



MONITORING SENTIMENT FOR DOMESTIC AND INTRA-EUROPEAN TRAVEL

WAVE 12 | 06/22

EUROPEAN
TRAVEL
COMMISSION



Co-funded by
the European Union

WAVE 12

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



This report monitors sentiment and short-term intentions for domestic and intra-regional travel within Europe and is the **12th wave of market research**¹ initiated in September 2020. Responses are collected from Europeans in 10 high-volume source markets.

- Travel sentiment remains strong, with **73% of surveyed Europeans planning to travel in the next 6 months**, out of which 60% intend to travel more than once.
- **84% of travellers intend to take a trip during June-September**, with peak interest in visiting Mediterranean destinations.
- **The war in Ukraine did not affect the holiday plans of 44% of Europeans**, while it caused 31% to make some changes to their original plans, and 4% cancelled their trip completely.
- **Over one-third of Europeans state that their travel plans are unaffected by COVID-19** — the largest share since August 2020.

WAVE 12

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



- Sun & Beach (22%), Nature & Outdoors (15%) and City Break (15%) are the most preferred types of leisure trips for Europeans for summer 2022.
- Spending time in the great outdoors, seeing scenic European landscapes (19%), immersion in the local lifestyle (16%), and learning more about local gastronomy and delicacies (16%) are travellers' most coveted experiences for their upcoming summer trip.
- 39% of Europeans will embark on a family vacation in the next six months, and 37% will travel with their partner.
- 47% of European travellers will take a plane to their next holiday destination, while 38% will drive.
- The 4-6 nights holidays are the most popular (34%), followed by 7-9 nights (27%); 31% of survey respondents plan to invest 500-1,000 euros per person on their upcoming trip.
- Over half of European travellers (52%) favour hotel stays, while interest in short-term rentals (15%) increases slightly compared to last summer (13%)

WAVE 12

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **Pleasant weather, attractive deals and fewer crowds** are the key criteria for the selection of a travel destination.
- **Europeans' travel confidence rises**, as indicated by the increase in the share of Europeans who have fully booked their upcoming trip (+6%) and the decrease in the level of uncertainty regarding the destination of their next trip (-4%).
- **Economic concerns regarding price inflation and personal finances are travellers' key source of distress (31%)**, while the war in Ukraine (14%) emerges as an additional concern.
- Although sentiment towards **strict health & safety protocols** drops (-12%) to its lowest point, the protocols remain essential for the comfort of 55% of European travellers.



WAVE 12

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DESTINATIONS



- The expected travel peak from June to September, together with travellers' preference for less crowded destinations, is an opportunity to **promote lesser-known sites and attractions with better value for money deals.**
- Considering the popularity of nature and outdoors trips, destinations could target, both domestic visitors and travellers from neighbouring countries: **35-54-year-old travellers on family trips and couples aged 54+ who want to enjoy nature and the landscape.**
- In response to the high intentions to travel more than once in the warmer months, destinations are advised to **plan campaigns aimed at attracting the first and subsequent waves of summer trips, with special offerings for return visits.**
- 'Localhood' is of prime interest to Europeans; destinations are urged to promote **local experiences that enable visitors' immersion in the local culture and foster a positive interaction between local communities and visitors.**

WAVE 12

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUSINESSES



- Coastal hotels/resorts targeting families may consider promoting **packages of 4-9 nights complemented by travel experiences revolving around nature and the local cuisine**, based on this segment's high level of interest in such activities.
- Bargains and attractive deals are now the second-most important criteria for Europeans when choosing a holiday destination. Businesses are encouraged to **bundle tour packages at a reduced price or enhance their value with added experiences at no extra cost**.
- As Europeans' travel confidence grows and the booking window elongates, **businesses can already launch campaigns for the shoulder months** since 75% of trips planned for the next 3-4 months are not yet fully booked.
- **Tourism businesses should maintain strict health & safety protocols**, which remain highly important for over half of Europeans, even though travel concerns, specifically related to COVID-19, drop.



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How to read

Wave 12

1. Dates on the graphs refer to the following data collection periods for each research wave:

	Wave 9	Wave 10	Wave 11	Wave 12
Survey dates	10-18 Sep '21	23-31 Dec '21	1-9 March '22	9-12 May 2022

2. To present Wave 12 'timings in which respondents are most likely to take their next trip', the following time periods should be used as a reference:
 - In 1-2 months; June-July 2022
 - In 3-4 months; August-September 2022
 - In 5-6 months; October-November 2022
3. To present data and insights, the following distinct groups have been analysed:
 - Total respondents; 6,005
 - Respondents with short-term travel plans/most likely to travel in the next 6 months ('early-bird' travellers/ 'travel-ready' Europeans); 4,391
 - Respondents selecting outbound European destinations; 4,463
4. Significant changes between current and previous waves are calculated on a 2.5% significance level. Statistically significant differences are marked using the following symbols:
 - Increasing ▲, decreasing ▼
 - Numbers next to the arrows reflect the actual change in the share of respondents selecting a specific response between current and previous waves
6. All data and insights refer to domestic and intra-European travel, unless otherwise stated.

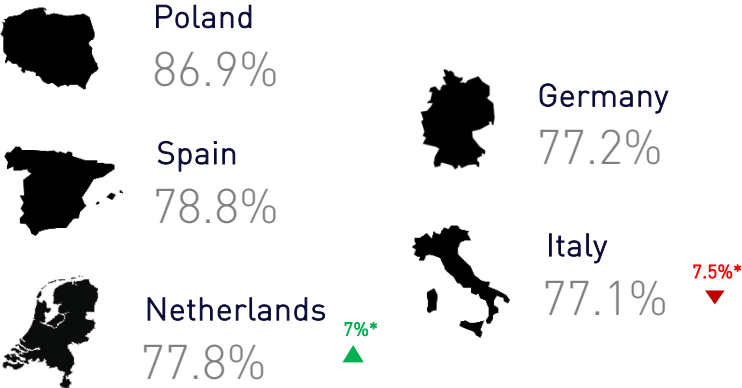
TRAVEL INTENTIONS



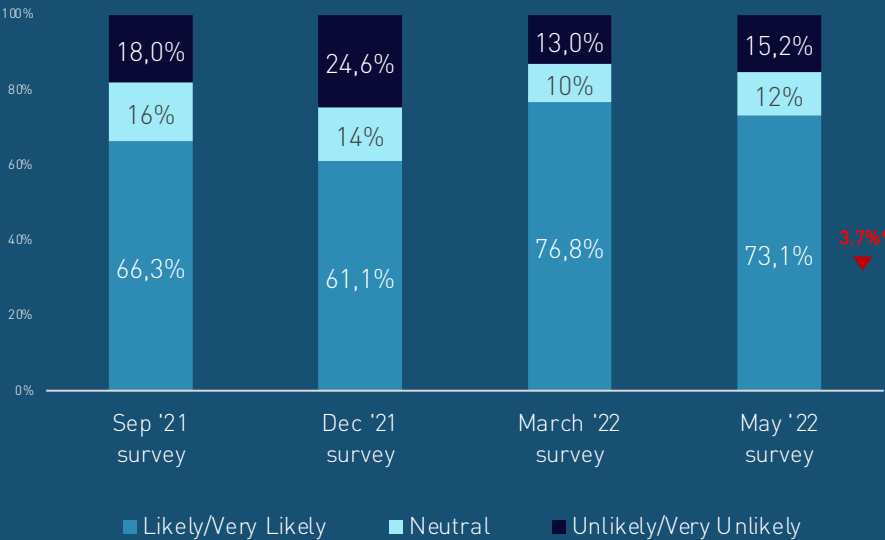
01

With summer coming, Europeans' travel sentiment remains strong despite a minor drop (-4%)

Top 5 markets that are most likely to travel in the next 6 months



Intention to travel in the next 6 months



10 Q9. Do you plan to take an overnight trip domestically or within Europe in the next 6 months, either for personal or professional purposes?

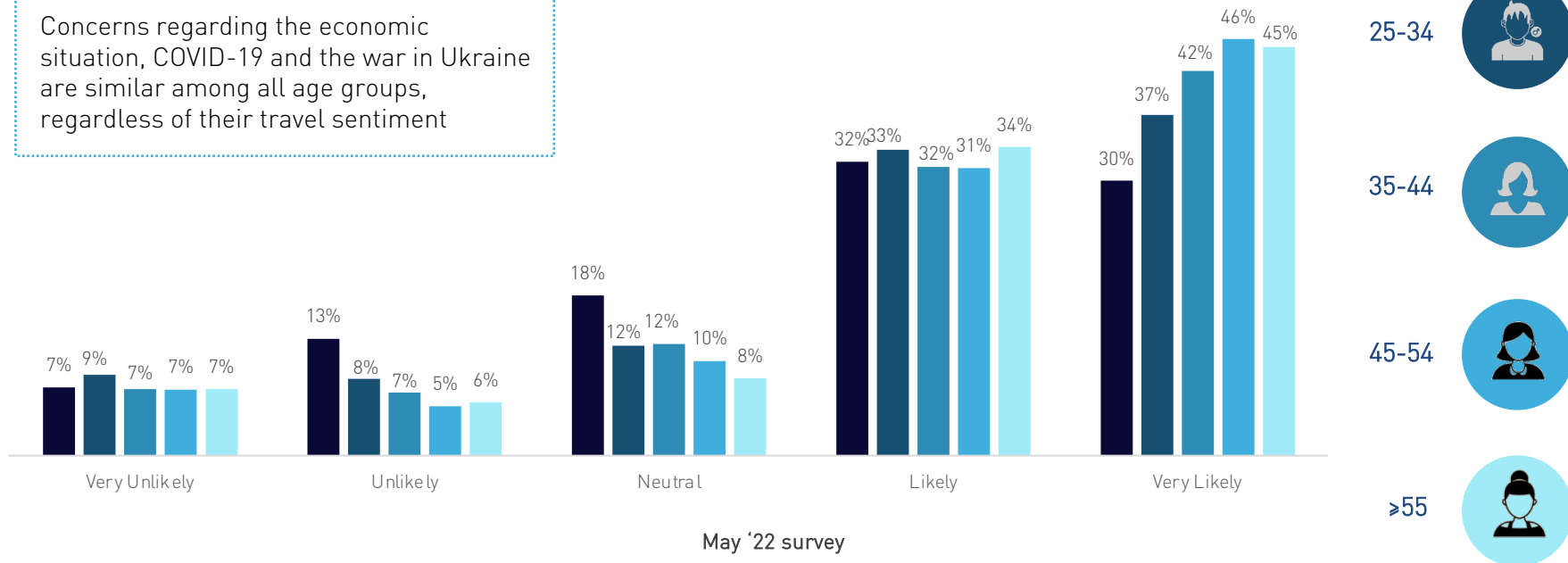
* Statistically significant difference vs previous survey period

No. of respondents: 6,005

Europeans aged 45+ remain the most eager to travel (78%), while sentiment among the youngest travellers (18–24 years old) is slightly weaker (62%)

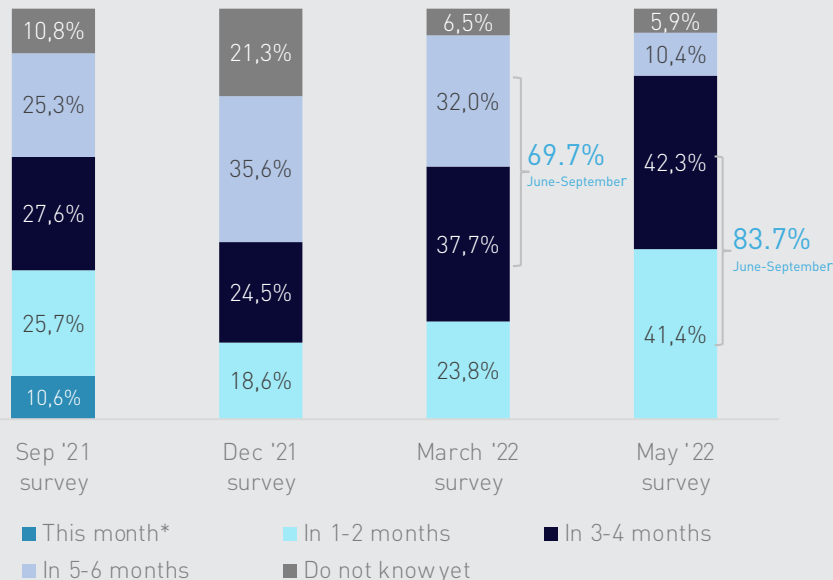
Intention to travel in the next 6 months by age group

