# **Civil Aviation Authority**

UK Aviation Consumer Survey Wave 10 (Autumn 2021) Report



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## **Background and method**

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has commissioned Savanta ComRes, an independent research organisation, to conduct the tenth wave of its now annual consumer research tracking study. The research is used by the CAA to develop a deeper understanding of UK consumers' flying behaviours and their attitudes towards the aviation industry. This research programme is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the international quality standard for market research and will inform the CAA's policy and strategy as it regulates the aviation market.

### Methodology



Sample A total of 3,502 interviews were conducted with a demographically representative sample of UK adults (18+).



**Method** Interviews were conducted online (n=3,000) and over the telephone (n=502).



**Fieldwork dates** 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021



Interpretation

With a sample size of 3,502 the margin of error on results at a 95 per cent confidence level is  $\pm$  1.66 Findings marked with an asterisk (\*) indicate a low base size. These results should be treated with caution.

### **COVID-19 context**

Fieldwork for this survey took place  $22^{nd}$  September –  $21^{st}$  October 2021. Below is a list of conditions present in the last 3 waves of research, and how these differ.

It should be noted that this context will likely have influenced respondents' answers, including whether they have flown recently or not.

<b>Wave 8</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019	<b>Wave 9</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov – 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2020	<b>Wave 10</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept – 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2021	
COVID-19 not present	No vaccine roll out	Vaccines available nationwide	
COVID-19 not present	Lockdown restrictions (UK second lockdown) until December 2nd 2020	No national lockdowns	

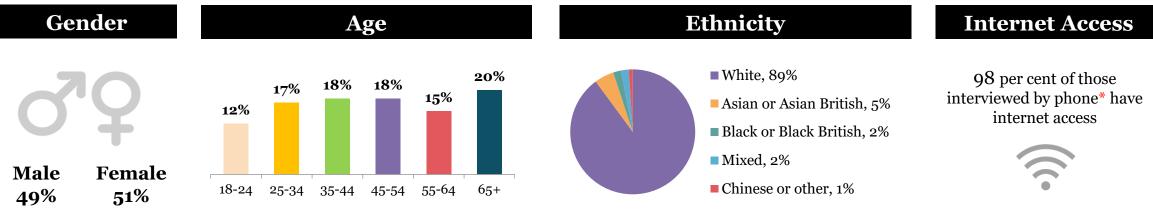
Some questions in this survey focus on those who have flown in the last 12 months. This definition is straightforward for wave 10 as COVID-19 was present in the UK for the entirety of this time. For Wave 9, the previous 12 month period covered time both before and during the pandemic in the UK. Therefore, for **Wave 9** (November 2020) tracking data:



This symbol / colouring highlights results from those who had **flown since the COVID-19 pandemic / lockdown began in the UK (March 2020 – December 2020).** 

This symbol / colouring highlights results from those who had **flown in the 12 months before answering the survey, but before the COVID-19 pandemic / lockdown began in the UK** (most recent flight c. November 2019 – February 2020).

### **Demographic (Weighted) Sample Profile**



Working Status		Household Income		Regions	
Full time (30+ hours per week)	41%	Up to £14,999	16%	Scotland (8%) North East (5%)	
Part time (8-29 hours per week)	15%			Northern	
Part time (Under 8 hours per week)	2%	£15,000 - £24,999	17%	Ireland (3%) Yorkshire and Humber (8%)	
Not working	9%	£25,000 - £39,999	24%	North West (11%) East Midlands (7%)	
Retired	21%	£40,000 - £74,999	23%	West Midlands East England (9%)	
Homemaker	7%			(9%) Wales (5%) London (13%)	
Student / full time education	4%	£75,000 or more	12%		
				South West (8%)South East (14%)	

