

8 September
2023

Edition 18

Rail User Survey



Introduction



The Rail User Survey asks a representative sample of people in Great Britain about their experience of travelling by rail in the last seven days.

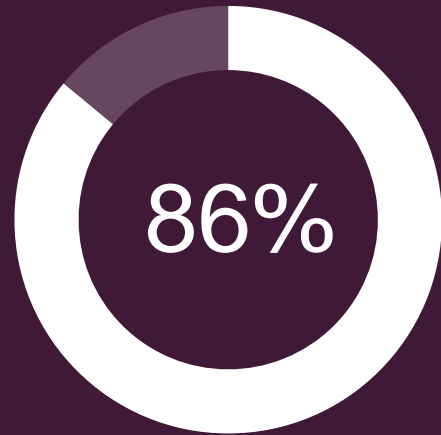
For those that have used rail, the survey asks their journey purpose and how satisfied they were with the overall journey and with aspects such as value for money, punctuality and cleanliness.

In a typical survey we get this satisfaction information from around 250 people.

We survey passengers every other weekend and report results every four weeks, combining two survey waves. Further details on how we carried out this survey are available on page 31.

This survey is also used to produce a report every six months showing satisfaction for each train operating company (where sample size allows).

Rail headlines



86% of rail passengers were satisfied with their journey overall

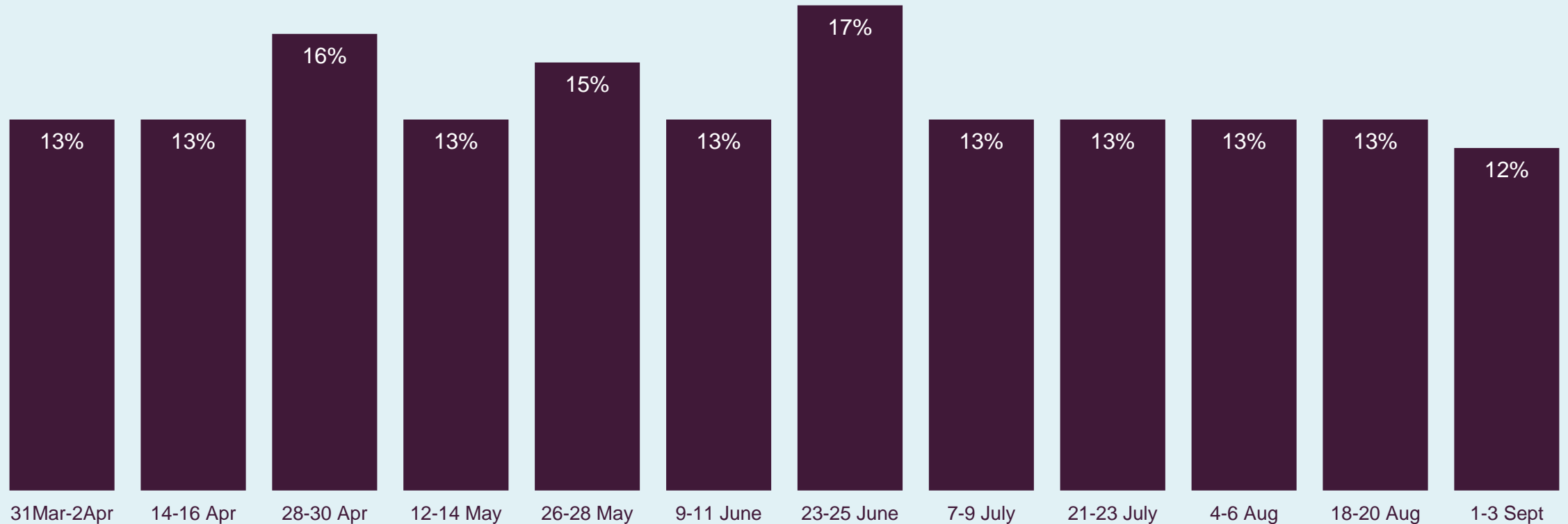


Satisfaction with information on how busy the train would be has dropped from 65% to 60% this report

Rail usage levels



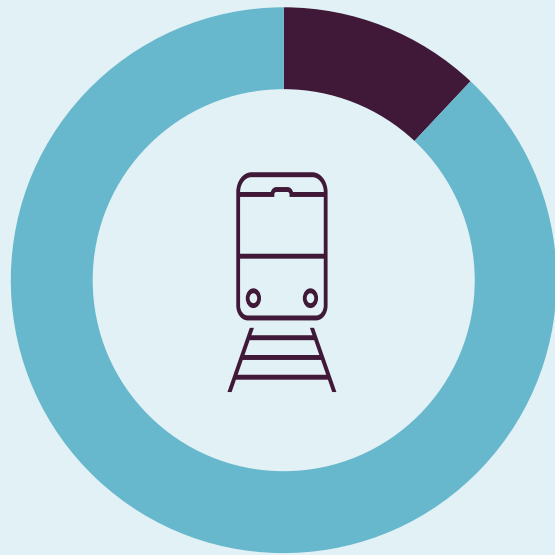
Proportion using rail in last seven days over time



8 September 2023 report. Rail use is defined as having travelled by rail within seven days of being surveyed. Base size around 2000 per survey.

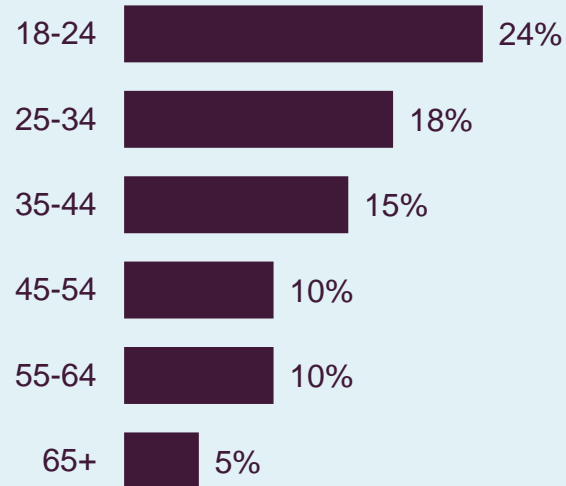
Proportion using rail in the last seven days

All Great Britain



12%

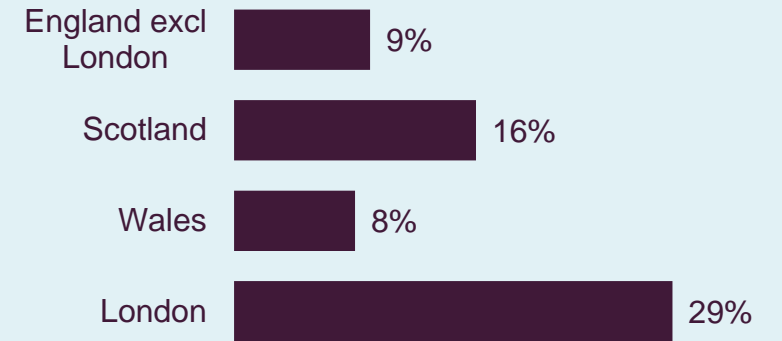
Age



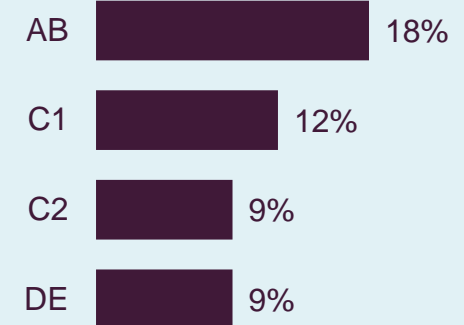
Gender



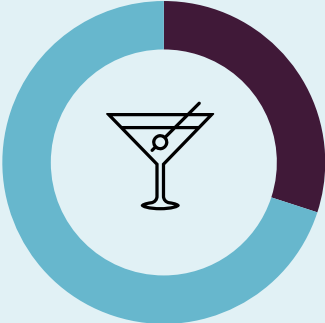
Region



Social grade



Main purpose of rail journey



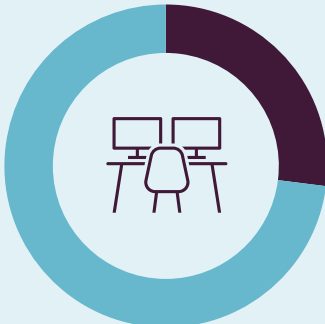
Leisure/eating out/non-essential shopping
30%



