



Travel plans for the Coronation and Eurovision weekends in May

April 2023

Introduction

Ahead of the King's Coronation weekend (6-8 May) and the weekend of the Eurovision finals (13 May) we wanted to understand people's travel plans, how they intend to plan their journey and whether they had booked tickets in advance.

We spoke to a nationally representative sample of 4000 people using Yonder's omnibus survey over two waves between 22 and 26 March 2023.

Objectives

1

To find out whether, where and how people are planning to travel over the weekends of the Coronation and the Eurovision finals – whether related to the events or not.

2

To understand expected travel dates and times and whether people have already booked tickets.

3

To gather people's expectations of what travel will be like during these weekends.

Key findings

1

On each of the two weekends, more than half plan to stay at home. Around a third are still deciding whether to travel somewhere or not.

4

For those planning to use rail – a minority have already booked their tickets. Most still plan to book at least a few days in advance – with 12 per cent (Coronation)/5 per cent (Eurovision) planning to buy on the day.

2

For both weekends – of those who are travelling, visiting friends or family is the most common destination, in preference to attending organised events.

5

Planned dates of travel are spread over a number of days. People using rail generally plan to travel out in the morning but return plans are spread through the day.

3

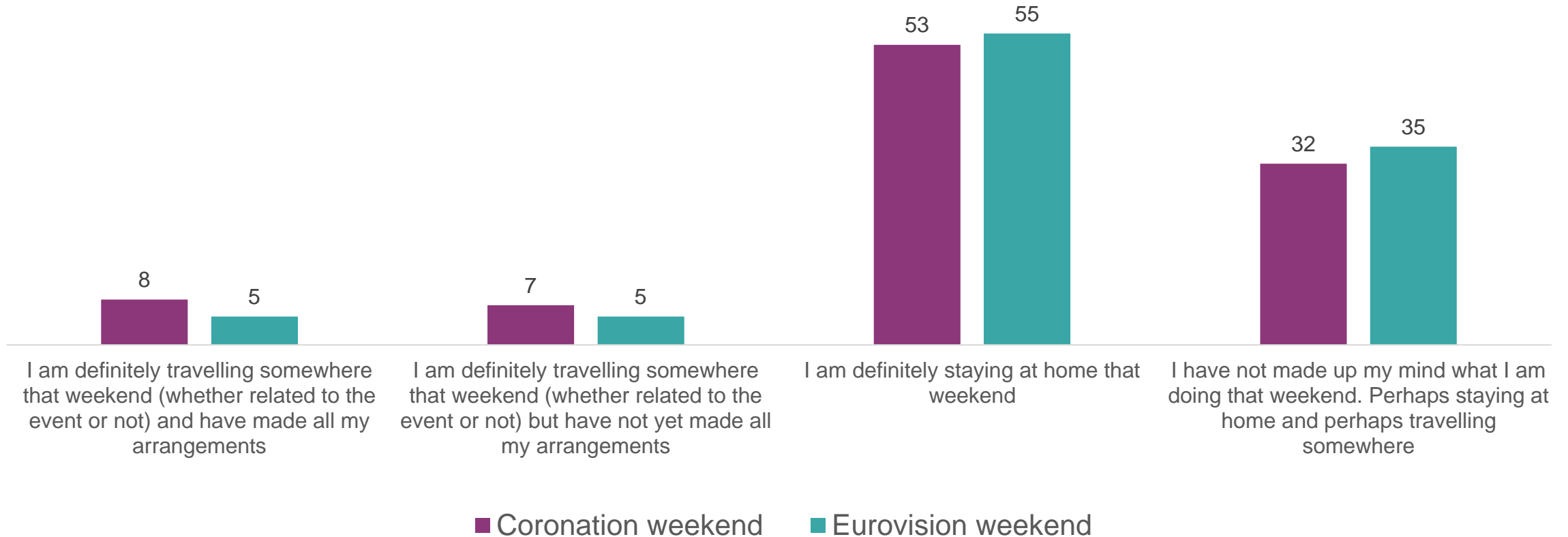
Whatever the destination, around half of those travelling are using a car and a third are using the train.

6

Google Maps is the most commonly used method for planning journeys and will be used by those travelling around in London.

Travel plans for the two weekends

More than half are planning to stay at home for each of the two weekends – with a third still to decide whether to travel or not



Base: all respondents (4016)

Suggestions on how the entire transport network can assist people travelling for the Coronation or the Eurovision finals



‘Bus and train services should operate extra services where appropriate and charge a reasonable price for tickets.’

‘As a unified show of respect and support to the crown, I would like to see public transport fully operational with additional services laid on and no strikes and no roadworks.’



‘First of all we must get ALL of these crazy strikes settled before anything else can be planned.’

‘Neither of those events are of interest to me but I would suggest the Unions do not call any strikes during those events.’



‘Have a dedicated webpage which has live traffic information, which stations are currently busy etc. and where there are roadblocks.’

‘Suspend any roadworks/engineering works on all routes to and from these events.’



‘They can provide additional coach services where you could buy tickets from National Express and Megabus to take the pressure of the rail and London bus network.’

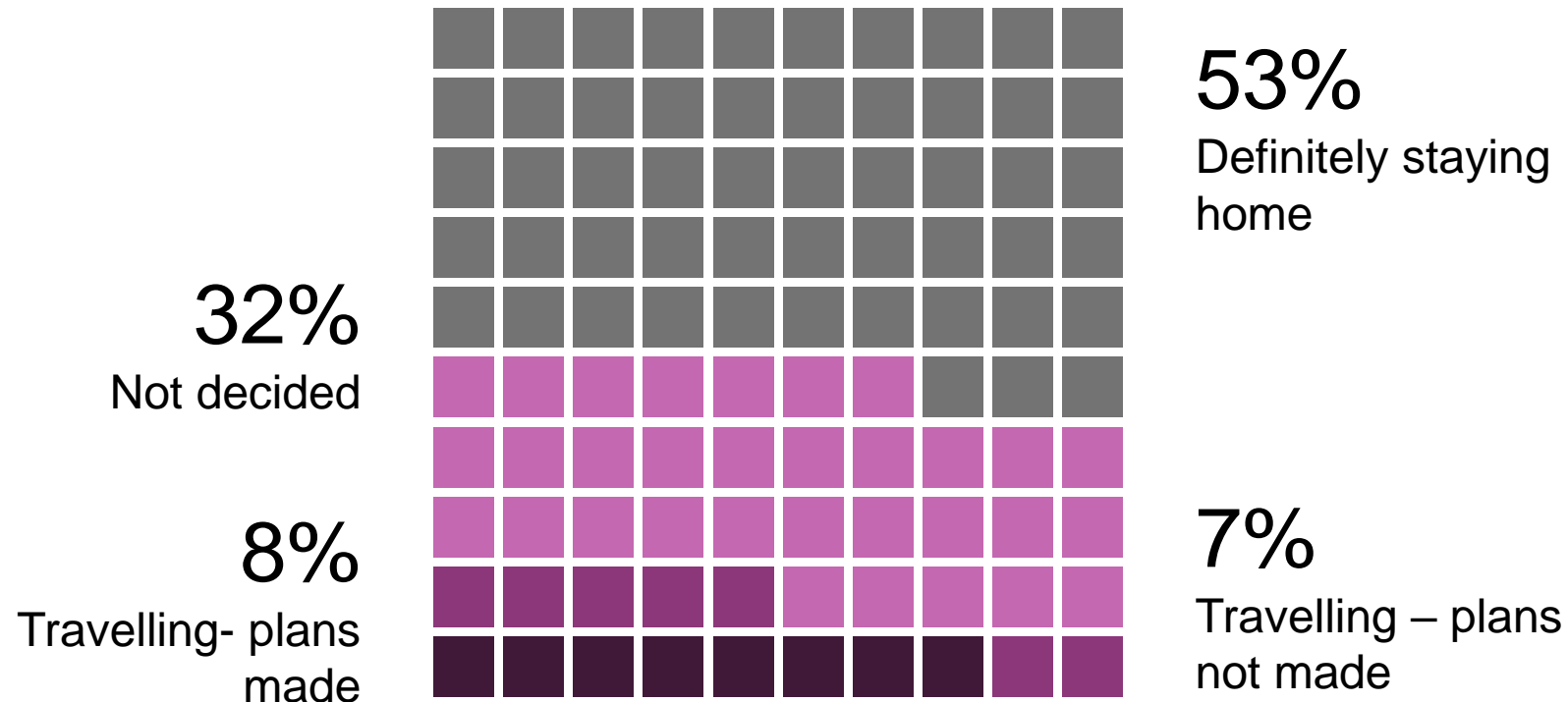
‘Have plenty of staff on duty to assist with disabled people.’





