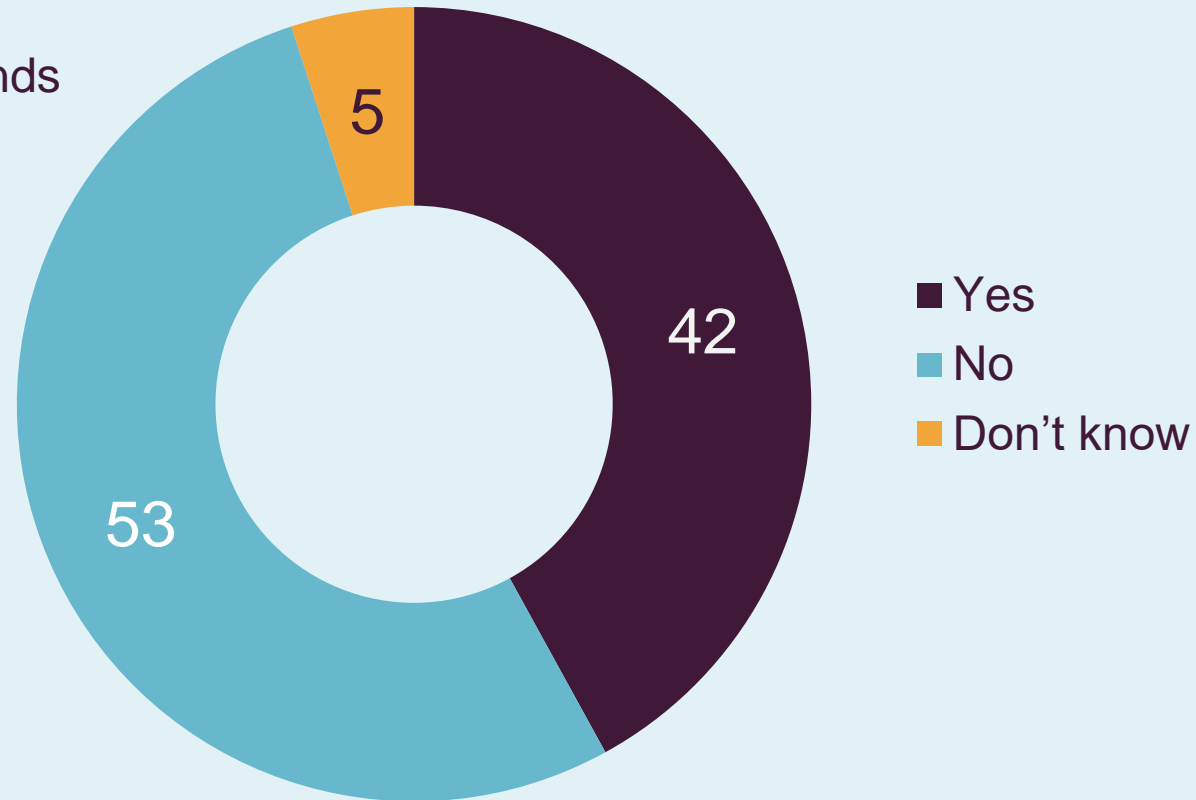


Transport Focus asked a representative sample of 2000 people from across Great Britain about their travel intentions over the upcoming festive period. This survey asked whether people will be travelling, how they intend to make those journeys and about their travel plans.

The survey was carried on Yonder Consulting's omnibus on 7 and 8 December 2022.

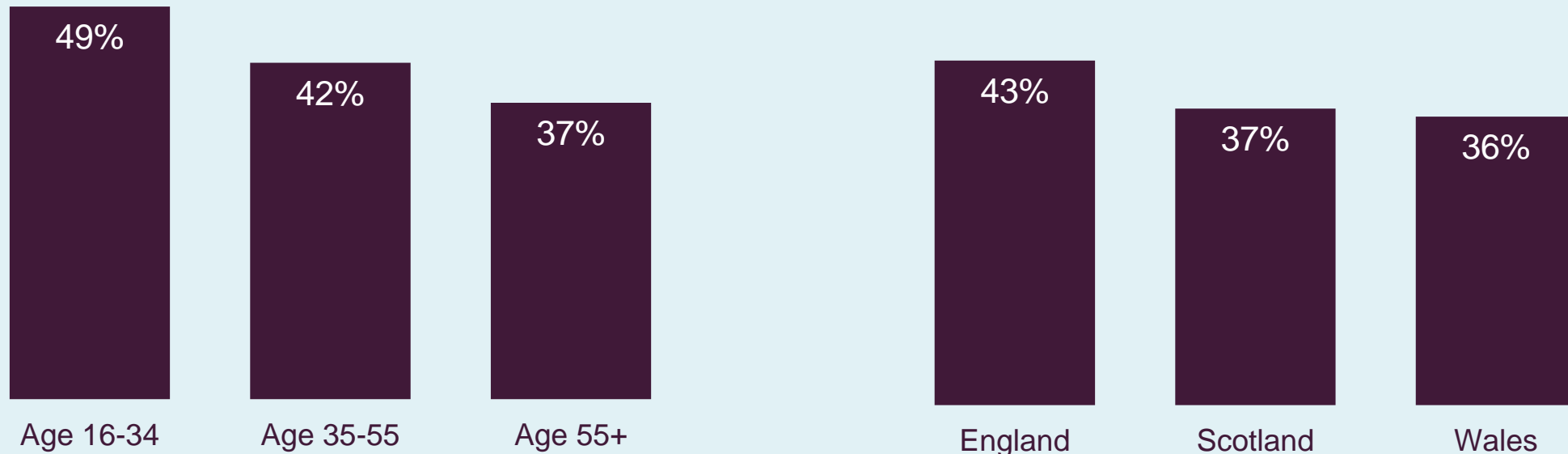
Two in five said they plan to travel to visit friends or family over the Christmas/New Year period

