

# Visitor Insights

## February Report 2023

Shaping a  
world-class  
West End

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# Background

## Introduction and context

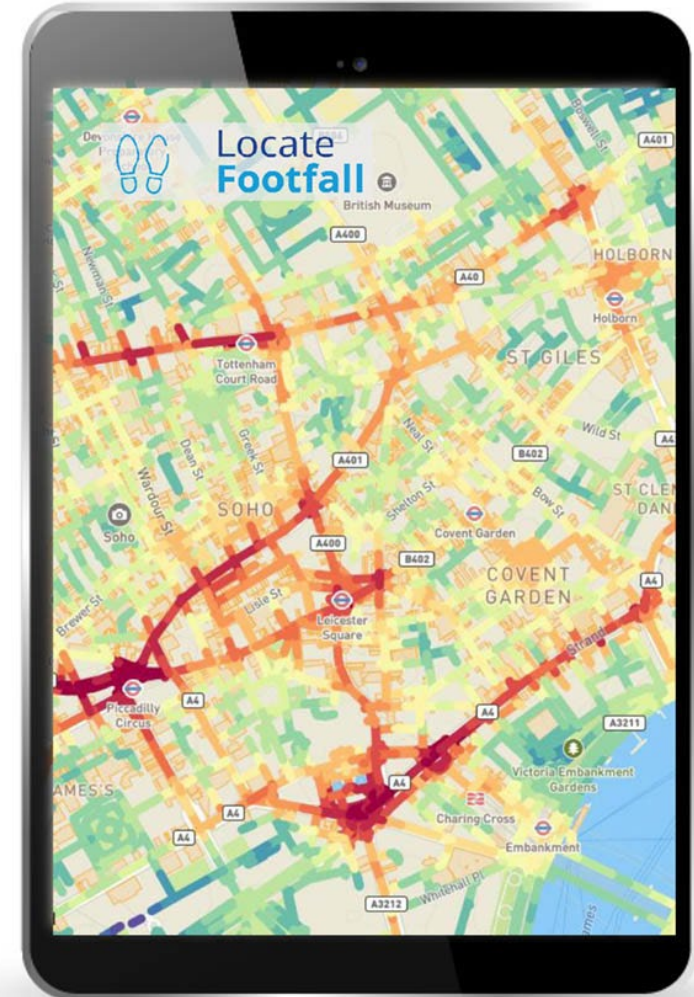


Heart of London Business Alliance (HOLBA) has partnered with Colliers to provide data and insights on visitors to the area.

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

- Visitor footfall & profile
- Visitor behaviour

Colliers' Locate Footfall mobility data platform is central to the delivery of the insights set out in this report. The platform is powered by extensive mobility data covering a growing sample of 9+ million smartphone users nationally.





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01

# Summary





# Executive Summary

## February 2022



- With some surprising figures in this month's report, we're reminded that visitor figures still haven't settled into a predictable pattern post-pandemic.
- February was punctuated with a half-term break in the middle of the month, which did see a rise in domestic tourism mid-week, peaking on the Thursday. This was welcomed as the previous week's cold weather saw visitor numbers dip below average. However, overall, February's visitor numbers are down compared to the month previous, not something we would have seen pre-2020.
- The reduction in domestic tourists visiting the area, compared to January of this year, is a trend that was seen across the wider West End area. This could be a sign that the cost-of-living crisis is starting to take effect.
- Internationally, the appetite to visit the West End is still strong for the US market, with inbound visitors increasing by 0.4%, whereas we saw European travellers dip off as expected following the festive period.
- HOLBA's primary, secondary and tertiary catchment areas shrunk in February. However the most distant, tertiary, catchment area shrunk the most. This indicates that the drop in footfall is disproportionately due to the lack of long distance visits.

# Summary

## February 2022



10.5 m  
(-9%)

Visitors to HOLBA  
area down 9% month  
on month



156 mins  
(-0.1%)

Visitors typically spend  
just over 2.5 hours in  
the area. Down 1 min  
vs YTD average.



10.2 m  
(-8.1%)

People live within  
the HOLBA area  
Core catchment



02

# Visitor Volumes



# Visitor Volumes Footfall - districts



Footfall down 9% month  
on month, and down  
25% year on year

International visits also  
down vs. February 2022



District	Month-on-Month			Year-on-year		
	Total	Domestic	International	Total	Domestic	International
<b>HOLBA area</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>-20%</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-22%</b>	<b>-38%</b>
Piccadilly District	-9%	-6%	-27%	-25%	-17%	-57%
Jermyn St District	-7%	-8%	-3%	-26%	-23%	-41%
Leicester Sq District	-11%	-8%	-24%	-34%	-32%	-44%
Piccadilly Circus District	-8%	-6%	-18%	-20%	-19%	-26%
St Martin's Lane District	-7%	-7%	-5%	-38%	-37%	-41%
Haymarket District	-11%	-7%	-33%	-26%	-17%	-60%
Core West End	-6%	-5%	-10%	-24%	-22%	-30%



# Visitor Volumes

## Footfall – street level



Footfall down month on month in all street locations across the HOLBA area but is inline with the Core West End