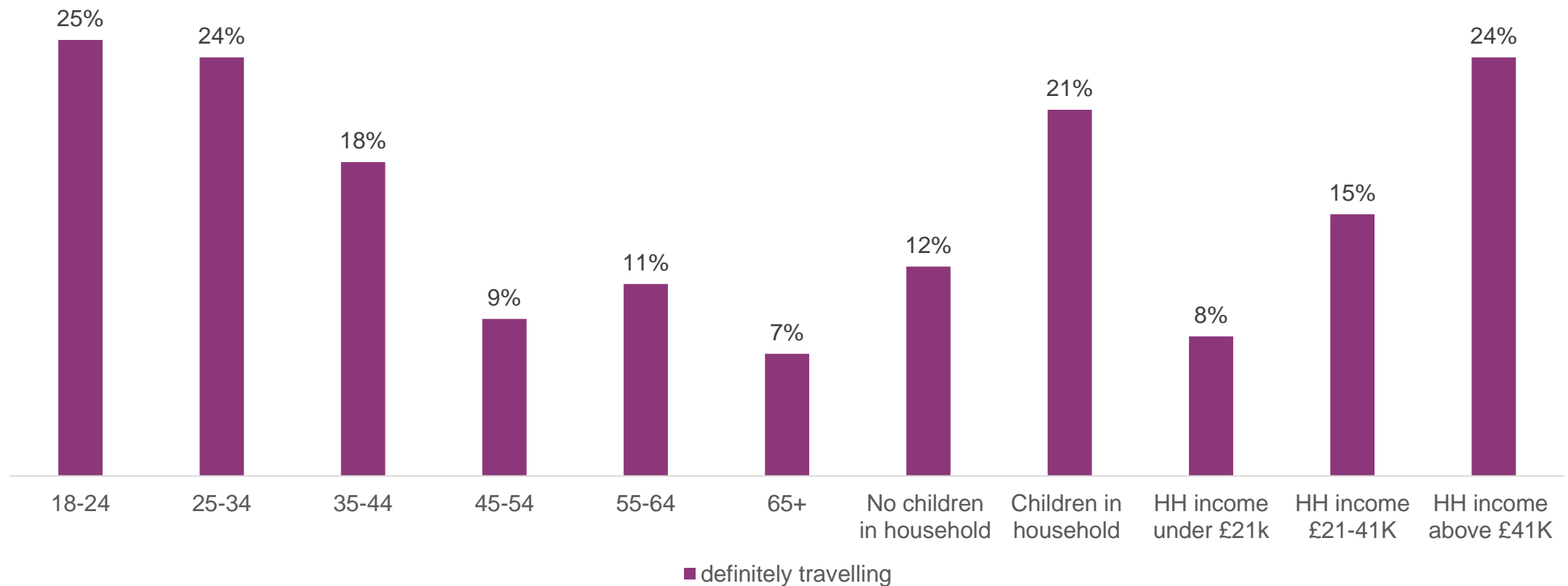
Coronation weekend
6-8 May 2023

Just over half are staying at home over the Coronation weekend – while a third are still to decide what to do



Base: all respondents (4016)

Younger people, those with children and with higher household incomes are most likely to be travelling over the Coronation



Base: all respondents (4016)

People expect services to be busy over the Coronation weekend

“

‘A lot busier than usual, with fewer services running.’

‘Busy. I went to London from Cornwall for the Queen's funeral. Both the trains and underground were enormously busier than anything I've seen.’

”

“

‘Probably very busy so either go a couple of days before hand to get settled without all the stress of finding tickets on the day for trains etc and finding them packed so I will probably go beforehand or even drive to somewhere near if need be even though it might take a bit longer.’

”

“

‘Probably will be really crowded but I want to see coronation so much and support king. I think it would be something monumental but fun at the same time.’

‘Either busy cause everyone will be traveling or quiet as everyone will watch from home.’

”

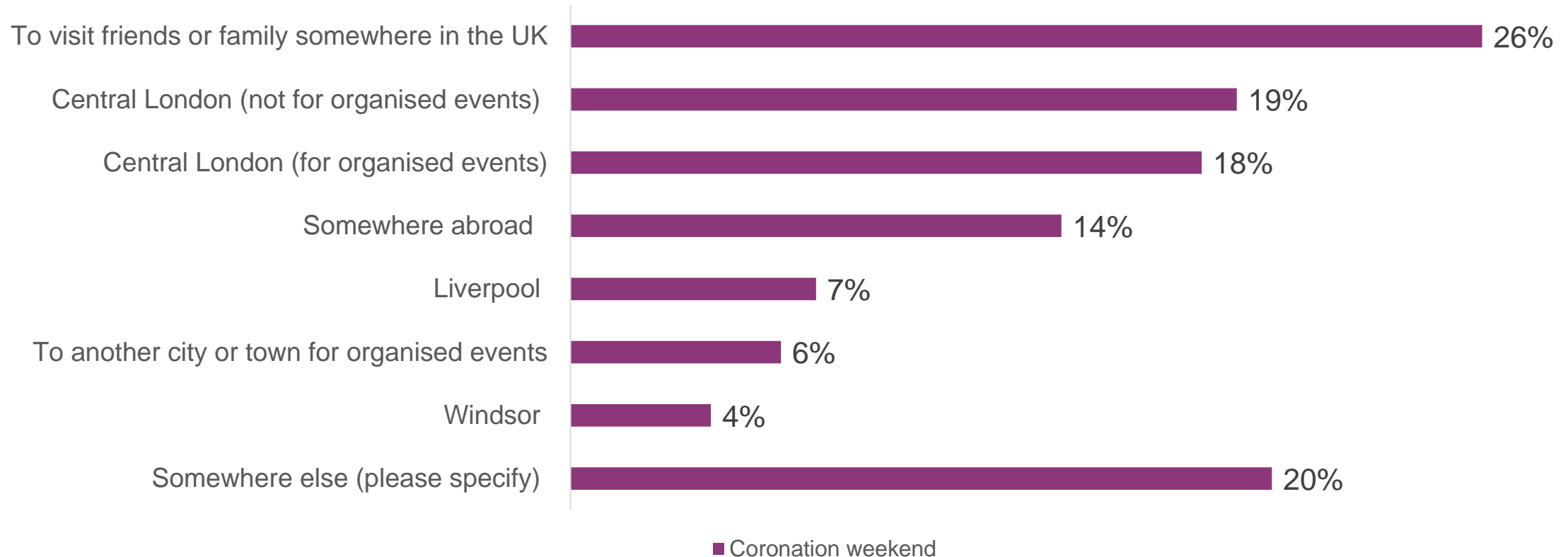
“

‘It is a very important event, so it will be a long but beautiful day at the same time.’

‘Exciting. Planning to visit Glen Coe on the way.’

”

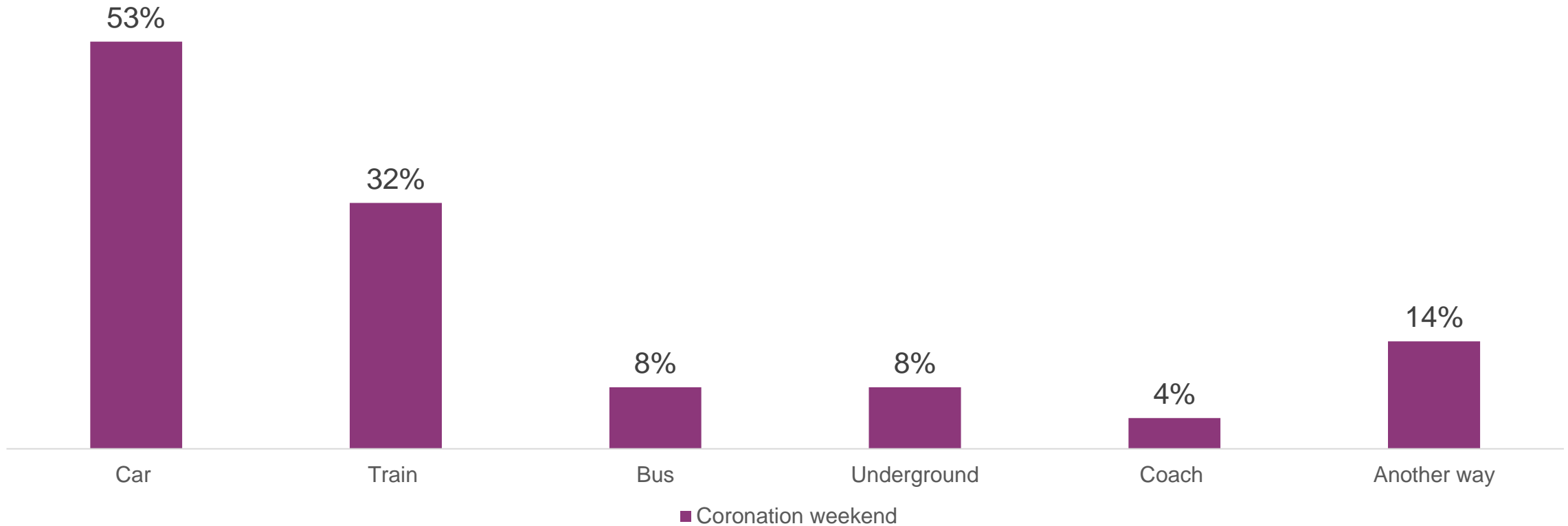
Variety of destinations for travel over the Coronation weekend – with a quarter visiting friends or family in the UK



Eurovision semi-finals start on 9 May, which may explain some of the travel to Liverpool

Base: those definitely travelling over the Coronation weekend (585)

