

## **Visitor Insights** April 2025

Shaping a world-class West End

Issued: May 2025



## **INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT**

Heart of London Business Alliance (HOLBA) has partnered with Colliers to provide data and insights on visitors to the HOL area to support members and HOLBA management with trading and strategic decision making.

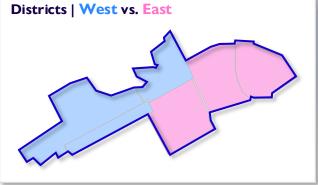
This monthly report provides key insights from the preceding calendar month, including information about:

- Visitor footfall & profile
- Visitor behaviour
- Visitor catchment
- TfL station usage
- Spend performance

Raw visitor data is sourced from Huq, a leading mobility data provider using mobile phone movements to provide near real-time data on consumer activity across the world.



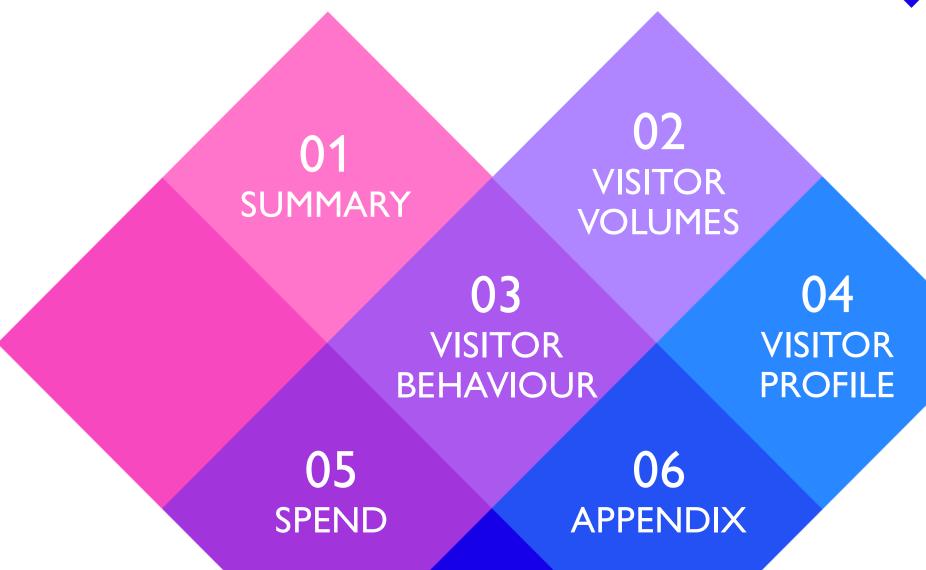


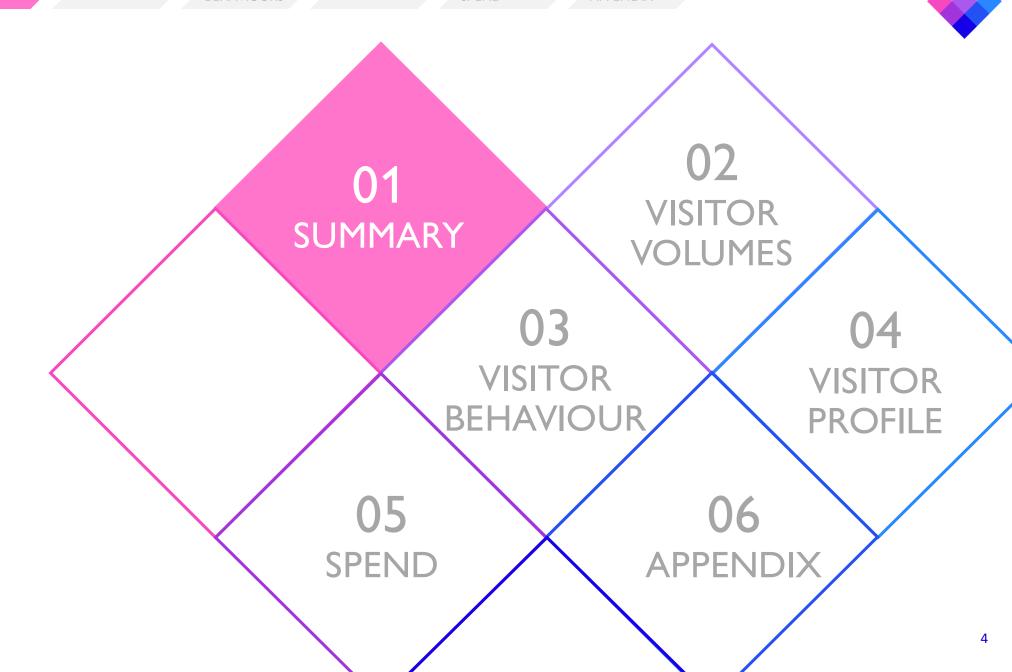


LE SPEND



## **CONTENTS**





### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## April 2025



### EASTER LED TO A STRONG UPLIFT IN SOCIAL & LEISURE VISITS

Easter helped increase visits to the Heart of London (HOL) area in April — up 18.9% from the previous month. More of these visitors came from outside the usual catchment area, suggesting the district attracted people from further away during the holiday.



### SOCIAL VISITORS WERE MORE LIKELY TO EXPLORE MULTIPLE PARTS OF THE HOL AREA

April saw more people — both from the UK and abroad — visit several districts during their trip.



### THE RISE IN SOCIAL & LEISURE VISITORS CHANGED THE MIX OF DEMOGRAPHICS

The number of UK visitors coming for leisure rose by 10% compared to last year, showing more people take trips during the Easter holidays. There was also a 6% rise in international visitors, mainly from Europe and the Middle East.



### STRONG SPEND CONTINUED IN THE EVENING ECONOMY ACROSS THE AREA

Spend performance differed by district in Q4 24/25, indicating changing audiences throughout the day & week. Eastern districts (more leisure-orientated) captured high share of spend on weekends & evenings. Between 6pm and 9pm, Leicester Square saw spend 2.5x higher compared to the average daily segment.

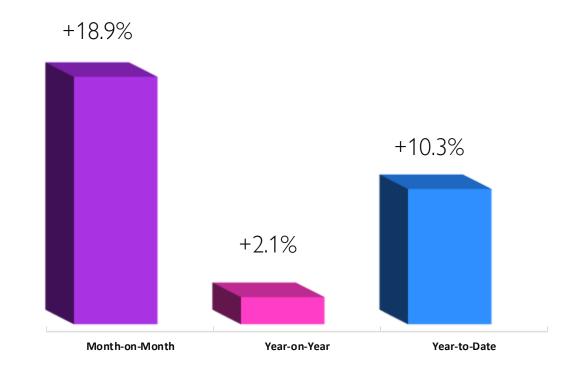


ITRO SUMMAI

**VOLUMES** 

## **SUMMARY - VISIT VOLUMES** April 2025

Impact of Easter holidays led to a significant uplift in visit volumes to the HOL area MoM, +18.9%, with +2.1% growth YoY.

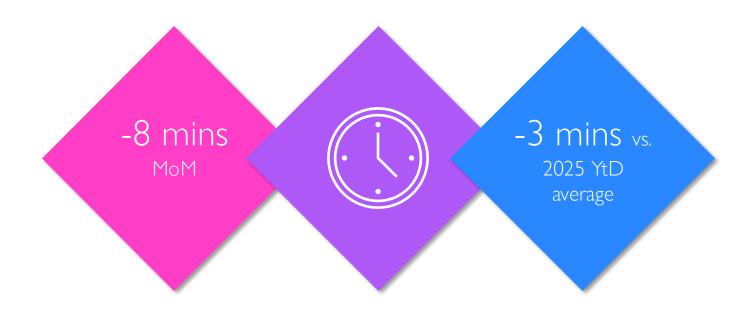


Further visit performance detail on Pages 12 - 15



## **SUMMARY - VISIT DWELL** April 2025

Visitors typically spent 2 hrs 19 mins in the HOL area, down -3 mins vs. 2025 average.



Further dwell performance detail on Page 28

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ITRO SUMMAR

**VOLUMES** 

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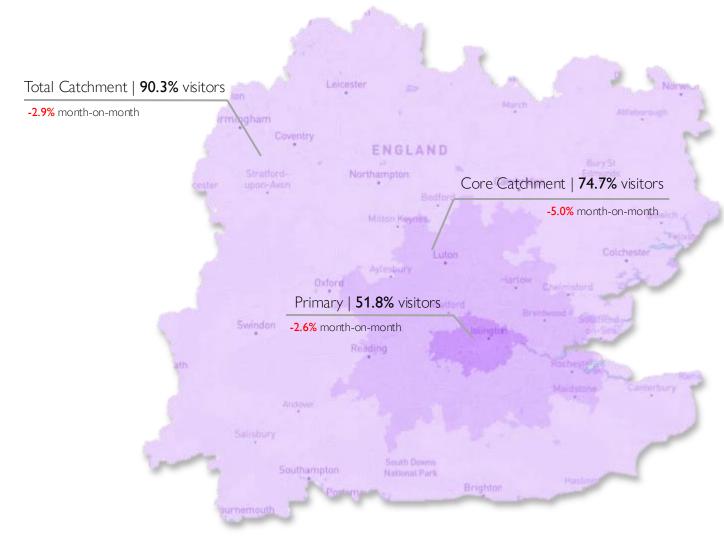
APPENDIX



**SUMMARY - DOMESTIC VISITOR ORIGIN** 

April 2025

74.7% of visits from Core Catchment, down -5.0% vs. March, meaning more visitors came from further afield this month.