Concerns regarding the economic situation, COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine are similar among all age groups, regardless of their travel sentiment

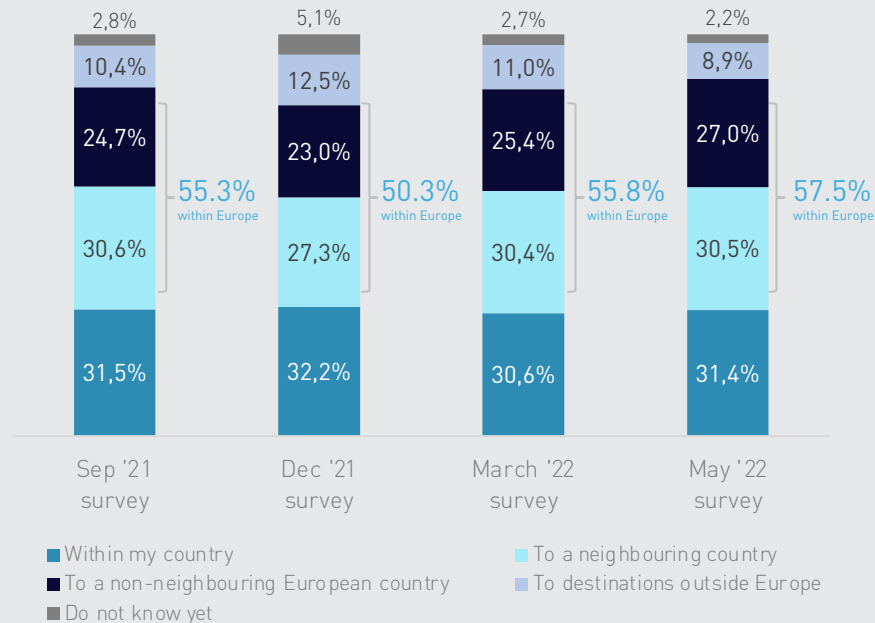


Desire to travel is equally distributed between June-July (41%) and August-September (42%), with strong interest in intra-European travel

When will Europeans travel next?



Where will Europeans travel within the next 6 months?



Q12. When are you most likely to go on your next trip either in your country or within Europe?

Q13. Where do you plan to travel in the next 6 months?

PREFERRED COUNTRIES FOR EUROPEANS' NEXT INTERNATIONAL TRIP

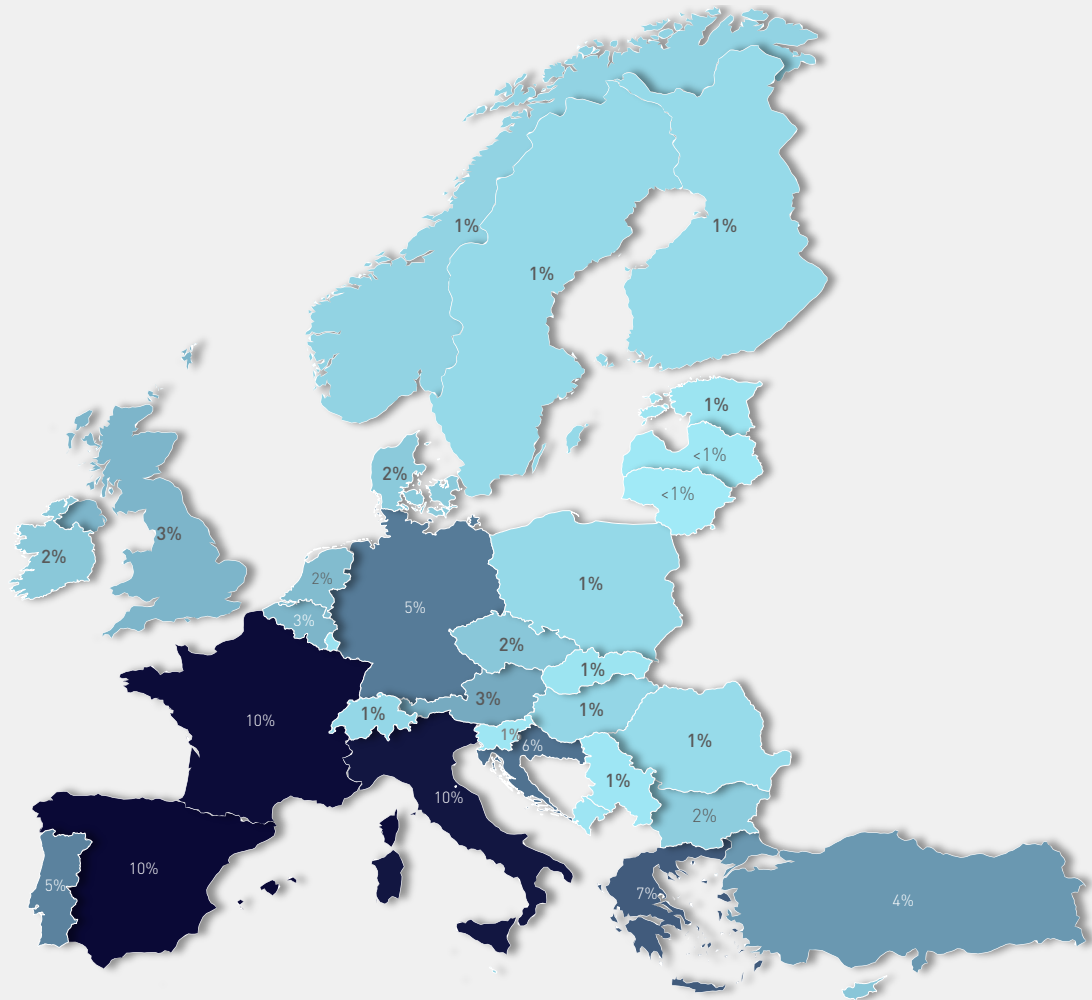
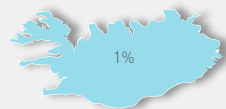
Croatia reaches the top 5 list,
while Belgium enters the
top 10 for the first time

TOP 10 COUNTRIES

Spain	10.2%
France	10.1%
Italy	9.6%
Greece	6.6%
Croatia	5.6%
Germany	5.2%
Portugal	4.9%
Turkey	4.0%
Austria	3.2%
Belgium	2.7%

*Please use this map as a reference only

No. of respondents: 4,463



Despite a minor decline, the vast majority of Europeans (73%) will still travel for leisure purposes in the following months



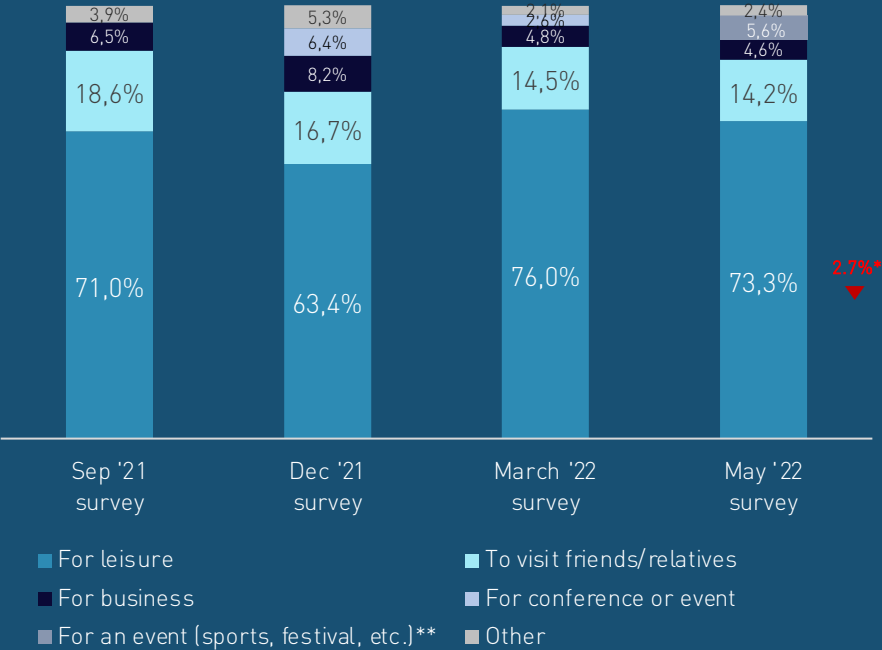
Top 3 markets to take a leisure trip



Top 3 markets to take a business trip



Purpose of travel for respondents most likely to travel in the next 6 months



* Statistically significant change vs previous survey period

**In May '22, 'For an event for personal reasons' replaced 'For a conference or event'

No. of respondents: 4,391

Sun & Beach holidays are the most popular type of holidays; Nature & Outdoors and City Breaks climb to second place for the next 6 months



Preferred type of leisure trip for respondents most likely to travel in the next 6 months



May '22 survey

"Coast & Sea" and "Sun & Beach" holidays are separated in this survey because some destinations like the Netherlands, Denmark, the Baltic countries, etc., offer coast & sea experiences and sports (e.g. sailing) but they are not necessarily associated with sun & beach vacations and experiences like Spain, Italy, Greece, etc.



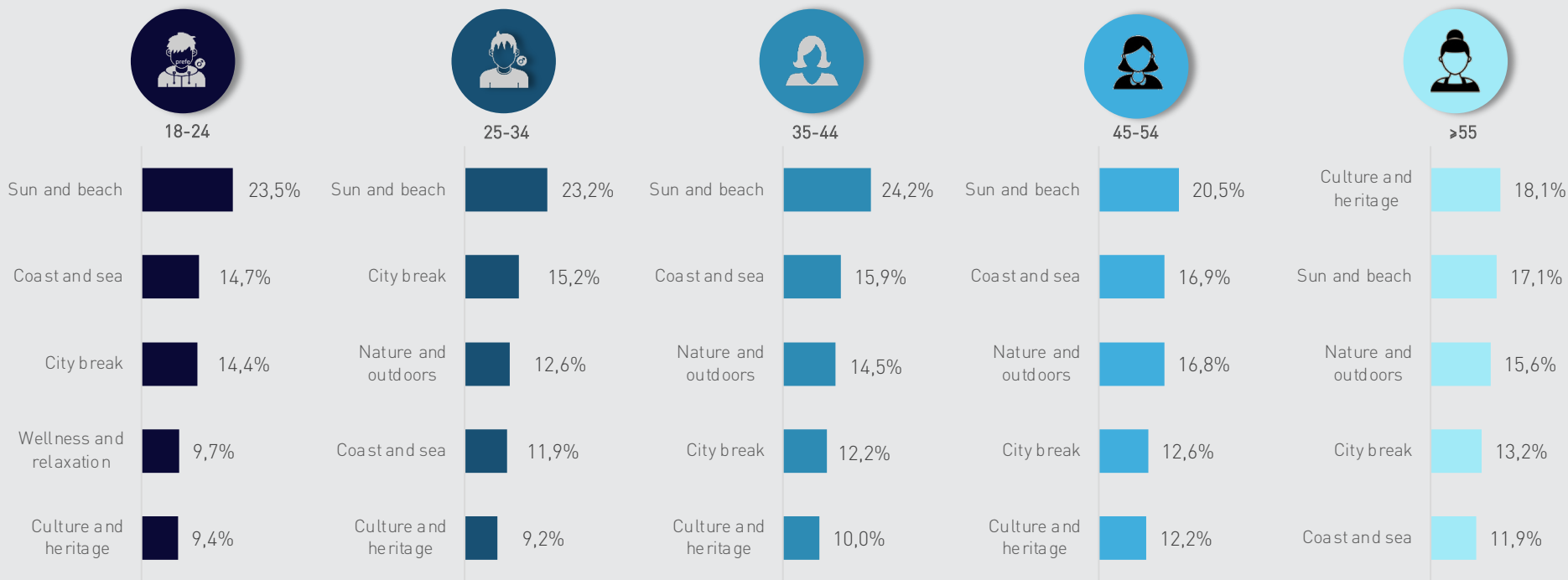
Compared to Sun & Beach holidaymakers, Nature & Outdoors travellers are more likely to travel domestically (48% vs. 35%) or to a neighbouring country (41% vs. 35%)