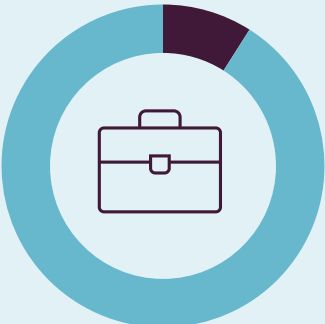
Friends/family
25%



Essential shopping
2%



Commuting
27%



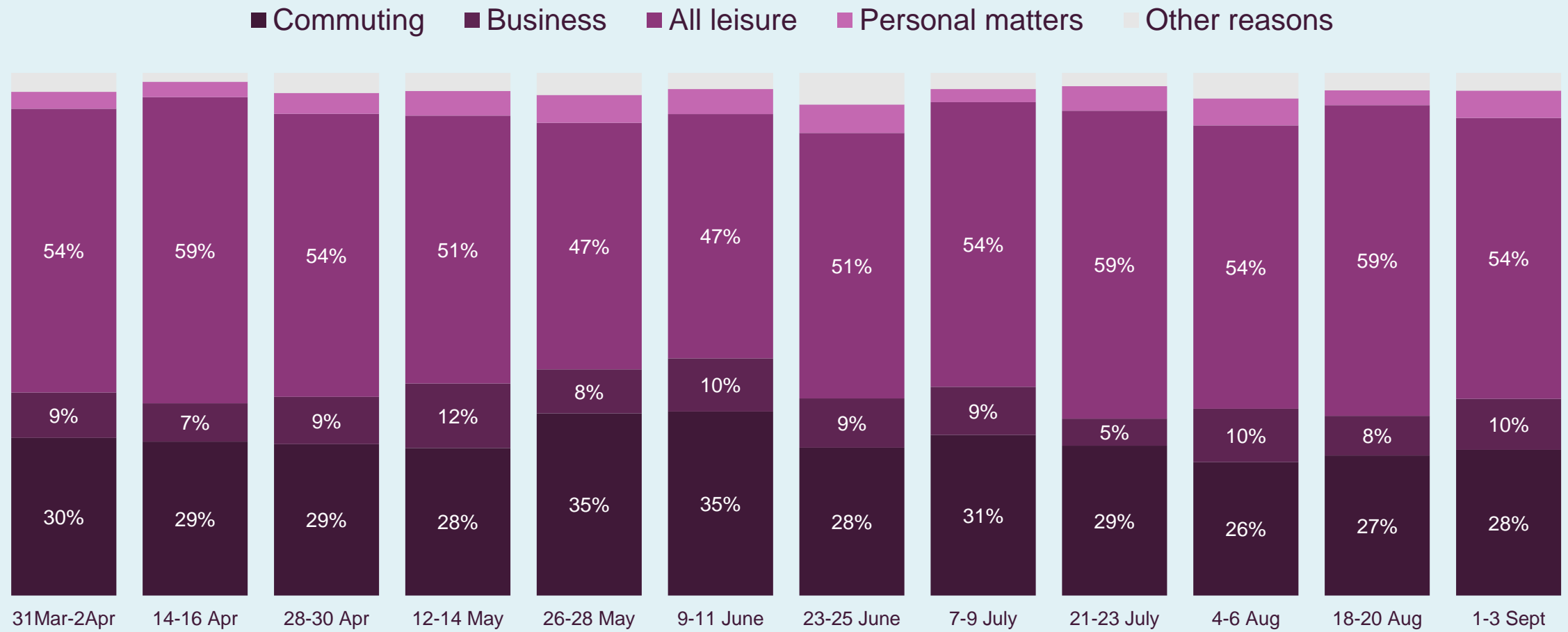
Work travel
9%



Personal matters
4%

8 September 2023 report. Charts are based on the most recent train journey made within seven days of being surveyed and show the average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base size: all rail users - 517. Note that sum of the journey purposes may not add to 100 per cent as some have listed 'other reason'.

Main purpose of journey over time

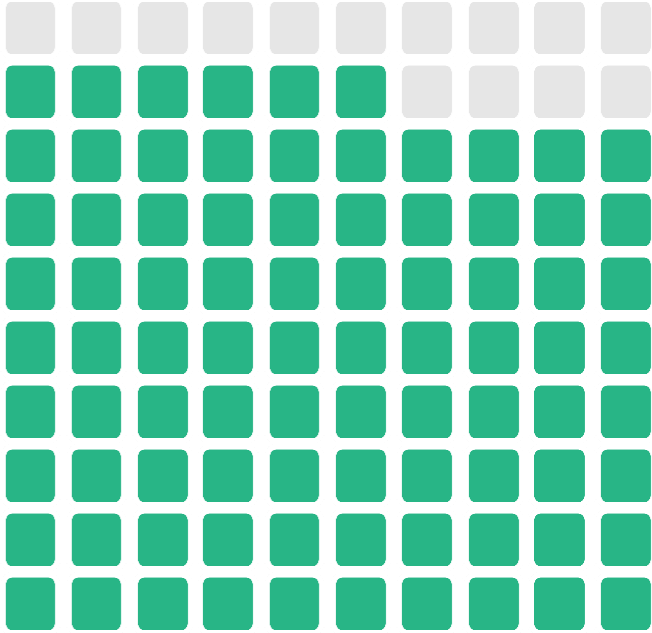


8 September 2023 report. Chart is based on the most recent train journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Base size: all rail users, average of 275 per survey. All leisure includes: leisure/eating out/non-essential shopping; essential shopping; and friends/family.

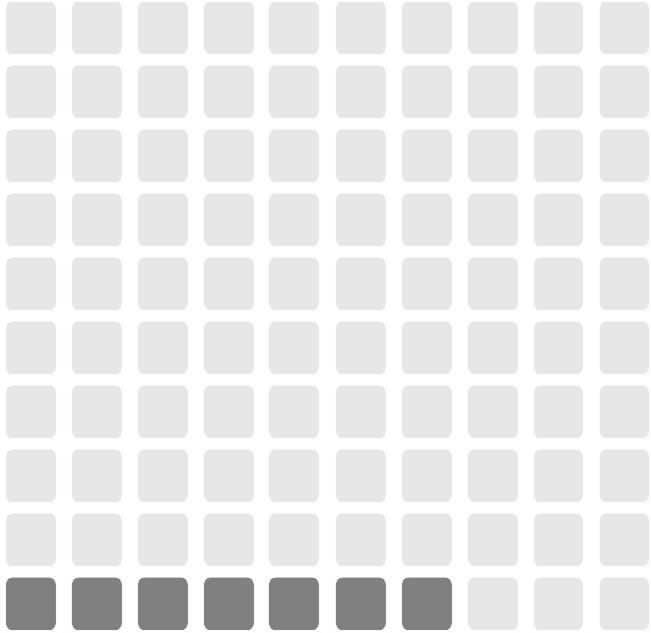
Rail satisfaction



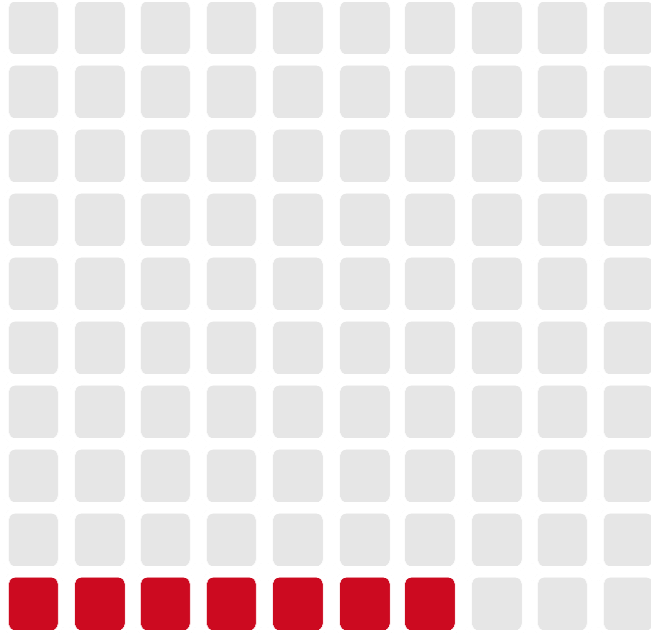
Overall satisfaction with rail journey



86%
satisfied



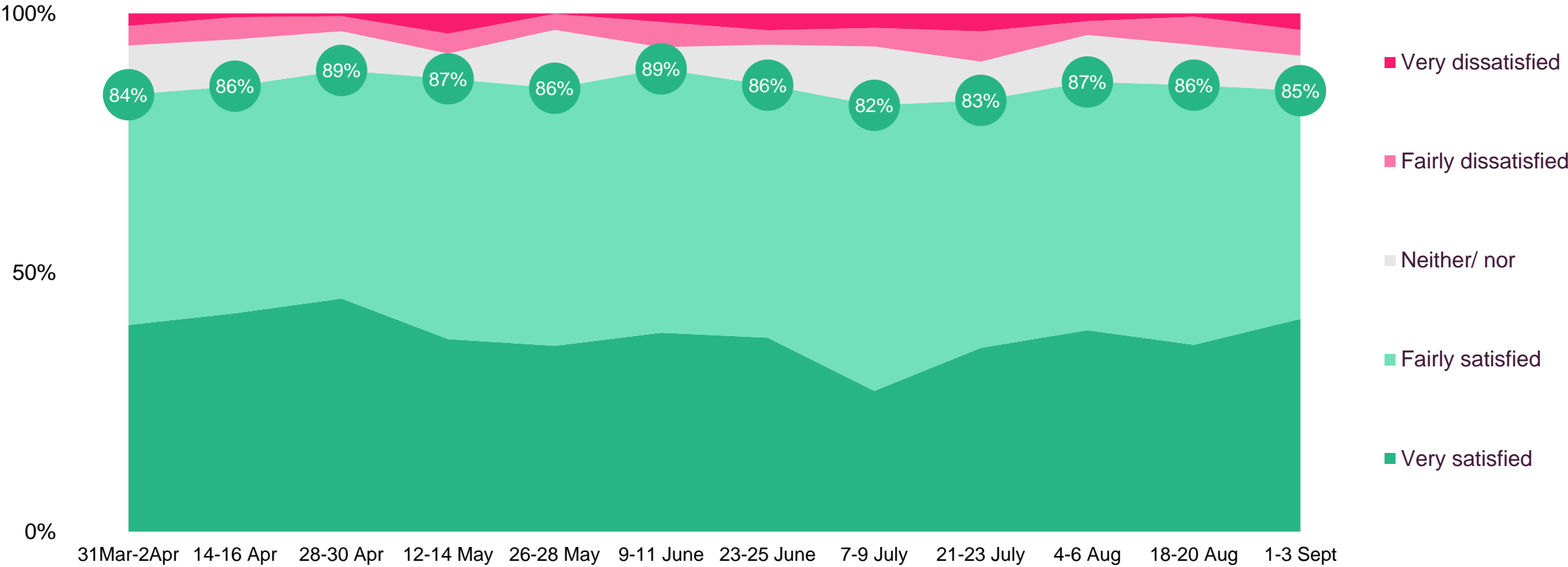
7%
neither/nor



7%
dissatisfied

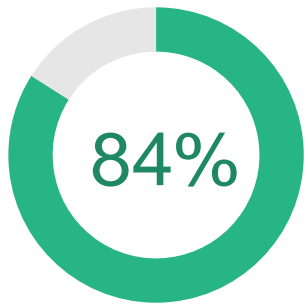
8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent train journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base size: 517.

