



# Christmas and New Year travel intentions survey

15 December 2023

# Introduction

We asked a nationally representative sample of 2020 people about their travel over the Christmas and New Year period (Friday 22 December to Monday 1 January 2024).

We used Yonder's omnibus survey, with fieldwork from 6 - 7 December. The questions we asked were:

**Q1 For each type of transport, please choose which of these apply to your travel during the Christmas and New Year period. If you are making more than one journey using this transport, please think about the longest one.**

**Modes:** car (or other vehicle) local roads/Car (or other vehicle) motorways and major roads/train/coach/local bus/tube/tram/plane.

**Options:** not using, travelling less than 10 miles, 10 - 24 miles, 25 - 99 miles, 100+ miles, don't know/not decided.

**Q2 Thinking about the journeys that you are planning to make over Christmas and New Year. We want to know which days do you plan to travel by train or using motorways or other major roads. For each day, please tell us if you will be travelling.**

**Days listed:** 22 December – to 1 January

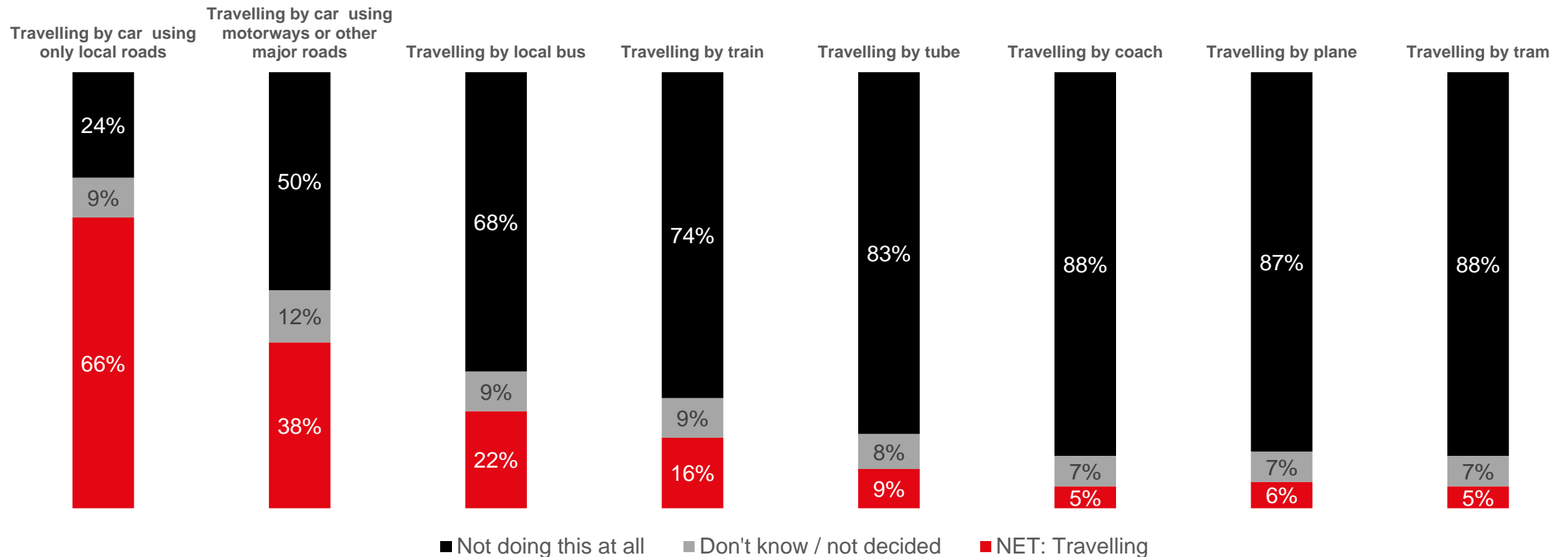
**For each day:** Not travelling by rail or on motorways or major roads/intend to travel by train/intend to travel on motorways or major roads/don't know.