Half plan to travel by car and a third by train in the Coronation weekend



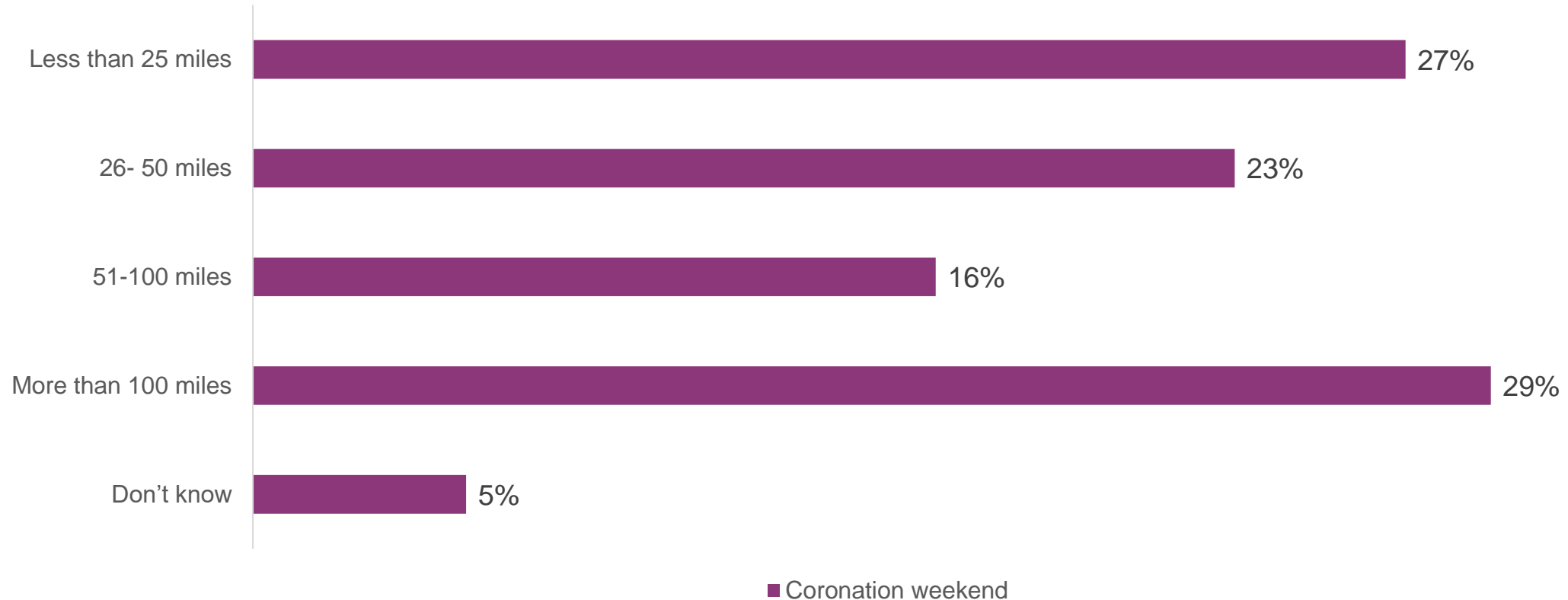
Base: those definitely travelling over the Coronation weekend (585)

Less car and more train use among those travelling to London



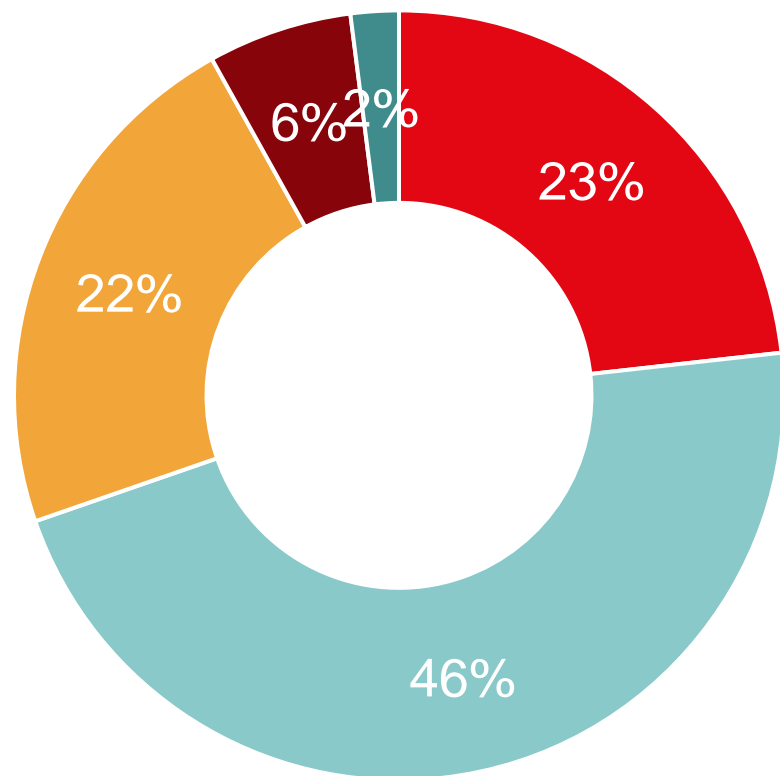
Base: those definitely travelling to London over the Coronation weekend: for organised events (104) and not for organised events (111)

Half are planning to travel less than 50 miles over the Coronation weekend

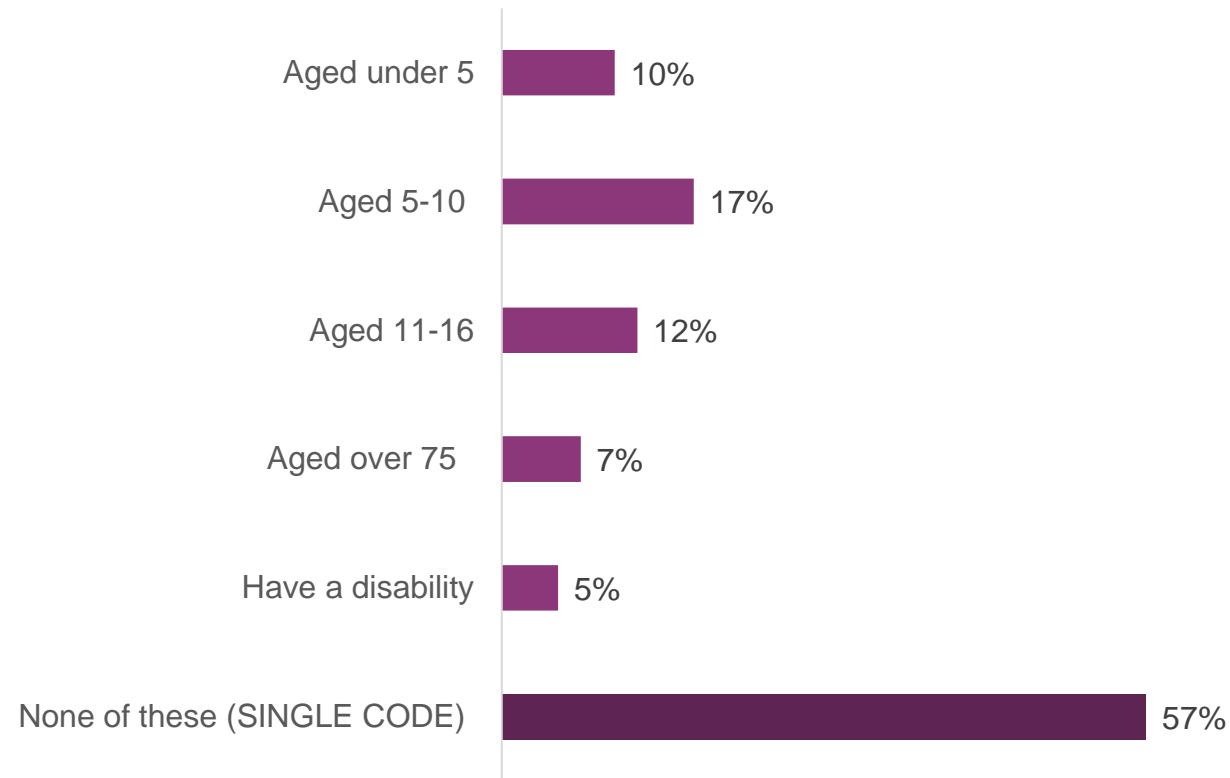


Base: those definitely travelling over the Coronation weekend (585)

Over two thirds are travelling alone or with one other person – most do not have a child, elderly or disabled person in the group