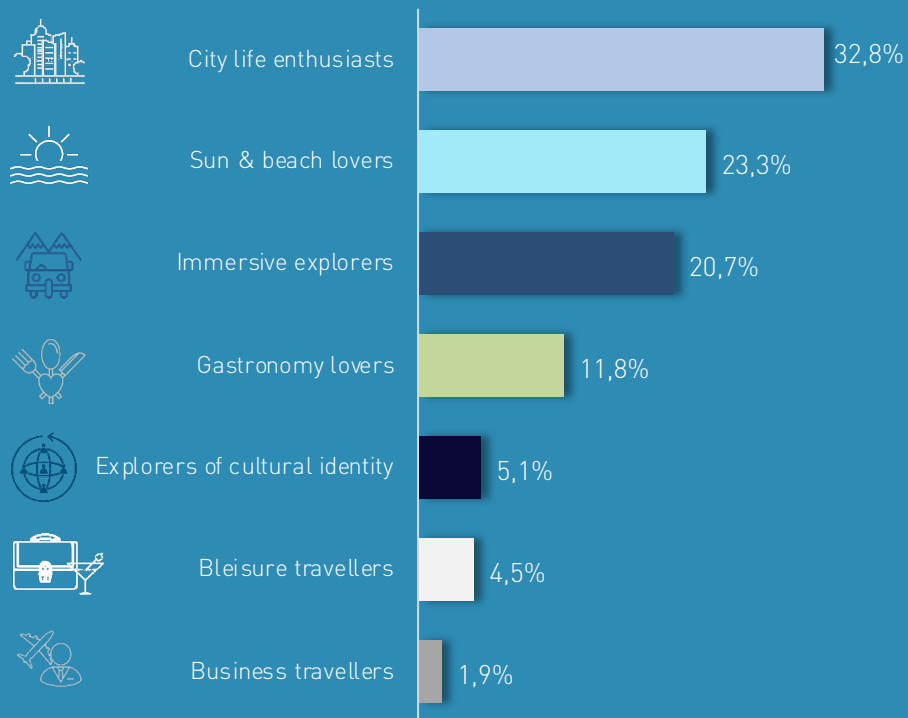
* Statistically significant difference vs previous survey period
No. of respondents: 4,391

Sun and Beach holidays are more alluring to younger and middle-aged travellers (18-44 years old), while those 55+ demonstrate a stronger preference for Culture and Heritage trips

Top 5 types of trip by age group



WHAT ARE THE TRAVEL STYLES OF EUROPEANS MOST WILLING TO TRAVEL IN THE NEXT MONTHS?

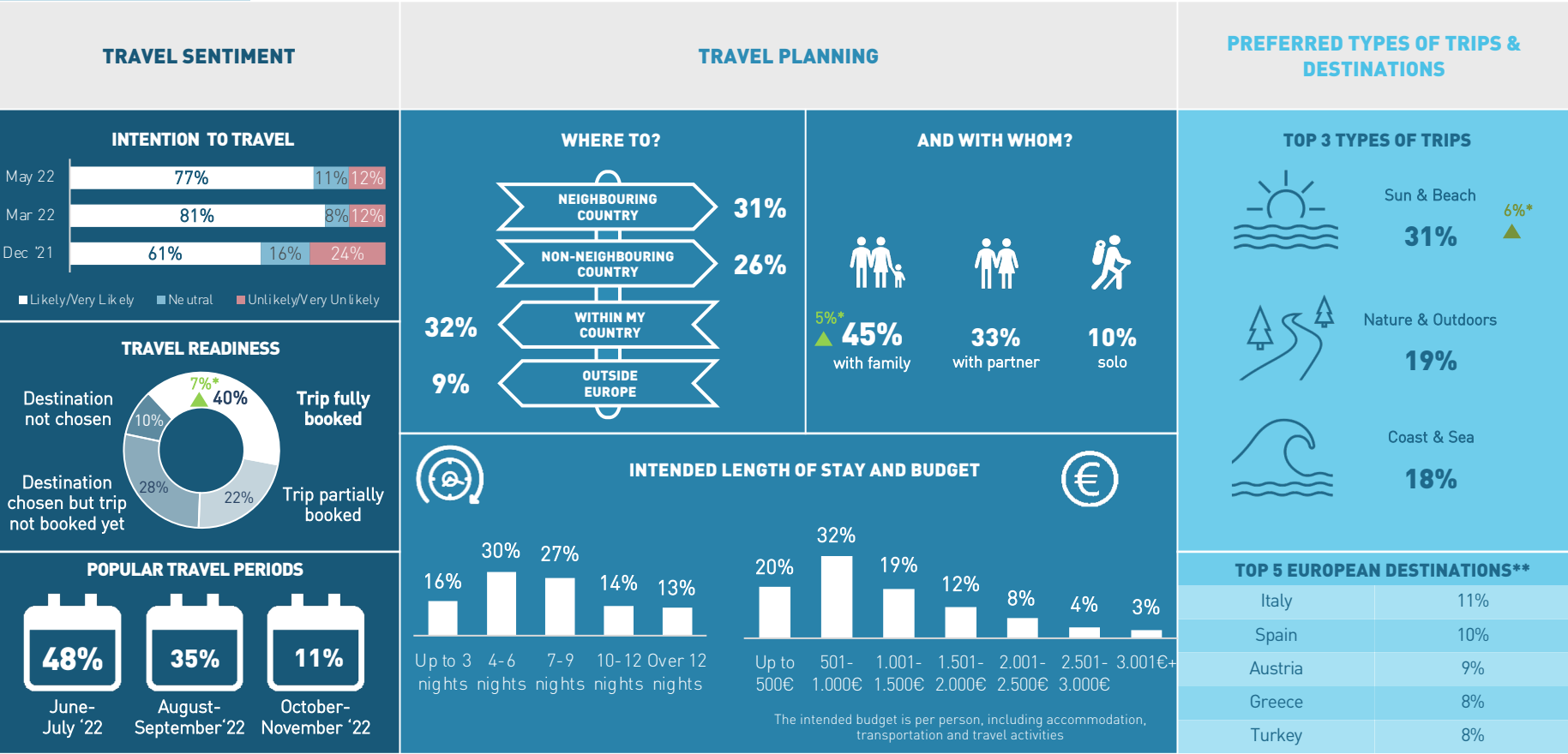


- **1 in 3 Europeans who intend to travel in the next 6 months describe themselves as City Life Enthusiasts** who love visiting metropolitan areas and enjoying the variety of experiences they offer.
- The **Sun & Beach Lovers** and the **Immersive Explorers** are the other two big travel segments among Europeans planning to travel in the coming months.

The travel style reveals the true interest of travellers, regardless of the season or destination. It should be considered by destinations and tourism products and service developers as it can help optimise the travel experience.

A SNAPSHOT OF GERMAN TRAVEL PLANS

Travel horizon: June-November 2022



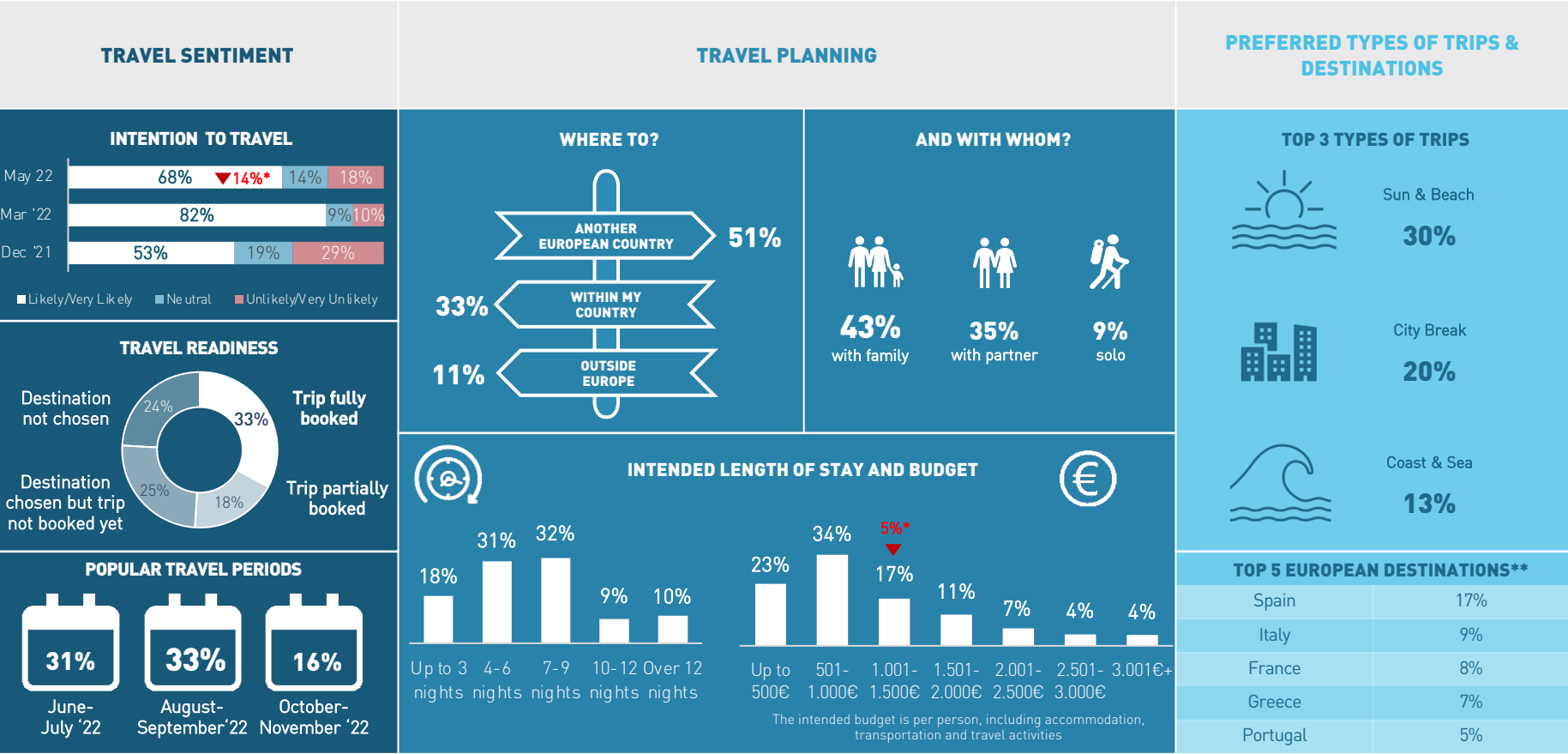
* Significant increase ▲ or decrease ▼ vs previous survey period

** Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

No. of respondents: 751 (total sample of respondents per country)

A SNAPSHOT OF BRITISH TRAVEL PLANS

Travel horizon: June-November 2022



* Significant increase ▲ or decrease ▼ vs previous survey period

** Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

No. of respondents: 751 (total sample of respondents per country)

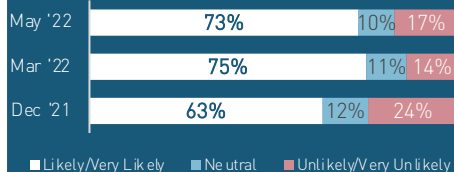
A SNAPSHOT OF FRENCH TRAVEL PLANS

Travel horizon: June-November 2022

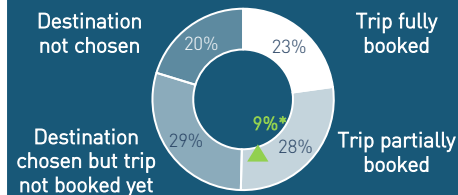


TRAVEL SENTIMENT

INTENTION TO TRAVEL



TRAVEL READINESS

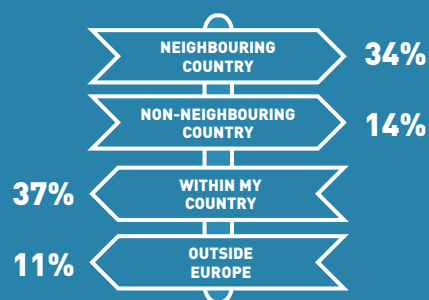


POPULAR TRAVEL PERIODS



TRAVEL PLANNING

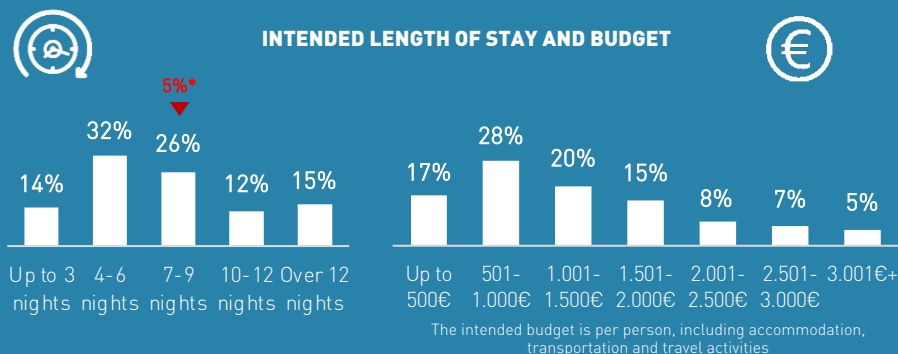
WHERE TO?