**Q3 Here are some statements – please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of them**

- Because Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are both on Sundays, I am concerned how public transport will run on those days
- I am reluctant to use trains over the Christmas period because of engineering works
- I am reluctant to use trains over the Christmas period because of the risk of strike action
- My plans for Christmas and New Year are still flexible – I might make more journeys
- I like using the motorway network over Christmas as the roads are nice and quiet
- I prefer to use public transport for journeys over the festive period so that I can relax and perhaps have a drink
- It's easy to find information about train services over the Christmas period
- It's easy to find out about roadworks or delays on the motorway network over the Christmas period
- It's easy to find information about local bus services over the Christmas period.

**Q4 Please tell us about your planned travel over the Christmas/New Year period, including why you have chosen to travel this way.**

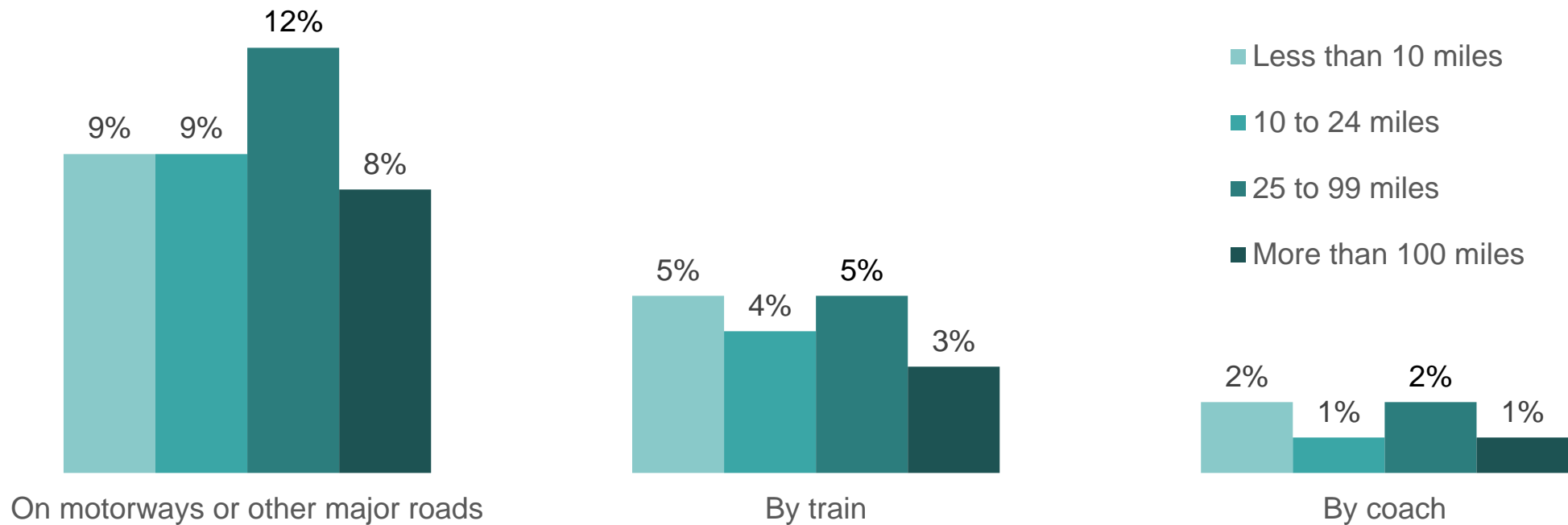
# Almost four in ten are travelling on motorways and major roads over the festive period. A fifth are using the bus and 16 per cent are using the train



Q1 For each type of transport, please choose which of these apply to your travel during the Christmas and New Year period (22 December – 1 January). If you are making more than one journey using this transport, please think about the longest one. Base size: 2020.

# Two in ten are travelling more than 25 miles on motorways and major roads over the Christmas period. Three per cent are travelling more than 100 miles by train

Proportion of the population travelling these distances ...