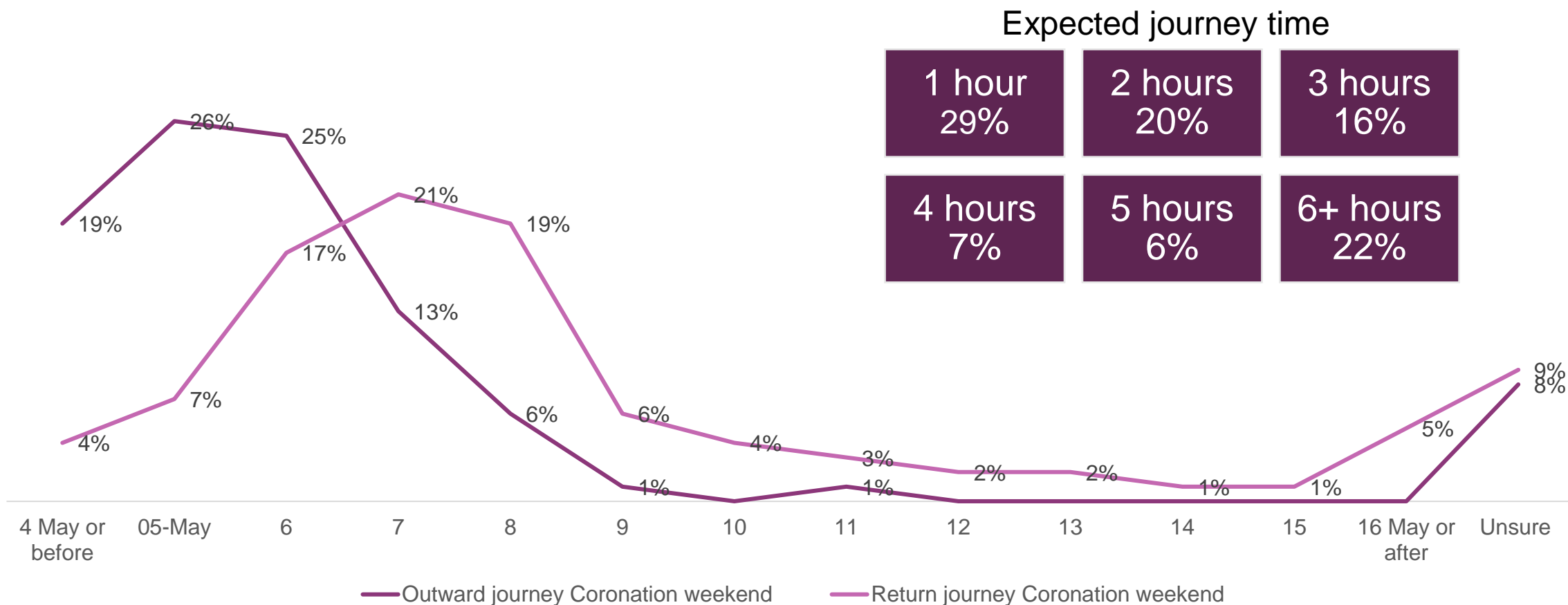


■ Alone ■ With 1 other ■ With 2 or 3 others ■ In a group ■ Don't know



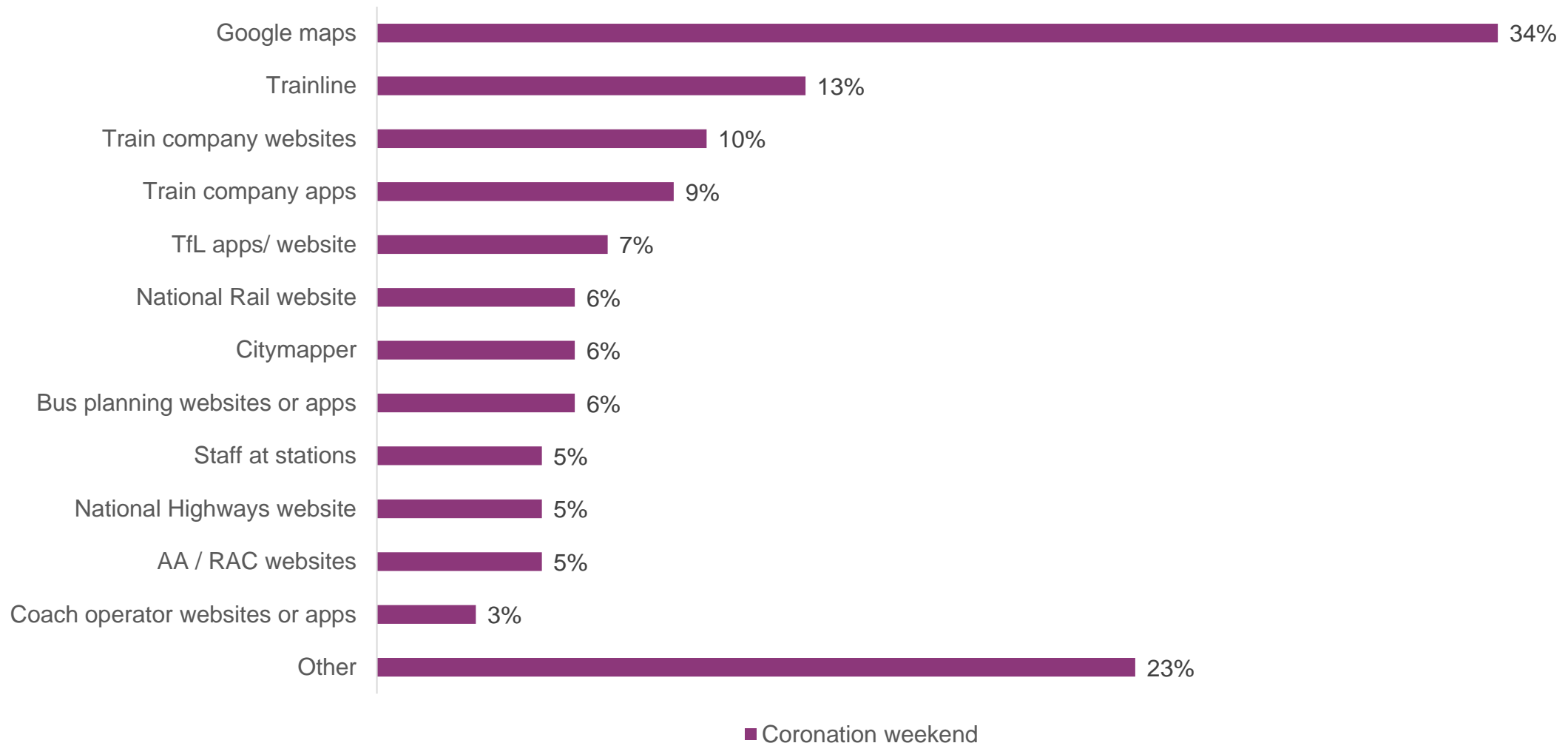
Base: those definitely travelling over the Coronation weekend (585)

Half of outward travel is planned for the 5 or 6 May – return is more spread out through week after the Coronation



Base: those definitely travelling over the Coronation weekend (585)

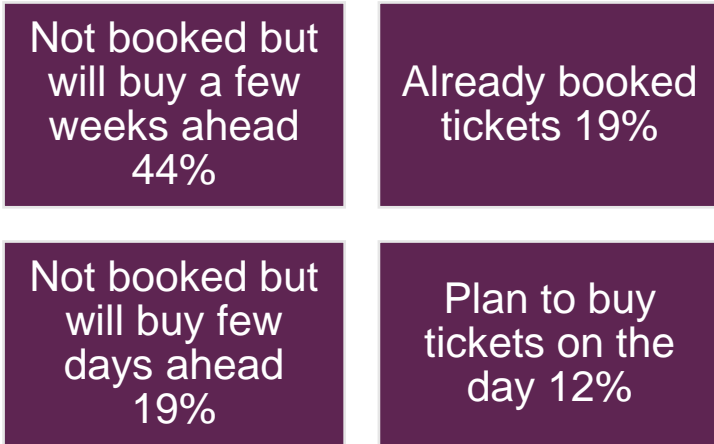
Google maps used most to plan travel in the Coronation weekend



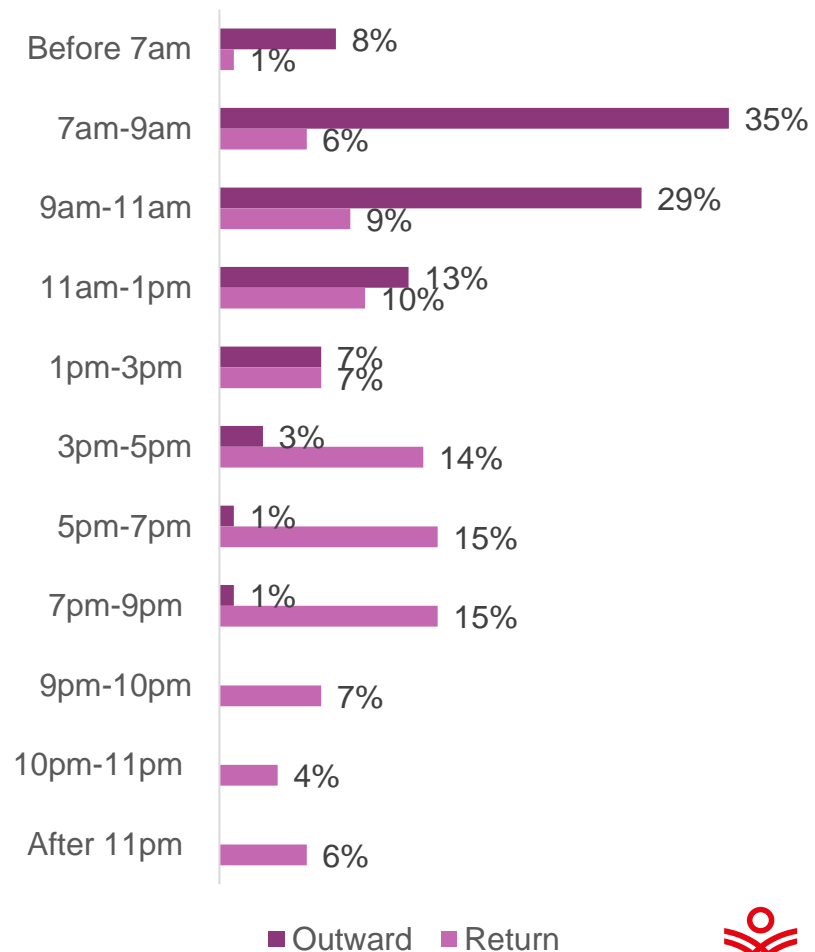
Base: those definitely travelling over the Coronation weekend (585)

Outward travel by train is usually before 11am with returns spread through the day. Under half have booked tickets already.