ITRO SUMMAR

**VOLUMES** 

**BEHAVIOURS** 

ROFILE

PEND

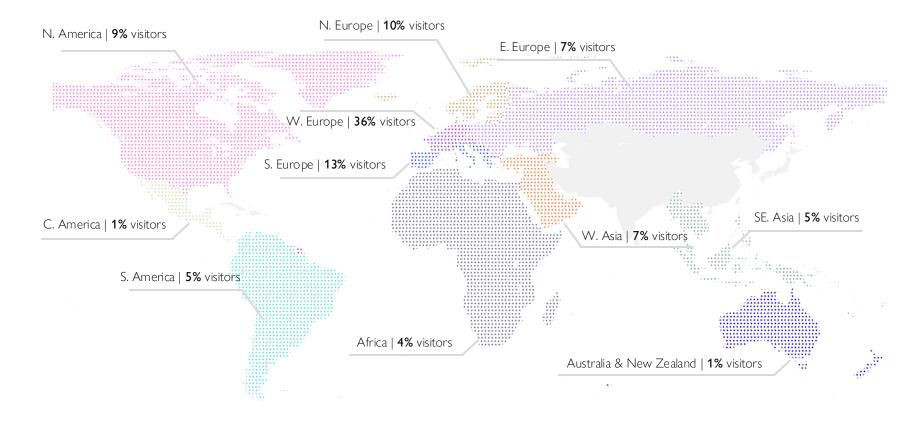
APPENDIX

## SUMMARY - INTERNATIONAL VISITATION

April 2025

14.6% of total visitors were from outside the UK, up 1.4%. MoM, with Western Europe being the highest contributing region

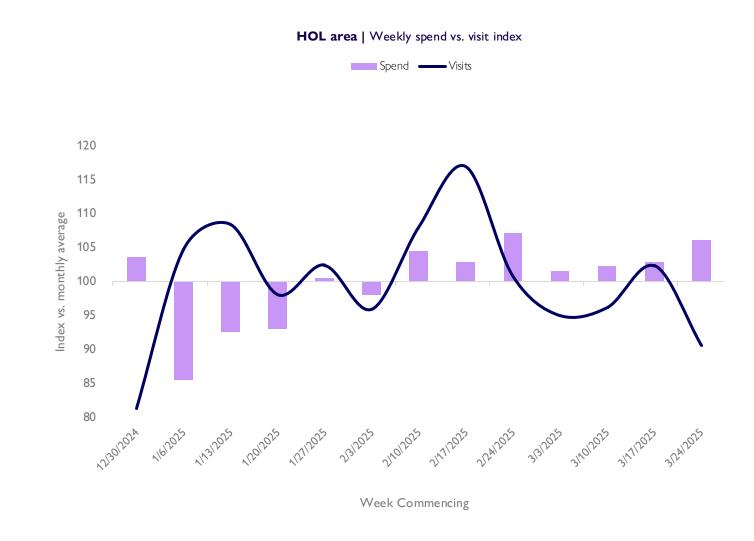
### Share of International Visits (%)



### **SUMMARY - VISIT & SPEND PERFORMANCE**

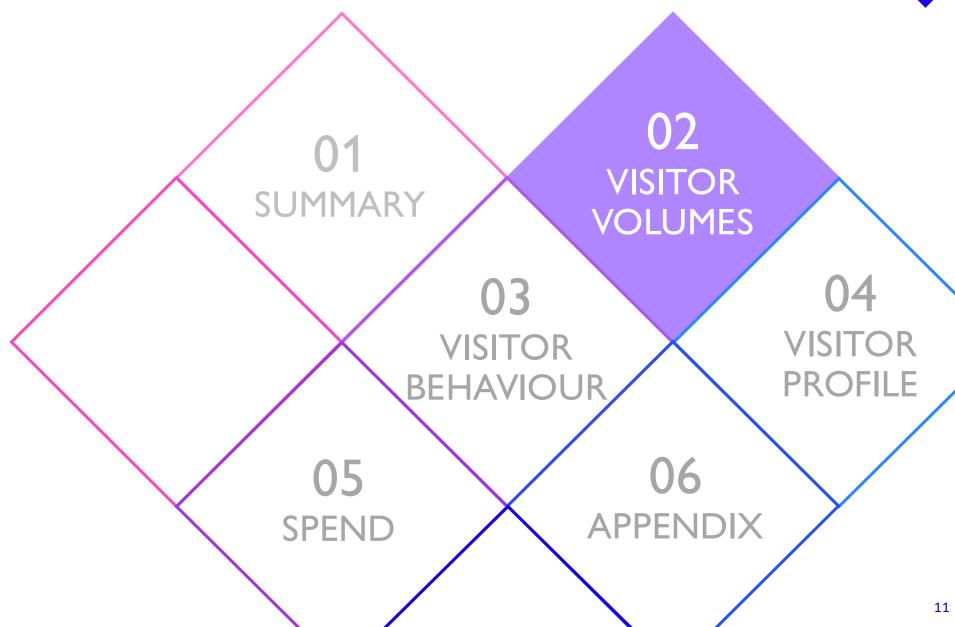
Q4 2024 | January - March

More money was spent towards the end of the quarter, with March having a 3% increase in spending compared to the average for the quarter.



VOLUMES BEHAVIOURS INTRO SUMMARY PROFILE APPENDIX SPEND



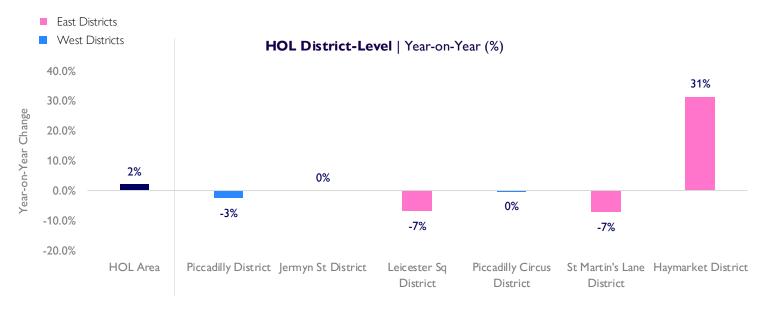


INTRO

VISIT VOLUMES UP +2.1% YEAR-ON-YEAR, WITH GROWTH IN DISTRICTS TO THE EAST OF THE HOL AREA

**BEHAVIOURS** 

- Visits up 2.1% YoY, led by eastern districts in the HOL area (+2.2%).
- 31.4% surge in Haymarket, boosted by Easter holiday footfall.





**VOLUMES** 



# CONTINUED GROWTH THROUGHOUT APRIL LEADING TO +10% GROWTH YEAR-TO-DATE ACROSS HOL AREA

**BEHAVIOURS** 



- April visits rose 2% YoY a slower pace than earlier in the quarter.
- YtD visits are up 10% vs. 2024, showing steady performance across the first four months.
- Comparing YtD vs. same period in 2023, shows consistent performance across the first four months of the year.



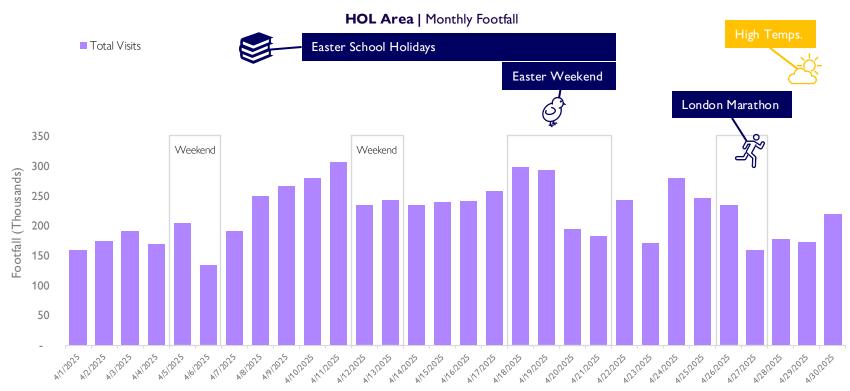
INTRO

**VOLUMES** 

**BEHAVIOURS** 



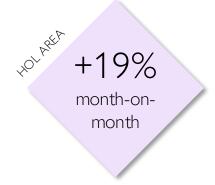
# UPLIFT IN VISIT VOLUMES DURING MIDDLE TWO WEEKS OF APRIL, COINCIDING WITH EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