Overall satisfaction with rail journey

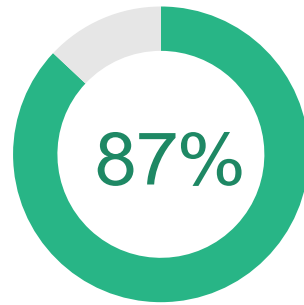


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent train journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Base sizes range from 251 to 341

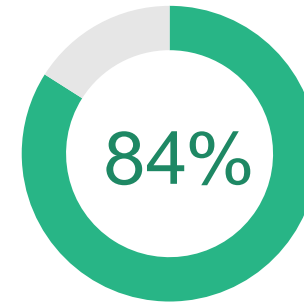
Overall satisfaction by journey purpose, gender and age



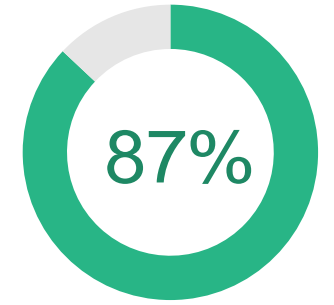
Commute



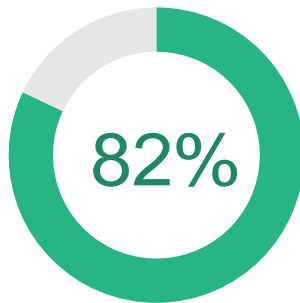
All leisure



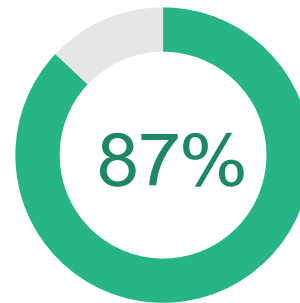
Men



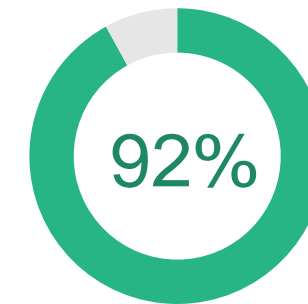
Women



Aged 18-34



Aged 35-54

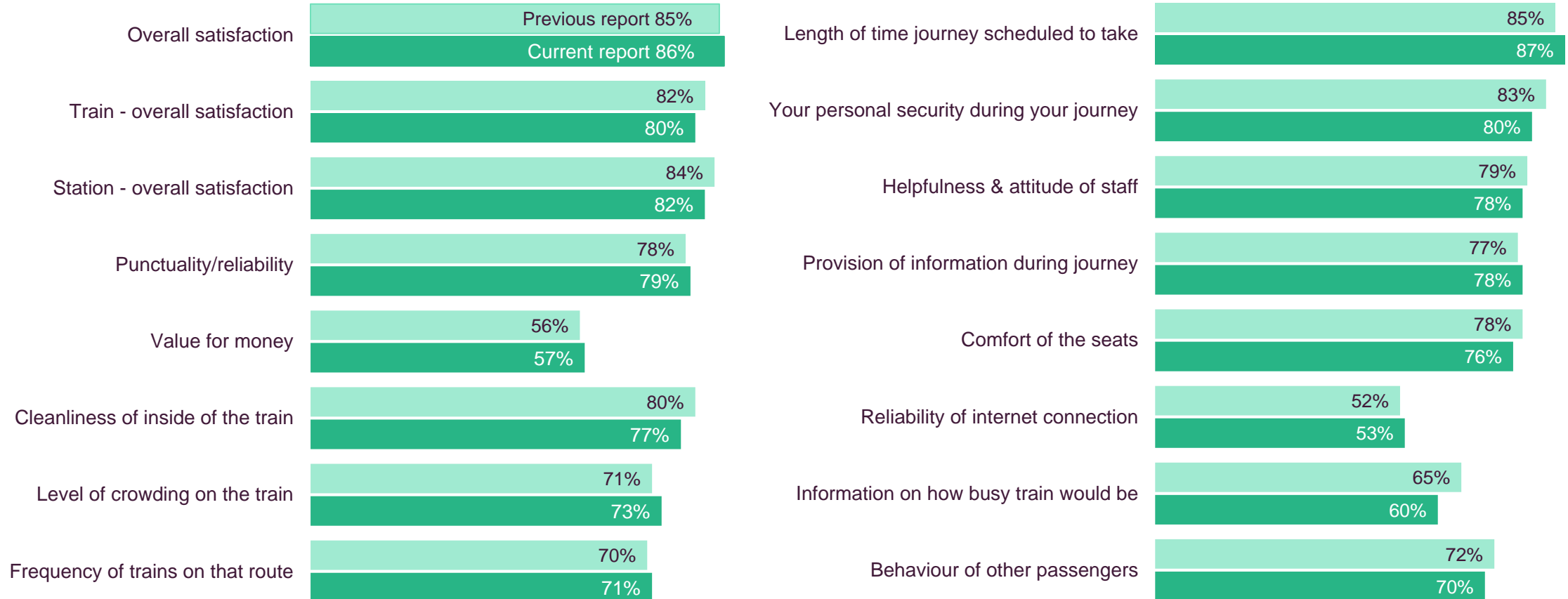


Aged 55 and over

8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes vary by chart ranging between 120 and 300 'All leisure' combines answers from 'Leisure/eating out/non-essential shopping', 'Visiting friends/family' and 'Essential shopping'.

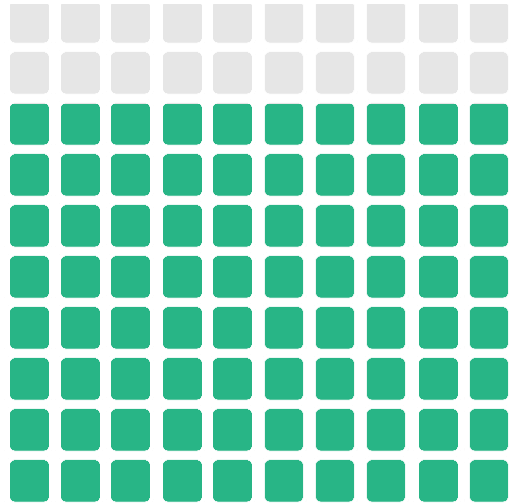
**Satisfaction
with aspects
of rail journey**

Change in satisfaction levels since last report

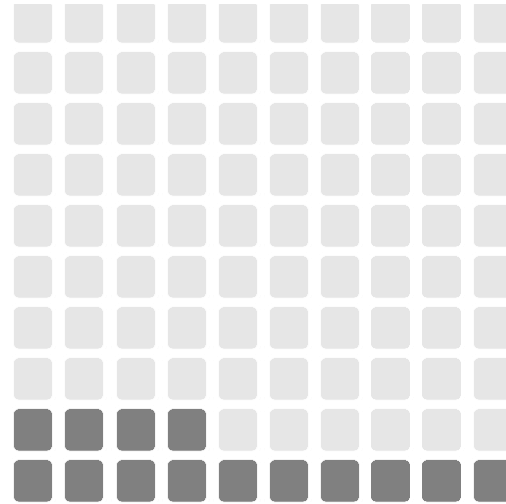


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent train journey made within seven days of being surveyed. The current satisfaction values are the average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks; the 'previous report' values are the average of the three surveys conducted in the previous four weeks. Base sizes per aspect vary; current report from 389 to 517, previous report from 438 to 539.

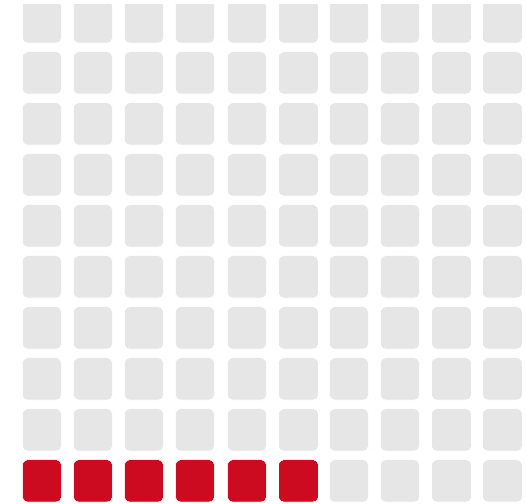
Satisfaction with the train overall



80%
satisfied



14%
neither/nor

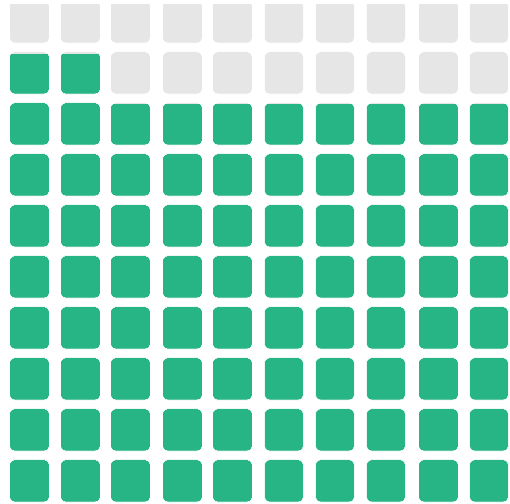


6%
dissatisfied

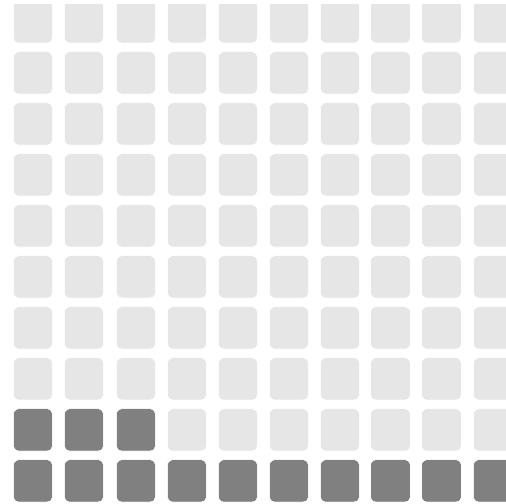


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 516; trend chart range from 250 to 341 per survey.