Leicester Square footfall is stronger this February than last year

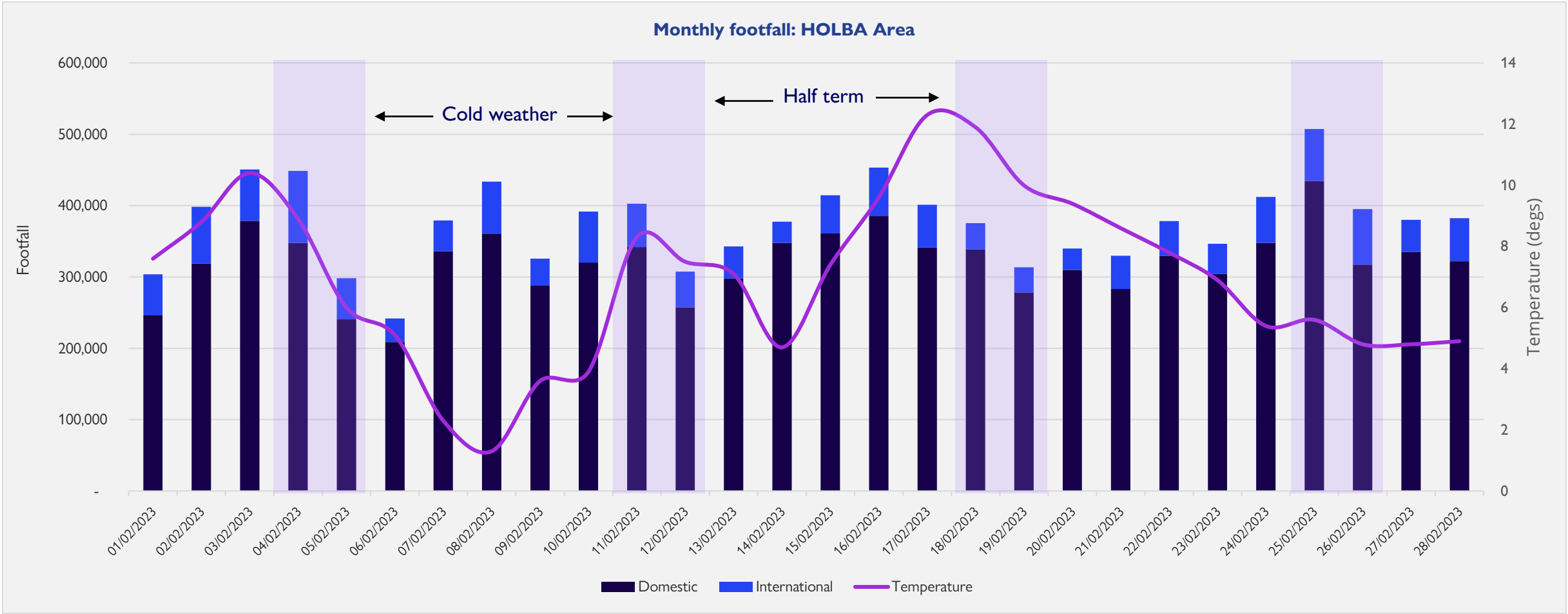


Street	Month-on-Month			Year-on-year		
	Total	Domestic	International	Total	Domestic	International
HOLBA area	-9%	-7%	-20%	-25%	-22%	-38%
Piccadilly	-9%	-7%	-22%	-15%	-7%	-54%
Jermyn St	-2%	-3%	9%	-27%	-23%	-51%
Leicester Sq	-13%	-8%	-20%	18%	-21%	245%
Piccadilly Circus	-6%	-5%	-15%	-20%	-16%	-39%
St Martin's Lane	-7%	-6%	-18%	-44%	-43%	-53%
Haymarket	-9%	-5%	-35%	-40%	-27%	-77%
Haymarket - Regent St / St James	-10%	-8%	-29%	-32%	-23%	-68%
Core West End	-6%	-5%	-10%	-24%	-22%	-30%

We have seen a large jump in international footfall in Leicester Square compared to last year. This is due to two main factors. Firstly, the square was closed last year for UKPN works. Secondly, the Londoner hotel opened within the last year. These two factors in conjunction have lead to a steep rise in international footfall.

# Visitor Volumes

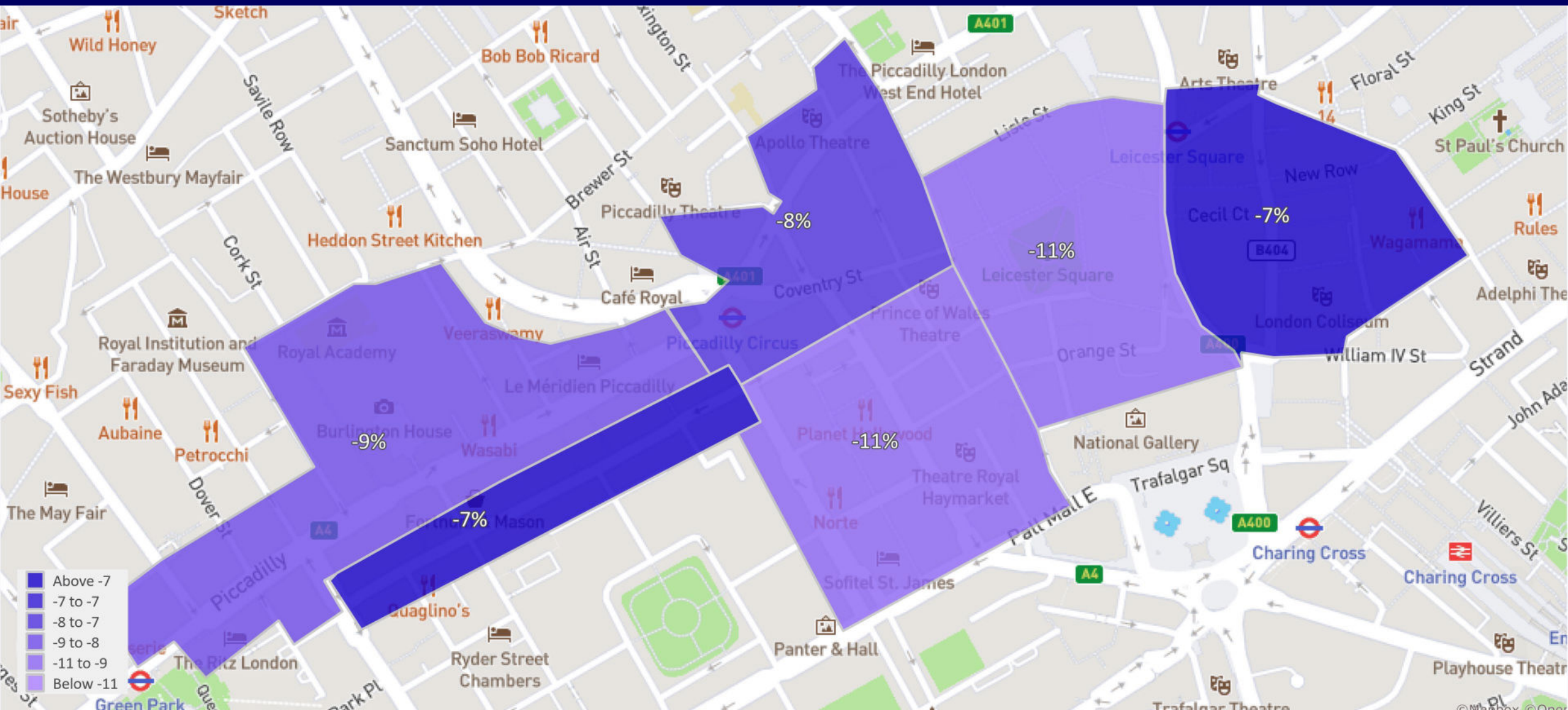
## Strong footfall on last weekend of month





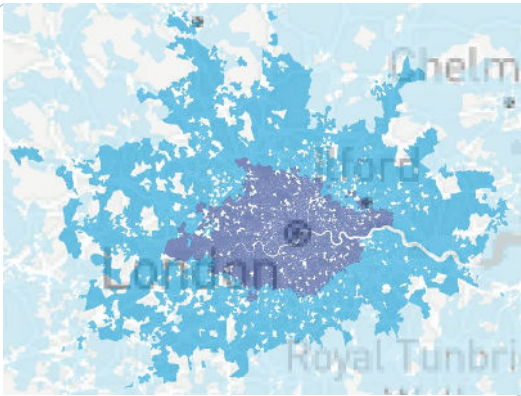
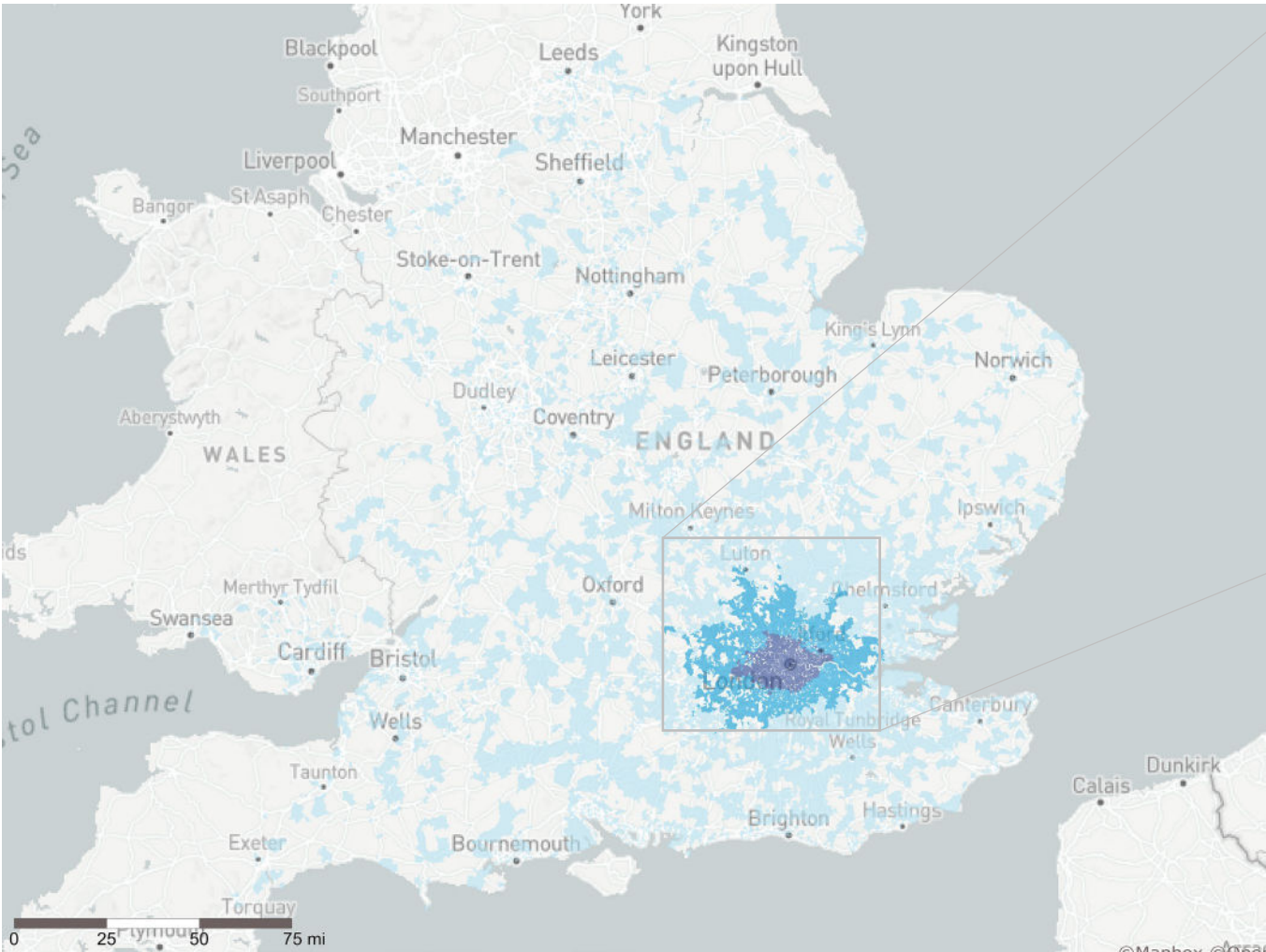
# Visitor Volumes