AND WITH WHOM?

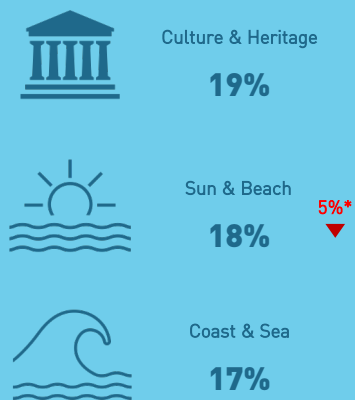


INTENDED LENGTH OF STAY AND BUDGET



PREFERRED TYPES OF TRIPS & DESTINATIONS

TOP 3 TYPES OF TRIPS



TOP 5 EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS**

Italy	12%
Spain	11%
Greece	9%
Portugal	8%
Croatia	6%

* Significant increase ▲ or decrease ▼ vs previous survey period

** Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

No. of respondents: 750 (total sample of respondents per country)

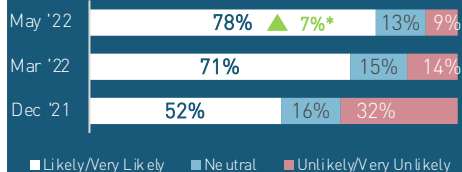
A SNAPSHOT OF DUTCH TRAVEL PLANS

Travel horizon: June-November 2022

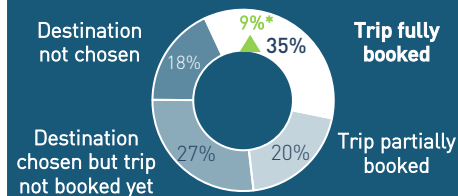


TRAVEL SENTIMENT

INTENTION TO TRAVEL



TRAVEL READINESS



POPULAR TRAVEL PERIODS



TRAVEL PLANNING

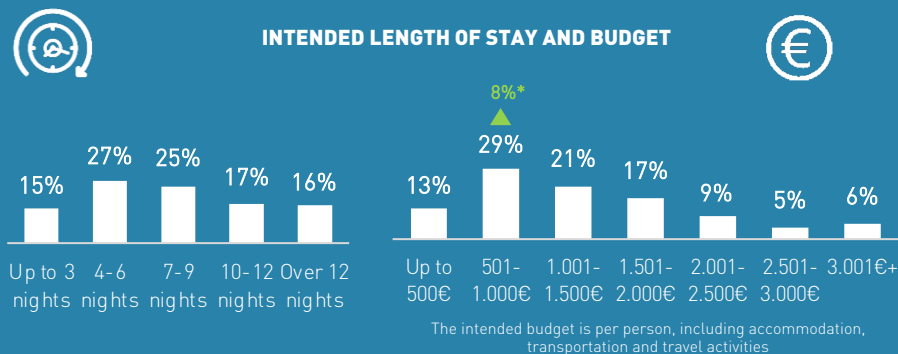
WHERE TO?



AND WITH WHOM?

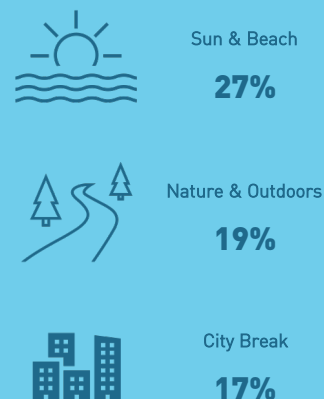


INTENDED LENGTH OF STAY AND BUDGET



PREFERRED TYPES OF TRIPS & DESTINATIONS

TOP 3 TYPES OF TRIPS



TOP 5 EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS**

Spain	13%
France	12%
Germany	8%
Italy	8%
Belgium	8%

* Significant increase ▲ or decrease ▼ vs previous survey period

** Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

No. of respondents: 501 (total sample of respondents per country)

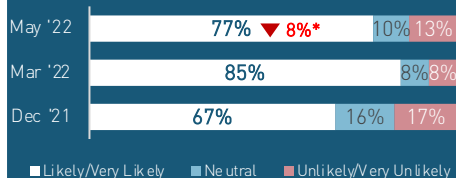
A SNAPSHOT OF ITALIAN TRAVEL PLANS

Travel horizon: June-November 2022

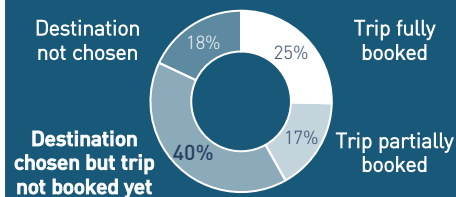


TRAVEL SENTIMENT

INTENTION TO TRAVEL



TRAVEL READINESS



POPULAR TRAVEL PERIODS



TRAVEL PLANNING

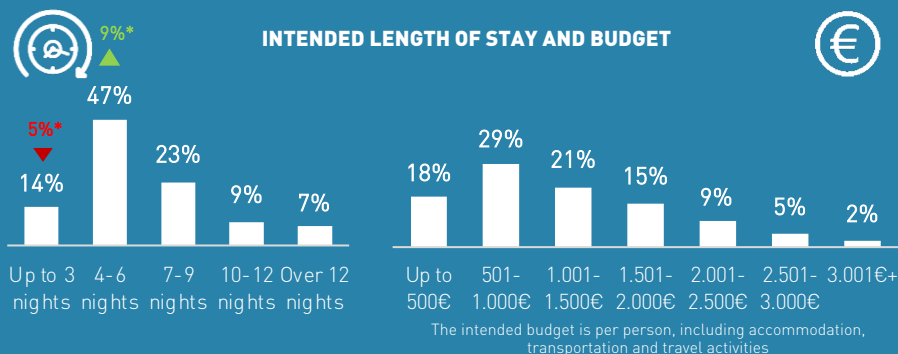
WHERE TO?



AND WITH WHOM?

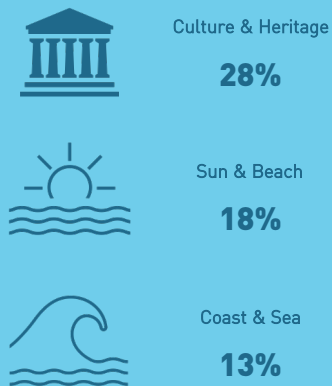


INTENDED LENGTH OF STAY AND BUDGET



PREFERRED TYPES OF TRIPS & DESTINATIONS

TOP 3 TYPES OF TRIPS



TOP 5 EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS**

France	16%
Spain	15%
Greece	9%
Germany	7%
Croatia	5%

* Significant increase ▲ or decrease ▼ vs previous survey period

** Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

No. of respondents: 750 (total sample of respondents per country)

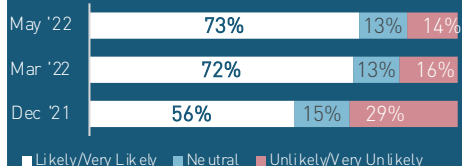
A SNAPSHOT OF BELGIAN TRAVEL PLANS

Travel horizon: June-November 2022

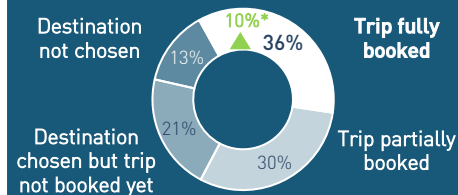


TRAVEL SENTIMENT

INTENTION TO TRAVEL



TRAVEL READINESS



POPULAR TRAVEL PERIODS



TRAVEL PLANNING

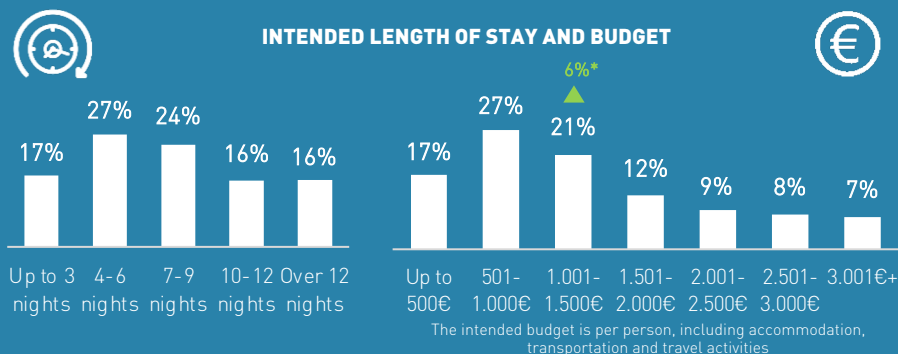
WHERE TO?



AND WITH WHOM?

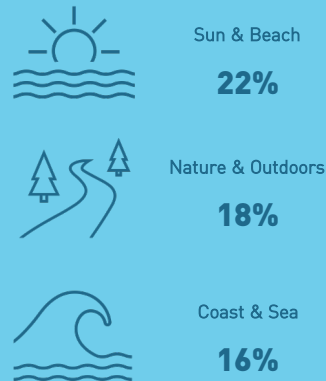


INTENDED LENGTH OF STAY AND BUDGET



PREFERRED TYPES OF TRIPS & DESTINATIONS

TOP 3 TYPES OF TRIPS



TOP 5 EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS**

France	24%
Spain	13%
Italy	11%
Portugal	5%
Turkey	5%

* Significant increase ▲ or decrease ▼ vs previous survey period

** Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

No. of respondents: 500 (total sample of respondents per country)

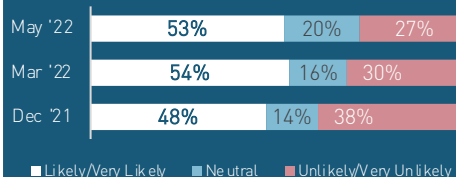
A SNAPSHOT OF SWISS TRAVEL PLANS

Travel horizon: June-November 2022

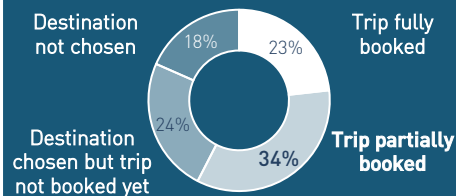


TRAVEL SENTIMENT

INTENTION TO TRAVEL



TRAVEL READINESS

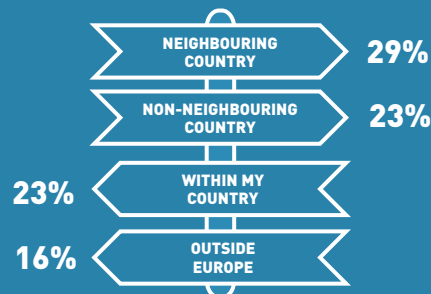


POPULAR TRAVEL PERIODS



TRAVEL PLANNING

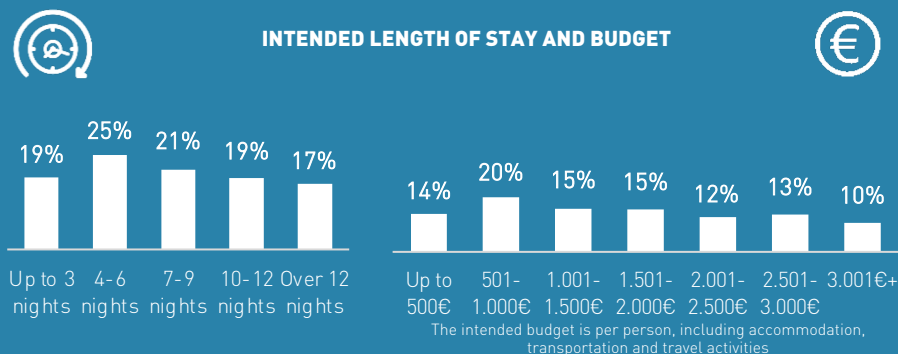
WHERE TO?