Q1 For each type of transport, please choose which of these apply to your travel during the Christmas and New Year period. If you are making more than one journey using this transport, please think about the longest one. Base size: 2020.

# Those travelling by car talk about convenience, luggage and cost

“Planning to do the usual Christmas travelling, such as delivering presents to family and friends living locally and further afield, I will travel by car because of convenience and that it is easier than carrying gifts using public transportation.”

“Visiting local family and shopping, by car as more convenient with less planning.”

“I have to go long distance to see family and need to take a lot with me so choose to drive.”

“Travelling to family and friends via road as it’s the only way to get there.”

“Only going local and makes sense to drive because of taking Christmas gifts.”

“We are travelling to family by car as their house is far out from any public transport links.”

“Going by road is the most economical and convenient way for me to travel on most occasions. I may stay with friends or visit family as well.”

“Visiting family via A and M roads due to distance from home. Then remaining local from 23rd onwards. 1st January travelling to a rugby match 2 hours drive away via A1/A1M.”

“Travelling from Essex to Swindon on 22 Dec. 2 adults and luggage for 4 people. We’re carrying extra luggage for family members and taking the car is better. We will be returning on 27 Dec with the same luggage but 3 adults.”

“Trains do not run on Christmas, Boxing day or New Year's so I drive these days.”

“I am travelling to my in-laws house in Reading. I am travelling by car because I am worried the strikes will affect a train journey instead.”

Please tell us about your planned travel over the Christmas/New Year period, including why you have chosen to travel this way.



# Those using public transport talk about practicality, affordability or not having access to a car

“Only using train as do not wish to drive into London. The only train service remotely close to me that is operating on 27th December is the Stanstead Express 61 miles from my home. We are forced to use this as the only way to visit children & grand children without driving into busy London suburb.”

“I'm visiting relatives in Bristol (about 200 miles each way) in the run up to Christmas and would find rail travel less stressful than driving, possibly in heavy traffic or bad weather.”

“On December 27, I will travel to visit some relatives, I will stay for three days and I will return before January 1 to celebrate the new year. My trips will be made by train or plane, depending on the cost of the ticket.”

“I intend to travel to a friend's family in a town very distant from me. For that, I will use the train, as it is a quick, cost effective solution. For new years, I plan to travel to my parent's place in my local city. For that, I could take the bus or train, whichever is operating at convenient times and whichever would be cost effective.”

“I plan to travel by train from Leeds to Lincoln because I do not drive and I have a railcard, meaning train transport is affordable.”

“Football by train. friends and family by car, and shopping by train.”

“I am travelling by train as I don't have access to a car and I like to relax and have a drink as I watch the world go past.”

# Other views on travelling over the period

“Usually stay in and especially with risk of drunk drivers and strikes.”

“Might fly to Benidorm. Trains are a nightmare due to strikes, so do not use them any more.”

“The coach is the cheapest and easiest way for me to travel”

“I will be working shifts over the Christmas period so will be travelling every few days back and forth to my home and to visit family. Travelling by car allows me to be more flexible in this around my work pattern.”

“I intend to do some travelling by car for sporting events and family visits, using car because car sharing in this case is the most appropriate/convenient method. May do further travelling to visit friends but that would be via using trains”