## Feb 2023 v. Jan 2023



# Visitor Volumes

## Core catchment decreased 8.1% in size vs January



Catchment band		Population (Millions)	Change vs. previous month
	-Primary	5.3	-3.7%
	-Secondary	4.9	-12.6%
	<b>Core (Primary + Secondary)</b> 75% of regular visitors	<b>10.2</b>	<b>-8.1%</b>
	-Tertiary	10.2	-14.6%
	<b>Total (Core+ Tertiary)</b> 95% of regular visitors	<b>20.4</b>	<b>-11.5%</b>



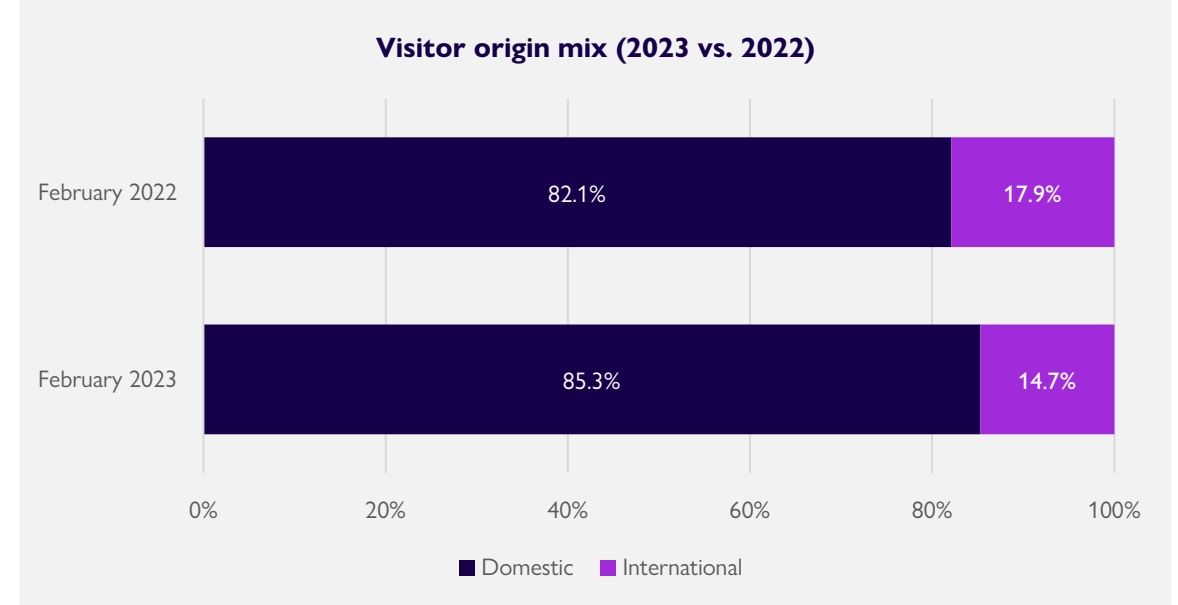
# Visitor Volumes: Visitor mix

## International visitor volumes down 20% vs January



Area	International mix (%)	+/- change in volume	
		Month-on-Month	Year-on-year
<b>HOLBA area</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>-19.7%</b>	<b>-38.1%</b>
Piccadilly	9.6%	-21.5%	-54.2%
Jermyn St	9.3%	8.9%	-51.2%
Leicester Sq	42.5%	-19.9%	244.5%
Piccadilly Circus	13.4%	-15.5%	-39.3%
St Martin's Lane	12.0%	-17.5%	-52.6%
Haymarket	9.8%	-34.5%	-76.6%
Haymarket - Regent St / St James	9.2%	-29.4%	-68.0%
Core West End	16.5%	-9.6%	-29.6%