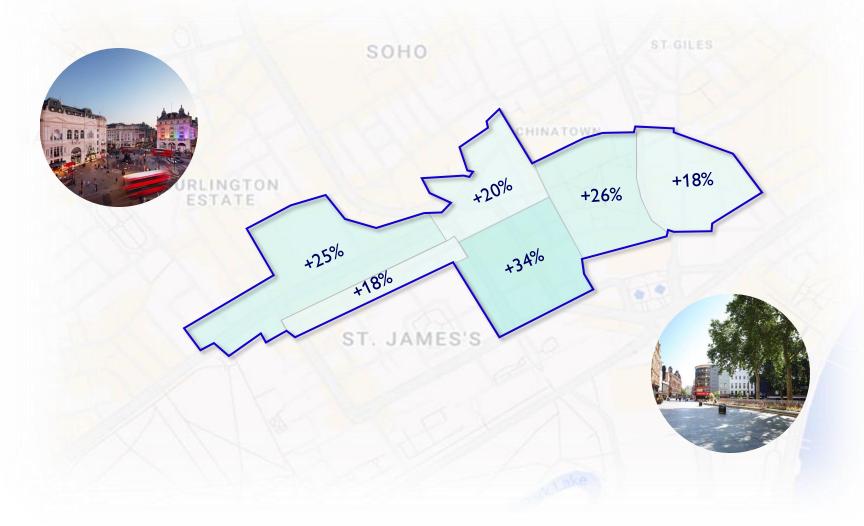
Week 14 Week 15 Week 16 Week 17 Week 18 Avg. Daily 172,273 253,287 216,933 190,188 251,593 Visits Avg. Daily 12.0°C 11.6°C 11.8°C 12.1°C 17.1°C Temps.

- Weeks 15–16 accounted for 53% of April visits, reflecting the Easter school holiday impact.
- Warmer, drier weather began in late April (avg. 17.1°C in early Week 18), but had limited effect on visits due to steadier weekday patterns.
- This uplift had little initial impact on visit performance, due to more consistent visitor behaviour across the first half of the working week.

# STRONG MONTH-ON-MONTH UPLIFT ACROSS ALL DISTRICTS, DRIVEN BY IMPROVED WEATHER & EASTER HOLIDAYS IN APRIL



- All districts saw **strong MoM growth**, pushing overall visits up 19% vs. March.
- Haymarket led with a **34% rise**, while other districts grew by around 20%.





## 15.9M PEOPLE IN HOL AREA'S DOMESTIC CORE CATCHMENT

15.9m core catchment population

32.0m total catchment population

Catchment Band	Population (millions)	
Primary	6.9m	
Secondary	8.9m	
Core Catchment (75% of visitors)	15.9m	
Tertiary	16.2m	
Total Catchment (90% of visitors)	32.0m	



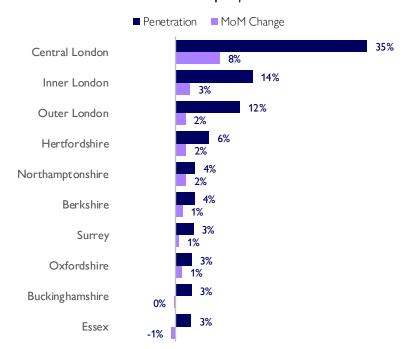


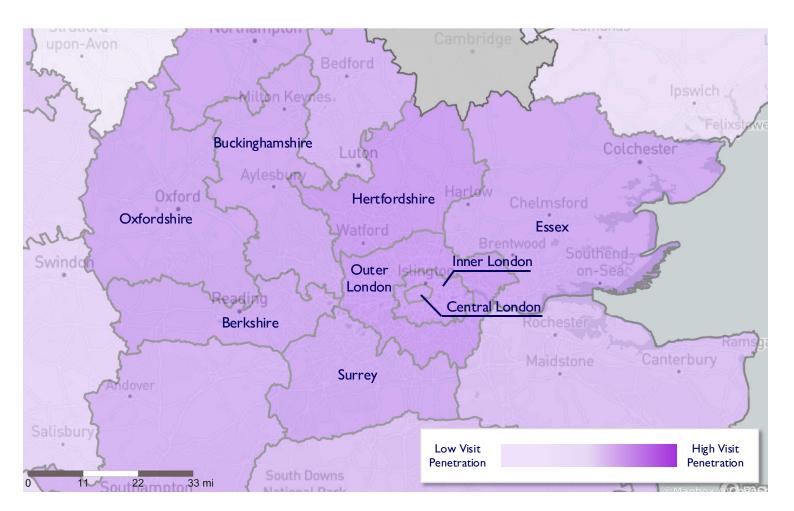
# ~50% OF VISITS TO HOL AREA FROM INNER & CENTRAL LONDON, WITH HOME COUNTIES SEEING HIGH PENETRATION

of visitors from Inner & Central London

+11% increased penetration from Inner & Central London MoM

### **Visit Penetration | Top 10 Counties**





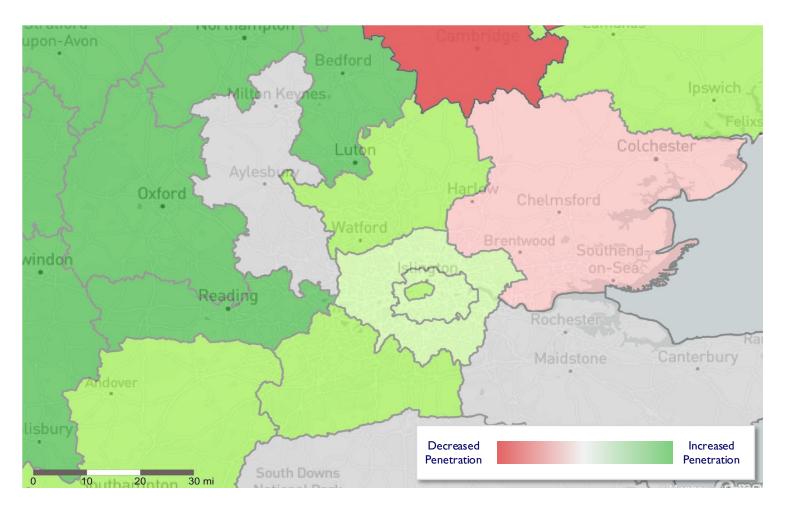
ro summary volumes behaviours profile spend appendix



# INCREASED SHARE OF VISITS FROM TERTIARY CATCHMENT REPRESENTING INFREQUENT, SOCIAL VISITORS

- Increase in share of visits from counties within **tertiary catchment** (+2.0%), representing greater propensity of **infrequent, social visitors** from further afield visiting HOL area during **Easter Holidays**.
- Conversely, core catchment saw a -5.0% decrease in share of visits, indicative of a reduced worker-presence during April.

Catchment Band	Apr-25 Visit %	Percentage Point change vs. previous month	
Primary	51.8%	-2.6%	
Secondary	22.9%	-2.3%	
Core Catchment (75% of visitors)	74.7%	-5.0%	
Tertiary	15.6%	+2.0%	
Total Catchment (90% of visitors)	90.3%	-2.9%	
Pull-In	9.7%	+2.9%	



TRO SUMMARY

# +6.2% INCREASE IN SHARE OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS, WITH 14.6% OF VISITS IN APRIL 2025 FROM INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS



- International visitors made up 14.6% of all April visits a 6.2% increase YoY.
- All districts saw growth, with **St Martin's Lane** showing the largest **uplift**, reflecting stronger appeal to overseas leisure visitors over Easter.

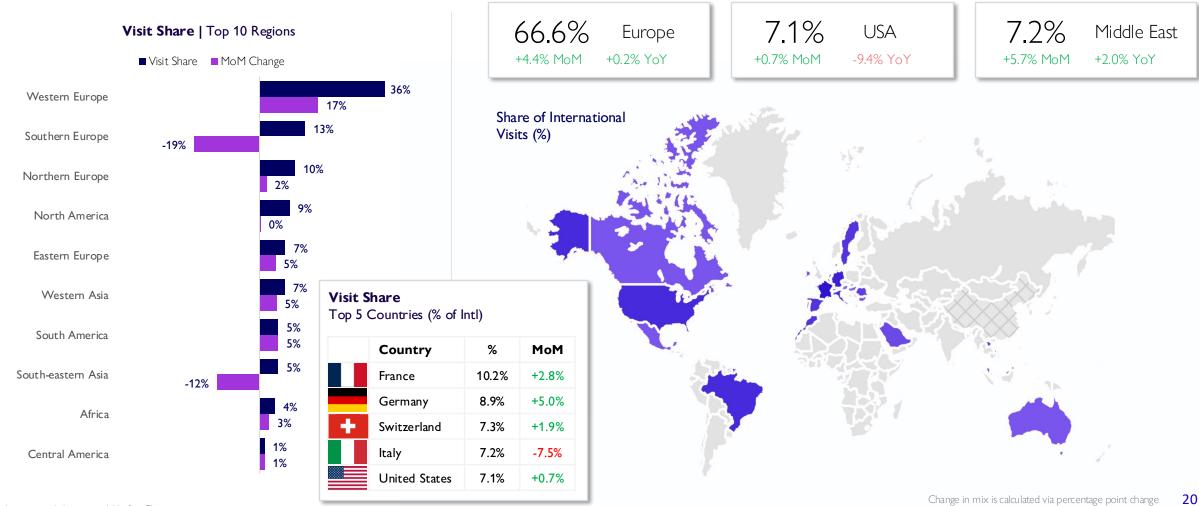
+1.4% MoM

+6.2%

Area	International Mix (%)	Month-on-Month	Year-on-Year
HOL Area	14.6%	+1.4%	+6.2%
Piccadilly District	11.7%	-2.1%	+4.8%
Jermyn St District	12.7%	-2.4%	+4.1%
Leicester St District	17.6%	+3.4%	+8.2%
Piccadilly Circus District	19.7%	+3.4%	+9.4%
St Martin's Lane District	18.2%	+4.8%	+9.5%
Haymarket District	17.4%	+2.7%	+7.8%
Core West End	11.4%	+2.8%	+4.7%