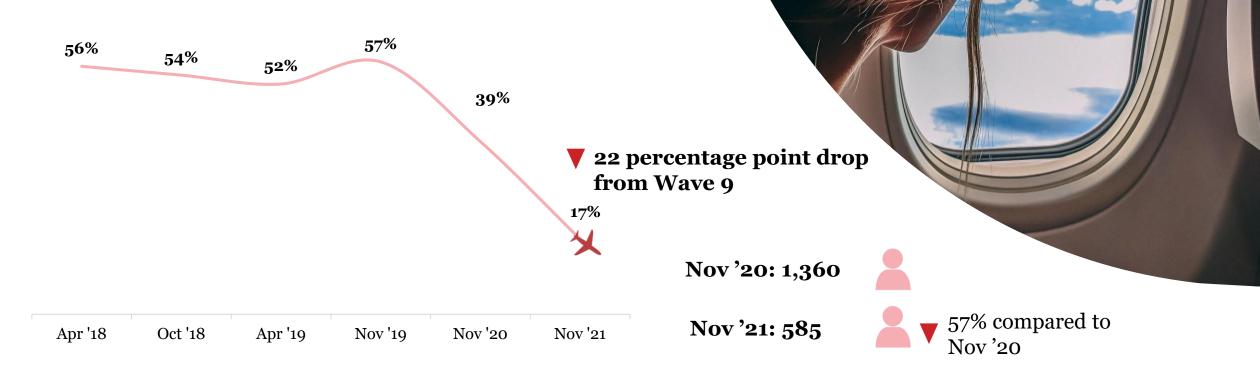
# COVID-19



The proportion of respondents who have flown in the last 12 months has continued to fall this wave

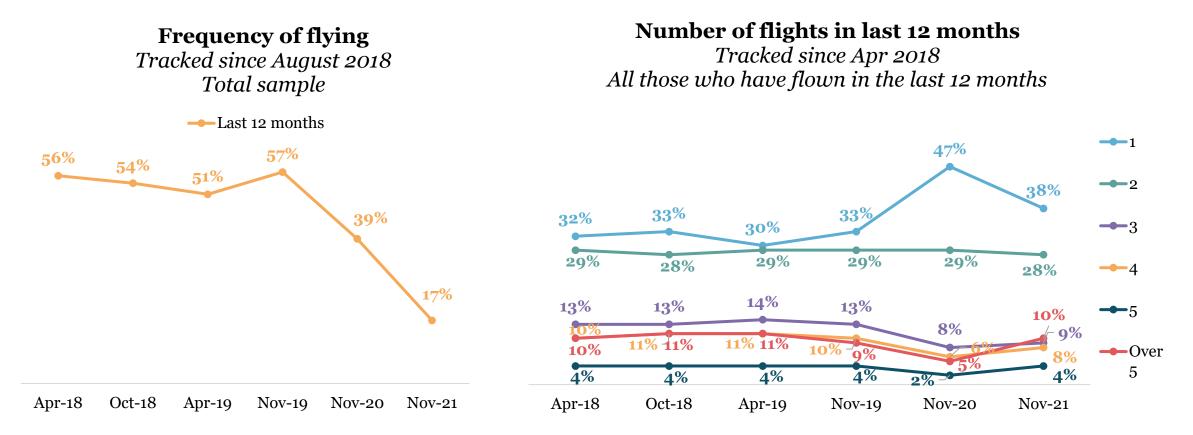
Showing % that have flown in the last 12 months

7



Q1. When was the last time you flew from a UK airport? This could have been either to travel within the UK or to go abroad. Base: All respondents who have flown in the last 12 months, Nov-21 (n=3,502)

# Among those who have flown in the last 12 months, around two in five have taken one flight



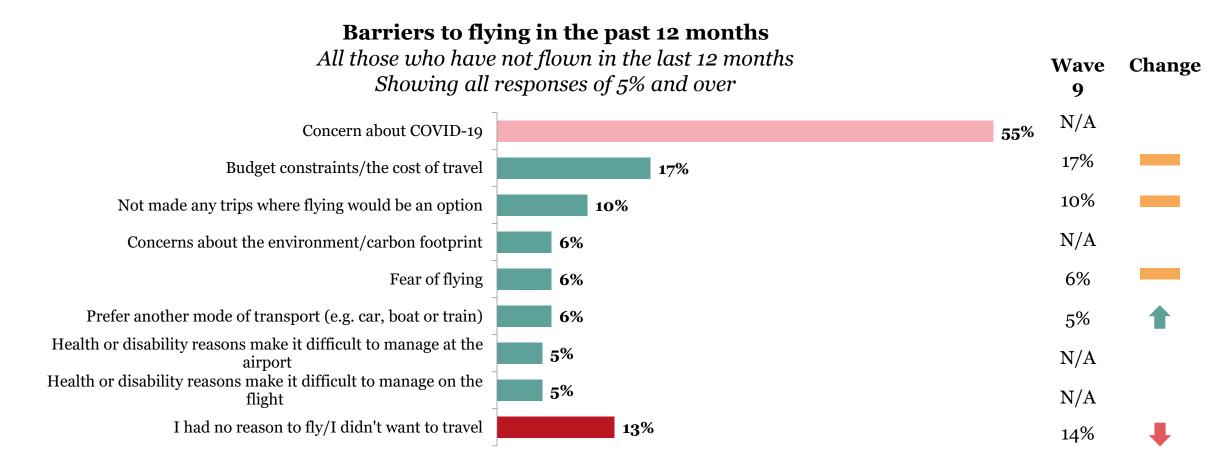
The proportion of respondents who have taken one flight in the last 12 months has fallen nine percentage points since November 2020 overall. However, the proportion taking over 5 flights in the last 12 months has risen by 5 percentage points.