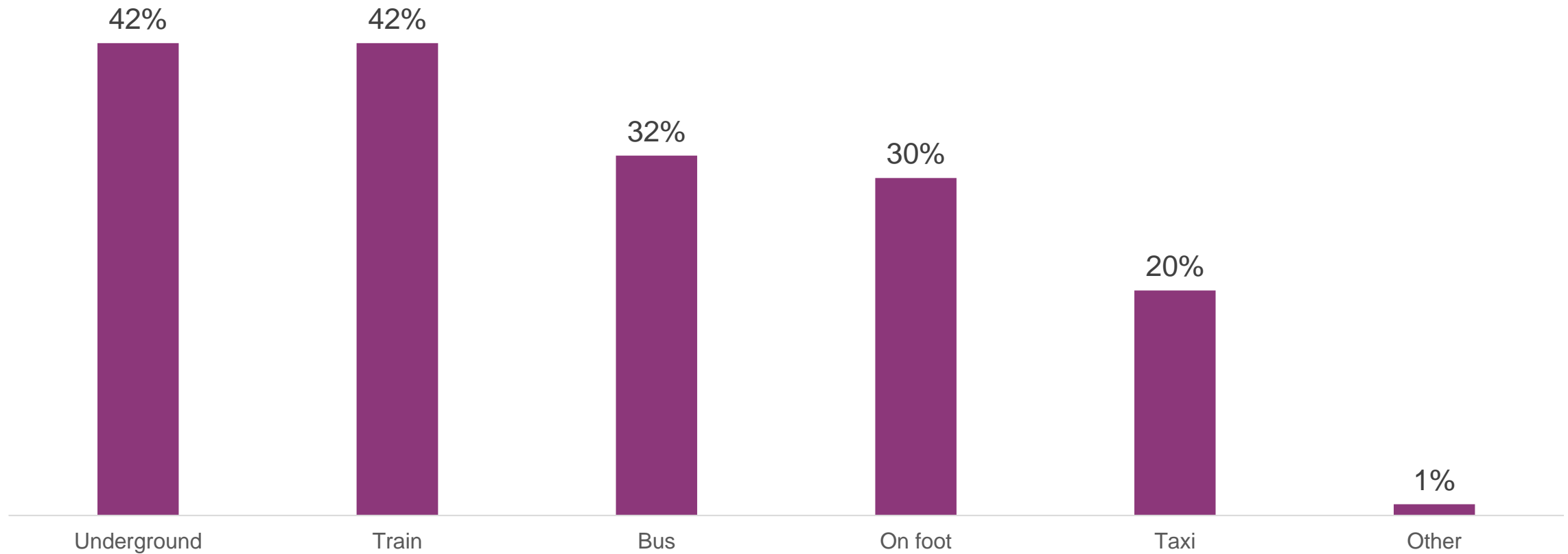
Rail ticket purchase?



Of those who have booked tickets (36), around six out of ten have booked advance tickets both ways and have reserved seats.

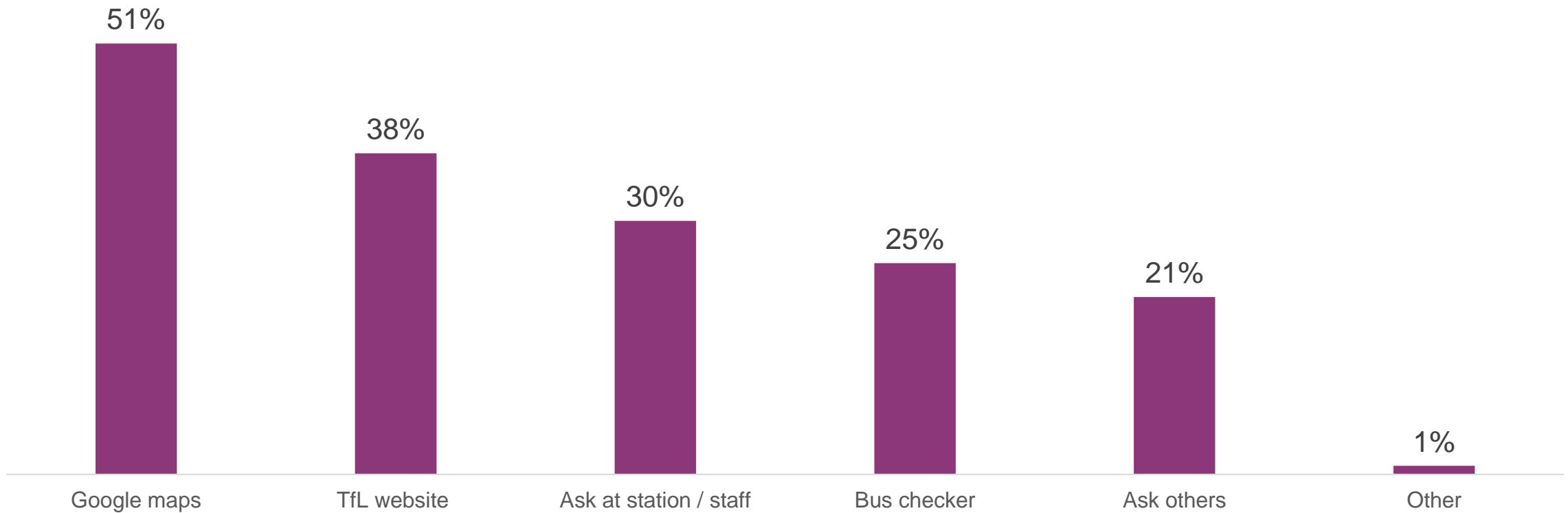


People expect to travel around London using public transport, on foot and in taxis



Base: All those travelling to London in Coronation weekend (229)

Half will use Google maps to keep informed about changes to services as they travel around London and a third will use TfL

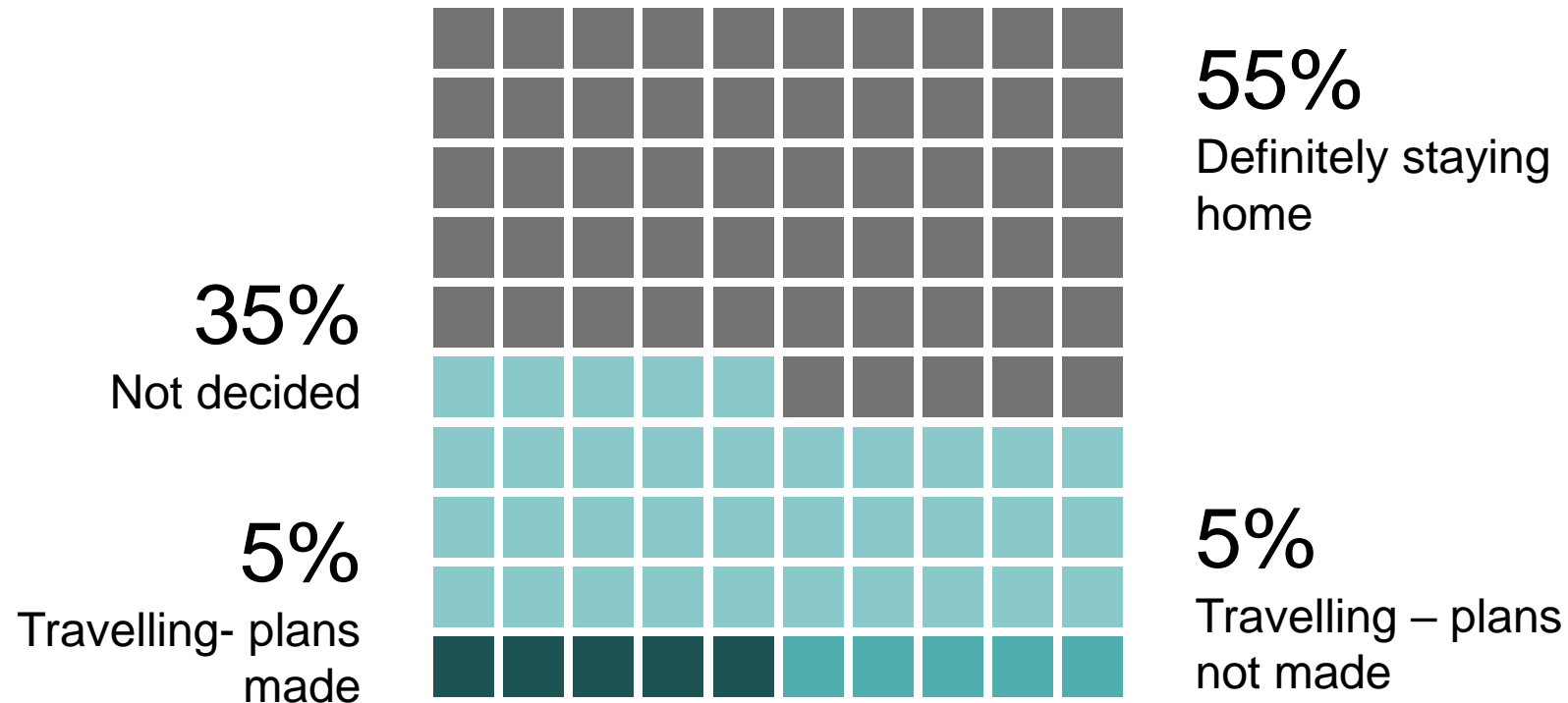


Base: All those travelling to London in Coronation weekend (229)