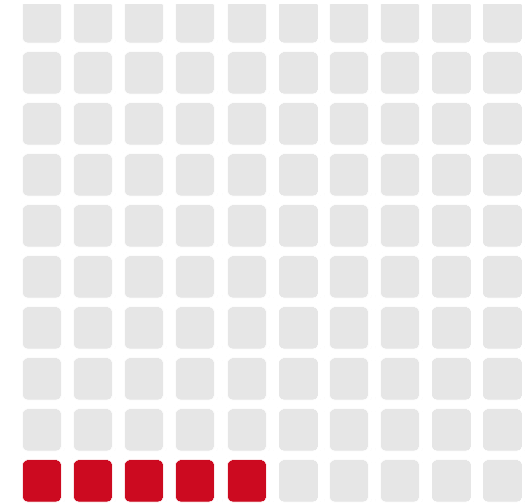
Satisfaction with the station



82%
satisfied



13%
neither/nor



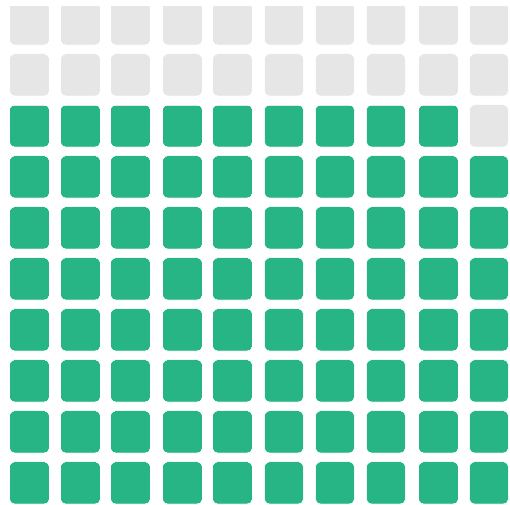
5%
dissatisfied



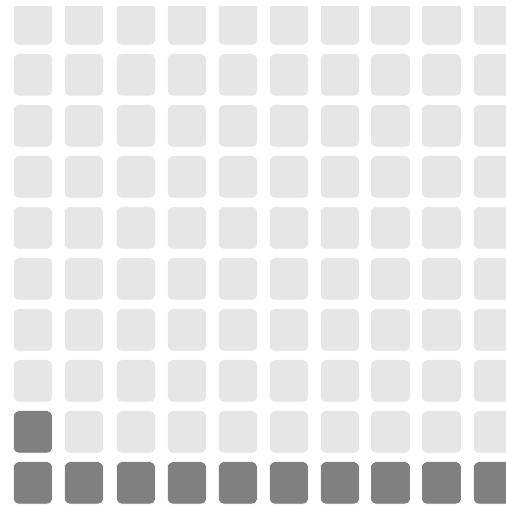
31Mar-2Apr 14-16 Apr 28-30 Apr 12-14 May 26-28 May 9-11 June 23-25 June 7-9 July 21-23 July 4-6 Aug 18-20 Aug 1-3 Sept

8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 516; trend chart range from 250 to 340 per survey.

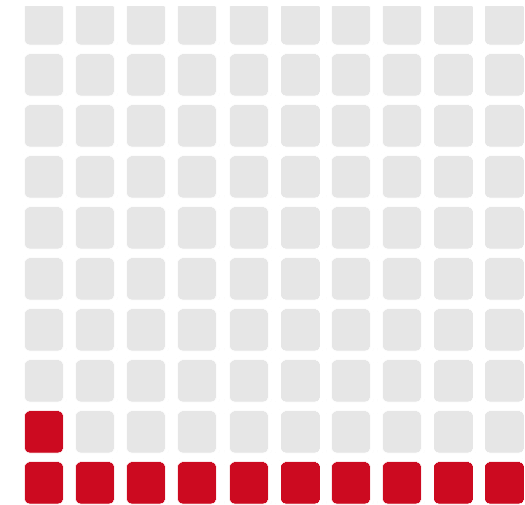
Satisfaction with punctuality/reliability



79%
satisfied



11%
neither/nor

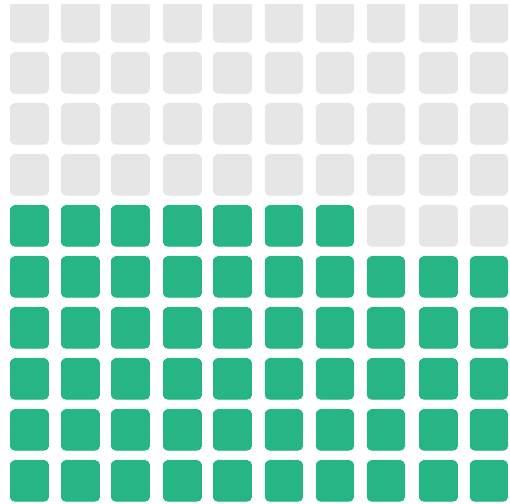


11%
dissatisfied

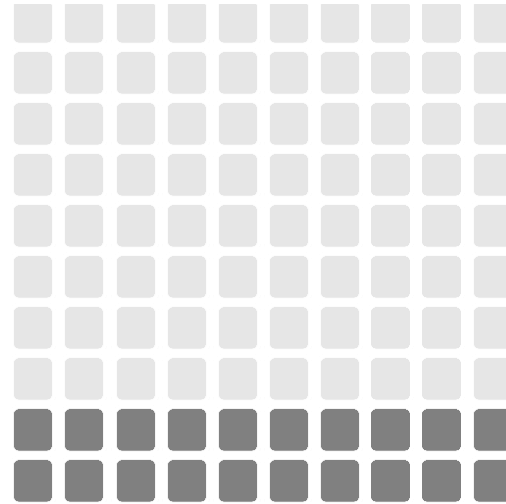


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 517; trend chart range from 250 to 340 per survey.

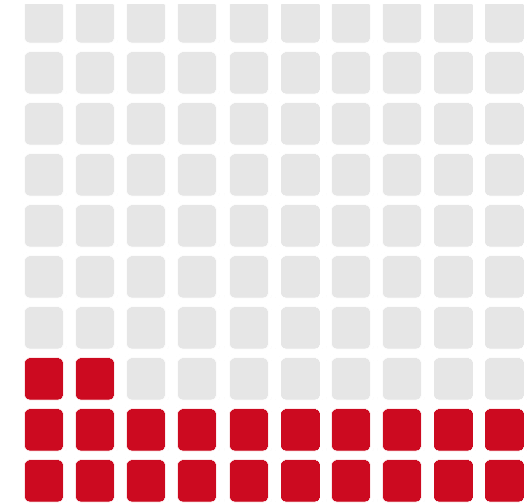
Satisfaction with value for money



57%
satisfied



20%
neither/nor

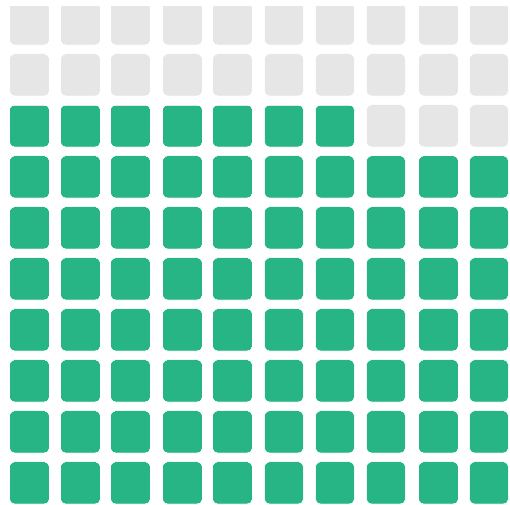


22%
dissatisfied

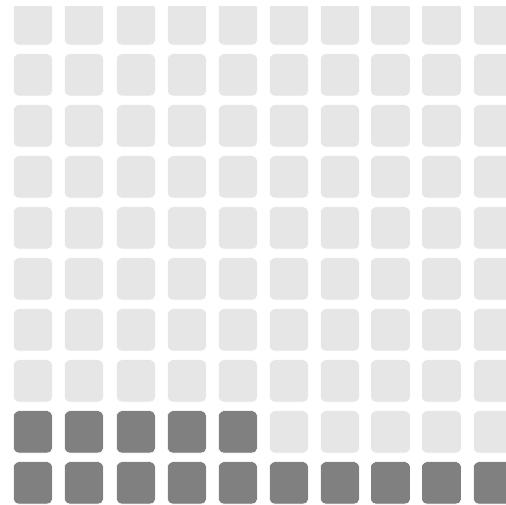


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 507; trend chart range from 238 to 334 per survey.