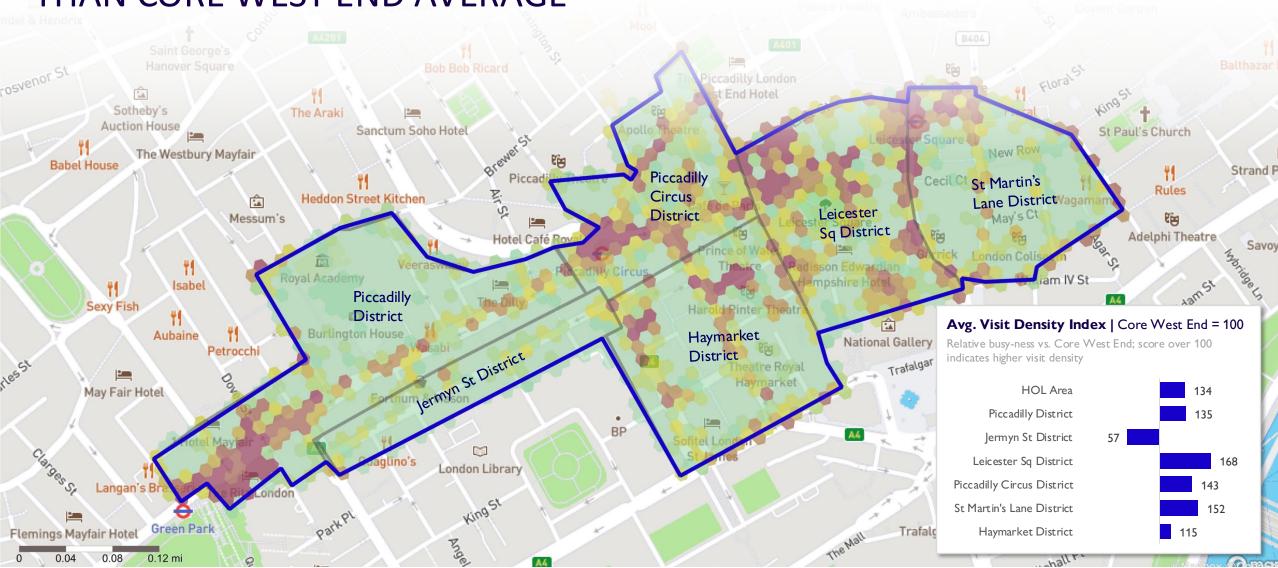


## **EUROPE CONTRIBUTED TWO-THIRDS OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS** TO HOL AREA IN APRIL, WITH GROWTH DRIVEN BY EASTER HOLIDAYS





# LEICESTER SQ DISTRICT AVERAGE VISIT DENSITY 1.7 TIMES GREATER THAN CORE WEST END AVERAGE





# GROWTH IN STATION USAGE IN SURROUNDING STATIONS, DESPITE - 2.4% DECLINE FROM STATIONS WITHIN HOL AREA

Marble Arch | +1.8% YoY

Bond St | +4.8% YoY

- TfL station usage in the HOL area dropped 2.4% YoY, despite growth in other West End stations.
- Likely explained by Easter social visitors more likely to explore on foot.
- Elizabeth Line stations continued strong growth, while Piccadilly Line stations saw slight declines, echoing trends from previous months.

Green Park | +1.3% YoY

Piccadilly Circus | -2.4% YoY

Embankment | +7.8% YoY

Oxford Circus | +1.5% YoY

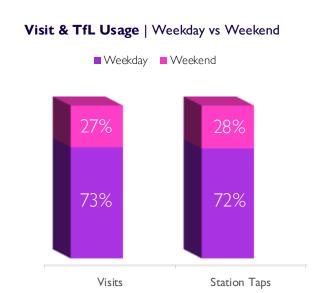
Tottenham Court Rd | +3.4% YoY

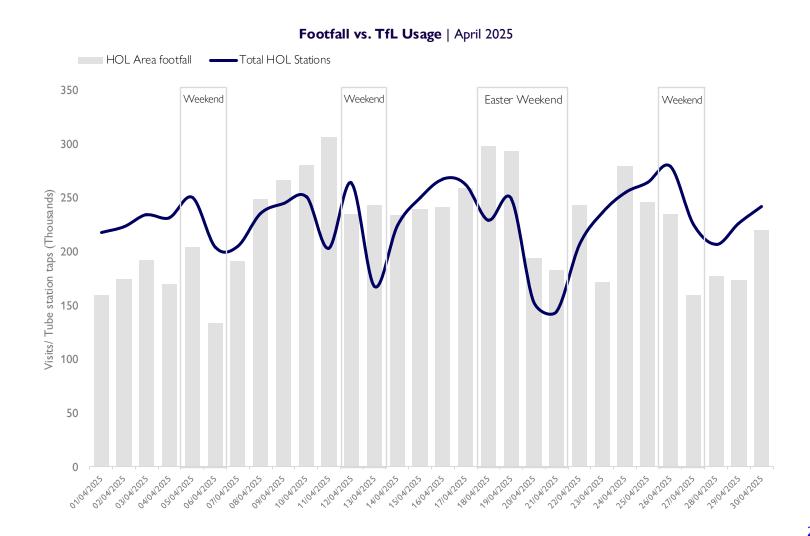
Decline in usage from stations within HOL area in April 2025 vs. April 2024<sup>1</sup>



### ALIGNMENT BETWEEN STATION USAGE & VISITS TO HOL AREA

- Weekday and weekend visit trends align closely with station usage.
- Daily station usage remained steadier than overall footfall, suggesting regular visitors like workers maintained consistent travel habits.







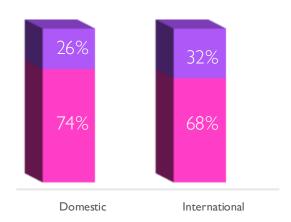
INTRO **VOLUMES BEHAVIOURS PROFILE SPEND APPENDIX** 



## 27.3% OF VISITS CAPTURED ON WEEKENDS, WITH INTERNATIONAL VISITORS SHOWING MORE DISTRIBUTED VISIT BEHAVIOUR







- 27.3% of visits in the HOL area took place over weekends, with leisure districts like Leicester Square and St Martin's Lane seeing closer to one-third.
- Domestic visits skewed toward weekdays, reflecting worker presence, while international visitors are more evenly spread across the week. Indicating a greater propensity to visit on weekends.

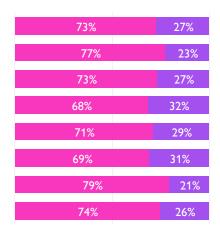


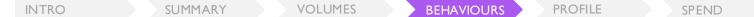
### Daily Visit Distribution | District-Level





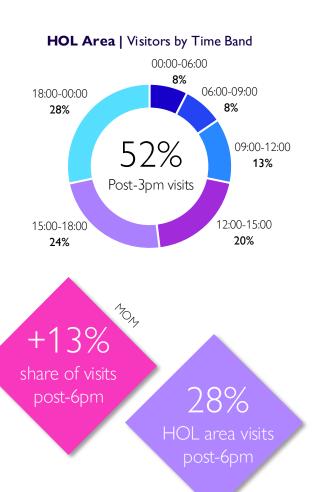
### Weekday vs Weekend

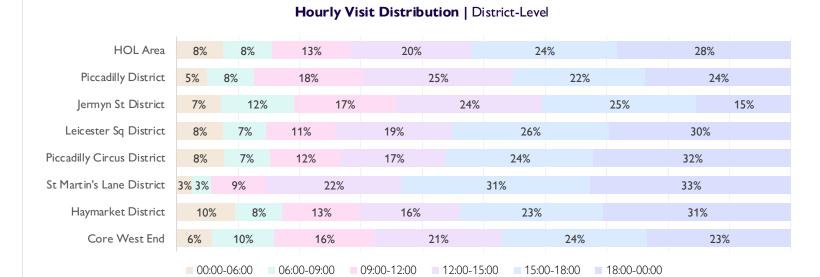






# 28% OF VISITS AFTER 6PM DRIVEN BY SOCIAL, LEISURE VISITORS ACROSS HOL AREA DURING APRIL





**APPENDIX** 

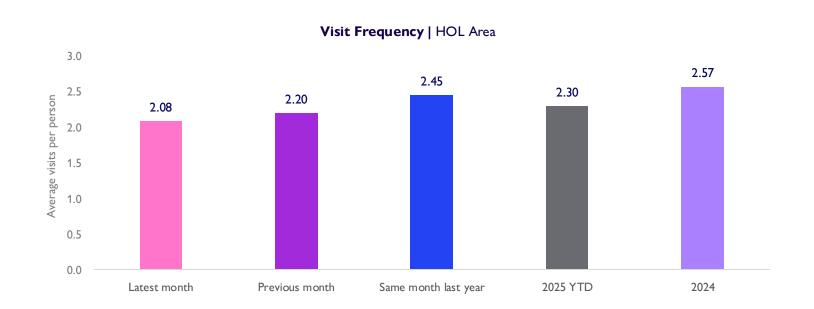
- A rise in social visitors drove a 13% increase MoM in post-6pm visits.
- Districts with stronger weekend footfall, like **St Martin's Lane**, saw over **60%** of its visits occur after 3pm, driven by theatres and hotels.