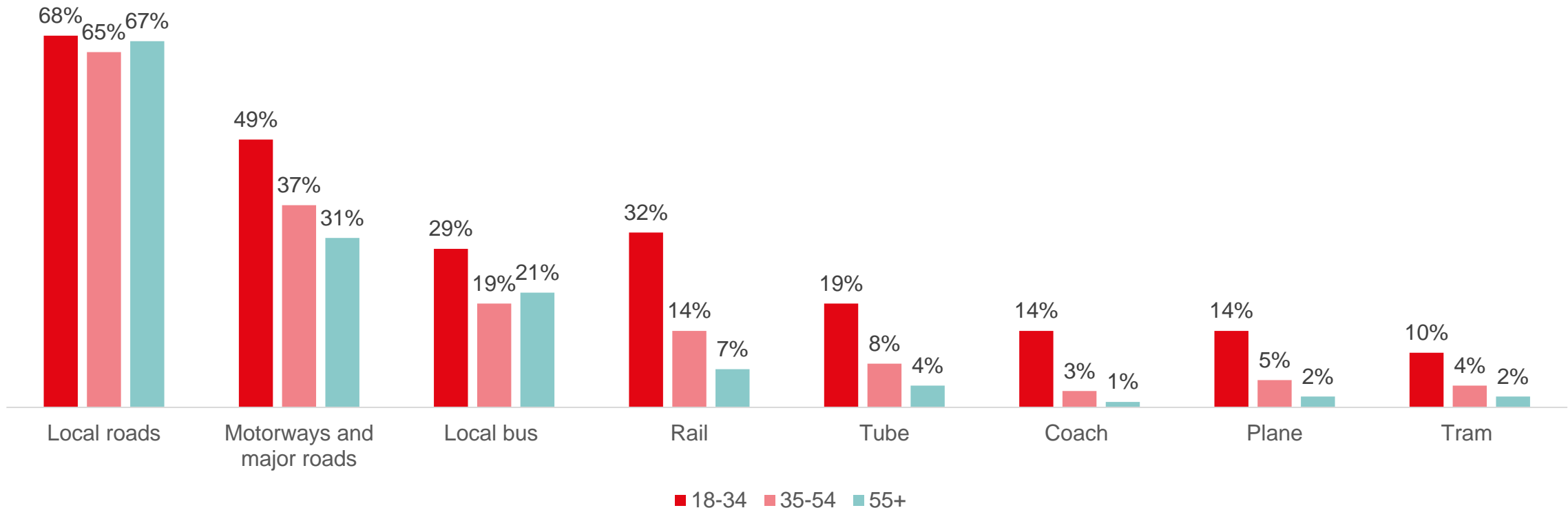
“My family live abroad so I have chosen to take a plane to travel there (I could take a ferry but I get very sea sick)”

“No planned travel. Walking only”

“I will be travelling by bicycle to my place of employment as a frontline worker”

“As a fanatical football supporter I generally travel quite long distances by car over each Christmas and New Year period. I do use the train occasionally on and off throughout the year but over the festive period I have always used my car. The main reason is it's more flexible than public transport and better for comfort and convenience because of the unpredictable weather... each journey I estimate to be a minimum of a 200 mile round trip.”

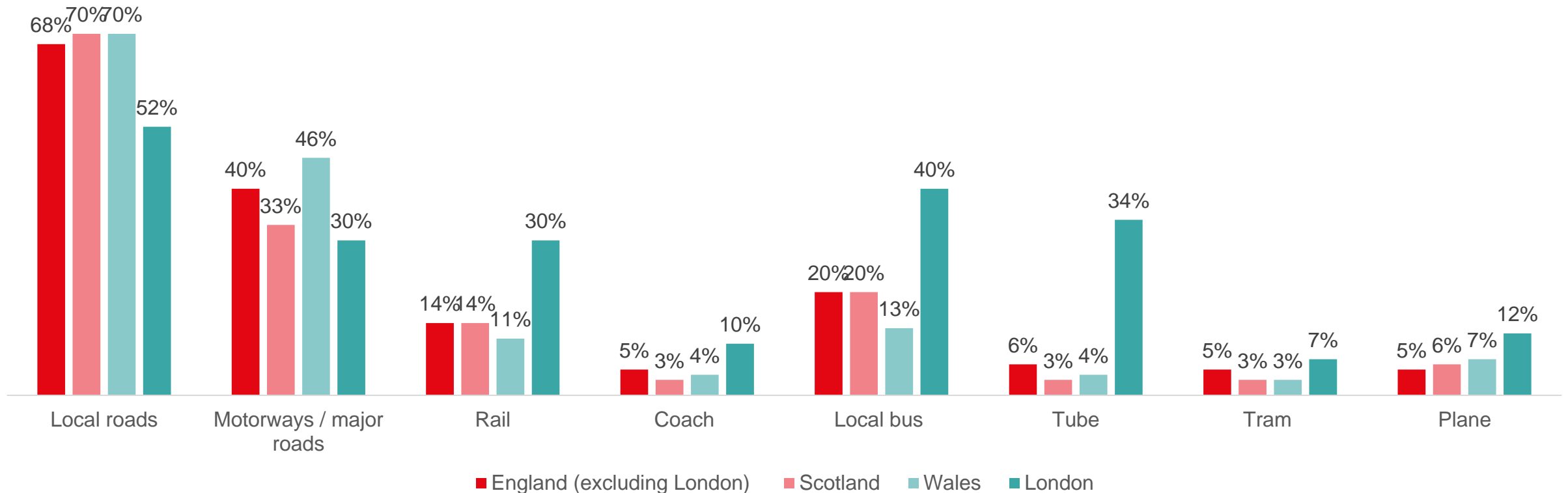
# For all modes, except journeys by local roads, those aged under 35 are most likely to be travelling