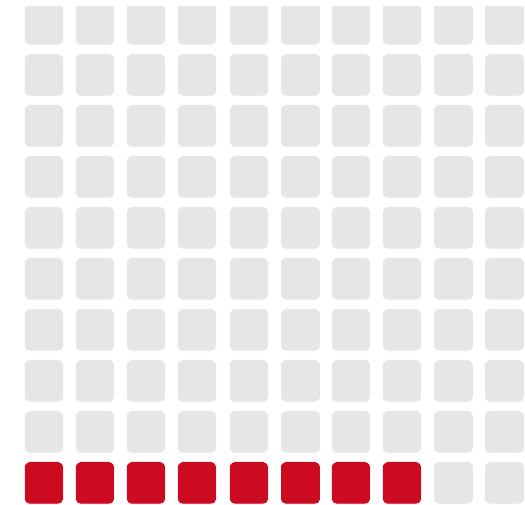
Satisfaction with cleanliness of the inside of the train



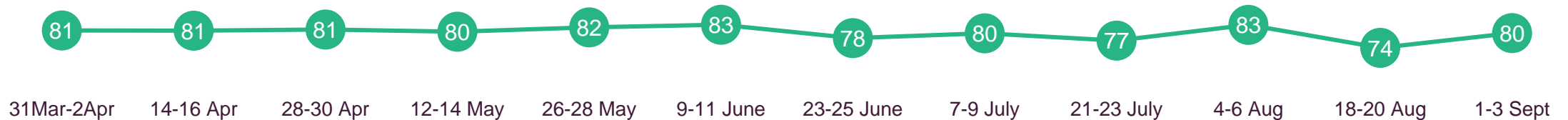
77%
satisfied



15%
neither/nor

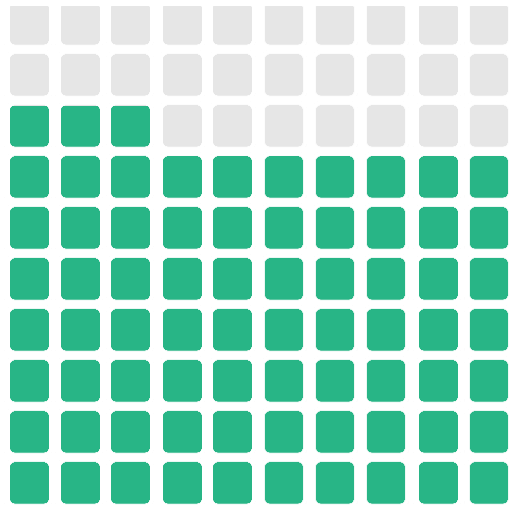


8%
dissatisfied

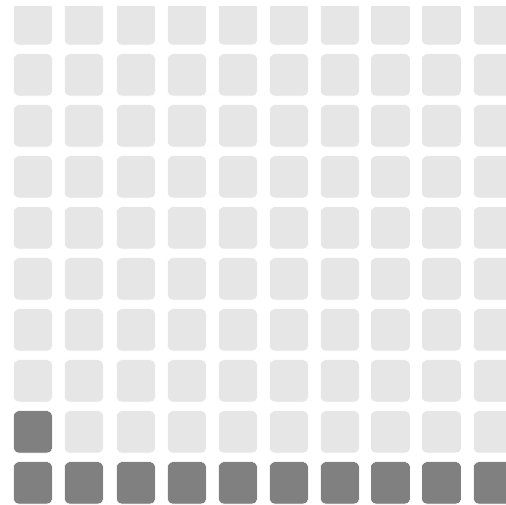


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 516; trend chart range from 250 to 341 per survey.

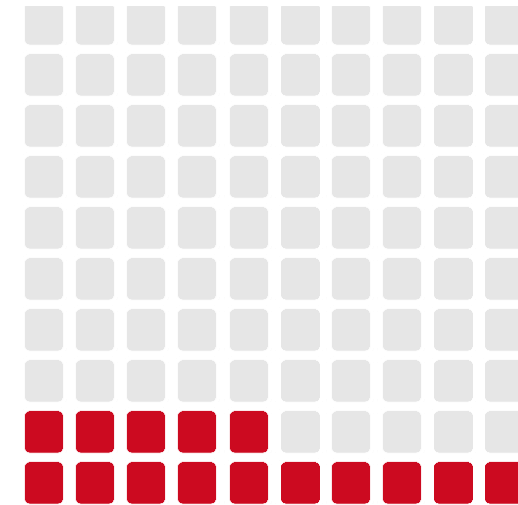
Satisfaction with level of crowding



73%
satisfied



11%
neither/nor

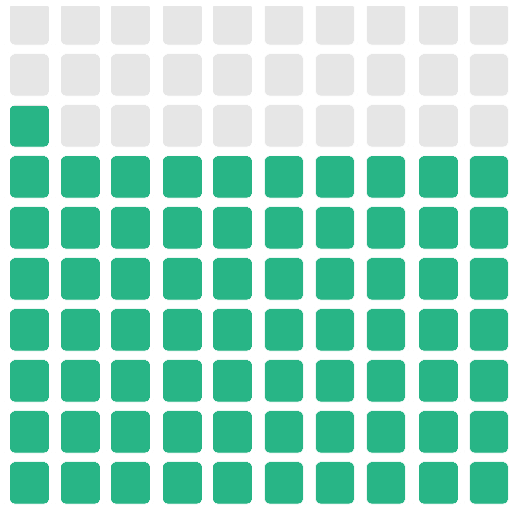


15%
dissatisfied

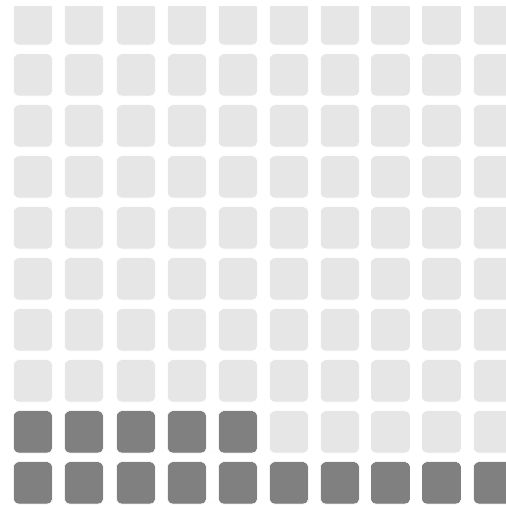


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 515; trend chart range from 251 to 339 per survey.

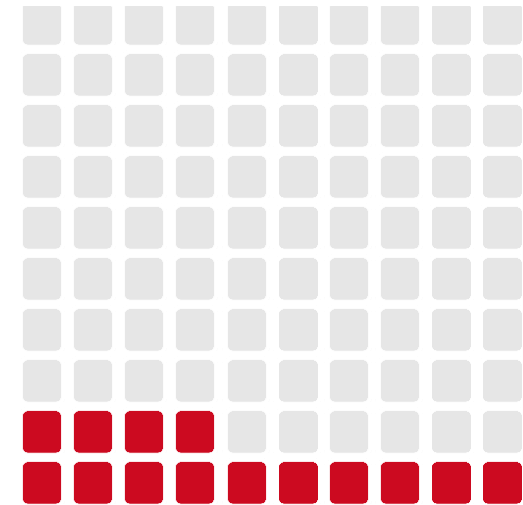
Satisfaction with frequency of trains on that route



71%
satisfied



15%
neither/nor

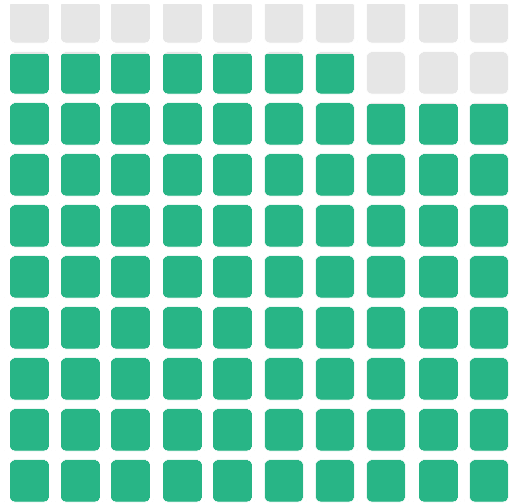


14%
dissatisfied

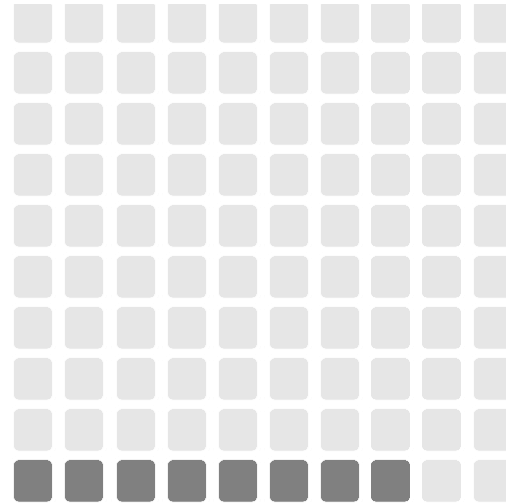


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 515; trend chart range from 251 to 339 per survey.