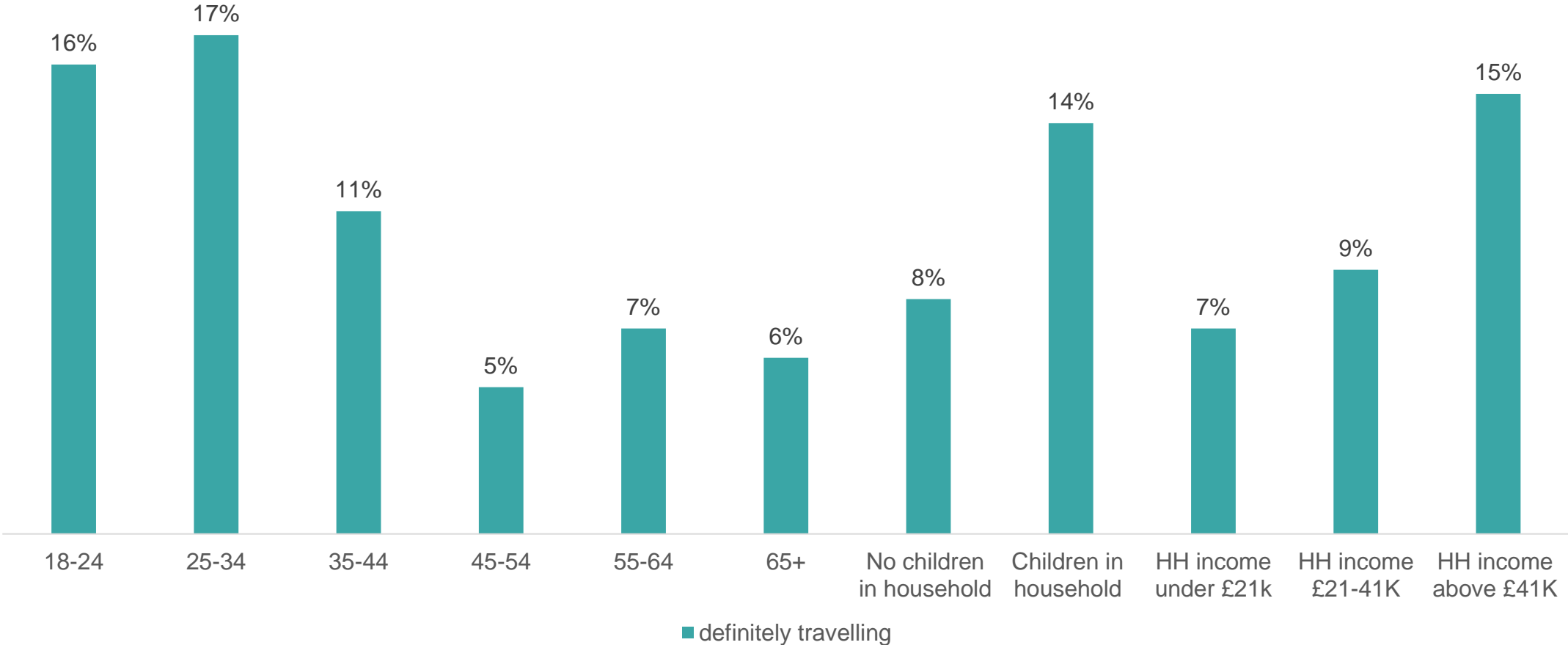
**Eurovision weekend
13-14 May 2023**

Just over half are staying at home over the Eurovision weekend – while a third are still to decide what to do



Base: all respondents (4016)

Who is definitely travelling somewhere over the Eurovision weekend?



Base: all respondents (4016)

Expectations of travel during the Eurovision weekend are relatively normal – some mention busyness and excitement



‘A bit busier but not crazy.’

‘lots of people about, very rowdy and noisy.’

‘Not too crowded as our group are travelling a day or so early and also early in the morning.’



‘Hopefully, it will be okay as I’ll be getting a train to Gatwick before flying and then a bus from the airport into the city. For the London Eurovision Party I will be staying with friends in London for that whole weekend.’



‘Hopefully not too bad as we’re not going anywhere near Eurovision and we’re travelling quite late on the 12th.’

‘No different than usual unless there are road works or accidents.’



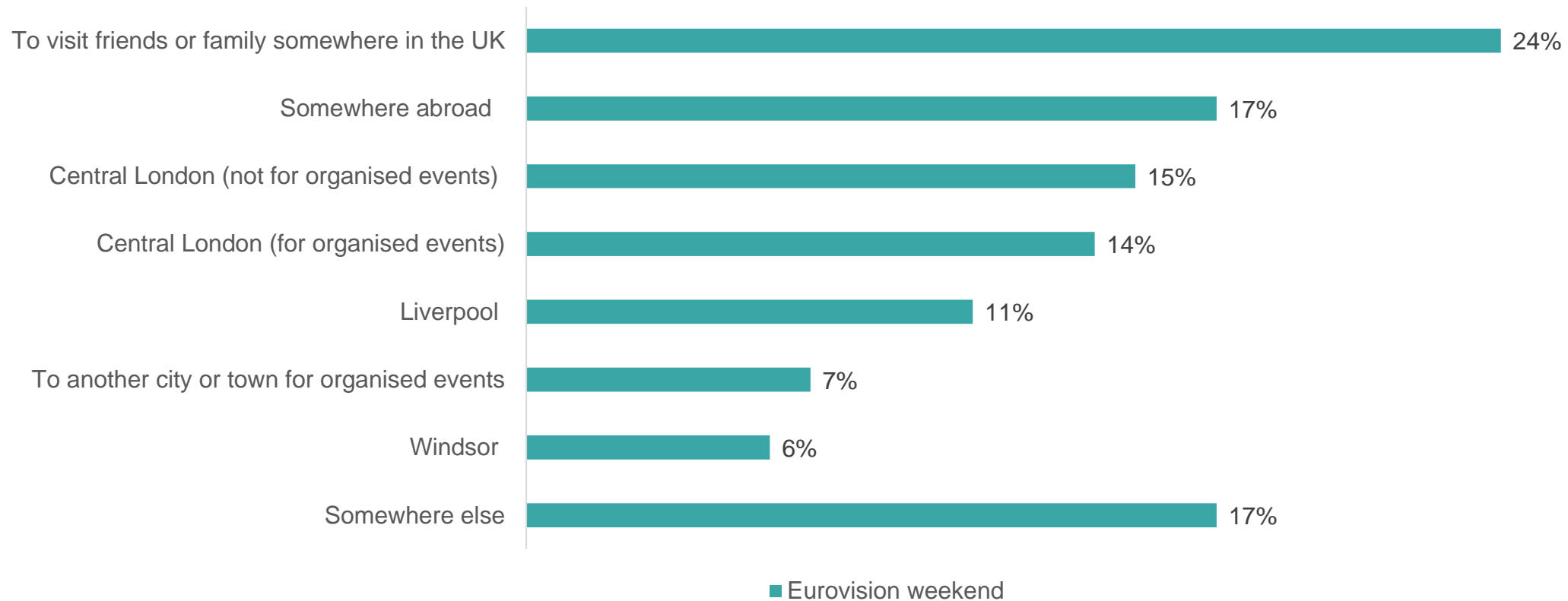
‘I’m expecting it to be a lot of fun honestly.’

‘A long drive to the Pyrenees. I expect the French roads to be fairly quiet.’



People are travelling to many destinations over the Eurovision weekend – a quarter are visiting friends or family in the UK

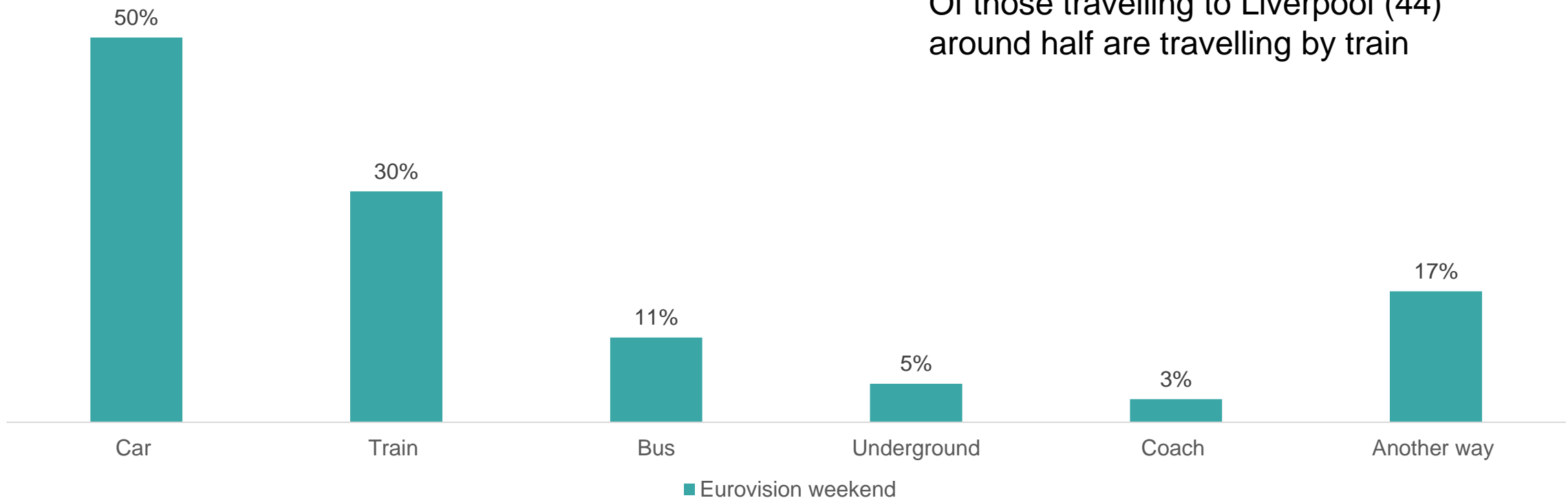
One in ten are going to Liverpool. London and organised events in other cities are also mentioned. For some it coincides with holiday plans abroad.