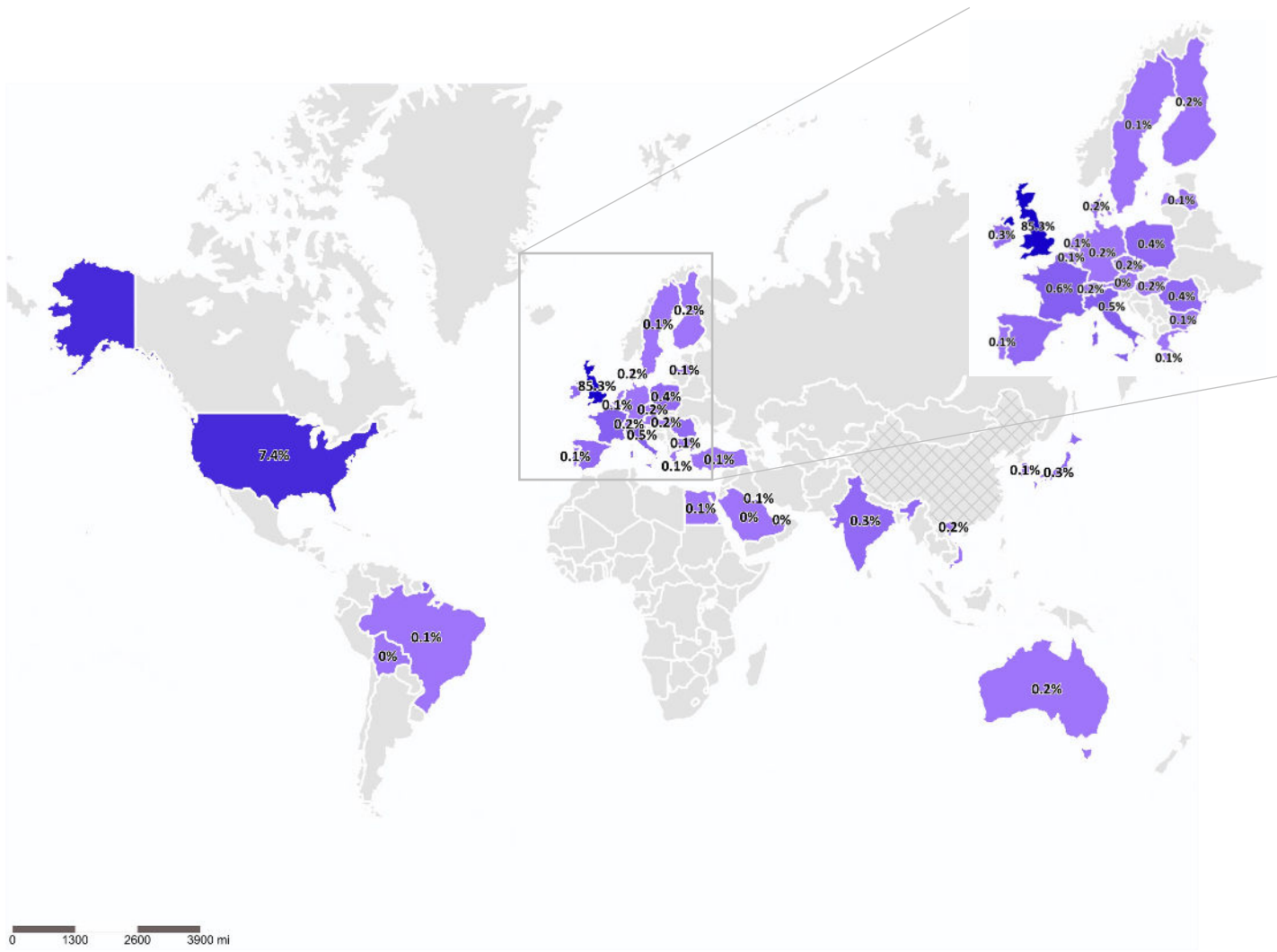
- International visits to HOLBA are down -19.7% on January
- Only Jermyn St has seen an increase in international visits month on month



- International visitors accounted for 14.7% of visits in February, vs 17.9% for the same month last year

# Visitor Volumes: Visitor origin

## 14.7% of visitors to HOLBA from outside the UK



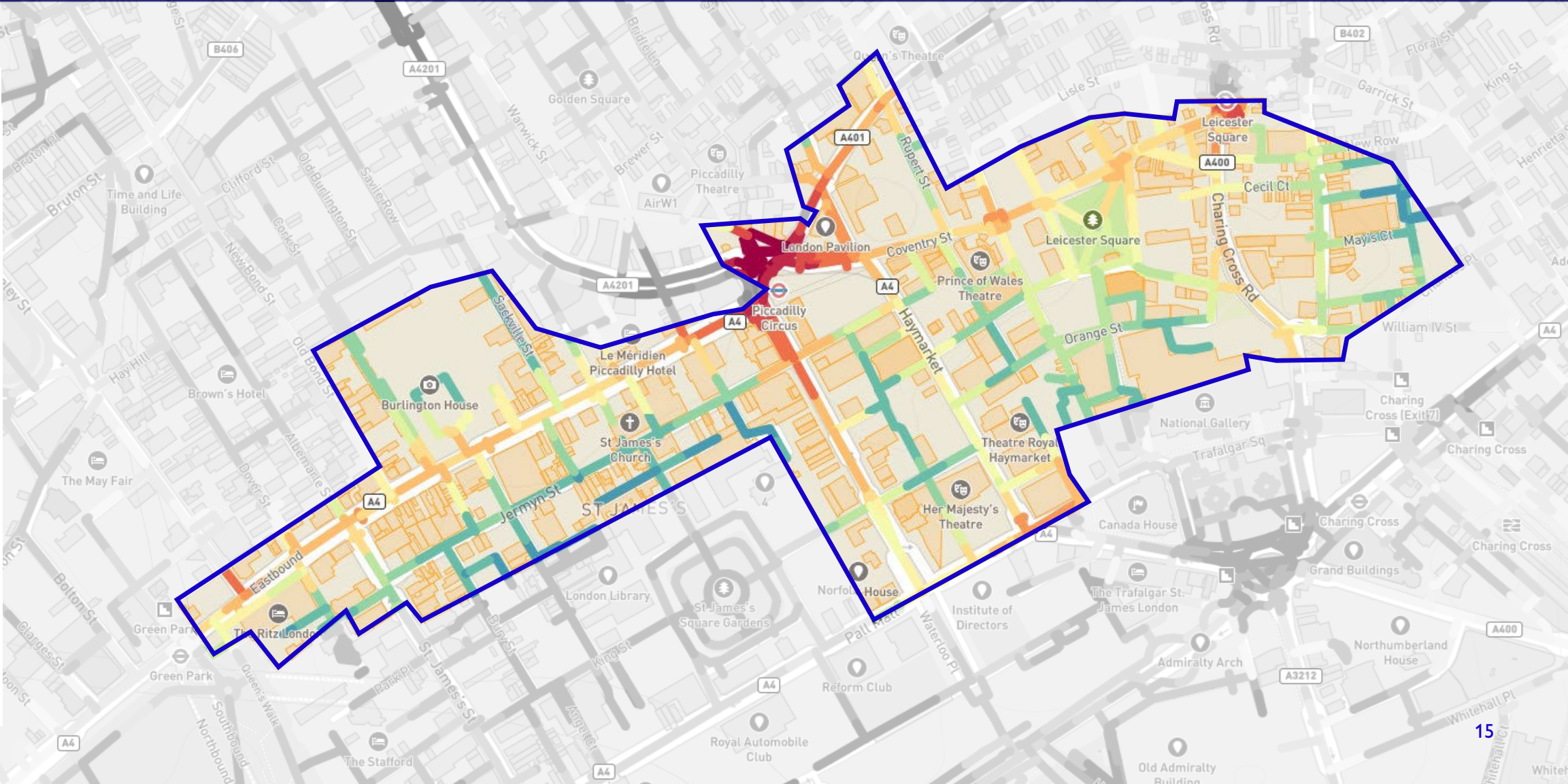
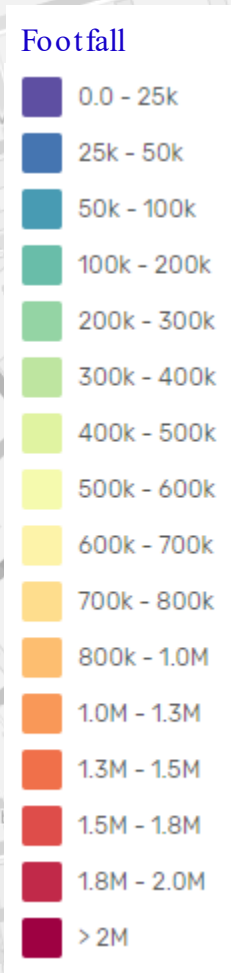
Rank	Country	%	+/- change
1	United Kingdom	85.3%	↑ 1.2%
2	United States	7.4%	→ 0.4%
3	France	0.6%	↓ -0.2%
4	Italy	0.5%	↓ -0.3%
5	Romania	0.4%	↓ -0.4%
6	Poland	0.4%	↓ -0.3%
7	Ireland	0.3%	↓ -0.1%
8	Spain	0.3%	↓ -0.1%
9	India	0.3%	↓ -0.1%
10	Japan	0.3%	↓ -0.0%
Europe (excl. UK)		4.6%	-2.0%
Rest of the world		10.1%	0.9%
Non UK		14.7%	-1.2%