Q1 For each type of transport, please choose which of these apply to your travel during the Christmas and New Year period. If you are making more than one journey using this transport, please think about the longest one. Base size: 2020



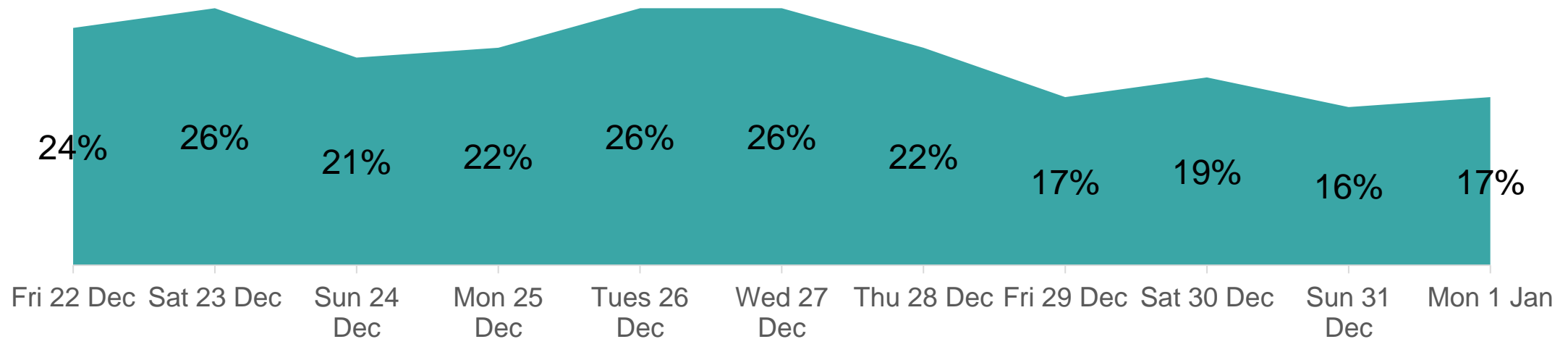
# People living in London are more likely to be using rail, coach and bus – and less likely to be using cars for any journeys



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One in five of those using motorways and major roads are planning to travel on Christmas Day. Journeys are spread across the holiday period. Days with most journeys planned are 23, 26 and 27 December