Savanta:

Q1. When was the last time you flew from a UK airport? Q2. How many trips by air have you made in the last 12 months? Please count outward and return flights and any

8 transfers as one trip If you are not sure then your best estimate is fine. Base: All respondents who have flown in the last 12 months (April 2018 n= 1,967; October 2018 n= 1,920; April 2019 n= 1,812; November 2019 n=1,994; November 2020 n=1,360; November 2021 n=585)

# More than half of those who have not flown within the last 12 months cite pandemic-related concerns as the reason

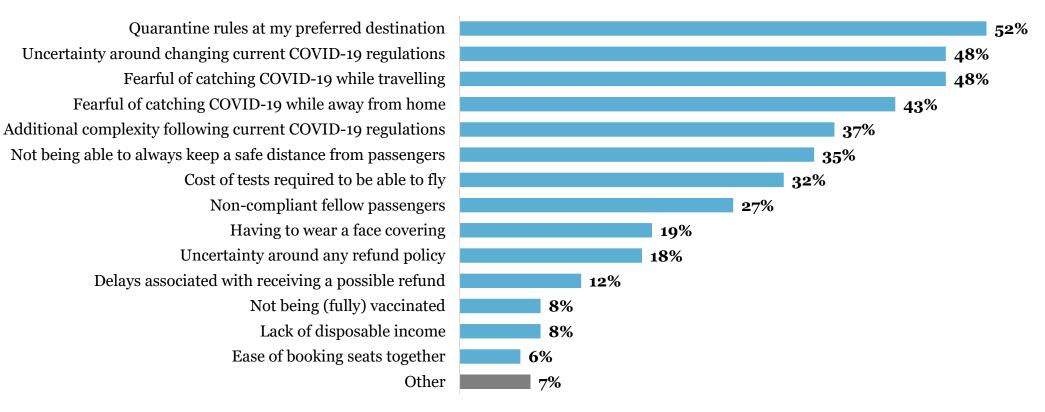


More than half (55%) of respondents stated that concern about COVID-19 was the main reason that they had not flown in the last 12 months. In line with last wave, budget constraints are the top non-COVID-19 barrier to flying (17%).

Q5. Why have you not flown within the last 12 months / last few years / never flown? Base: All who have not flown in the last 12 months (n=2,917)
 Q6. What specifically do you consider your biggest barriers preventing you from flying? Base: All those who have not flown because of COVID-19 (n=1,595)

### Quarantine rules at respondents' preferred destination is the top COVID related reason for not flying in the last 12 months

### **Barriers to flying** All respondents who have not flown because of COVID-19



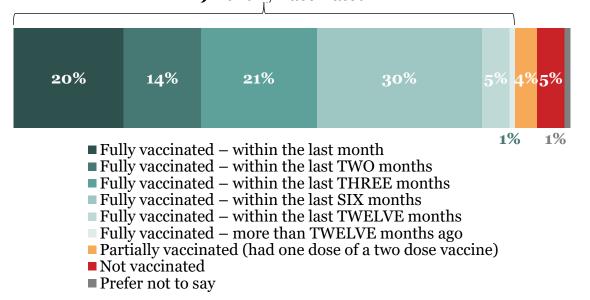
Half (52%) of respondents who have not flown because of COVID-19 say this is due to quarantine rules at their preferred destination. A similar proportion cite uncertainty around changing COVID-19 restrictions and being fearful of catching COVID-19 when away from home (48% for both).