Base: all those travelling over the Eurovision weekend (390)

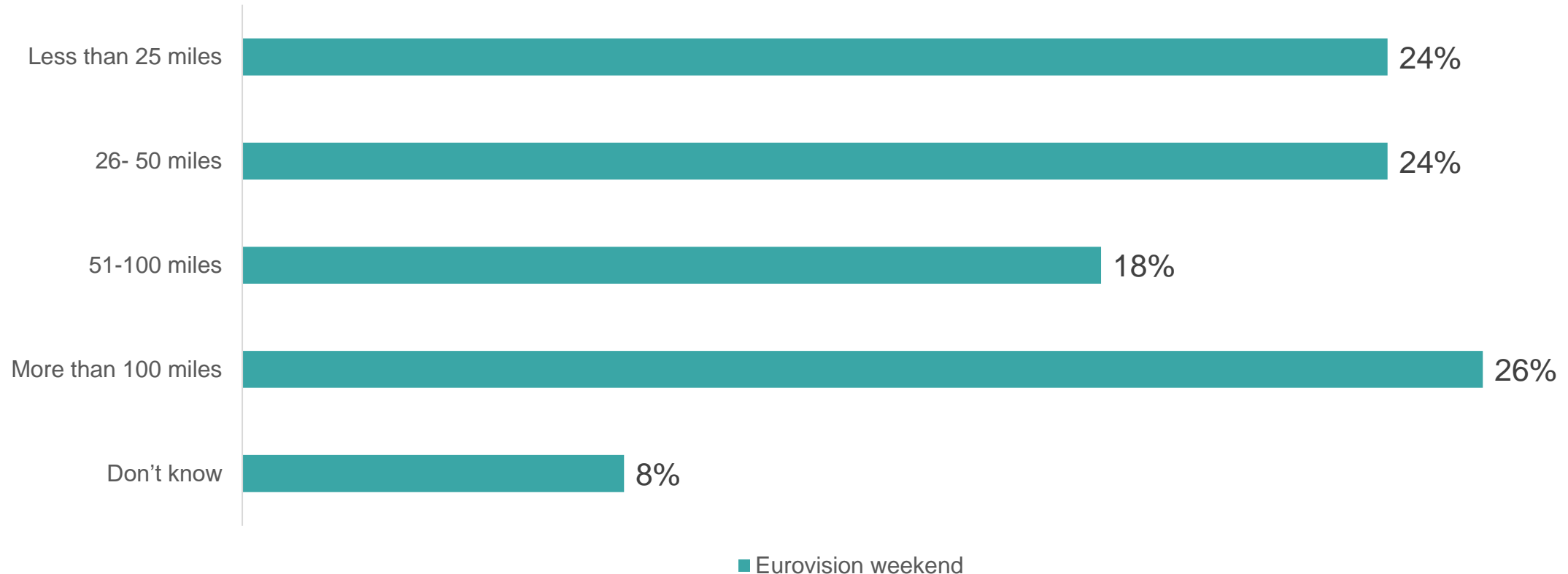
Half are planning to use the roads and a third are using the train to travel over the Eurovision weekend

Of those travelling to Liverpool (44) around half are travelling by train



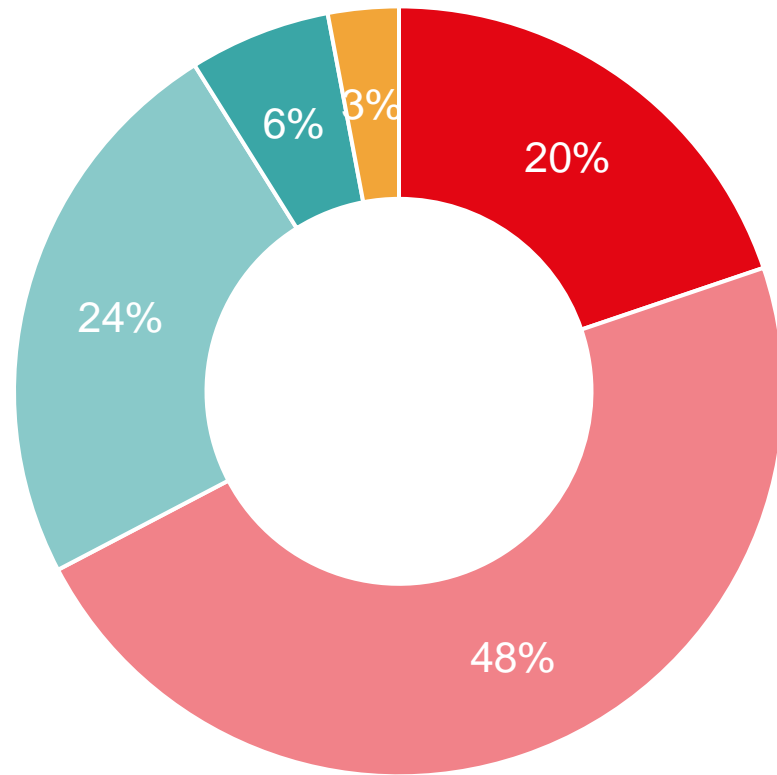
Base: all those travelling over the Eurovision weekend (390)

Half are planning to travel 50 miles or less over the Eurovision weekend



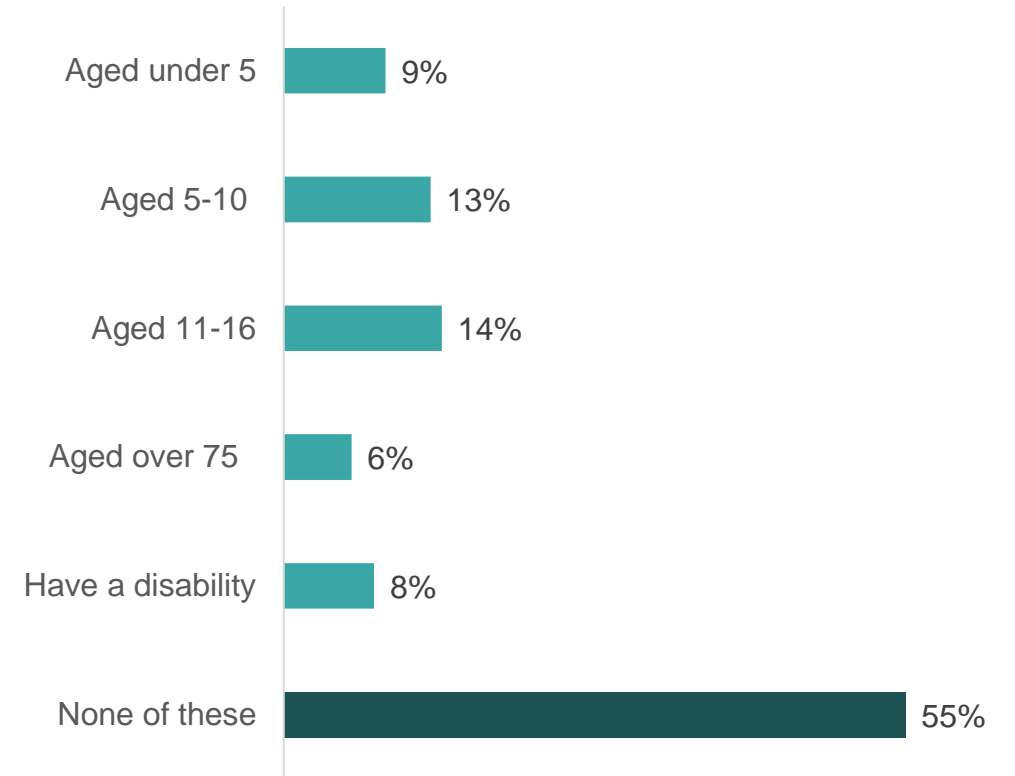
Base: all those travelling over the Eurovision weekend (390)

Two thirds are travelling alone or with one other person. The majority do not have children or elderly or disabled people in their group.



■ Alone ■ With 1 other ■ With 2 or 3 others ■ In a group ■ Don't know

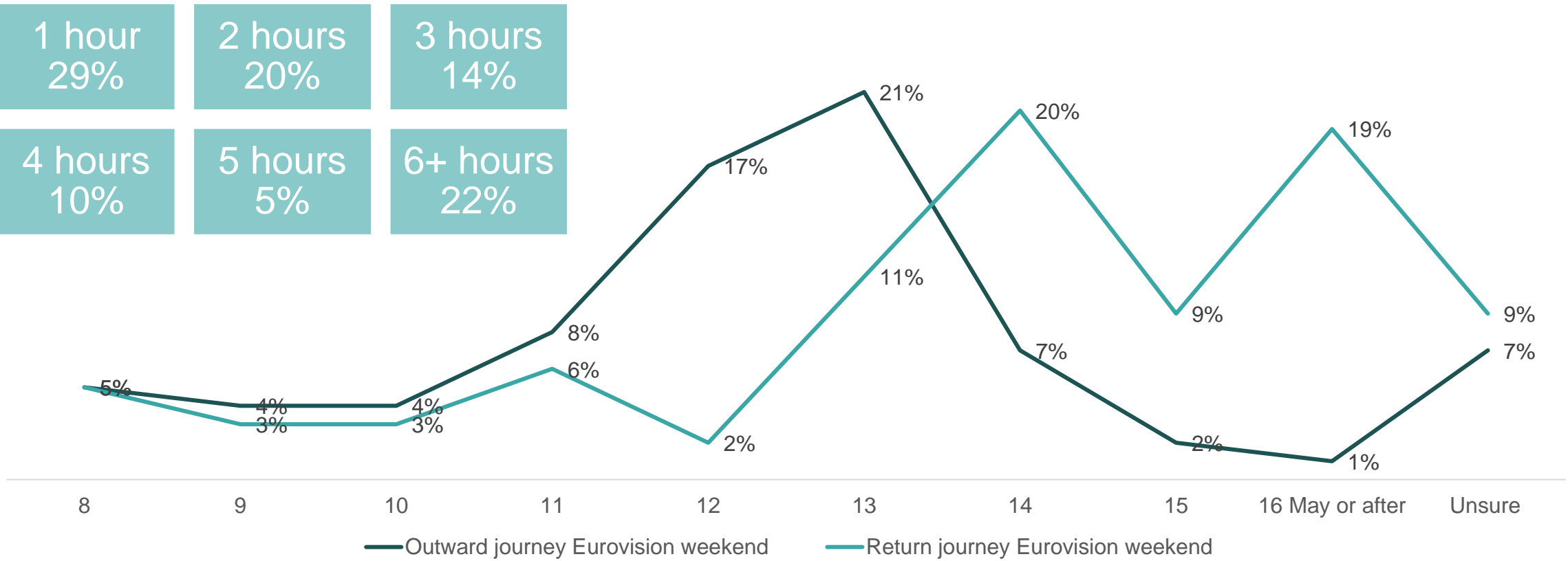
Base: all those travelling over the Eurovision weekend (390)