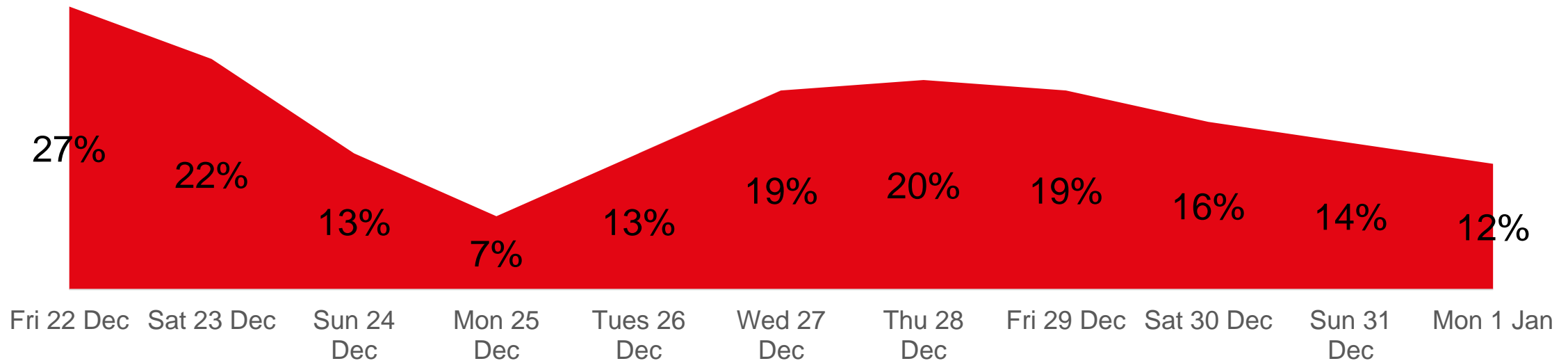
Days of travel for those using motorways and major roads



Q2 Thinking about the journeys that you are planning to make over Christmas and New Year. We want to know for which days do you plan to travel by train or using motorways or other major roads. For each day, please tell us if you will be travelling. Base size: 747

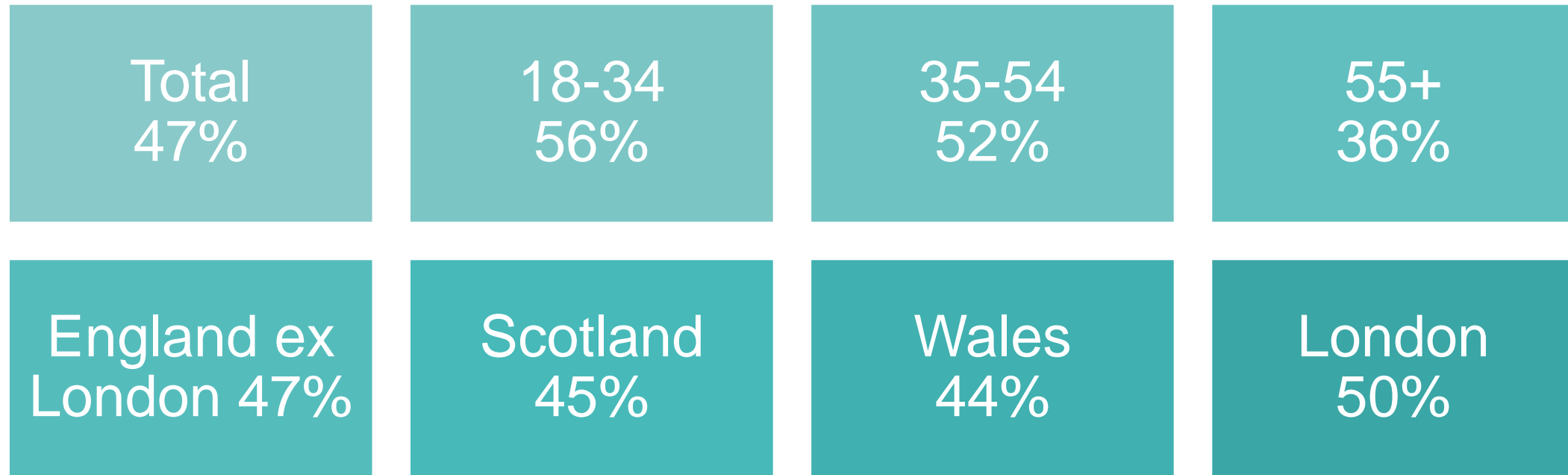
Friday 22 is the most popular date for train journeys. A minority plan to travel on Christmas Day when there is no service and on Boxing Day when it is very limited.