AND WITH WHOM?

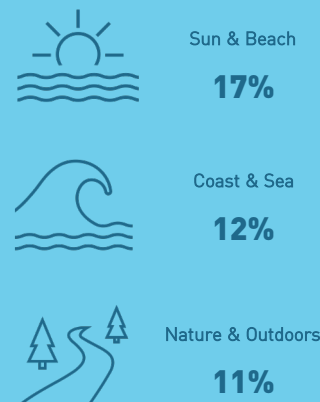


INTENDED LENGTH OF STAY AND BUDGET



PREFERRED TYPES OF TRIPS & DESTINATIONS

TOP 3 TYPES OF TRIPS



TOP 5 EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS**

Italy	10%
France	7%
Germany	7%
Spain	6%
Portugal	6%

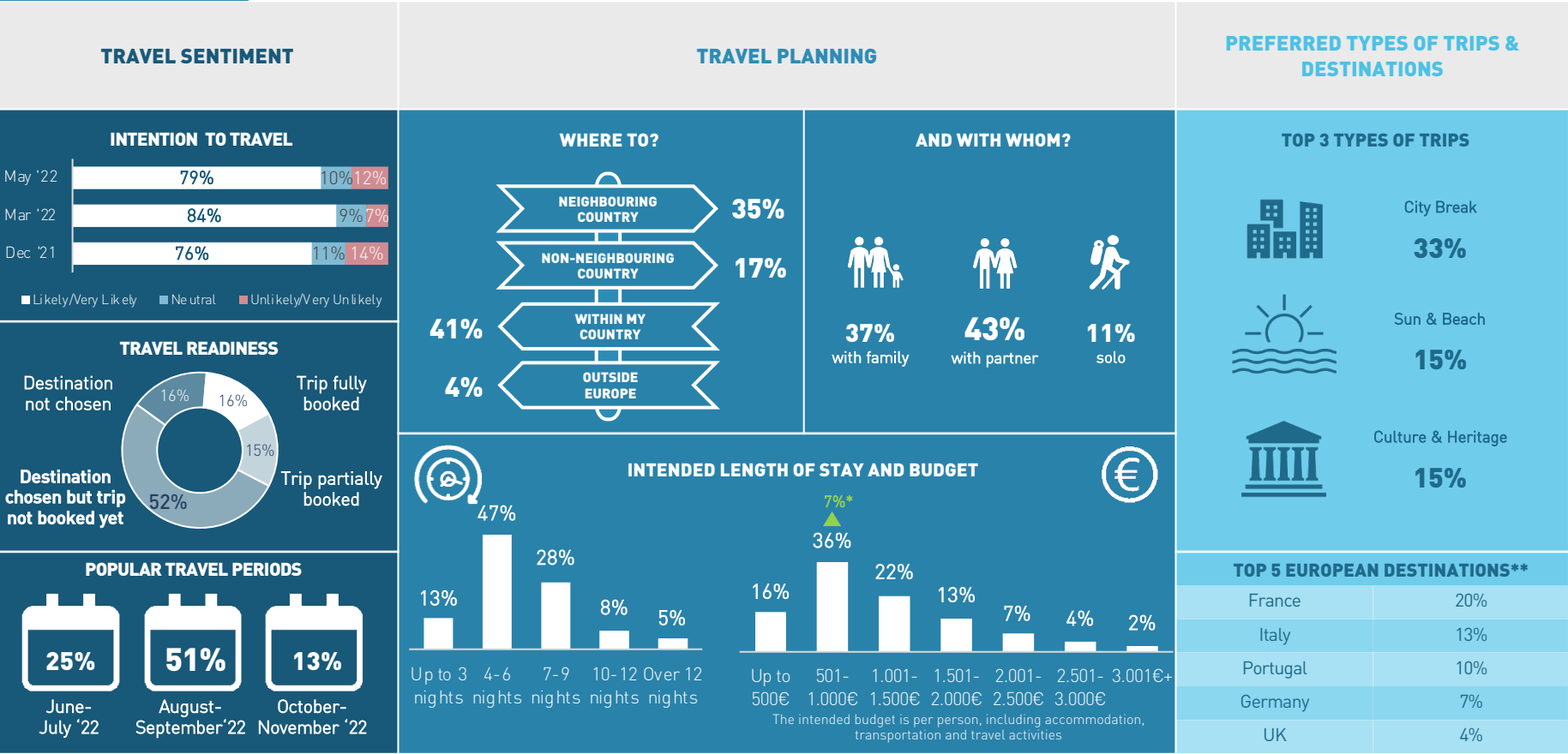
* Significant increase ▲ or decrease ▼ vs previous survey period

** Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

No. of respondents: 500 (total sample of respondents per country)

A SNAPSHOT OF SPANISH TRAVEL PLANS

Travel horizon: June-November 2022



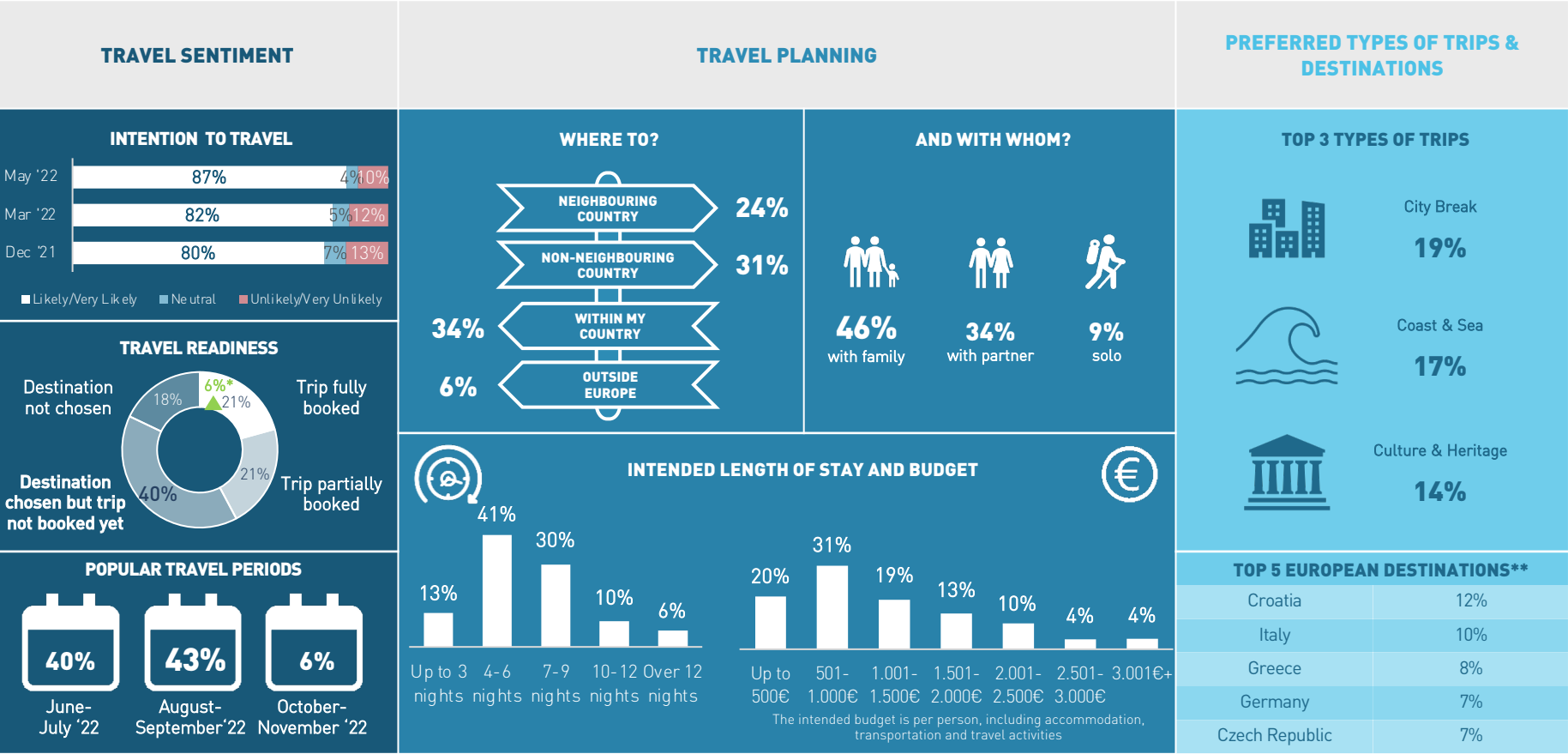
* Significant increase ▲ or decrease ▼ vs previous survey period

** Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

No. of respondents: 500 (total sample of respondents per country)

A SNAPSHOT OF POLISH TRAVEL PLANS

Travel horizon: June-November 2022



* Significant increase ▲ or decrease ▼ vs previous survey period

** Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

No. of respondents: 502 (total sample of respondents per country)

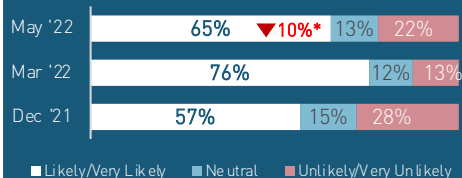
A SNAPSHOT OF AUSTRIAN TRAVEL PLANS

Travel horizon: June-November 2022

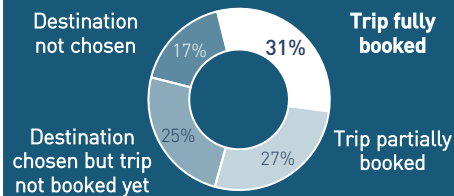


TRAVEL SENTIMENT

INTENTION TO TRAVEL



TRAVEL READINESS

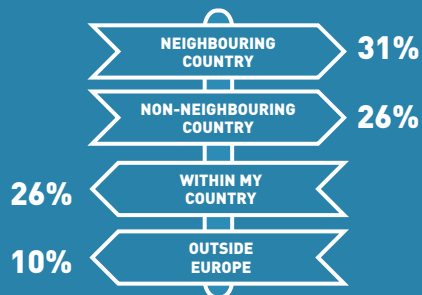


POPULAR TRAVEL PERIODS



TRAVEL PLANNING

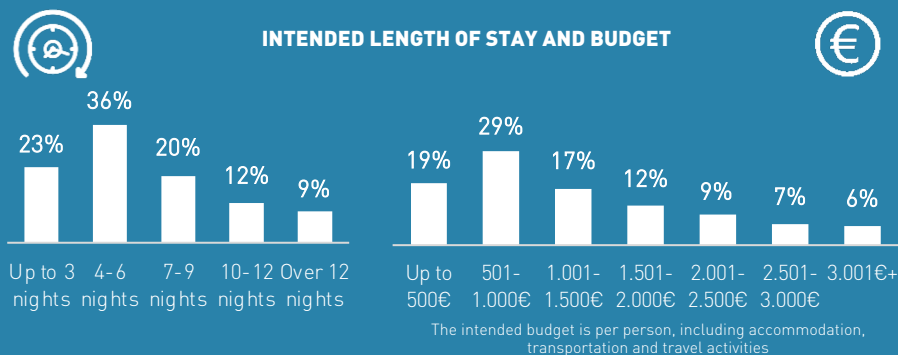
WHERE TO?



AND WITH WHOM?