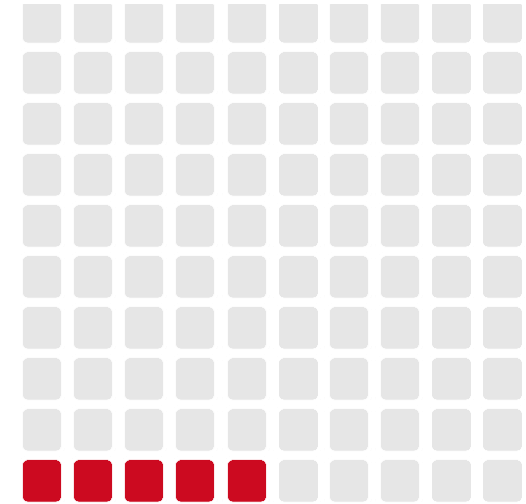
Satisfaction with scheduled journey time



87%
satisfied



8%
neither/nor

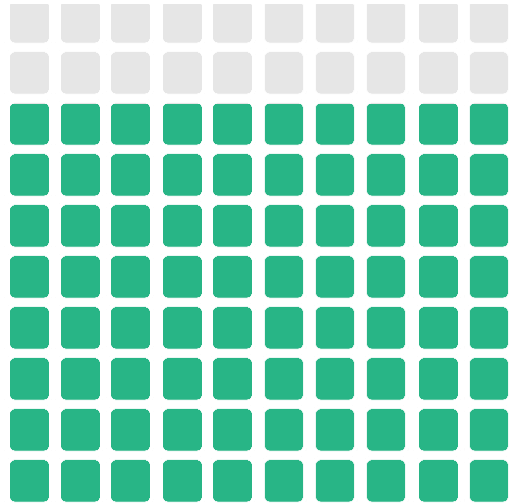


5%
dissatisfied

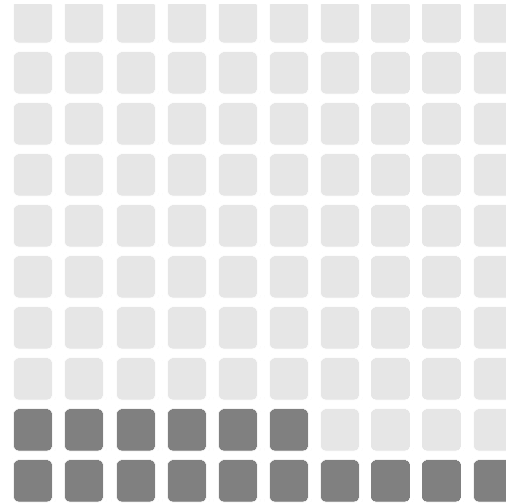


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 517; trend chart range from 251 to 340 per survey.

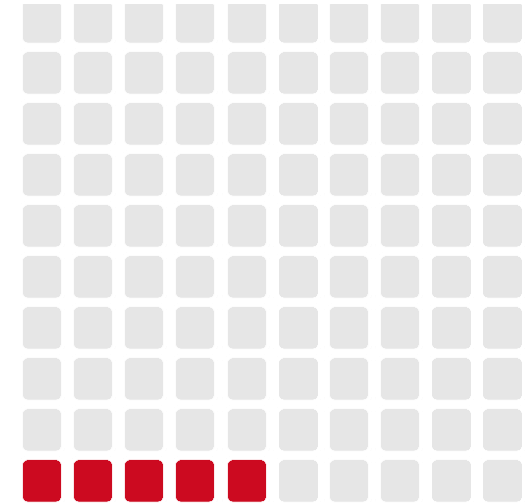
Satisfaction with personal security



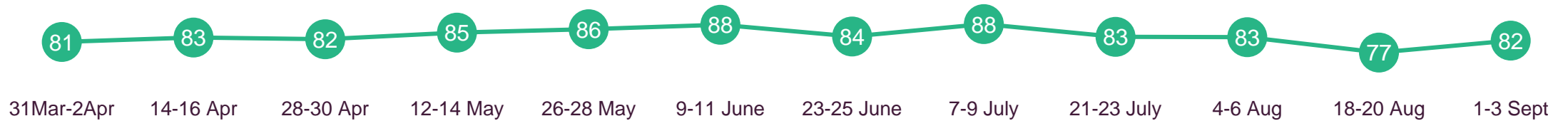
80%
satisfied



16%
neither/nor

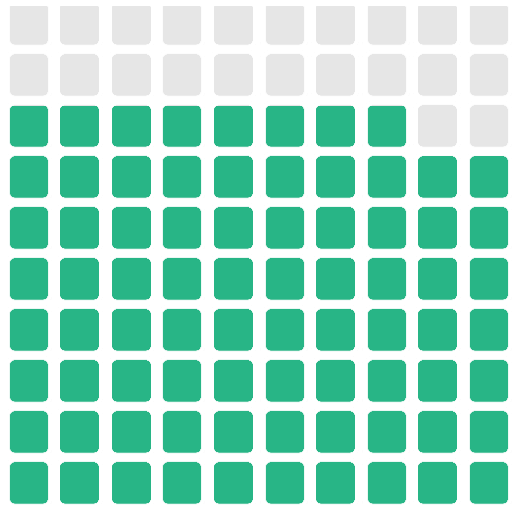


5%
dissatisfied

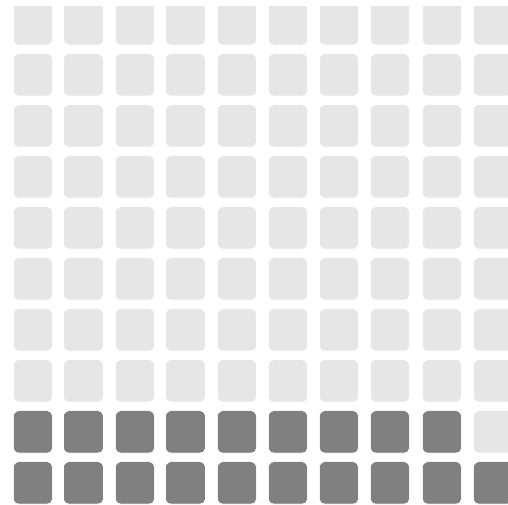


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 513; trend chart range from 249 to 338 per survey.

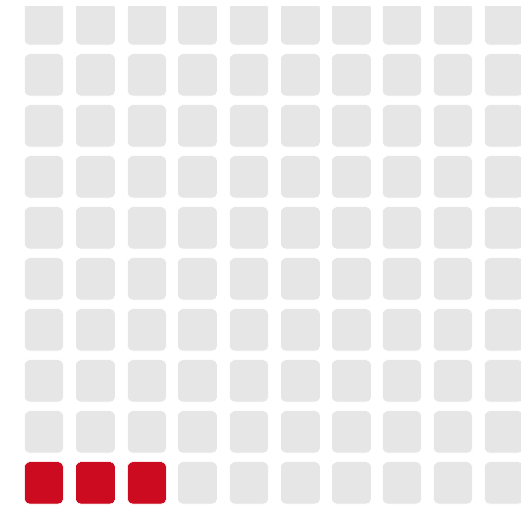
Satisfaction with helpfulness and attitude of staff



78%
satisfied



19%
neither/nor

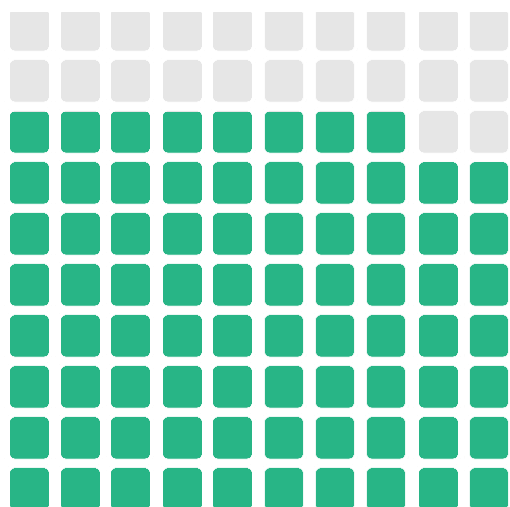


3%
dissatisfied

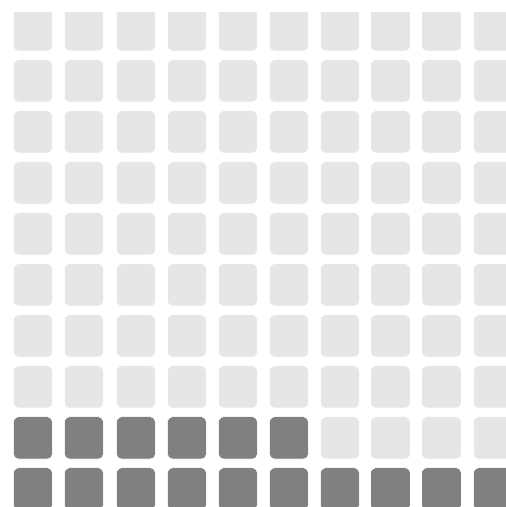


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 420; trend chart range from 191 to 290 per survey.