Note: Data unavailable for visitors from China



# Visitor Volumes

## Segment footfall





# 03

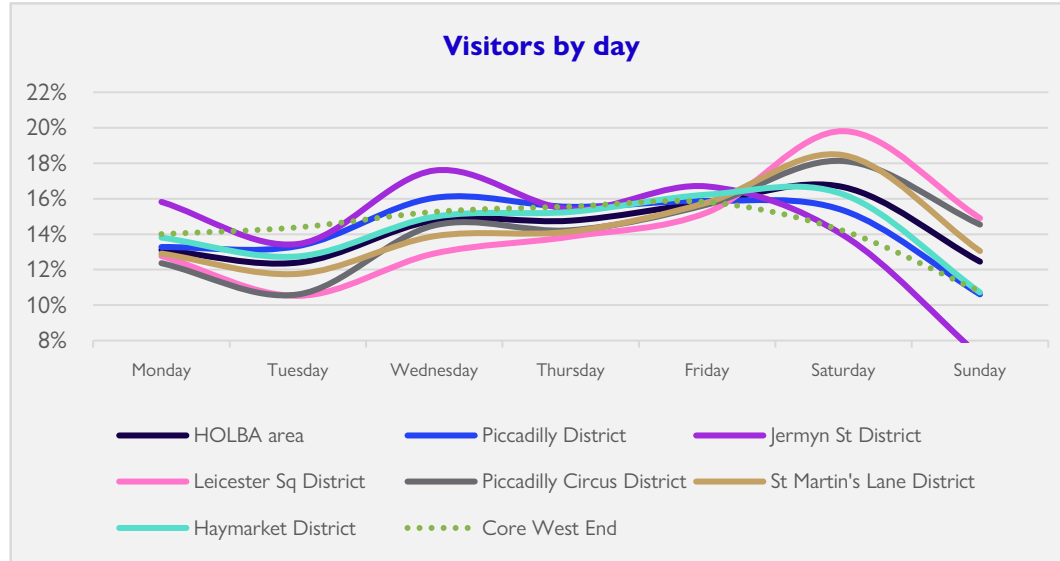
# Visitor Behaviour



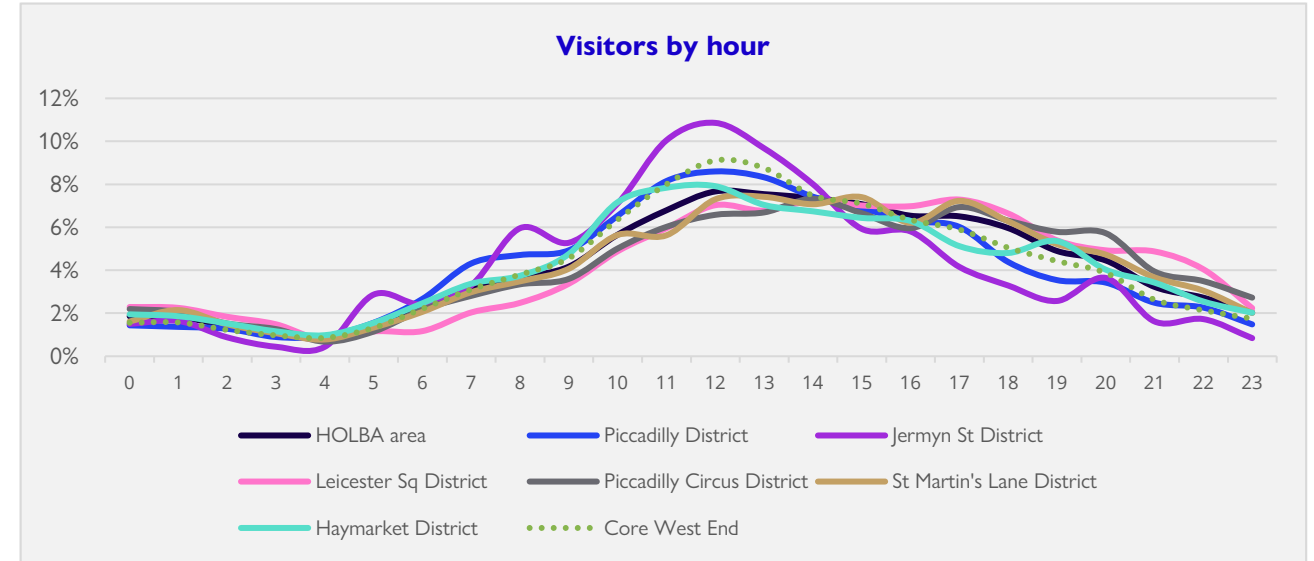


# Visitor Behaviour: Visits by day and hour

## Saturday visits most popular



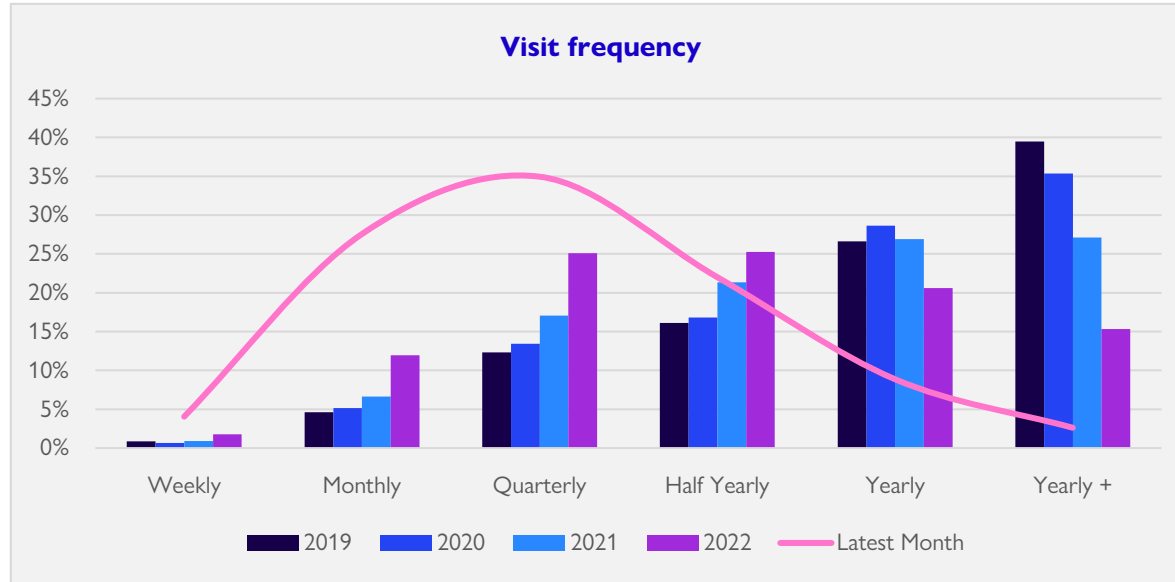
- Saturdays typically saw the highest proportion of visitors (16.7% ), whilst Sundays saw the lowest (12.5%)