# REDUCED VISIT FREQUENCY IN APRIL, INDICATIVE OF MORE INFREQUENT, SOCIAL VISITORS

- The average visitor visited HOL area 2.08 times during April, down from 2.45 times in April 2024, and 2.30 times in 2025 YtD.
- This reflects a shift toward **less frequent**, leisure-driven visits from further afield, alongside reduced worker presence.





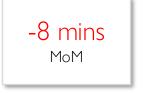


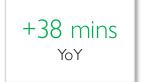
### CONSISTENT DWELL TIME VS. YEAR-TO-DATE AVERAGE IN APRIL

- Dwell time in April was broadly stable down 3 mins vs. the YtD, and 8 mins MoM.
- Weekday dwell time averaging 11 mins more than weekends.
- Piccadilly District had the sharpest drop, reflecting fewer workers in the area since last year due to the later Easter this year.











### Average Dwell | District-Level





INTRO

**BEHAVIOURS** 

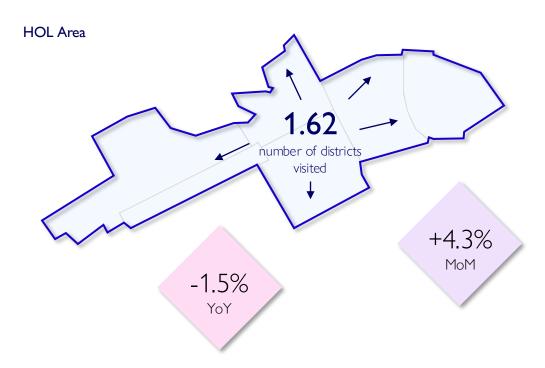
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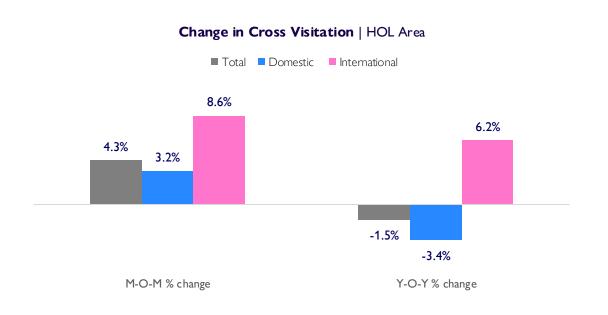


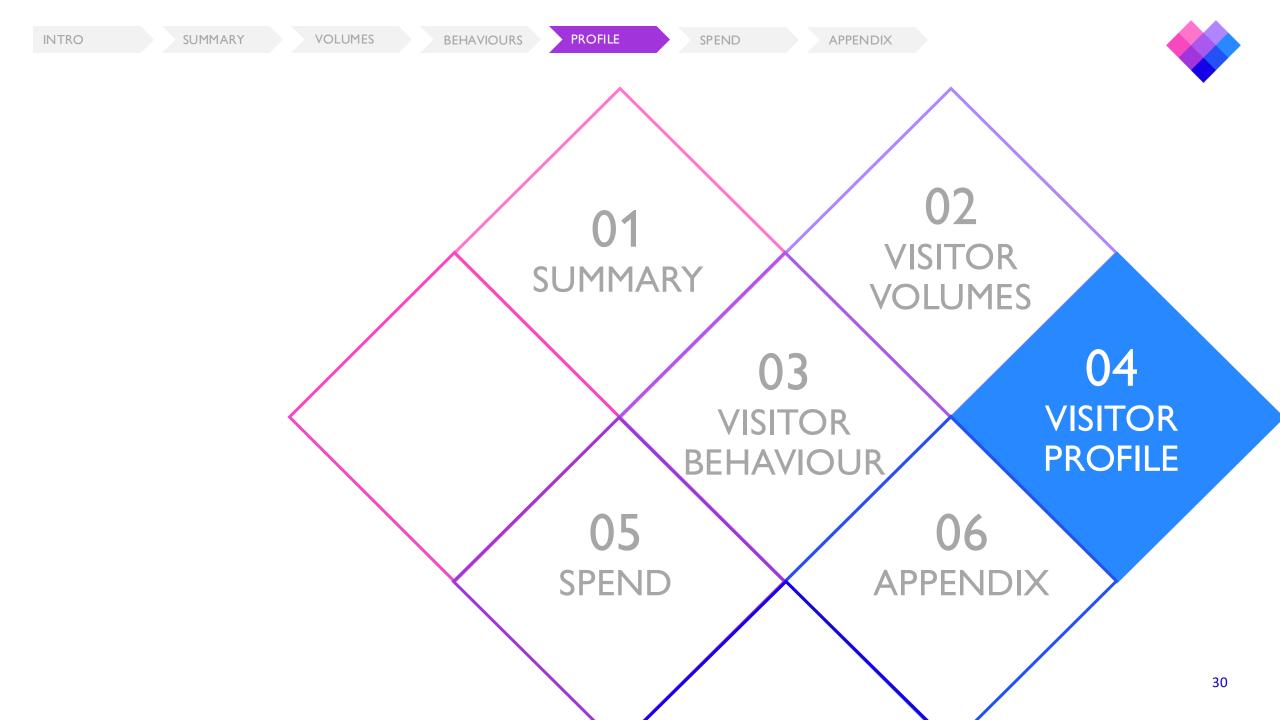
# INCREASE IN CROSS-VISITATION VS. MARCH INDICATIVE OF SOCIAL VISITORS EXPLORING THE AREA



- Cross visitation helps understand the **number of visitors visiting multiple districts per trip** across the HOL area.
- Average visitor to HOL area visited **1.62 districts during their trip** in April 2025.

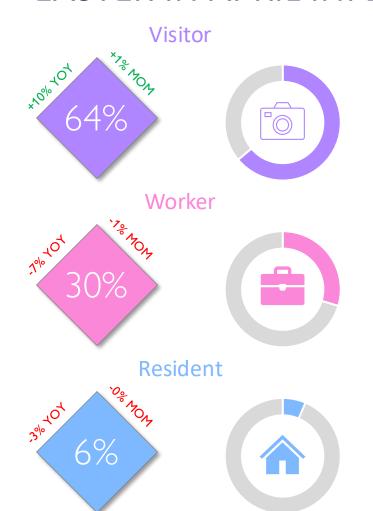
- Cross-visitation rose 4.3% MoM, led by an 8.6% increase among international visitors.
- However, visits were slightly more focused than in April 2024, with a **1% fall** in the cross-visitation index **YoY**.



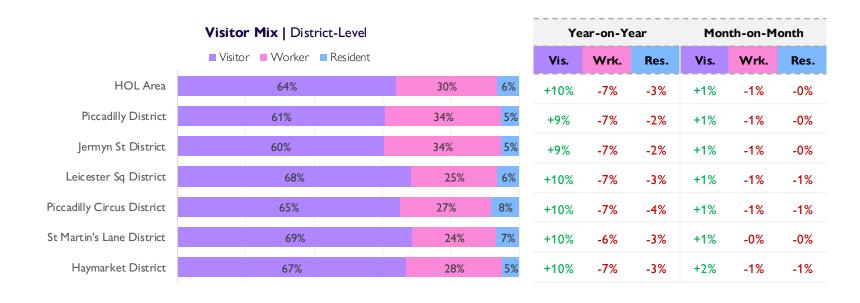




# INCREASE IN SHARE OF DOMESTIC VISITORS, WITH TIMING OF EASTER IN APRIL INFLUENCING VISITOR MIX



- Seen across all districts, the share of domestic visitors grew by 10% YoY, reflecting a shift toward social and leisure trips, displacing worker presence, which fell by around 7%.
- Eastern districts attracted more domestic visitors, while Jermyn Street retained the highest share of workers.
- See page 44 for visitor group definitions.