Q6. You said that COVID-19 was the reason for you not flying in the last 12 months, what specifically do you consider your biggest barriers preventing you from flying? Base: All those who have not flown because of COVID-19 (n=1,595)

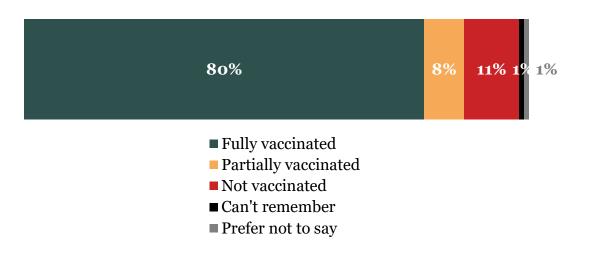
10

# Nine in ten of those who have flown in the last 12 months were fully vaccinated, with four in five of those fully vaccinated when they travelled last

### Current Vaccination Status All those who have flown in the last 12 months 91% fully vaccinated



**Vaccination status last time travelled** *All those who are now fully vaccinated* 



Nine in ten respondents who have flown in the last 12 months are fully vaccinated (91%). Men who have flown in the last 12 months were more likely than women to be fully vaccinated (94% vs. 86% respectively), and older respondents aged 35-54 and 55+ were also more likely to be fully vaccinated than those aged 18-34 (95% and 97% vs. 81% respectively).

Among those who are fully vaccinated, four in five (80%) were fully vaccinated when they last travelled by air. Again, men were more likely to be fully vaccinated than women (83% vs. 74% respectively), and respondents aged 35-54 were more likely to be fully vaccinated than those 18-34 (84% vs. 75% respectively).

<sup>11</sup> Q31. What is your COVID-19 vaccination status? Base: All those who have flown in the last 12 months (n=585) Q32. Thinking back to the last time you travelled by air, what was your COVID-19 vaccination status? Base: All those who are fully vaccinated (n=532)

### Half of all UK adults agree the aviation sector adopts stricter rules to protect passengers than other transport sectors

### Statements about travelling during COVID-19

■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know



Among all UK adults, half (51%) agree that the aviation sector adopts stricter rules to protect passengers than other transport sectors. However, the same proportion (49%) say they would rather use other modes of travel than flying since the COVID-19 pandemic. This suggests that while the aviation sector might outperform other sectors in this regard, respondents are discouraged to go back to flying.

Younger respondents aged 18-34 (53%) and 35-54 (54%) were more likely than those 55+(48%) to agree the aviation sector adopts stricter rules than other transport sectors. However, they were also slightly more likely to agree that, where possible, they would rather use other modes of travel than flying since the pandemic (51% and 51% vs. 45% respectively).