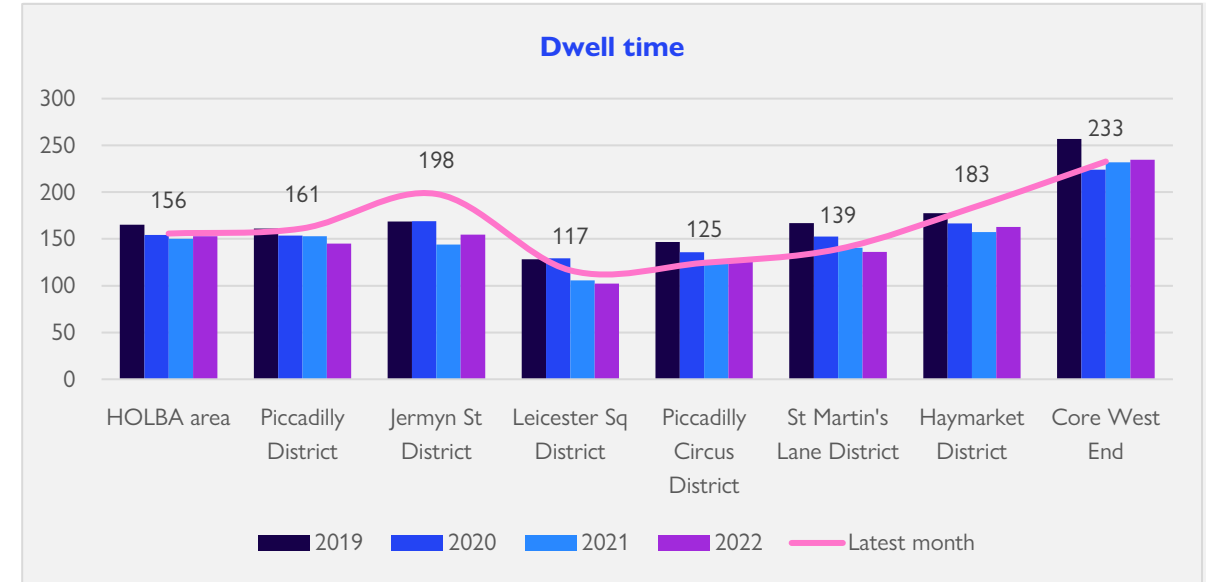
- Visitor volumes typically peak during lunchtime and into the afternoon
- However Leicester Square peaks during the evening, and Jermyn St has a more noticeable midday/lunchtime peak. Visitors by hour patterns fairly consistent month to month

# Visitor Behaviour: Frequency

## Visitors coming more frequently but staying for less time



- Increase in proportion of visitors visiting monthly and quarterly
- Conversely decrease in proportion of visitors visiting yearly and beyond

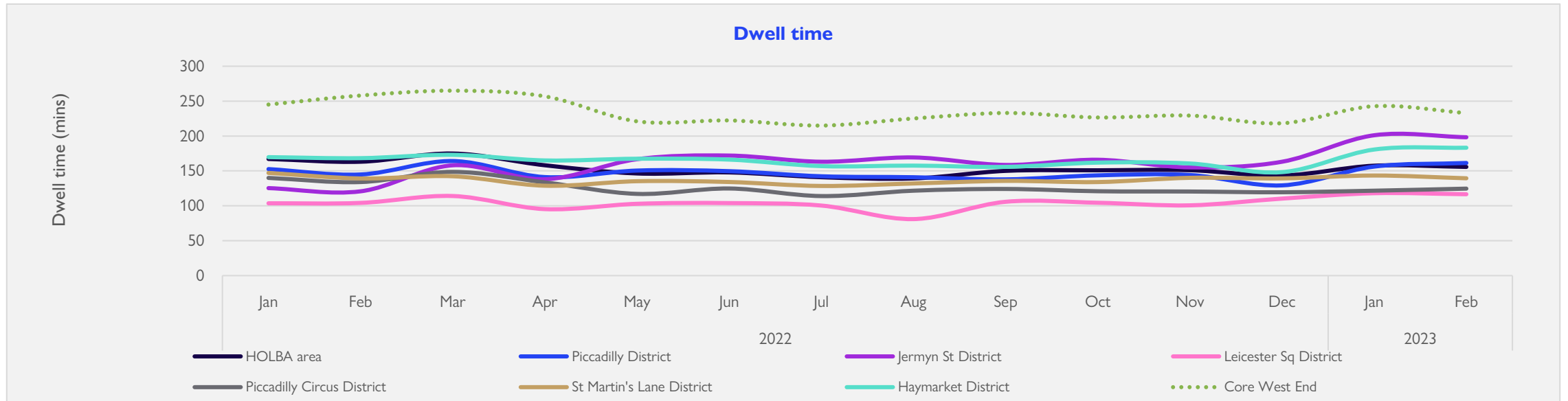


- Dwell time reduced in February versus January, 156 mins versus 158 mins
- Jermyn St District has the longest dwell time at 198 mins, although this was 3 minutes lower than in January



# Visitor Behaviour: Dwell time

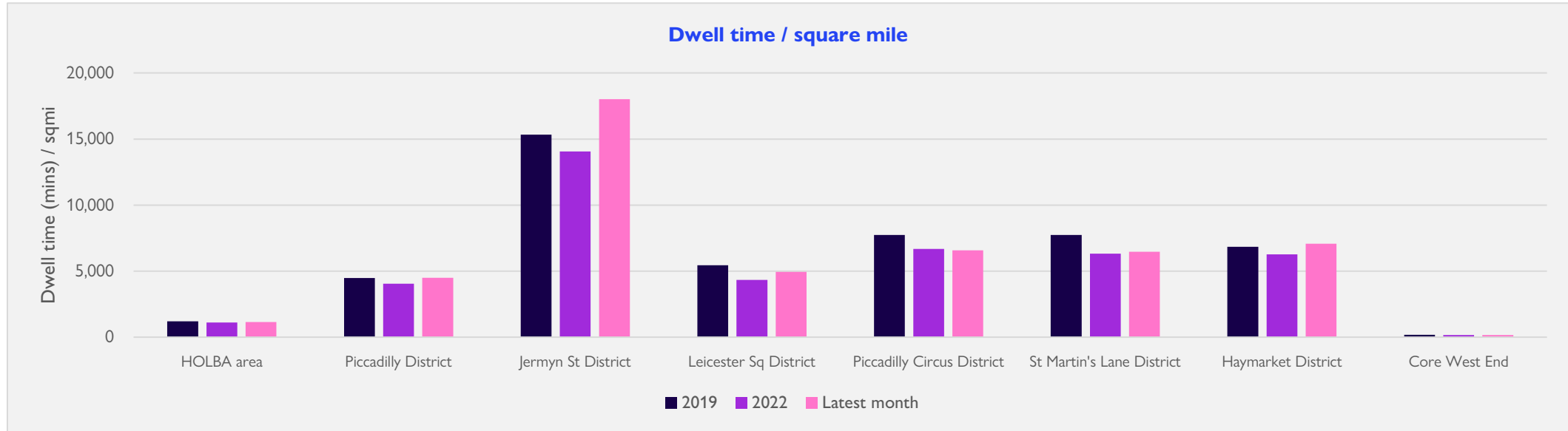
## Dwell time broadly consistent with January



- Dwell times in February 2023 were broadly consistent with January in all districts with only a extremely marginal drop.
- This drop is well within regular fluctuations, is not statistically significant and is still higher than we have seen through out 2022.

# Visitor Behaviour: Dwell time

## Marginally shorter dwell time than January



- Jermyn St has exceptionally high dwell time when its small geographic size is accounted for. This is due to the high proportion of offices located in a relatively small area. Where workers will stay in the office for hours at a time, this drives up dwell time in that area. This coupled with the lack of visitor numbers on similar levels to Piccadilly Circus or Leicester Square keeps the average footfall levels high.