Intending to travel to see family/friends over Christmas/New Year period?



Younger people and those in England are planning to travel more than others

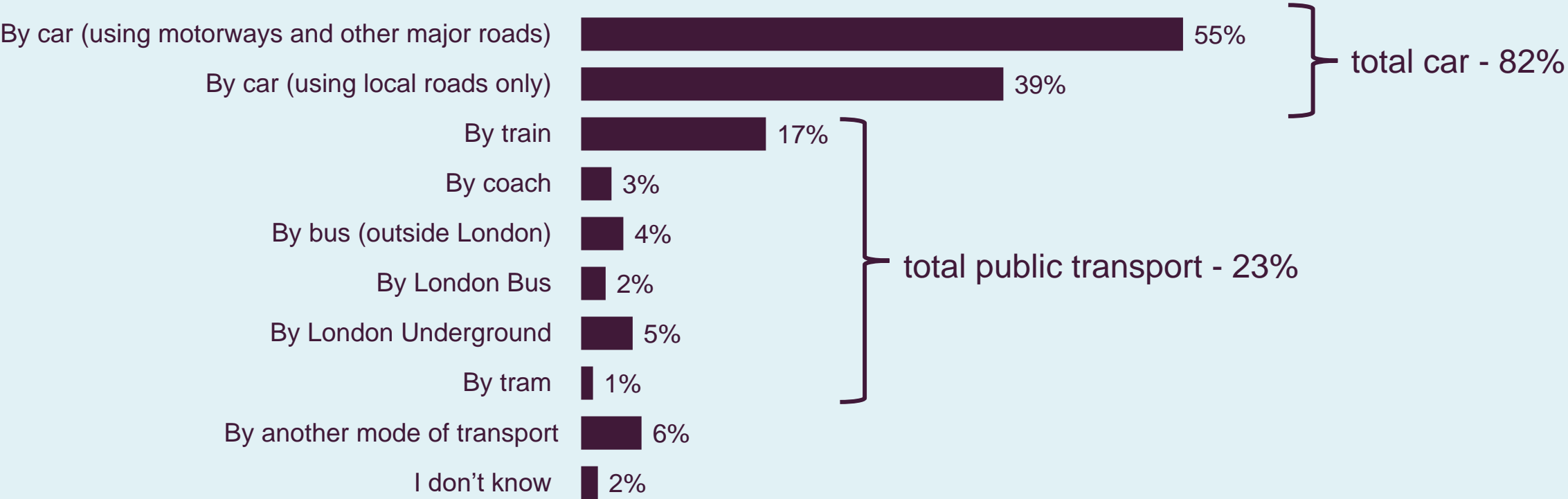
Intending to travel to see family or friends over Christmas/New Year period



Christmas travel intentions survey. Base size: 2004. Q. Are you currently planning to travel to visit friends or family over the Christmas/New Year period? Answer options: Yes; No; Don't know

Eight in ten plan to go by car, around two in ten public transport

Mode of transport to visit family/friends over Christmas/New Year period



Christmas travel intentions survey. Base size: 836. Q. Which modes of transport will you use to visit family and friends over the Christmas/New Year period? Asked to those who said 'yes' to travelling to visit family/friends over the festive period



What people said about festive travel

Many plan to travel to see family or friends across Great Britain



Drive from Leicester to Buxton on 24 December and returning 26 December.

Travelling to Kent on Christmas Day by car. Travelling to London by train between Christmas and new year.
Travelling by car to the Peak District on New Year's Eve

I spend Xmas with my daughter and grandchildren, they are within walking distance.



I will be travelling by train on Christmas Eve to Broadstairs and return to London on 27 December.

I am planning to travel from Herefordshire to Glasgow to visit relatives over Christmas.

Driving to Oxford to visit sister, driving to Liverpool to visit friends, work Christmas activity in Manchester via shared car travel.

Many plan to go by car



I will be travelling by car out of the city which I live in to the countryside, through motorways and whatnot. Might get some Greggs at a service station if they have it.

Travelling in the car to friends on motorways, A roads and country lanes.

Driving to Essex to see family then flying to Sweden to visit partner.