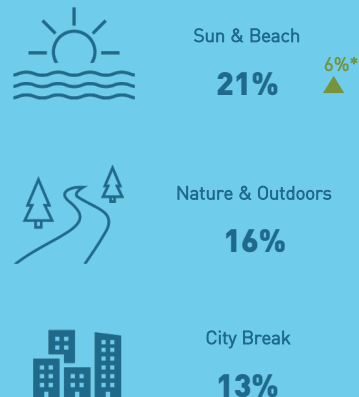


INTENDED LENGTH OF STAY AND BUDGET



PREFERRED TYPES OF TRIPS & DESTINATIONS

TOP 3 TYPES OF TRIPS



TOP 5 EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS**

Italy	14%
Croatia	8%
Germany	8%
Spain	6%
Greece	4%

* Significant increase ▲ or decrease ▼ vs previous survey period

** Based on total sample, without reference to domestic trips

No. of respondents: 500 (total sample of respondents per country)

TRIP PLANNING



58% of Europeans plan to take at least two trips by November 2022

Top 5 markets to take 2 or more trips within Europe in the next 6 months



Austria
64.0%



Belgium
59.4%



Switzerland
63.8%

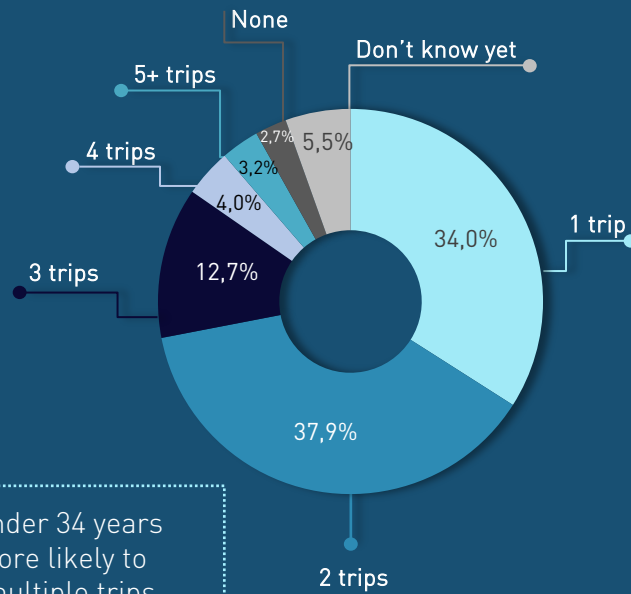


Poland
53.8%



Germany
61.9%

Number of intended trips within Europe in the next 6 months



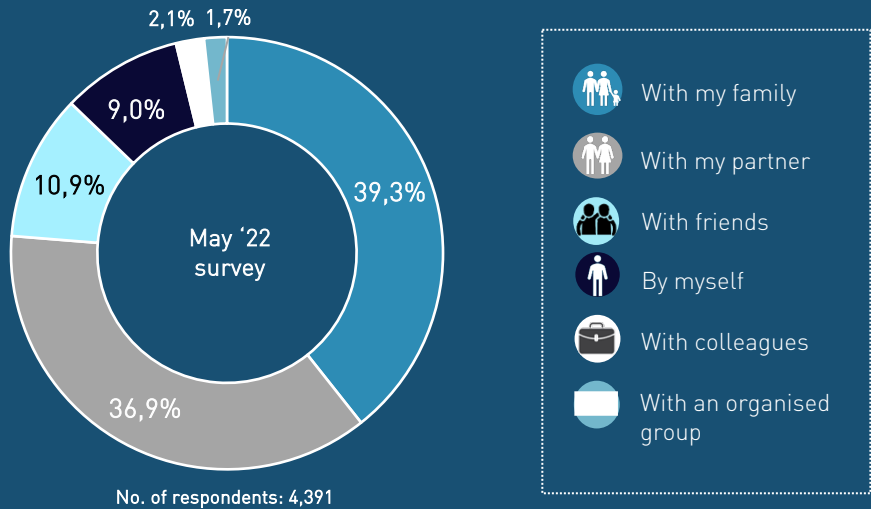
Travellers under 34 years of age are more likely to embark on multiple trips compared to their older counterparts (45+ years old)

No. of respondents: 4,391
* New question

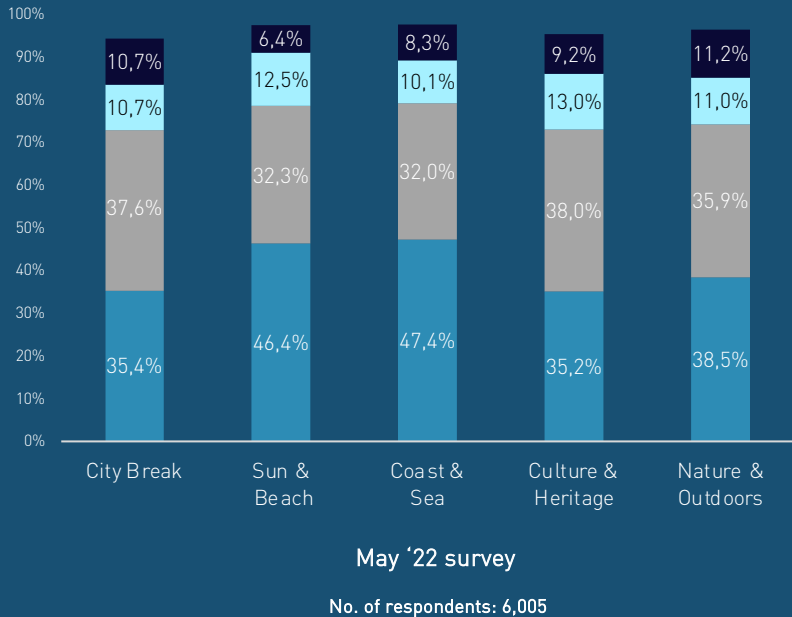
Family trips maintain the lead for the upcoming months, especially for seaside holidays, while travellers who plan City Breaks or Culture & Heritage prefer to travel with their partner



Preferred travel companion for respondents who are most likely to travel in the next 6 months



Preferred travel companion (top 4) vs preferred type of holiday



47% of European travellers intend to fly to their next destination, while 38% expect to drive



Top 5 markets most likely to travel by plane
in the next 6 months



Spain
63.7%



Poland
49.5%



UK
63.1%
8.7%*

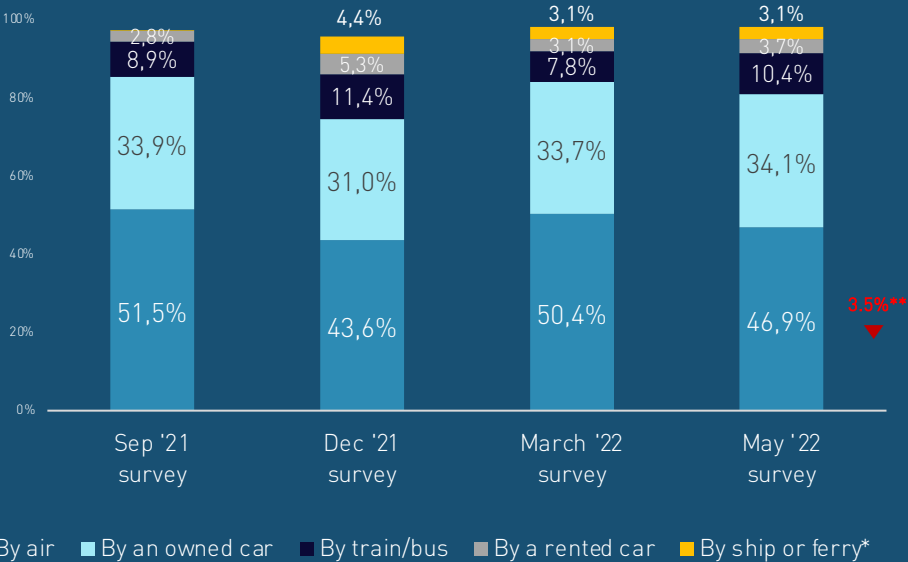


France
46.2%



Italy
57.3%

Preferred modes of transport for respondents most likely
to travel in the next 6 months

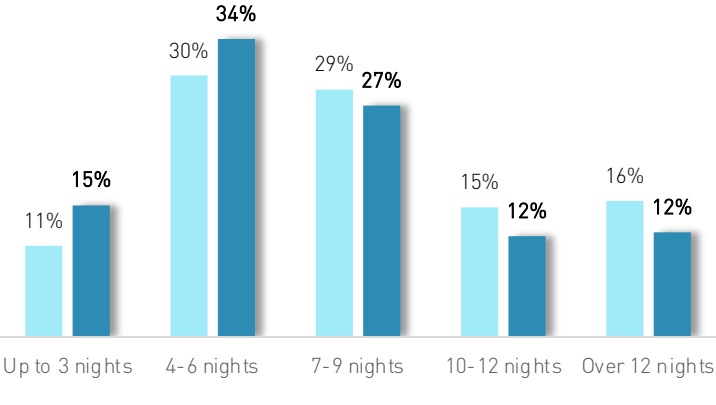


Q15. Which of the following modes of transport would you most consider using during your next trip within Europe?

*Up to September '21. 'By ship or ferry' were included in 'Other'
**Statistically significant difference vs previous survey period

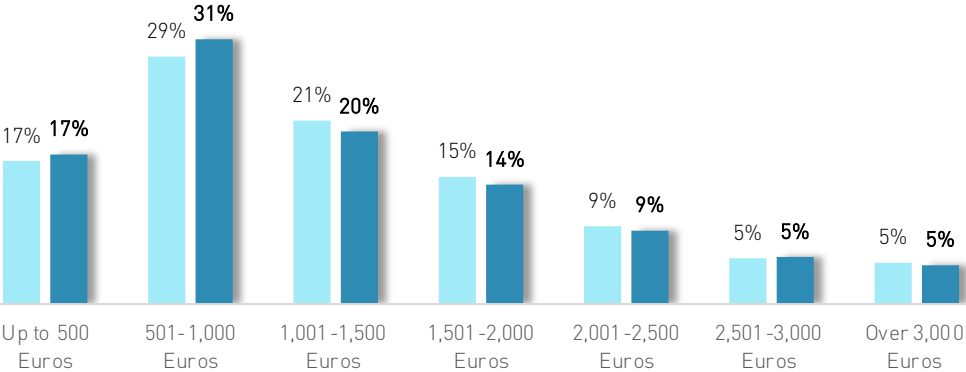
The most popular length of stay for trips this summer is 4-9 nights

Intended length of stay (nights)



Envisaged budget

The budget is per person, including accommodation, transportation and travel activities



■ May '21 survey ■ May '22 survey



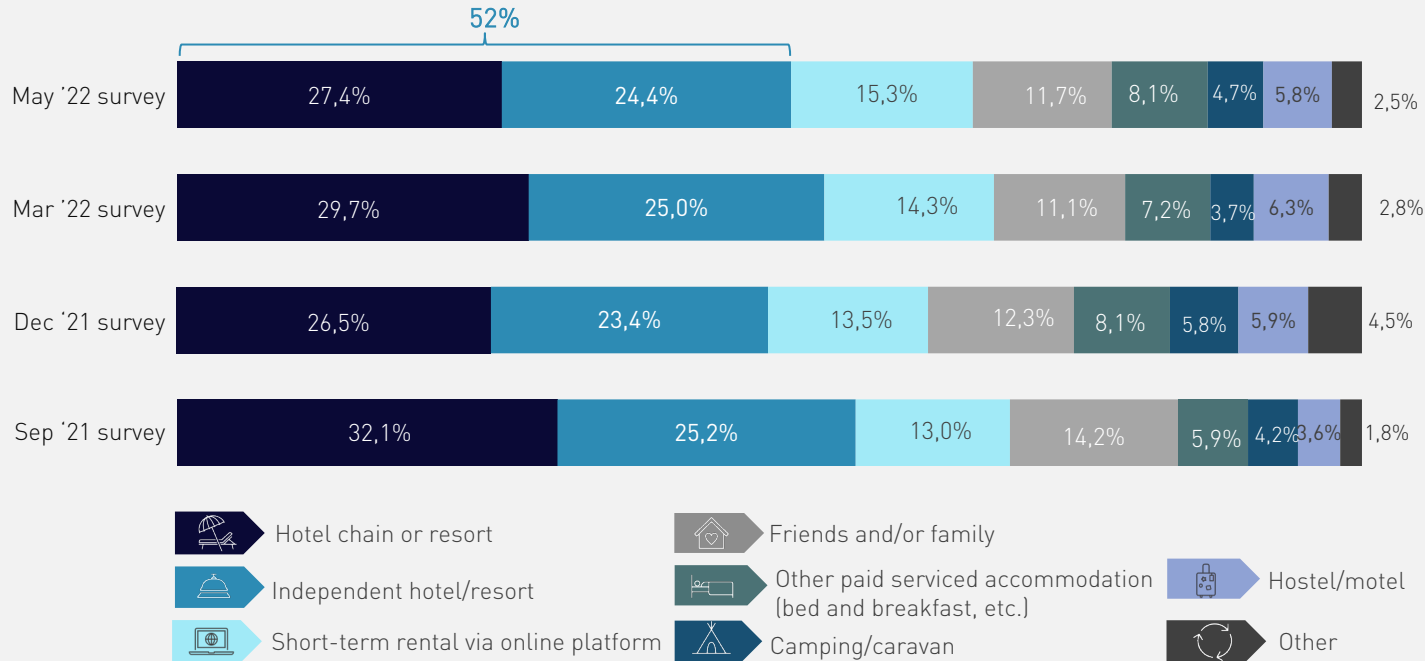
32% of Sun & Beach holiday makers will stay for 7-9 nights, whereas Nature & Outdoors and City Break travellers prefer shorter trips, up to 6 nights