Days of travel for those using trains



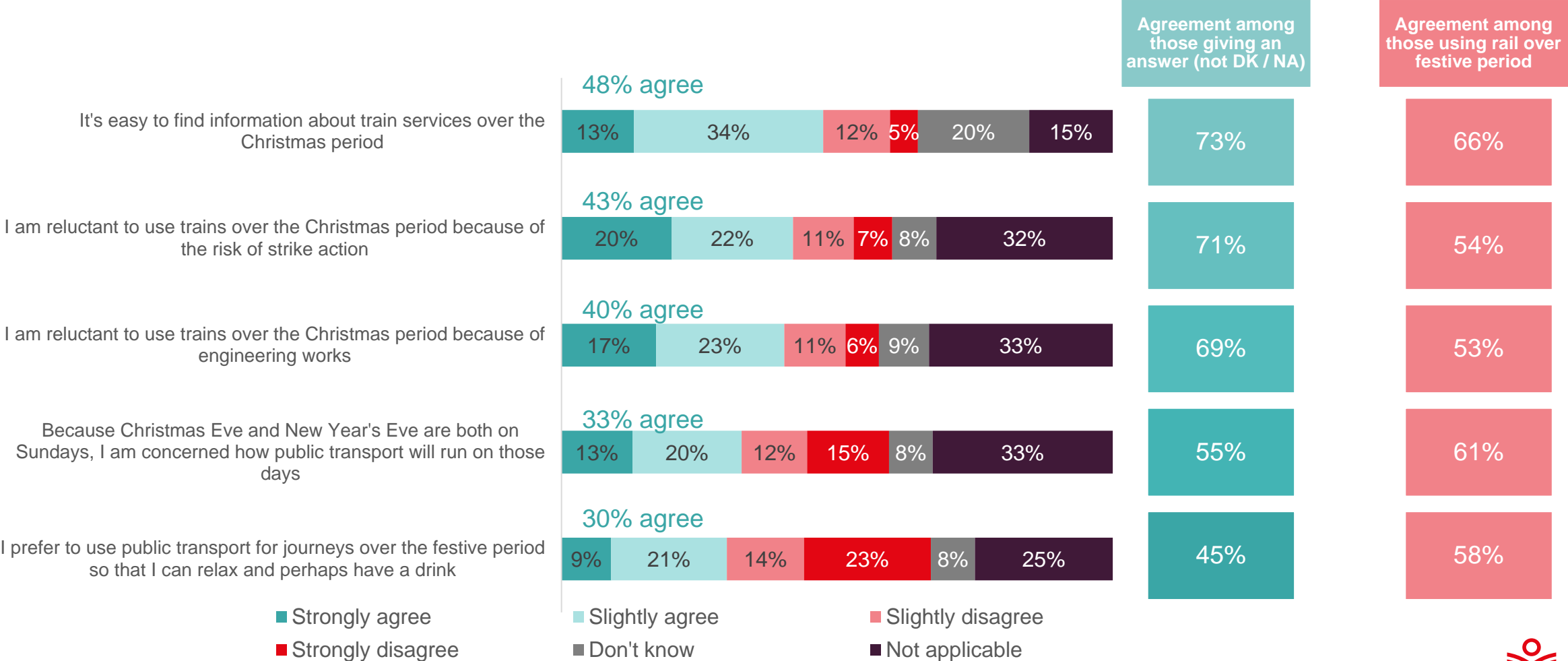
Q2 Thinking about the journeys that you are planning to make over Christmas and New Year. We want to know for which days do you plan to travel by train or using motorways or other major roads. For each day, please tell us if you will be travelling. Base size: 347.