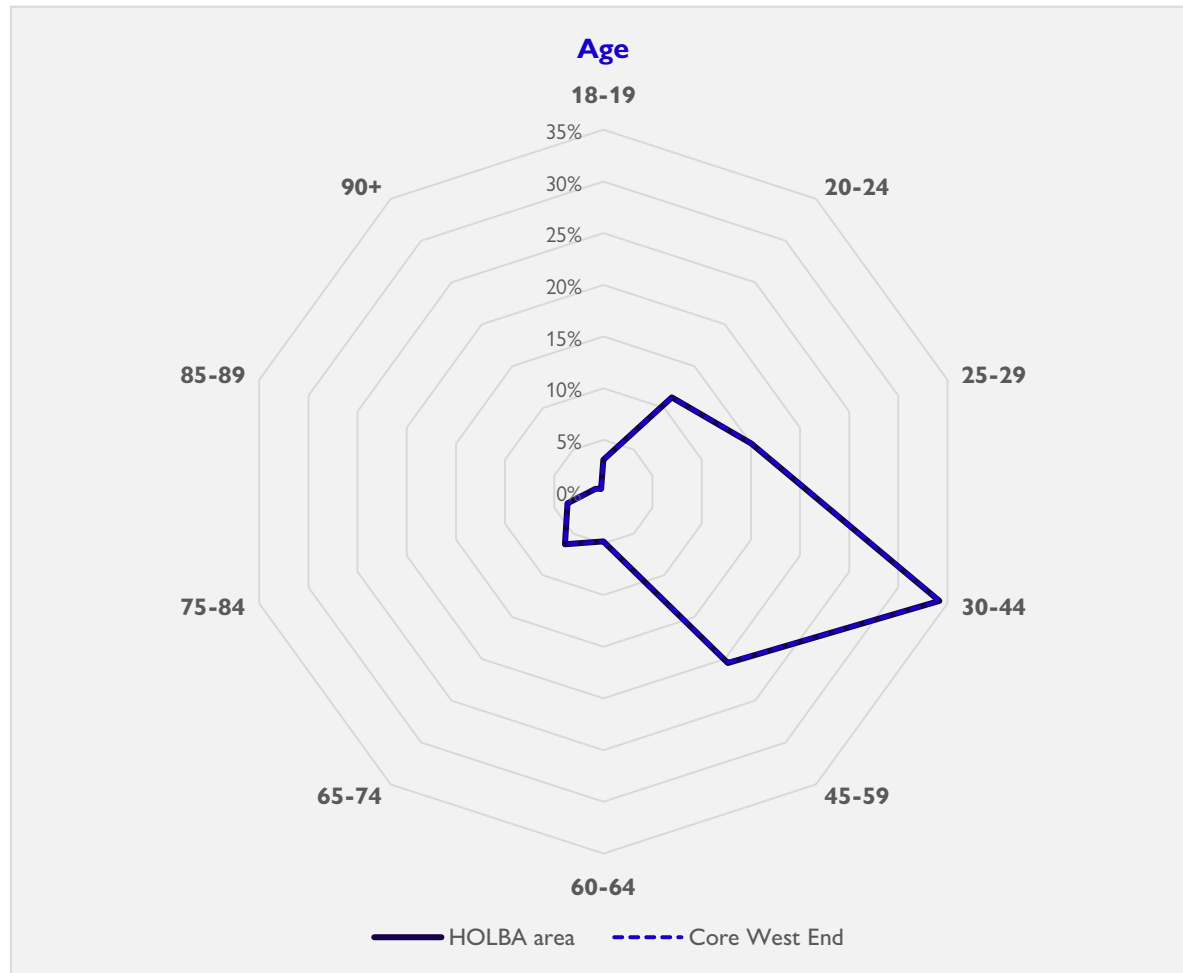
04

# Visitor Profile

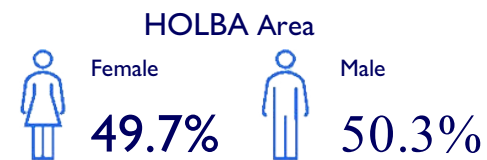


# Visitor Profile: Age & Gender

## 54.7% of visitors are aged between 30-59 years old



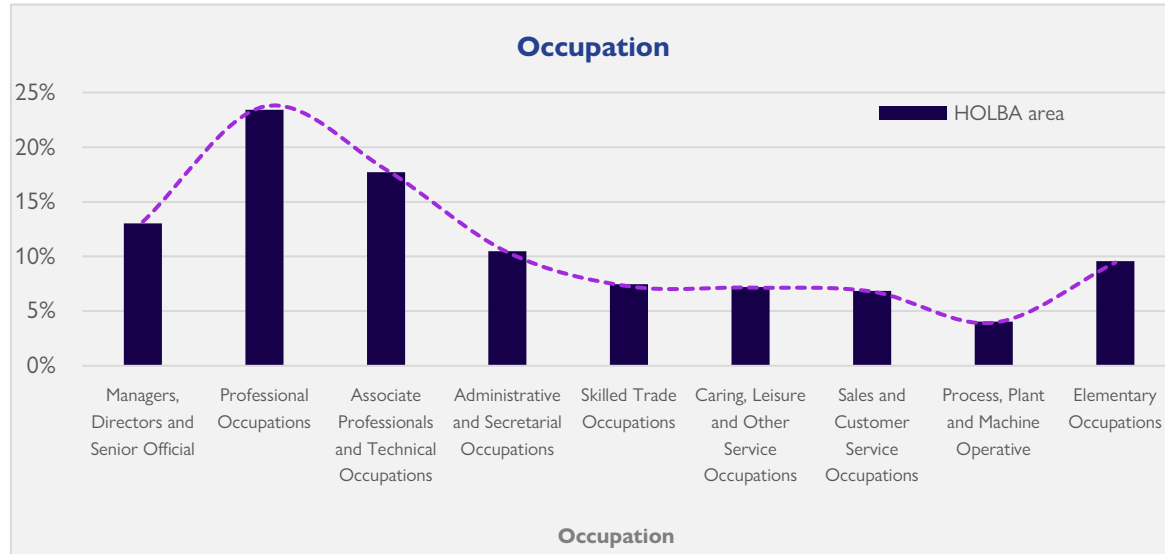
- Visitor profile skewed towards those aged 30-59 years old
  - 54.7% of visitors aged 30-59, versus 54.6% in January
- Average age relatively consistent across the different areas within Heart of London area
- Males & Females are fairly evenly split, and in-line with the make up of the Core West End as a whole



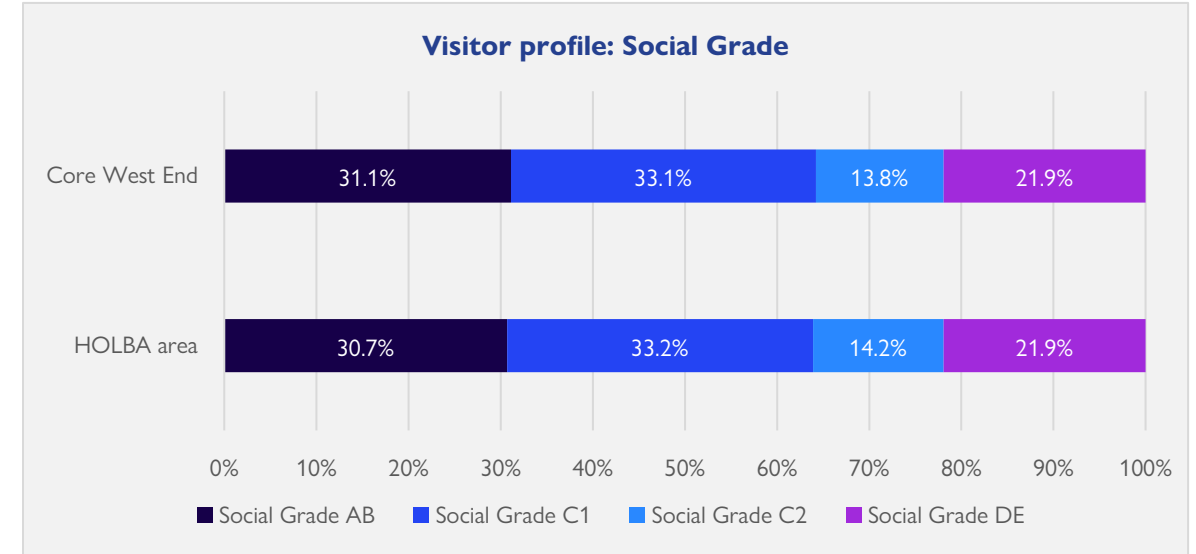


# Visitor Profile: Occupation & Social Grade

## Catchment biased towards white collar workers



- Visitor catchment profile biased towards 'white collar' occupations, consistent with last month
- HOLBA Is inline with wider Core West End profile.