Europeans planning Cruise, Culture & Heritage or Sun & Beach trips are more likely to spend 1,000-2,000 euros than the average traveller, who budgets <1,000 euros

Over half of travel-ready Europeans favour hotel stays

Preferred type of accommodation for respondents most likely to travel in the next 6 months



52% of guests in short-term rentals will spend up to 1,000 euros on their next trip, compared to 41% among those staying at chain hotels or at resorts

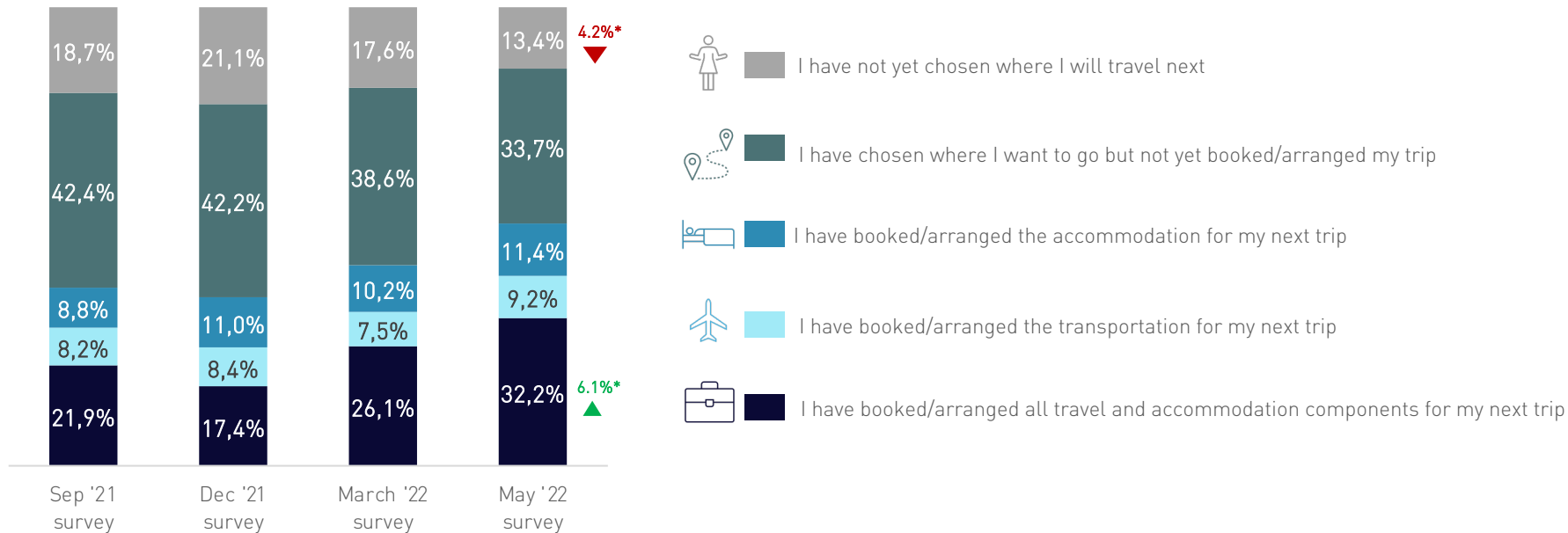
*Statistically significant difference vs previous survey period

Q16. Which of the following types of accommodation would you most consider staying at during your next trip within Europe?

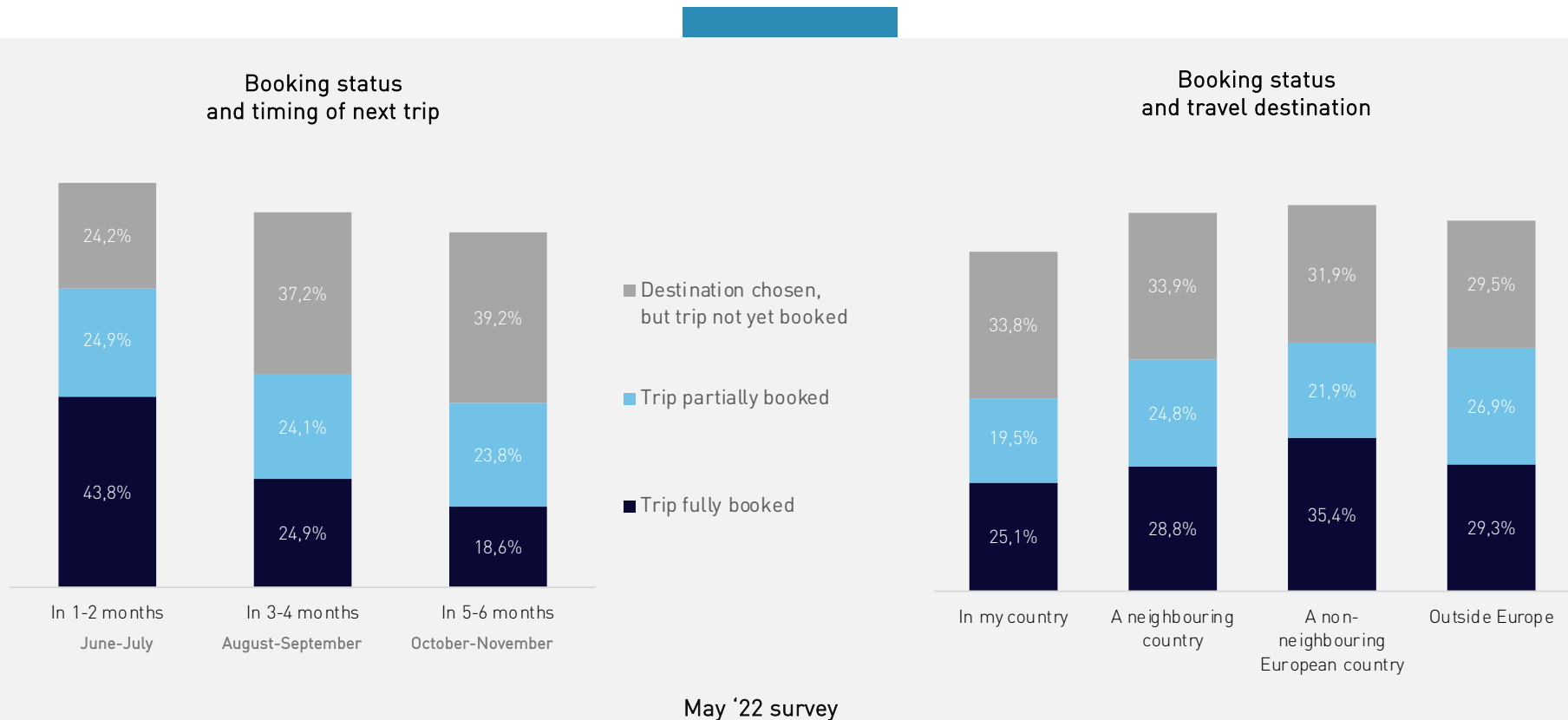
No. of respondents: 4,391

Europeans' travel confidence rises: The number of travellers who have fully booked their next trip increases (+6%), while uncertainty over which destination to visit decreases (-4%)

Status of planning for the next trip

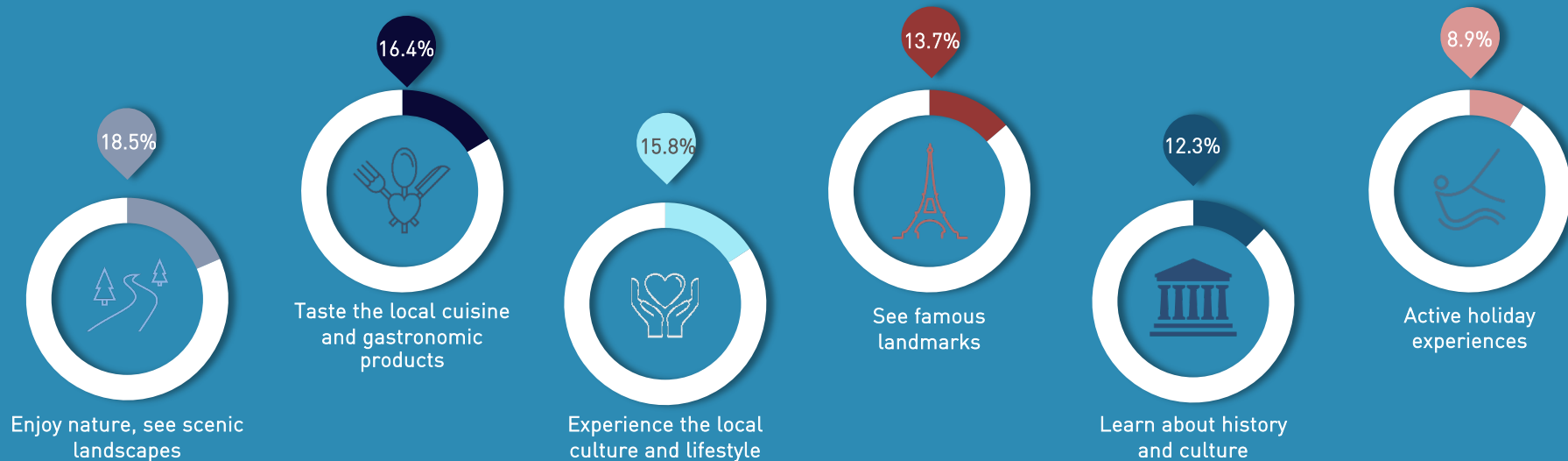


Despite the growth in travel confidence, the booking window remains relatively narrow: almost half of the trips planned for June-July are only partially booked or are not yet booked



Spending time in the great European outdoors (19%), immersion in a destination's lifestyle (16%), and learning more about local gastronomy are travellers' most anticipated experiences for the next months

Baby boomers (over 54 years old) demonstrate higher interest in tasting the local cuisine, experiencing the local culture and learning about history and culture, while Gen Z travellers (18-24 years old) care more about active holidays and spa & wellness



May '22 survey

Pleasant weather, attractive deals and fewer crowds are the key elements for the selection of a holiday destination this summer

Top 8 criteria for choosing the next travel destination



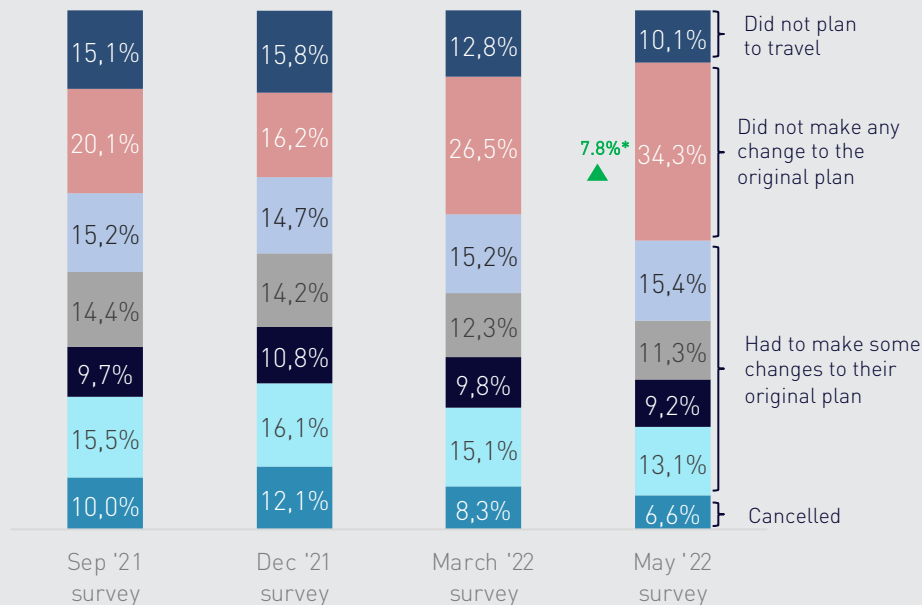
May '22 survey

TRAVEL CONCERNS



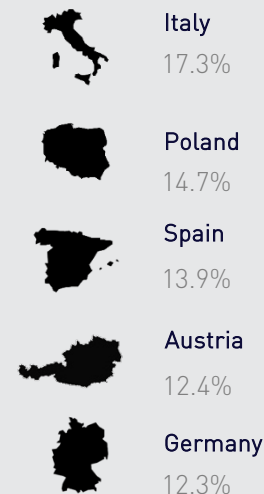
Over one-third of Europeans (34%)— the highest level since August 2020 — will execute their travel plans without any impact from COVID-19

How has COVID-19 affected travel plans?