I am planning to travel with my partner and close family on Christmas morning to spend the day with family. We are travelling by car, to a nearby town within the same county, and will not be using motorways. We have not made any changes to this plan.

Plan to drive to relatives in the South for Christmas.

I will visit my daughter, who lives ten miles away by car for Xmas day.

Some plan to use coach, bus or tram



I am planning to see my friends over the Christmas period by bus.

Myself and my child have booked a National Express coach to Wales to visit family from boxing day to new years day.

I plan to take two coaches home, hoping they won't be affected by any strikes.

Will travel by bus mainly, perhaps one train journey. No changes made as yet.




I am travelling by coach from Bournemouth to Leeds to spend Christmas with my family, unfortunately being a uni student money is tight. So coach is the best option for me as it is cheapest at the expense of a 10 hour journey.

I booked a coach via National Express as it was best value for money.

I'm flying to Europe from my local airport, to which I shall travel by bus. I shall visit friends nearer home by train and bus.

Visit my friends who are living near my address. I can easily arrive their house by bus or tram.



**What people
said about the
impact of rail
strike disruption**

Some are still planning to travel by train



I am travelling by train to visit our daughter and family who live in Reading. First class tickets are booked for us by our daughter for the 18th, fingers crossed.

I have yet to book my rail tickets due to the train strikes but am wanting to travel on the 27 December and return on the 2 January.

I will go to spend Christmas with parents in York, travelling by train - no changes have had to be made.



Can be flexible so will go on any available train during the week before Christmas.

Over the Christmas period I plan to travel to Tiverton from London and return by train.

No changes - will have some day trips to Fife using the train and depending on train availability.

I will be travelling by train on Christmas Eve to Broadstairs and return to London on 27 December.

Some are putting off confirming their plans



Visiting friends out of town for dinner and being social and Christmas parties. I have not been in a position to change plans yet as waiting for train strike timetable to figure it out.

Plan to visit partner's family, long distance rail journey. Held off making fixed plans until GWR confirm whether they will suspend branch line services on non strike days.

Not sure as most transportation is on strike for higher pay.



I am planning to see my family outside London at some point either before or after Christmas. I intend to use the train and will travel later in January if there is no date over the Christmas period when I can do this.

I am yet to book my transport but I will either be taking the coach or train.

Others will travel a different way



Will not be using trains and ongoing strikes the have ruined a lot of plans that I have had this year, so will now use the car as much as possible.

I had to take a coach instead of the train due to strikes.

I will be visiting family and friends both locally and nationally by car. Will not use trains while strikes are on, it is too risky and there are so many last minute cancellations, even on non strike days.



The quickest way would be the train, but I am very unsure now about the strikes, so may use a coach or go by car.

Was planning train travel to Dorset for New Year, but in light of RMT action will have to use the car. Will visit relatives in Yorkshire just before Christmas. Again will now have to drive instead of using train.

Travel to York by car not risking trains as due to come back Boxing Day to visit family. Working New Year back south.

I intend to travel by coach because of the trains strike.

Family who don't drive cannot rely on trains so we are visiting them instead.

And others have cancelled their travel plans



Was going to visit family but no longer can because of the train strikes.

I planned to travel to Paris. However, London trains cancelled, I have to stay in Birmingham.

Was going to see friends and family by train but might have to postpone that till everything is back to normal.

Not visiting family down south because of the train strikes.



Was going to go to Leeds to see friends but probably not now due to train strike.

Unable to see my grandmother for her birthday after Christmas due to train strikes.

Had to cancel it because of the train situation.

Planned to travel on 27 but now probably won't until 28.

Methodology



Methodology and question text

Transport Focus asked about Christmas Travel Intentions Survey on a Yonder Consulting omnibus (conducted 8-9 December). The omnibus is weighted to be nationally representative of the population of Great Britain. The questions asked are shown below.

Q1 Are you currently planning to travel to visit friends or family over the Christmas/New Year period?

- i) Yes
- ii) No
- iii) I don't know

Q2) *Asked of those saying yes at Q1.* Which modes of transport will you use to visit family and friends over the Christmas/New Year period?

- i) By car (using motorways and other major roads)
- ii) By car (using local roads only)
- iii) By train
- iv) By coach
- v) By bus (outside London)
- vi) By London Bus
- vii) By London Underground
- viii) By tram
- ix) By another mode of transport (please write in)
- x) I don't know

Q3. Please tell us about your planned travel over the Christmas/New Year period, including any changes you have had to make.

[Text box completion]

Contact Transport Focus

Any enquiries about this report should be addressed to:

Jordan Sargeant

Senior policy adviser

Jordan.sargeant@transportfocus.org.uk

Transport Focus

Albany House

94 – 98 Petty France

London

SW1H 9EA

www.transportfocus.org.uk

Transport Focus is the operating name of the Passengers' Council

Transport Focus is the independent consumer organisation representing the interests of:

- rail passengers in Great Britain
- bus, coach and tram users across England outside London
- all users of England's motorways and major 'A' roads (the Strategic Road Network).

We work to make a difference for all transport users.

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