12 and 13 May are most common dates for outward travel over Eurovision.
Return travel is spread more evenly through the week.

Expected journey time

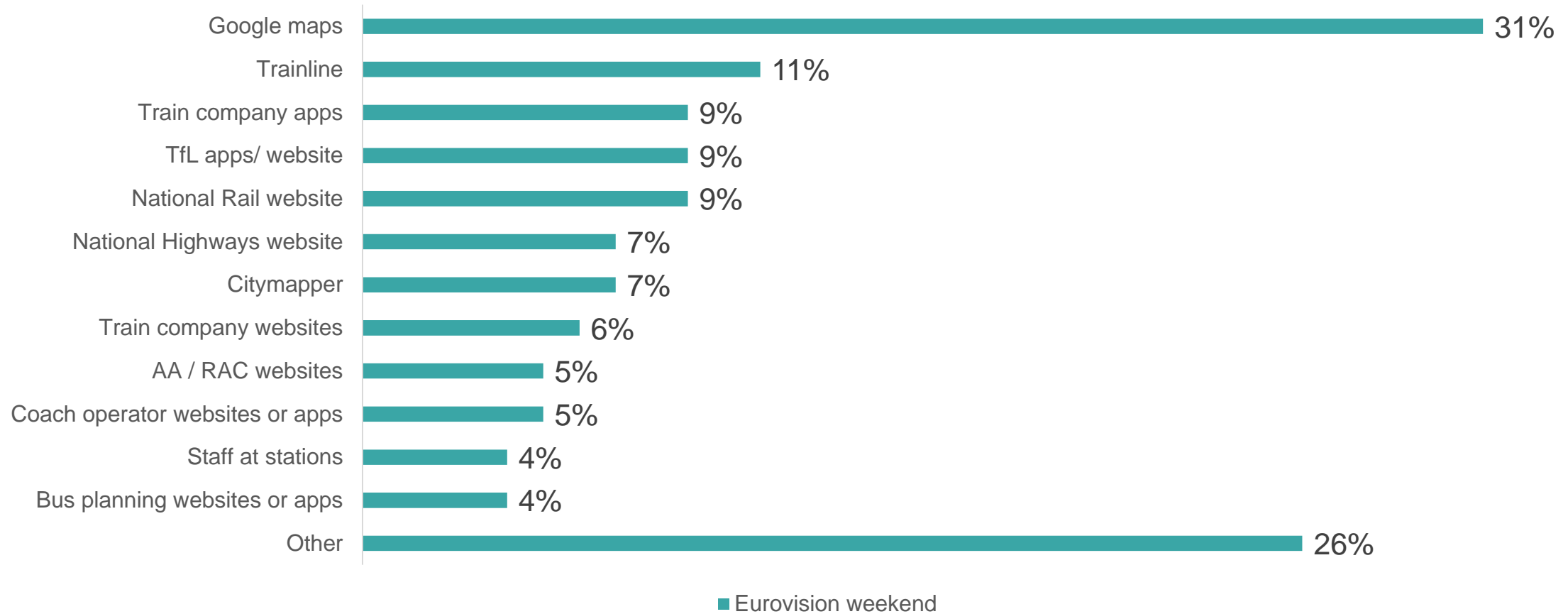
1 hour 29%	2 hours 20%	3 hours 14%
4 hours 10%	5 hours 5%	6+ hours 22%



Base: all those travelling over the Eurovision weekend (390)

Note: some mentioned that they were travelling on dates before the 8 May – but are not shown in this chart

Google maps is the most used way to plan travel in the Eurovision weekend



Base: all those travelling over the Eurovision weekend (390)

Three in ten of those travelling by train have booked their tickets and most others plan to buy ahead for the Eurovision weekend

Outward travel is generally planned in the morning and the return through the day

Rail ticket purchase?

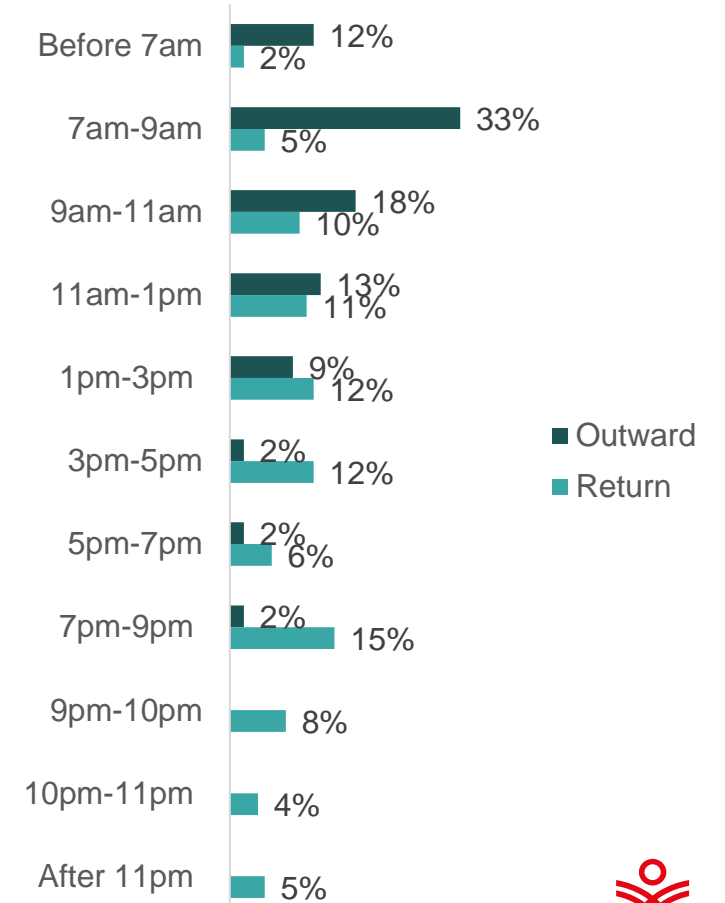
Not booked but will buy a few weeks ahead
35%

Already booked tickets
31%

Not booked but will buy few days ahead
23%

Plan to buy tickets on the day
5%

Of those who have booked tickets (36), even split between those booking advance and flexible tickets



Base: those who are planning to travel by train over the Eurovision weekend (119)

Survey questions

Q1 We would like to know about your plans for two weekends in May. They are the Coronation weekend of 6 May and the Eurovision Song Contest finals of 13 May. For each ...which statement best applies

Definitely travelling somewhere that weekend and have made all my arrangements

Definitely travelling somewhere but have not yet made all my arrangements

Definitely staying at home

I have not made up my mind what I am doing. Perhaps staying at home and perhaps travelling somewhere

Q2 Where are you planning to travel to in the weekend of?

Q3 How are you planning to travel there?

Q4 Approximately how far away is the place you are travelling to from where you live?

Q5 Are you travelling alone or with other people?

Q6 And are you or anyone you are travelling with... tick all that apply

Aged under 5 /Aged 5-10 /Aged 11-16 /Aged >75 /Have a disability None of these

Q7 Which day are you planning to make this journey to

Q8 And which day are you planning to come back?

Q9 How long are you expecting the journey to take?

Q10 Which sources of information have you used to plan your journey?

Q11 What are you expecting the journey on the [Coronation / Eurovision] weekend to be like? OPEN ENDED

Q12 Thinking about your train tickets, which of these applies for the journey on the... ? Already booked tickets /Not booked tickets will buy a few weeks before the day of travel /Not booked tickets will buy a few days before the day of travel /Planning to buy tickets on the day /Don't need to buy

ticket (I have a pass or season ticket)

Q13 And have you booked tickets which can only be used on particular trains or tickets that can be used on different trains (peak, off-peak or super-off peak)?

Q14 And have you booked reserved seats?

Q15 Approximately what time are the trains you are planning to get?

Q16 How are you expecting to travel around in London?

Q17 How will you keep yourself informed about potential station closures / road closures / buses being rerouted or other changes to services as you travel around in London?

Q18 Are there any suggestions you would like to make about how the entire transport network (public transport and the road network) can assist people who wish to travel for the Coronation or the Eurovision finals.

Contact

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Passengers' Council