There is still some uncertainty around how and when people will travel. Almost half agree that 'my plans are still flexible – I might make more journeys'.



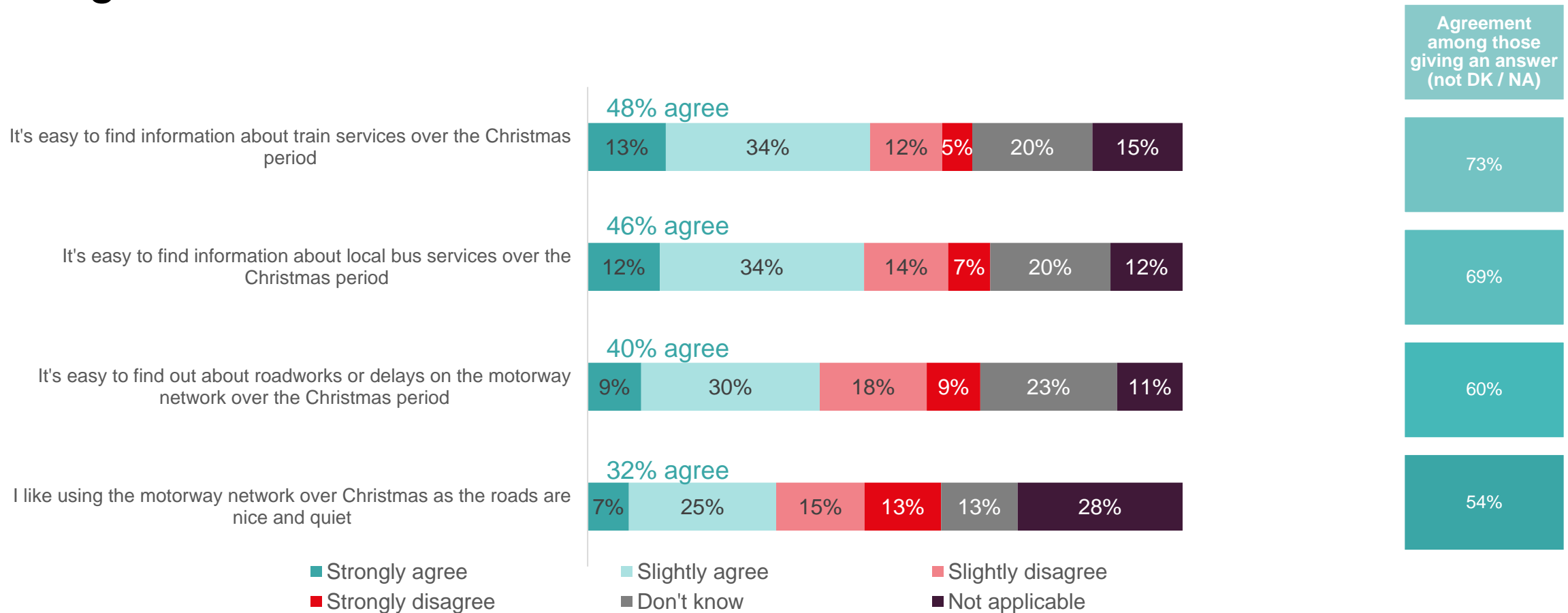
Q3 Here are some statements – please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of them .... My plans for Christmas and New Year are still flexible – I might make more journeys. Base size clockwise from Total: 2020, 553, 699, 768, 1456, 159, 107, 298.

# Reluctance to use rail because of strikes and engineering - although majority think finding information about trains is easy



Q3 Here are some statements – please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of them .... Base sizes on the chart 2020, agreement among those giving an answer (top to bottom) 1311, 1213, 1160, 1196, 1334.

# While people generally agree that finding out information about local buses, rail and delays on motorways is easy, a sizeable minority disagree



Q3 Here are some statements – please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of them .... Base sizes on the chart 2020, agreement among those giving an answer (top to bottom) 1311, 1354, 1333, 1162.



# Contact

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