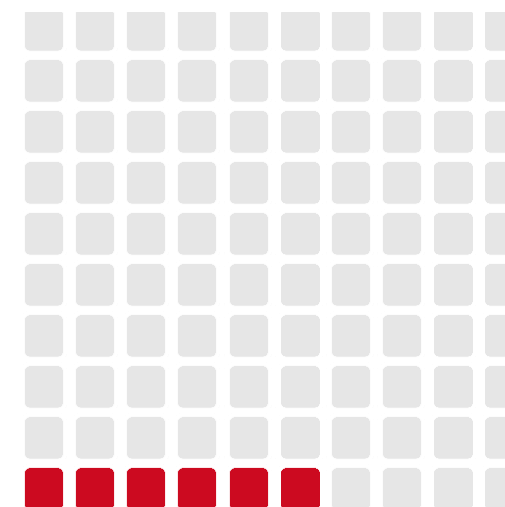
Satisfaction with information provided during the journey



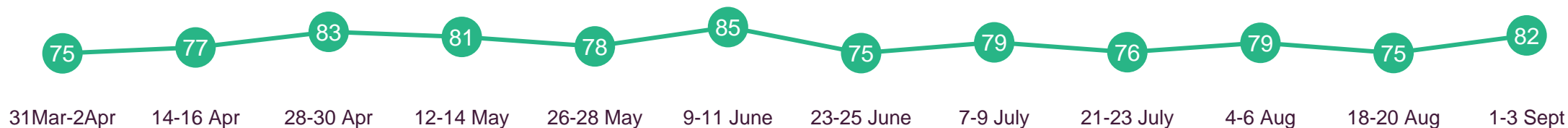
78%
satisfied



16%
neither/nor

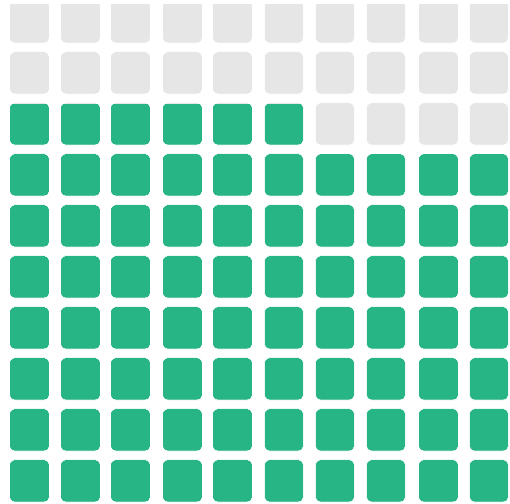


6%
dissatisfied

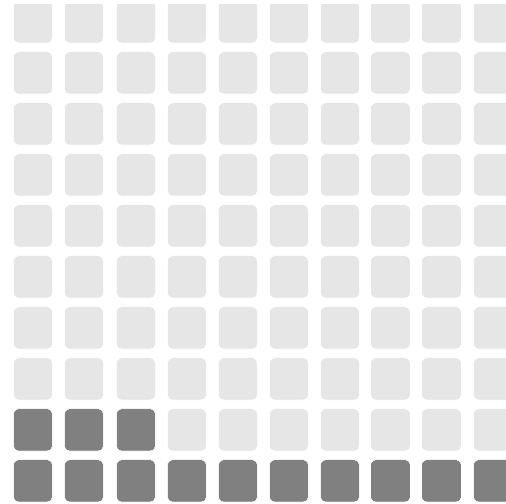


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 495; trend chart range from 240 to 324 per survey.

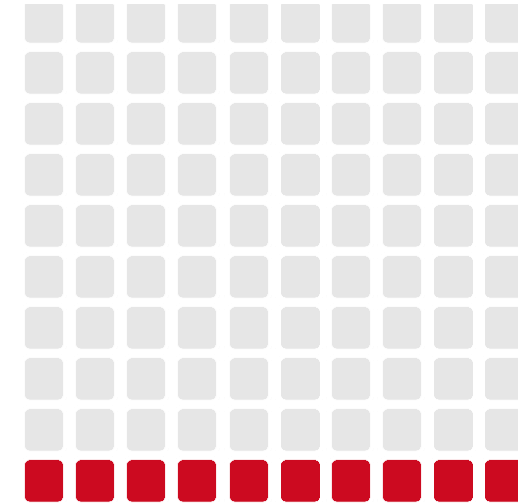
Satisfaction with comfort of the seats



76%
satisfied



13%
neither/nor

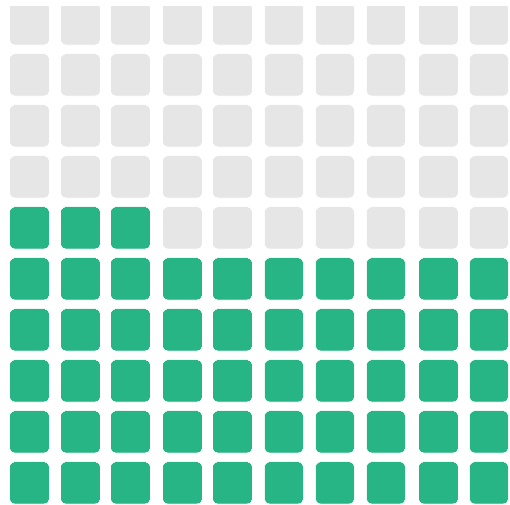


10%
dissatisfied

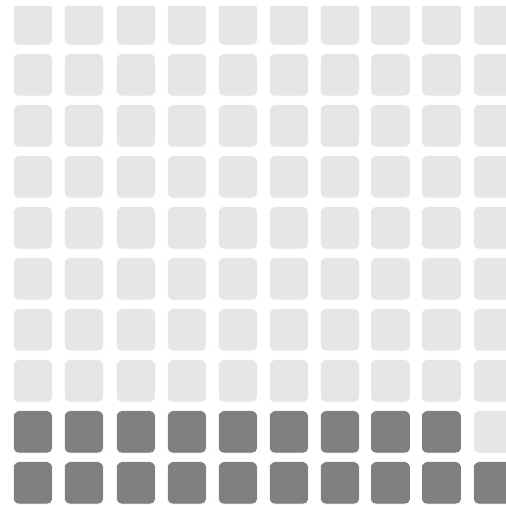


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 511; trend chart range from 244 to 337 per survey

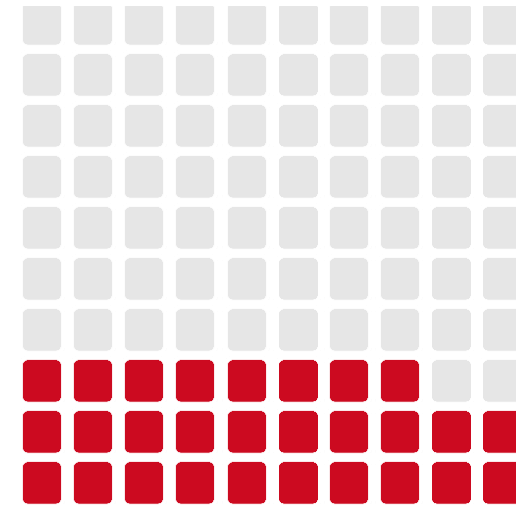
Satisfaction with reliability of the internet



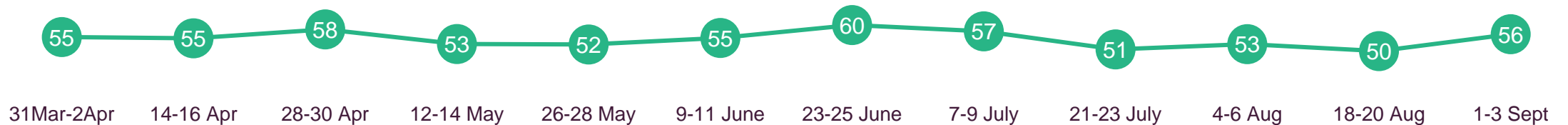
53%
satisfied



19%
neither/nor

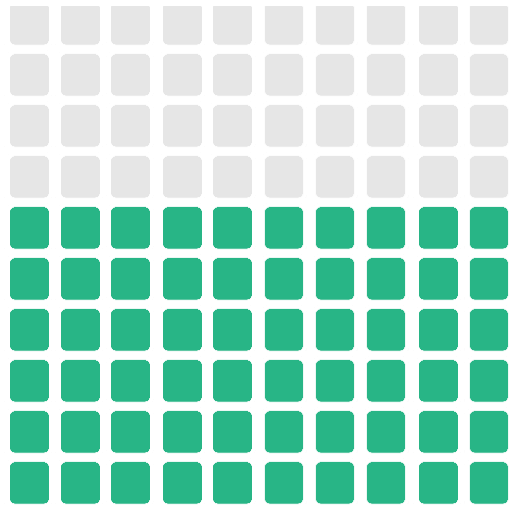


28%
dissatisfied

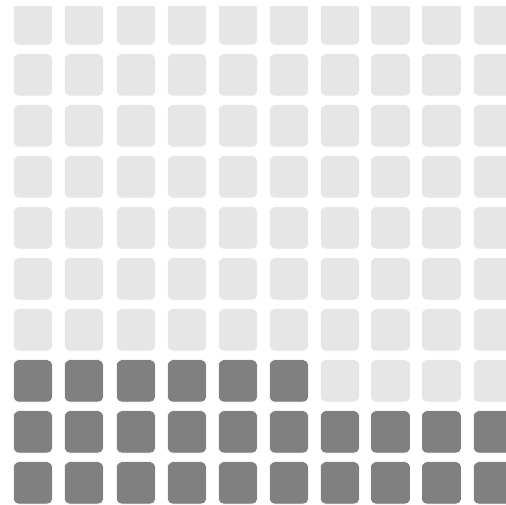


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 389; trend chart range from 180 to 253 per survey

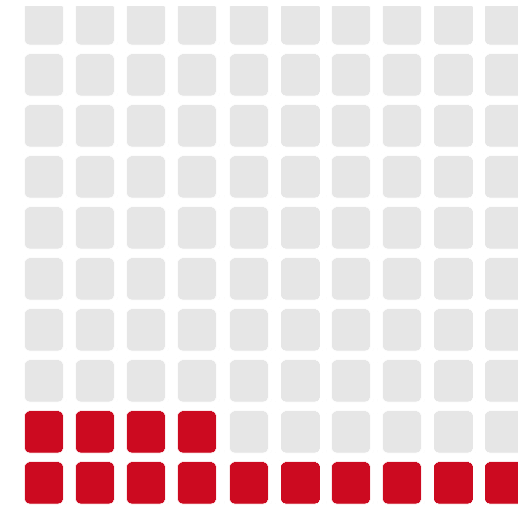
Satisfaction with information on how busy the train was before travelling