# 21% OF DOMESTIC VISITORS ARE FROM URBAN COHESION MOSAIC SEGMENTATION GROUP

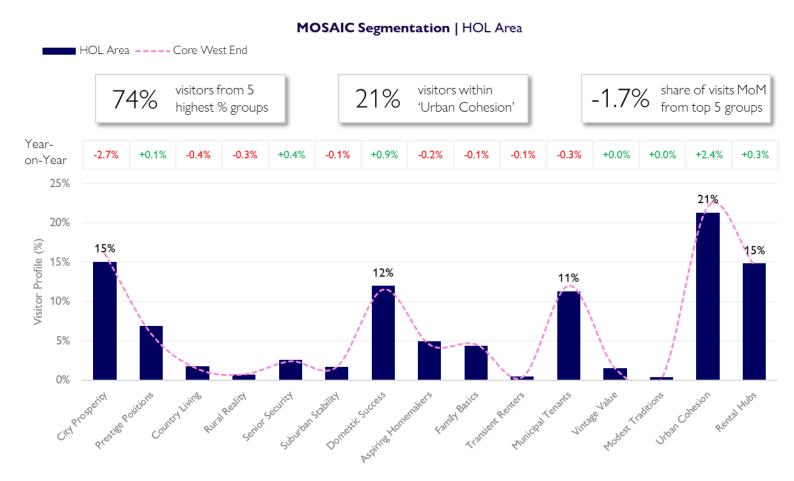
- Similar to the Core West End, the HOL area's visitor profile shows bias towards **affluent**, **professional visitor profile**.
- Five main MOSAIC groups, contribute 74% of visits to the area.
- See page 47 for mosaic group definitions.

### Top 3 segments this month







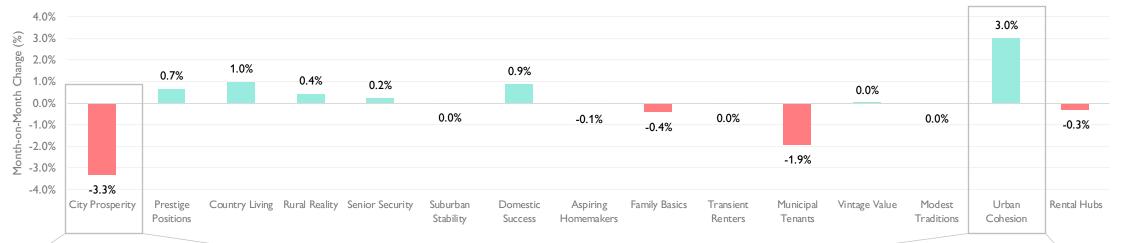


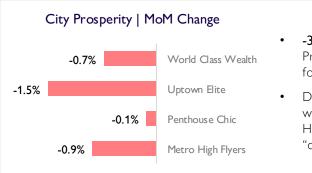
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# GREATER PROPORTION OF VISITORS WITHIN URBAN COHESION SEGMENT GROUP VS. PREVIOUS MONTH

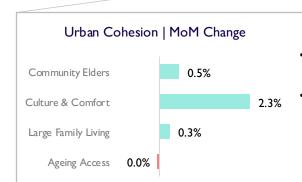
### MOSAIC Segmentation | Month-on-Month Change





INTRO

- -3.3% decline in visitors from 'City Prosperity', with decline across all four types.
- Decline indicative of reduced worker presence, with 'Metro High Flyers' (-0.9%) representing "career-minded 20-30 year olds".



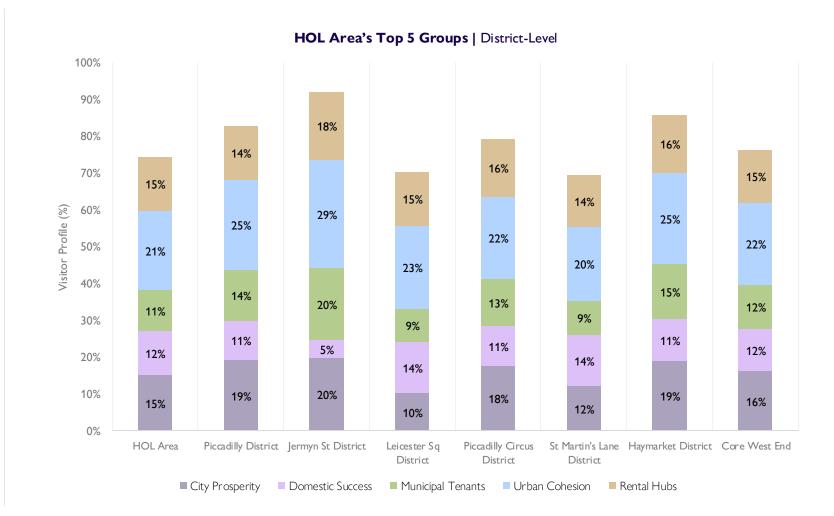
- +3.0% growth in share of visitors from 'Urban Cohesion' group.
- Growth in share of visitors from 'Culture & Comfort' type, representing "thriving families with good incomes in diverse suburbs".

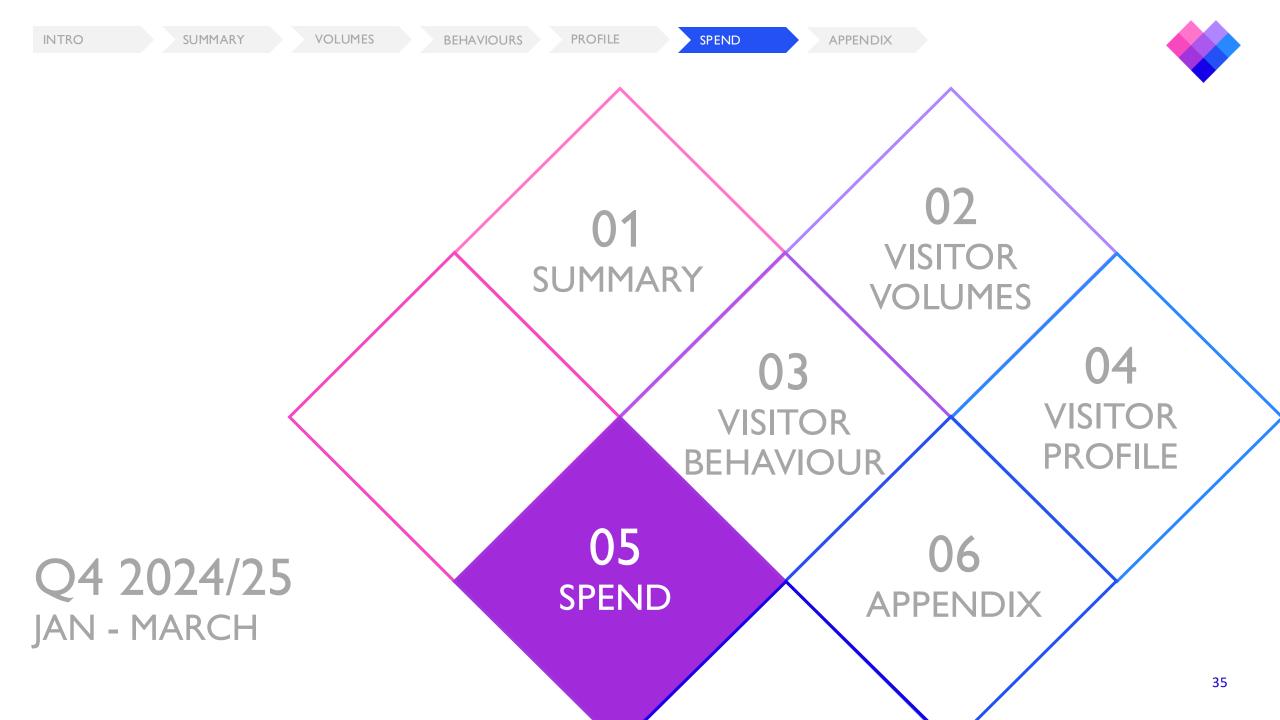


## DECLINE IN TOP 5 SEGMENT SHARE OF VISITORS MOM, INDICATIVE OF BROADER VISITOR DEMOGRAPHIC

 Decline in share of visitors from Top 5 segment groups across most districts, representing a broader demographic base visiting the area in April.