### Two in five respondents feel less safe about flying when flying since the COVID-19 pandemic began

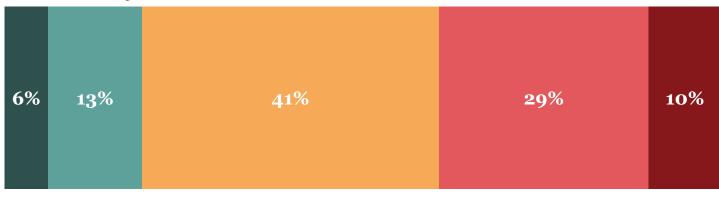
**NET: Less safe 40%** 

Feelings of safety when flying during COVID-19

All those who have flown since the pandemic

■ Significantly safer ■ Safer ■ No change ■ Less safe ■ Significantly less safe

NET: Safer 19%



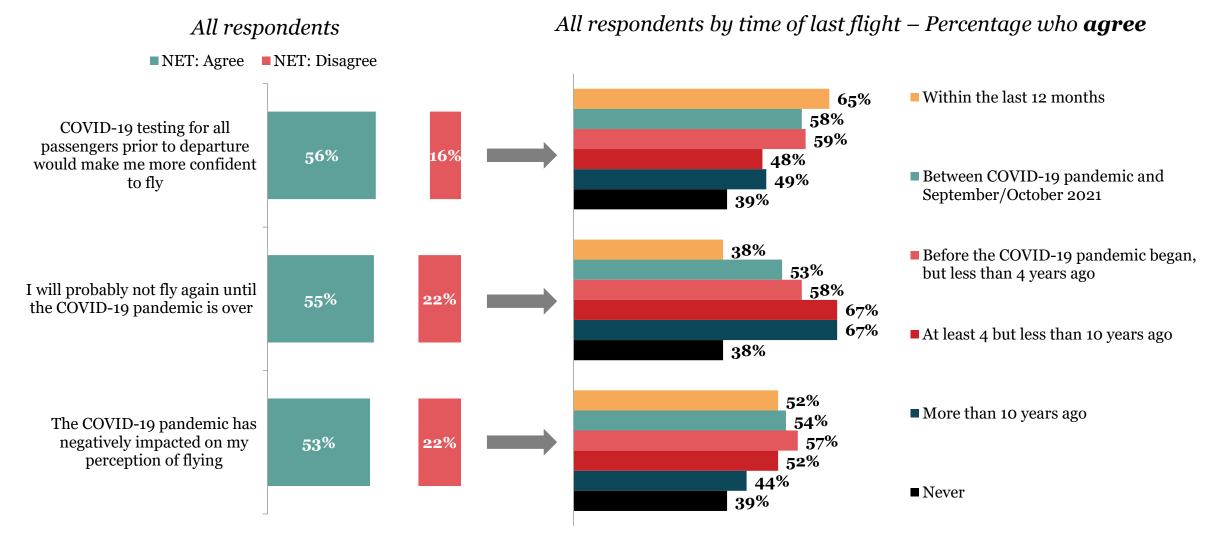
Among all UK adults, two in five (40%) feel less safe flying since the pandemic. However, the same proportion (41%) feel no change.

Those who have flown in the last 12 months are significantly more likely to say they feel <u>safer</u> flying since the pandemic began, than those who last flew before the pandemic began but less than 4 years ago (47% vs. 13% respectively).

Respondents aged 18-34 (30%) are more likely than those aged 35-54 (22%) or 55+ (7%) to say they feel <u>safer</u>.

Respondents from Scotland are the most likely to say they feel less safe flying since the COVID-19 pandemic (52% vs. 40% average). One in eight say they feel <u>significantly less safe</u> (15%). Conversely, Londoners are the most likely to say they feel safer flying since the pandemic (38% vs. 19% average).

### More than half of respondents agree they will probably not fly again until the COVID-19 pandemic is over



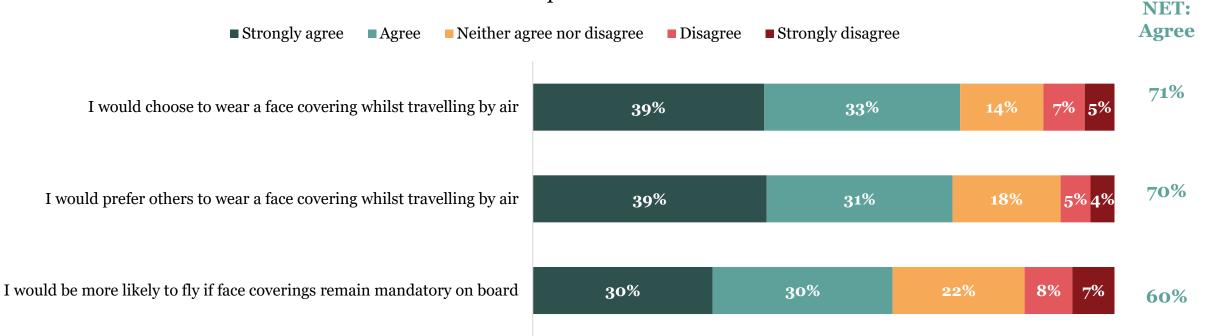
Q19. Below are various statements about travelling by air. Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the statements. Base: All respondents (n=3502);

14 within the last 12 months (n=585); between COVID-19 pandemic and September/October (n=273); before the COVID-19 pandemic but less than 4 years ago (n=1586); at least Savanta: 4 but less than 10 years ago (n=478); more than 10 years ago (n=364); never (n=187)

### Seven in ten respondents would choose to wear a face covering whilst travelling by air, and a similar proportion would prefer others to do the same