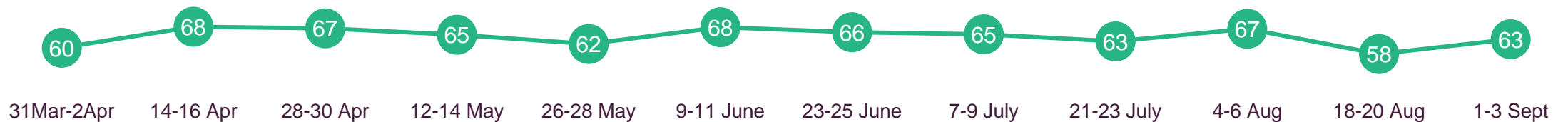
60%
satisfied



26%
neither/nor

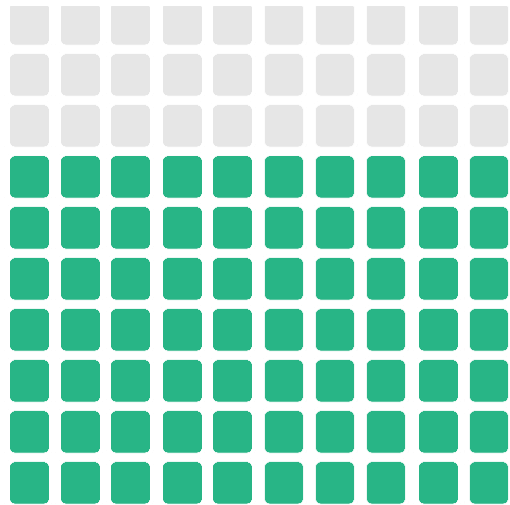


14%
dissatisfied

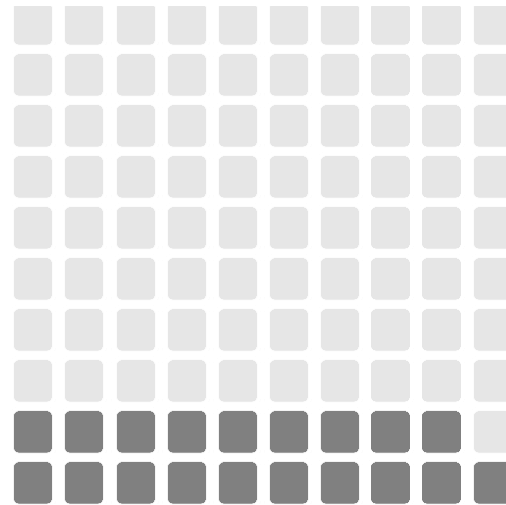


8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 440; trend chart range from 205 to 297 per survey.

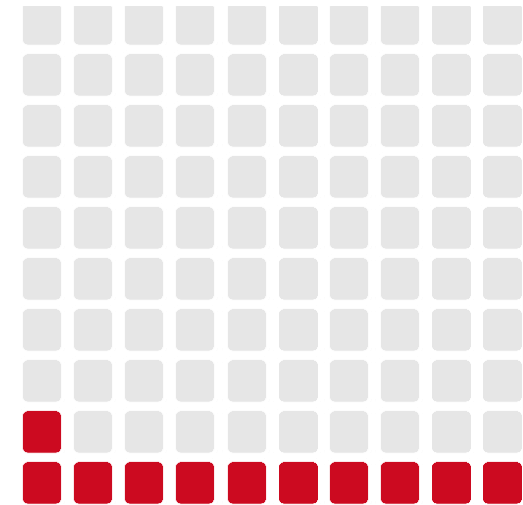
Satisfaction with other passengers' behaviour



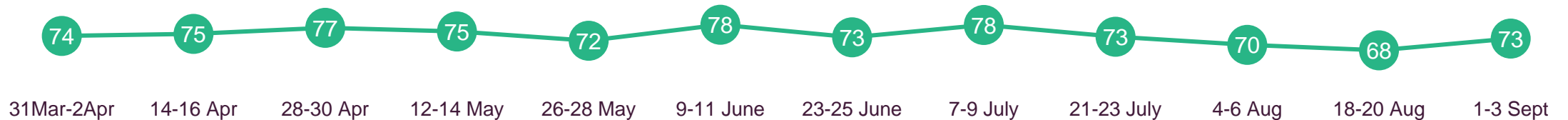
70%
satisfied



19%
neither/nor



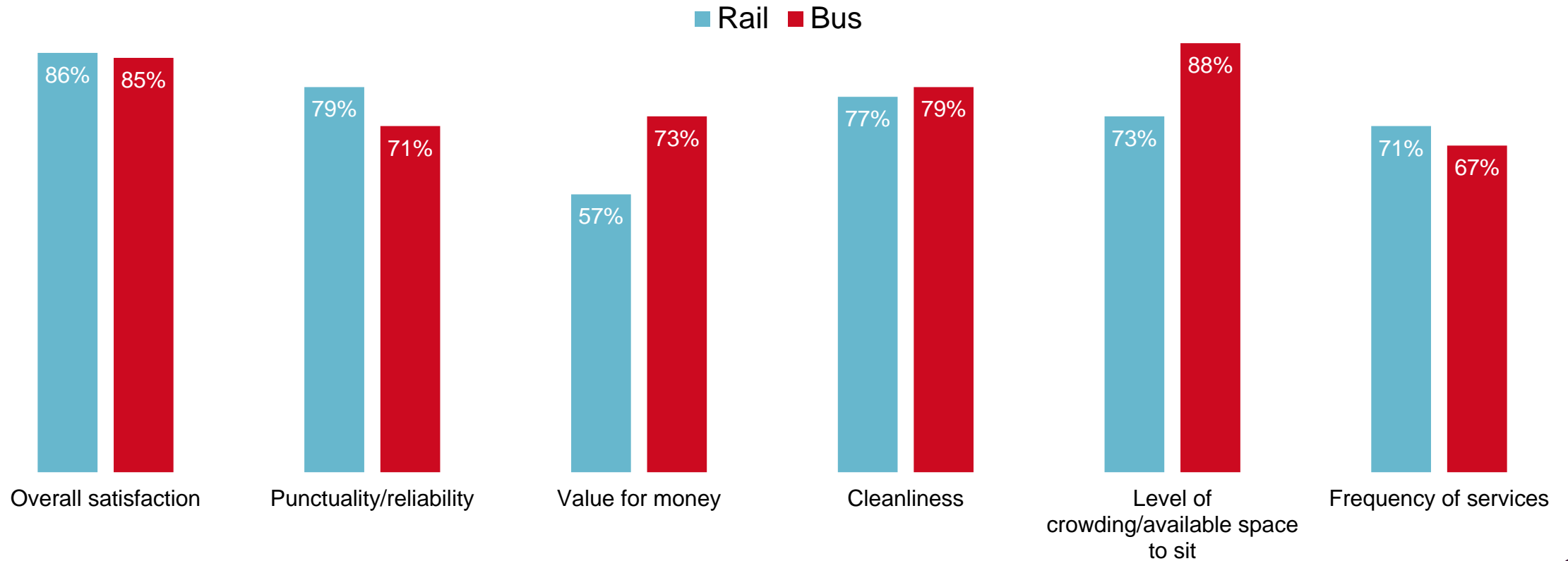
11%
dissatisfied



8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent rail journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Square charts show average of the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Base sizes: square charts 516; trend chart range from 250 to 340 per survey.

Rail to bus comparison

Rail passengers have higher satisfaction on punctuality and frequency of service but lower satisfaction with value for money and level of crowding



8 September 2023 report. Satisfaction questions are based on the most recent journey made within seven days of being surveyed. Rail and bus values are based on the two surveys conducted in the last four weeks. Rail base sizes vary from 507 to 517; bus base sizes from 561 to 680.

Methodology

Transport Focus's Rail User Survey runs every other weekend in Yonder Consulting's omnibus. In total approximately 2000 people per survey are screened to identify those who have made a rail journey (excluding London Underground) in the last seven days and the purpose of the journey. Users then answer questions about satisfaction with their journey. The total number of rail users we spoke to each week is shown in the table opposite with the dates of fieldwork. We report results every four weeks.

Yonder Consulting's omnibus is weighted to be nationally representative of the population of Great Britain. The analysis of satisfaction questions excludes those who say that the question is not applicable. The questions asked are on the next slide.

The omnibus survey asks questions about a variety of matters from a range of client organisations. Not all those interviewed through Yonder Consulting's omnibus are passengers on public transport. Numbers may not add up to 100 per cent, due to rounding.

	Fieldwork dates	Response numbers
Wave 77	31 March -2 April	261
Wave 78	14-16 April	251
Wave 79	28-30 April	310
Wave 80	12-14 May	279
Wave 81	26-28 May	293
Wave 82	9-11 June	253
Wave 83	23-25 June	341
Wave 84	7-9 July	268
Wave 85	21-23 July	268
Wave 86	4-6 August	271
Wave 87	18-20 Aug	266
Wave 88	1-3 Sept	251

Appendix: survey question text

Q. Individual satisfaction measures: Thinking about this most recent journey you made by train, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with? Scale: Very satisfied to Very dissatisfied and Not applicable (except overall satisfaction).

- a. This train journey overall
- b. The information on how busy the train would be before travelling
- c. The cleanliness of the inside of the train
- d. Helpfulness and attitude of staff
- e. Overall satisfaction with the station
- f. Punctuality/reliability (i.e. the train departing / arriving on time)
- g. Frequency of the trains on that route
- h. Length of time the journey was scheduled to take
- i. Level of crowding on the train
- j. The behaviour of other passengers
- k. Provision of information during the journey
- l. Comfort of the seats
- m. Value for money of your ticket
- n. Reliability of the internet connection
- o. Overall satisfaction with the train
- p. Your personal security during your journey

Contact Transport Focus

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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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