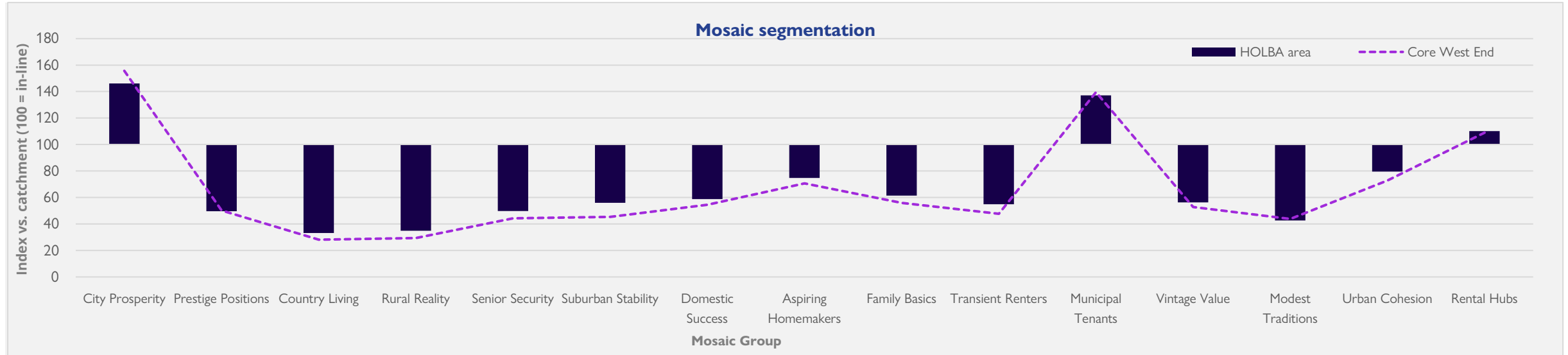


- 30.7% HOLBA Area visitor catchment profile in Social Grade AB, vs 31.1% for Core West End
- Little change versus January 2023



# Visitor Profile: Occupation & Social Grade

## ‘City Prosperity’ is the most dominant Mosaic group



- Visitor profile biased towards 2 Mosaic groups; ‘City Prosperity’ and ‘Municipal Tenants’
- City Prosperity are high income residents who have expensive homes in desirable metropolitan locations
- Municipal Tenants are residents who rent inexpensive city homes in central locations
- Profile very similar to Core West End visitors



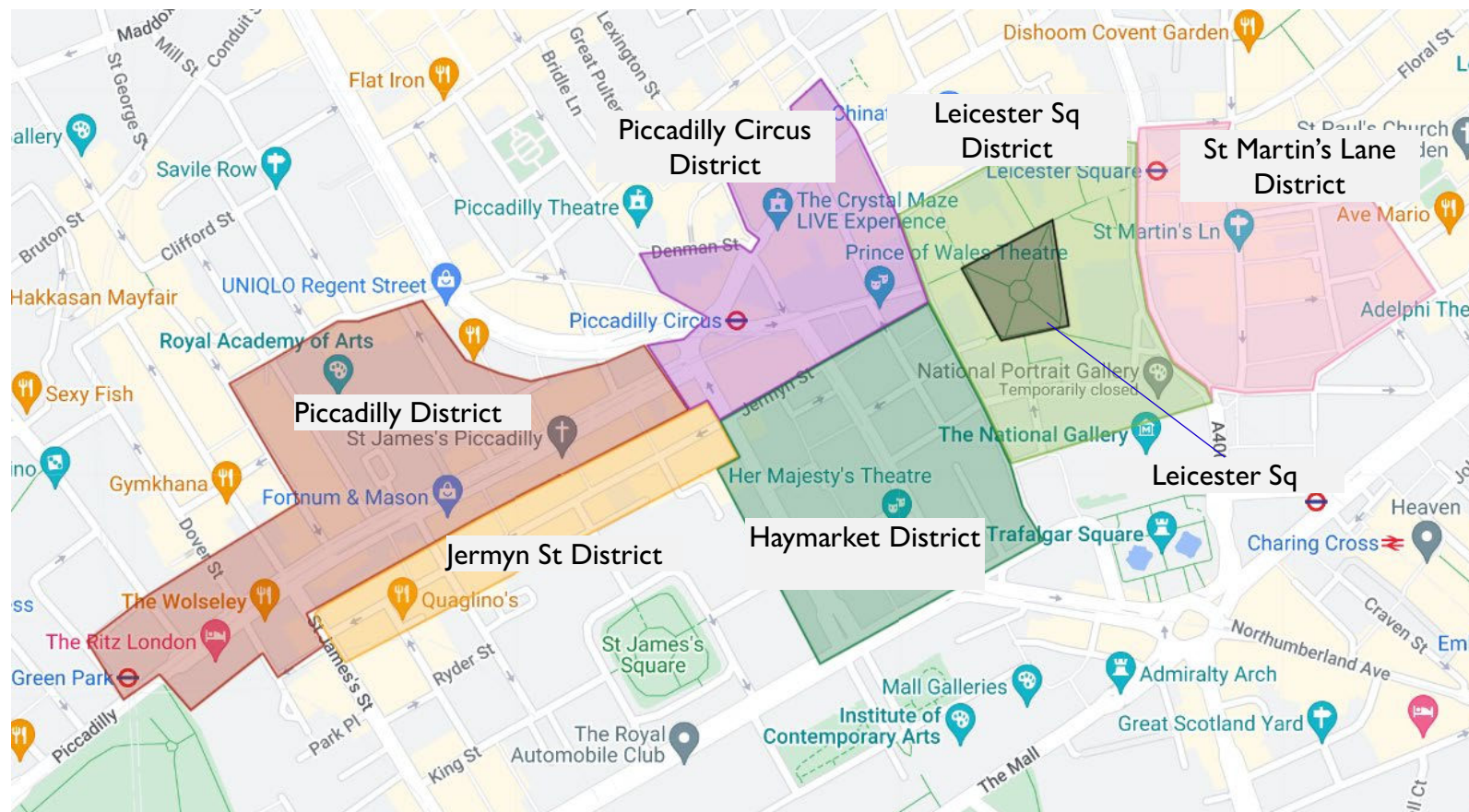


# Appendix

## Location definition



- 7 key areas within HOLBA used for analysis:
  - Piccadilly District
  - Jermyn St District
  - Piccadilly Circus District
  - Haymarket District
  - Leicester Sq District
  - Leicester Sq
  - St Martin's Lane District
- In addition Core West End area has been defined as a benchmark location





# Appendix

## Mosaic Groups



TYPE	NAME	DESCRIPTION
A	City Prosperity	High status city dwellers living in central locations and pursuing careers with high rewards.
B	Prestige Positions	Established families in large detached homes living upmarket lifestyles.
C	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.
H	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.
M	Modest Traditions	Mature homeowners of value homes enjoying stable lifestyles.
N	Urban Cohesion	Residents of settled urban communities with a strong sense of identity.
O	Rental Hubs	Educated young people privately renting in urban neighbourhoods.

# Appendix

## 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



51m individuals

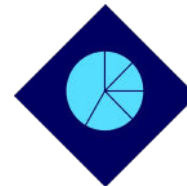


25m households

### Mosaic



15 groups



66 types

### A02 Uptown Elite



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

# Appendix

## Colliers Retail Strategy & Analytics: What we do







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**HEART  
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