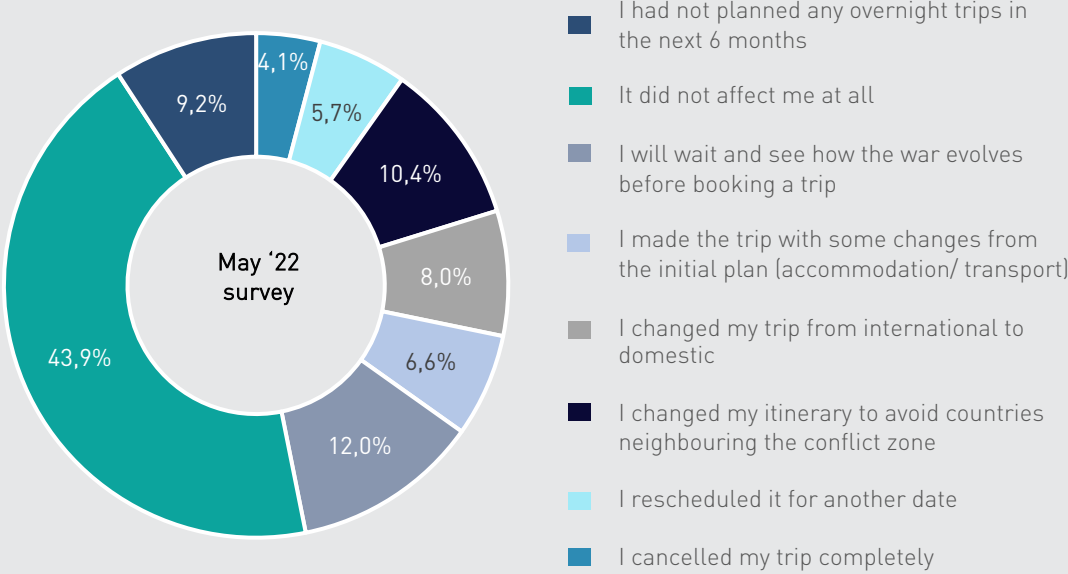
- I had not planned any overnight trips in the next 6 months
- It did not affect me at all
- I made the trip with some changes from the initial plan (accommodation/transport)
- I changed my trip from international to domestic
- I changed the destination so I can use my own vehicle to travel
- I rescheduled it for another date
- I cancelled my trip completely

Top 5 markets choosing domestic over international travel

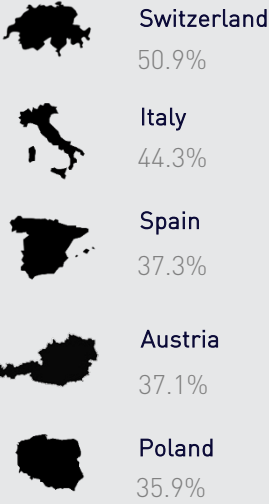


The war in Ukraine had no effect on the travel plans of 44% of Europeans, but it caused 31% to make some changes to their original planning and 4% to completely cancel their trip

How has the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine affected your travel plans?



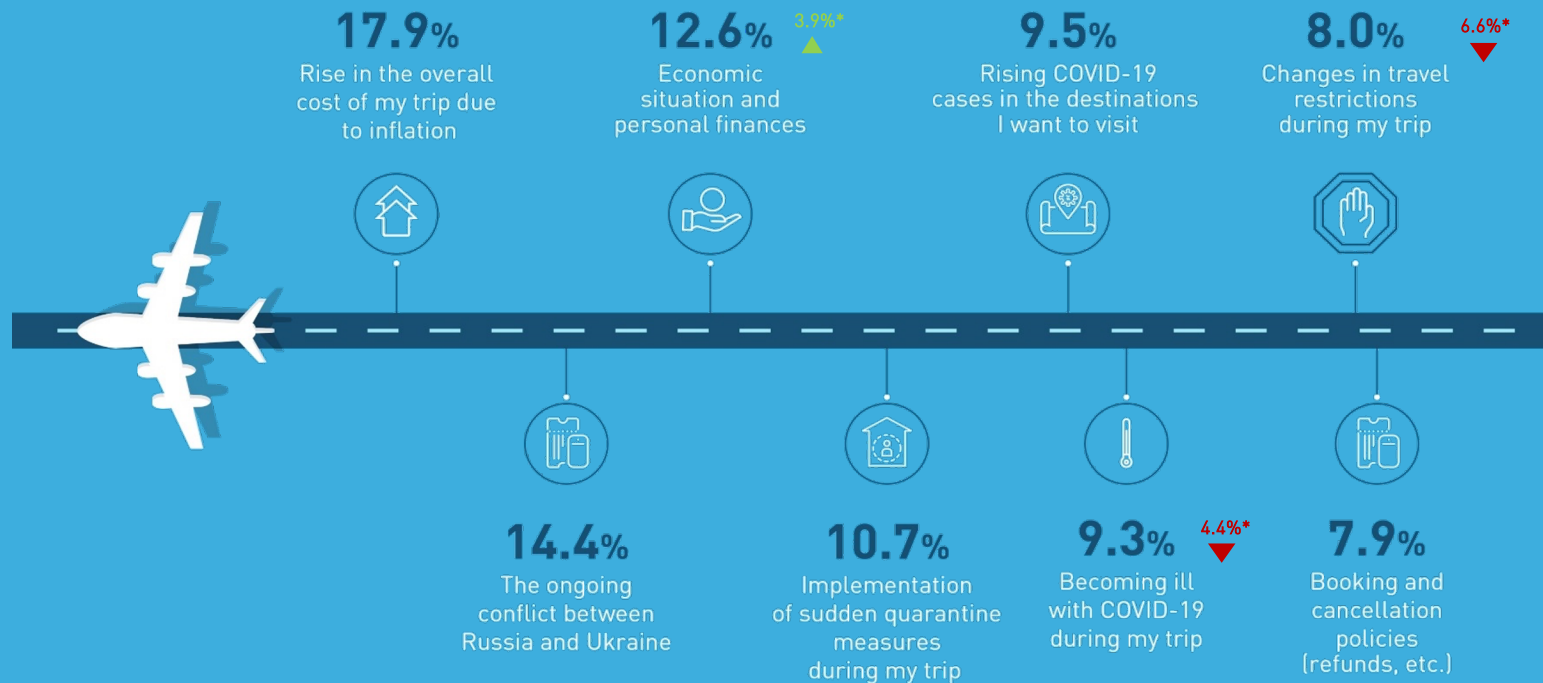
Top 5 markets to make changes in their trip planning



EUROPEAN TRAVELLERS' CONCERNS

Economic concerns regarding price inflation (18%) and personal finances (13%) are travellers' key sources of distress, while the war in Ukraine (14%) is an additional major concern

Leading concerns for those who are most likely to travel next

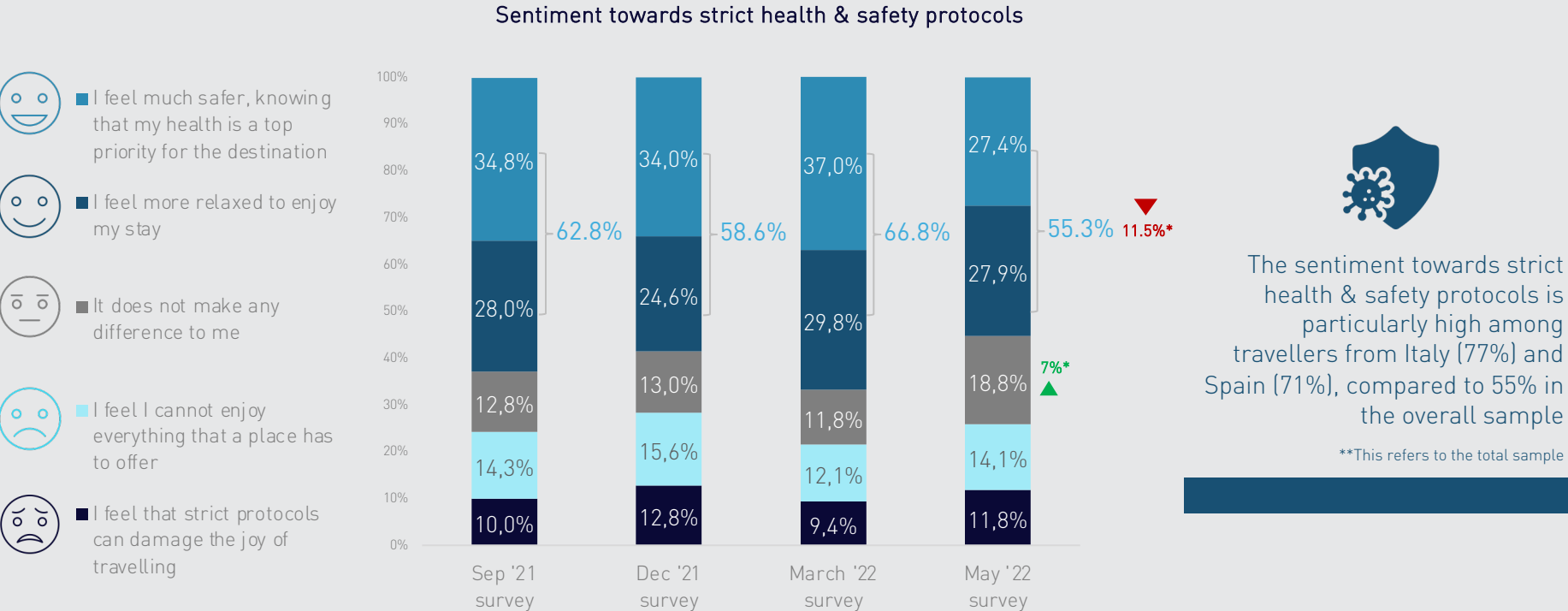


Q4. What currently concerns you the most about travelling within Europe?
The answers to this question have been enriched in May '22, to include references to the war in Ukraine and cost & inflation issues.

May '22 survey

No. of respondents: 4,391

Although sentiment towards strict health & safety protocols drops (-12%), the protocols remain essential for the comfort of 55% of European travellers



METHODOLOGICAL ANNEX

A white motorhome is parked on a grassy shore next to a lake. In the background, there are mountains and a picnic table. A motorcycle is parked to the right of the motorhome. The scene is reflected in the water in the foreground.

04

METHODOLOGICAL ANNEX

THE SURVEY

- The report is the result of online market research of Europeans who took at least 2 overnight trips during the last three years (2019-2022)
- Distribution/data collection period:
 - Wave 9:** 10-18 September 2021; sample = 5,769 / **Wave 10:** 23-31 December 2021; sample = 6,002 / **Wave 11:** 01-09 March 2022; sample = 5,998 / **Wave 12:** 09-12 May 2022; sample = 6,005
 - Countries:** Germany, United Kingdom, France, Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Poland and Austria
 - Languages:** English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish and Dutch
- Research themes examined: Travel personas (1 question), Travel concerns and impact of external shocks on travel (7 questions) and Travel intentions, preferences and trip planning (13 questions)
- 47% of the Wave 12 survey respondents are male and 53% are female. Sample size and age groups are listed below:

		Country										Total
		UK	IT	ES	AT	FR	DE	PL	BE	CH	NL	
Age	18 - 24	88	73	45	80	96	93	56	106	119	112	868
	25 - 34	135	112	74	159	129	153	107	128	173	151	1,321
	35 - 44	126	135	101	139	141	150	120	111	133	111	1,267
	45 - 54	139	167	105	65	146	168	94	98	52	57	1,091
	>55	263	263	175	57	238	187	125	57	23	70	1,458
Total		751	750	500	500	750	751	502	500	500	501	6,005

Study on Monitoring Sentiment for Intra-European Travel

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Data sources: This report is based on research conducted by MINDHAUS (www.mindhaus.gr) and should be interpreted by users according to their needs.

Please note that while every possible effort has been made to ensure the data in this report is accurate, it is not possible to completely eliminate every margin of error.

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