Visitors from HOL Area's Top 5 Groups	Month -on- Month
74.5%	-1.7%
82.7%	+3.2%
92.0%	+5.1%
70.4%	-3.0%
79.3%	-2.1%
69.4%	-7.6%
85.9%	-1.5%
76.4%	-0.2%
	HOL Area's Top 5 Groups  74.5%  82.7%  92.0%  70.4%  79.3%  69.4%  85.9%



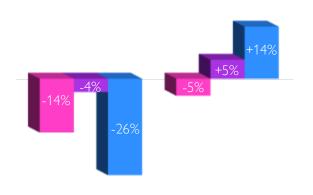




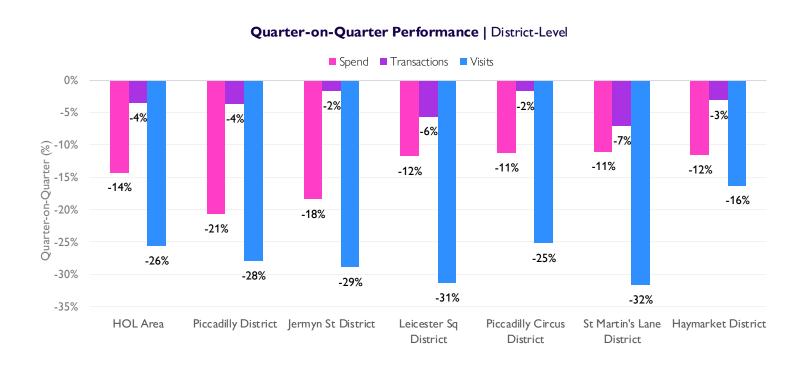
# REDUCED SPEND & VISIT PERFORMANCE VS. PREVIOUS QUARTER, WITH INFLUENCE OF FESTIVE PERIOD CAUSING DECLINE

- Spend dropped 14% vs. Q3 due to strong festive-period comparisons. This is to be expected as Q3 is usually the highest spending quarter of the year.
- YoY, transaction volumes rose 5%, but overall spend value fell 5%, suggesting visitors were more likely to spend, but spent less per transaction.

### Quarter-on-Quarter & Year-on-Year Spend, Transactions & Visits



Quarter-on-Quarter Year on Year



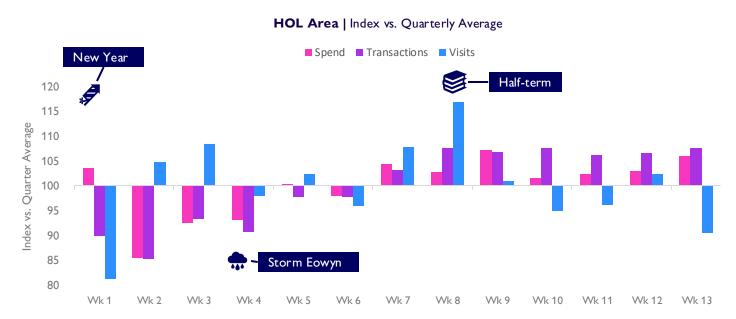
- All districts saw QoQ spend decline in Q4 2024, following a festive-driven surge in Q3.
- Eastern districts like Leicester Sq and St Martin's Lane showed greater resilience in spend, despite seeing the sharpest drop in visits.



## SLOWER START TO THE YEAR FOR SPEND PERFORMANCE, WITH UPLIFT EXPERIENCED IN MARCH



- March saw the highest share of Q4 spend, while January led in visits, reflecting a stronger worker presence early in the quarter.
- As the quarter progressed, visitor mix shifted toward leisure. Week 8 marked a clear uplift in both visits and spend, aligned with the school half-term.





# EATING PLACES MORE RESILIENT ACROSS Q4 2024/25, WITH SLIGHT UPLIFT IN WEEKEND SPEND YEAR-ON-YEAR

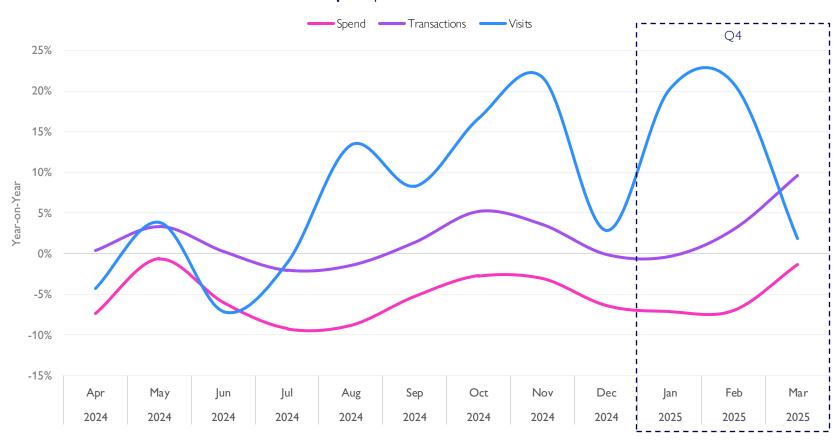


- Eating Places and Apparel both saw QoQ declines in Q4.
- Trends reflect a visitor preference for dining and social experiences over and above other forms of retail.
- Weekend spend proved more resilient, down just 4% YoY vs. 7% on weekdays highlighting the growing influence of social visitors.

Time Period	Total Retail		K Eat	ting	Apparel		
	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend	
Quarter-on- Quarter	-20%	-9%	-16%	-4%	-26%	-8%	
Year-on-Year	-7%	-4%	-2%	+1%	-20%	-17%	
Year-to-Date vs. Last Year	-8%	-6%	+1%	+3%	-30%	-26%	

# SIGNIFICANT UPLIFT IN VISITS AT THE START OF Q4, WHILE SPEND SAW IMPROVEMENT THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY & MARCH

#### Footfall & Spend | Last Twelve Months Year-on-Year

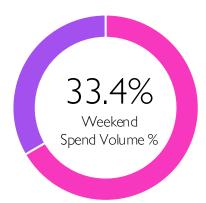


- Visits rose 20% YoY in January, but spend declined, driven by a higher share of frequent, non-spending visitors.
- Transaction volumes held steady over the past year, suggesting smaller average spend per visit despite consistent purchasing activity.



### OVER A THIRD OF SPEND CAPTURED ON WEEKENDS ACROSS HOL AREA, WITH SATURDAYS SEEING 1.5X DAILY AVERAGE





While only 27% of visits occurred on weekends, they accounted for 33.4% of total spend, underscoring the impact of social and leisure visitors on weekend spending in the HOL area.

#### **Spend Volume Index** | vs. District Average, where 100 equals daily average

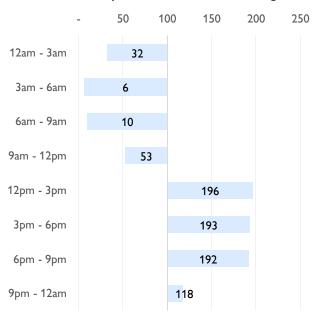
District	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
HOL area	72	82	89	103	120	150	84
Picca dilly District	80	87	92	104	117	143	77
Jermyn St District	81	94	96	109	119	133	69
Leicester Sq District	66	74	84	97	119	161	98
Piccadilly Circus District	67	75	83	100	121	160	93
St Martin's Lane District	69	79	89	104	118	157	84
Haymarket District	75	86	93	105	119	139	84

- The highest daily average spend is seen on Saturdays across Eastern districts like Leicester Square. These districts see a spend over 1.5 times the spend on an average day.
- In contrast, Jermyn Street showed the lowest Saturday skew, reflecting its worker-focused profile.



## EASTERN DISTRICTS CAPTURED SIGNIFICANT SHARE OF SPEND IN THE EVENING BETWEEN 6PM – 9PM





Spend between 3–9pm was almost the 3
hourly average, highlighting the strength of
HOL's evening economy.

**Spend Volume Index** | vs. District Average, where 100 equals hourly average

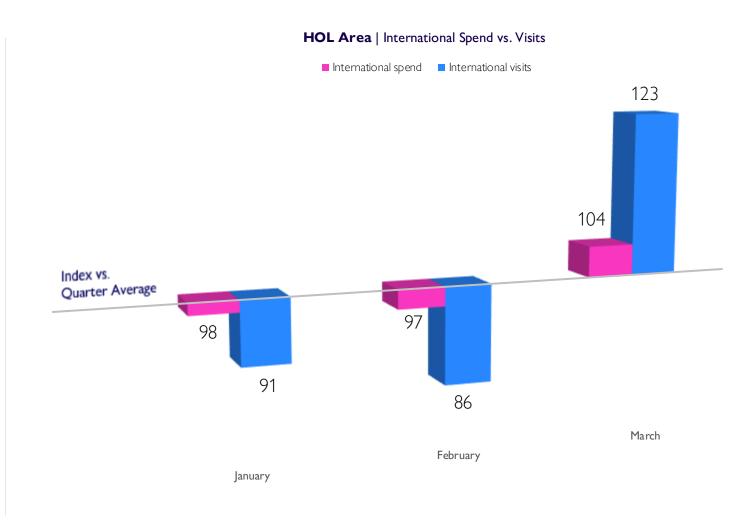
District	12am - 3am	3am – 6am	6am – 9am	9am - 12pm	12pm - 3pm	3pm – 6pm	6pm – 9pm	9pm - 12am
HOLBA area	32	6	10	53	196	193	192	118
Piccadilly District	34	4	10	68	233	239	121	91
Jermyn St District	38	6	13	88	238	224	111	82
Leicester Sq District	29	4	6	36	170	169	253	133
Piccadilly Circus District	40	6	6	34	165	165	235	148
St Martin's Lane District	22	5	10	44	188	177	237	118
Haymarket District	17	8	14	54	196	182	214	114

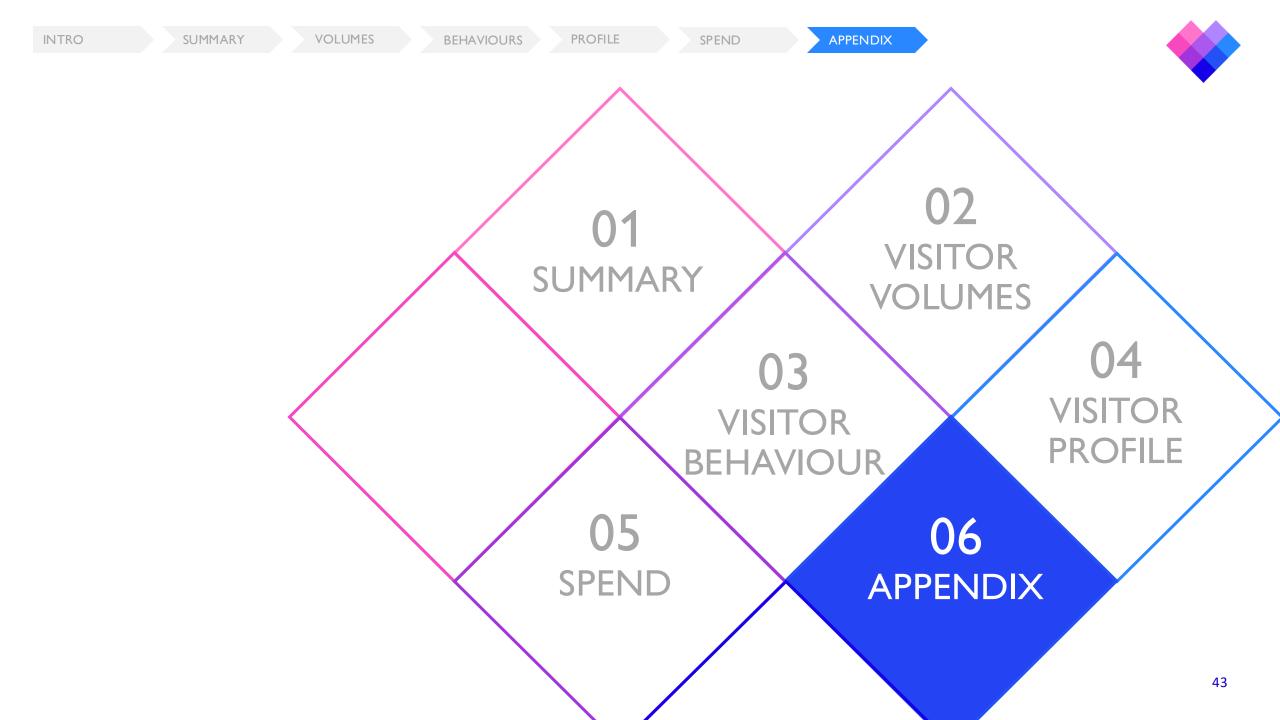
• Worker-focused districts like **Piccadilly and Jermyn Street** saw peak spend in the afternoon (**2.3x hourly average**), while leisure-led areas like Leicester Square peaked in the evening — with **2.5x average** spend between 6–9pm.



## SIGNIFICANT SHARE OF INTERNATIONAL VISITS IN MARCH, TRANSLATING INTO GREATER INTERNATIONAL SPEND

- International visitors accounted for 23% more spend in March vs. the quarterly average. This is 19% higher than the domestic spend increase.
- This aligned with overall visit patterns, as lower international and domestic footfall in January and February led to weaker spend earlier in the quarter.







## HOL AREA PROFILE SKEWED TOWARDS PROFESSIONAL, MID-AGED VISITOR

**APPENDIX** 





### BT VISITOR MIX DEFINITIONS

#### 3 key visitor types used within BT data...



Visitor

The number of non-residents and non-workers who spend at least 10 minutes in that MSOA / HEX in the specified time period.



The number of workers of that MSOA / HEX who spend more than 10 minutes in the location in the specified time period. A person's work location is based on where they have spent most of their working hours based on latest available calendar month.

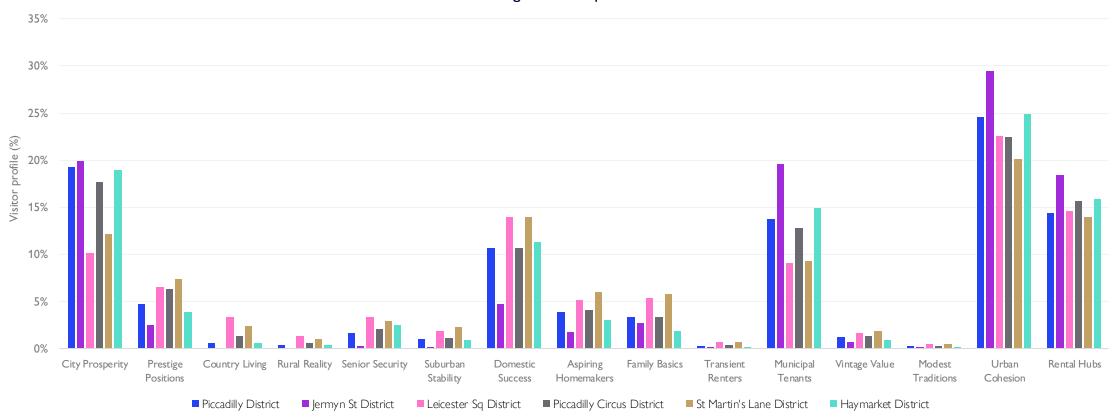


The number of residents of that MSOA / HEX who spend more than 10 minutes in the location in the specified time period. A person's residential location is determined by where they have spent most of their evening and night-time in the latest calendar month.



# CONSISTENT MOSAIC SEGMENTATION PROFILE BETWEEN DISTRICTS WITH ALL DISTRICTS SEEING GREATEST SHARE OF URBAN COHESION

#### MOSAIC Segmentation | District-Level



INTRO SUMMAR

/OLUMES

BEHAVIOURS

PROFILE

### MOSAIC GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

Туре	Name	Description
Α	City Prosperity	High status city dwellers living in central locations and pursuing careers with high rewards
В	Prestige Positions	Established families in large detached homes living upmarket lifestyles
С	Country Living	Well-off owners in rural locations enjoying the benefits of country life.
D	Rural Reality	Householders living in less expensive homes in village communities
E	Senior Security	Elderly people with assets who are enjoying a comfortable retirement
F	Suburban Stability	Mature suburban owners living settled lives in midrange housing
G	Domestic Success	Thriving families who are busy bringing up children and following careers
Н	Aspiring Homemakers	Younger households settling down in housing priced within their means
I	Family Basics	Families with limited resources who budget to make ends meet
J	Transient Renters	Single people renting low-cost homes for the short term
K	Municipal Tenants	Urban residents renting high density housing from social landlords
L	Vintage Value	Elderly people with limited pension income, mostly living alone
М	Modest Traditions	Mature homeowners of value homes enjoying stable lifestyles
N	Urban Cohesion	Residents of settled urban communities with a strong sense of identity
0	Rental Hubs	Educated young people privately renting in urban neighbourhoods



### **MOSAIC DEFINITION**

Experian's MOSAIC Customer Segmentation divides a consumer base into groups of individuals that are similar in specific ways, such as:

- Age
- Interests
- Life Stage
- Spending habits

**UK** Population

Mosaic

A02 Uptown Elite



51m individuals





15 groups





Uptown Elite are affluent, older families who live in desirable neighbourhoods within inner suburbs



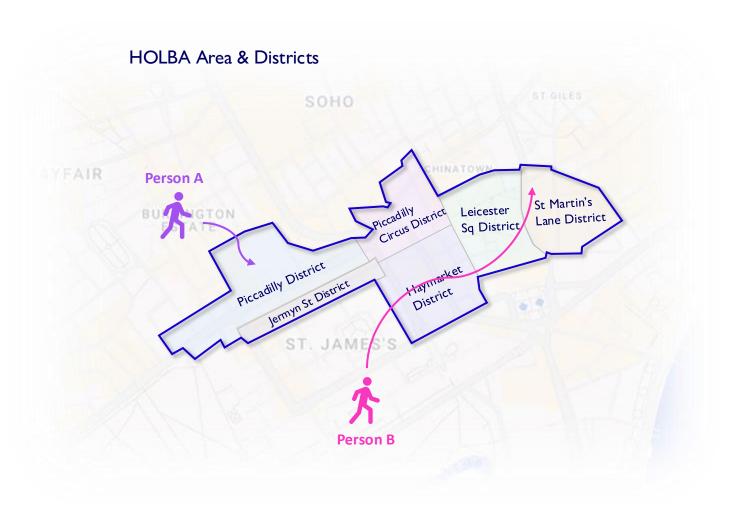
### **CROSS VISITATION EXAMPLE**

#### **Person A**

- Only visits Piccadilly District
- Counts as 1 visit to Piccadilly District, and 1 visit to HOL Area
- Cross Visitation Index = 100

#### **Person B**

- Walks through 3 districts Haymarket District, Leicester Sq District & St Marin's Lane District
- Counts as 1 visit to each of the 3 districts, but only 1 visit to HOL Area
- Cross Visitation Index = 300





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