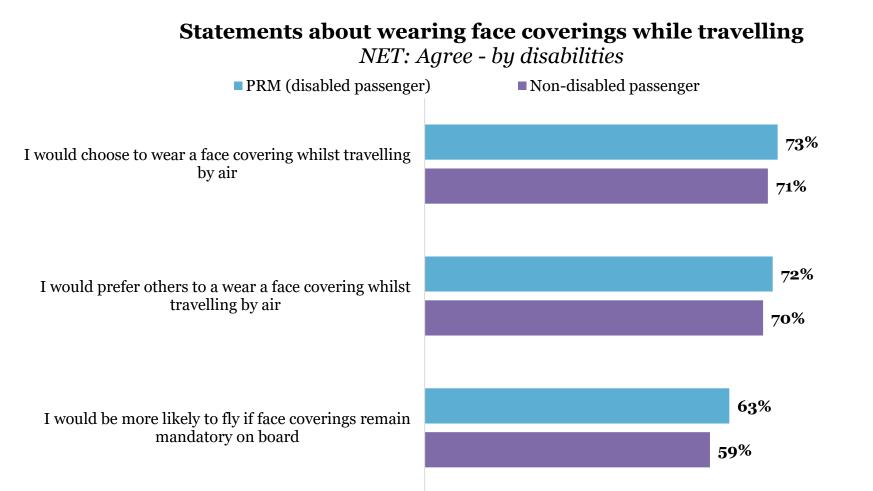
Statements about wearing face coverings while travelling

All respondents



Older respondents aged 35-54 (73%) or 55+ (75%) are more likely than those aged 18-34 (64%) to say they would choose to wear a face covering when travelling by air. Older respondents aged 55+ (62%) were also more likely than those 18-34 (57%) to say they would be more likely to fly if face coverings remain mandatory on board. Respondents from Northern Ireland (71%) and London (67%) were more likely to say they would be more likely to fly if face coverings remain mandatory on board, than most other regions tested (60% average).

### A slightly higher proportion of disabled passengers say they are more likely to fly if face coverings remain mandatory on board than non disabled passengers



While disabled passengers are slightly more likely than non disabled passengers to say they would be more likely to fly if face coverings remain mandatory on board (63% vs. 59%), opinions about face coverings while travelling do not differ significantly between disabled and non disabled passengers.

However, among disabled passengers, those with hidden disabilities are more likely than those with non-hidden disabilities to choose to wear a face covering while travelling by air (72% vs. 64% respectively) or to prefer others to wear a face covering while travelling by air (74% vs. 61% respectively).

# Half of those who have flown in the last 12 months say the compliance of fellow passengers with COVID-19 rules was better than expected

### **Compliance with COVID-19 safety**

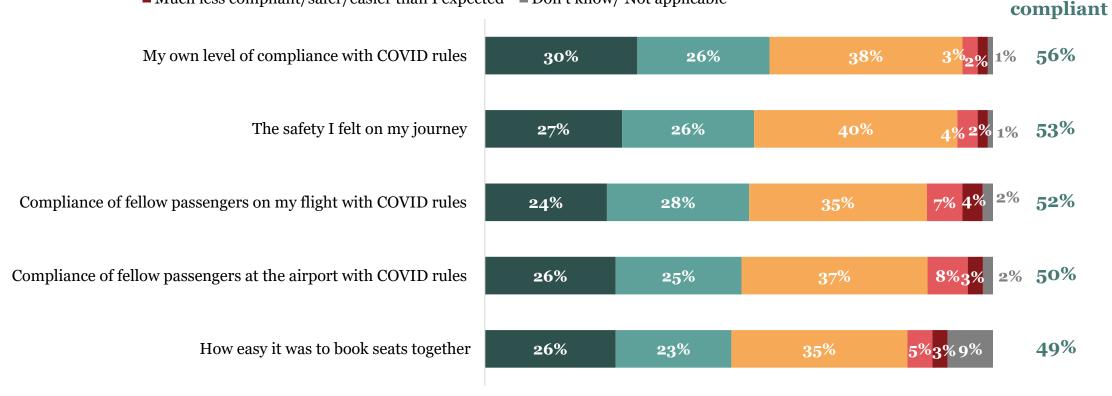
All respondents who have flown in the last 12 months

Much more compliant/safer/easier than I expected More compliant/safer/easier than I expected

About what I expected Less compliant/safer/easier than I expected

■ Much less compliant/safer/easier than I expected ■ Don't know/ Not applicable

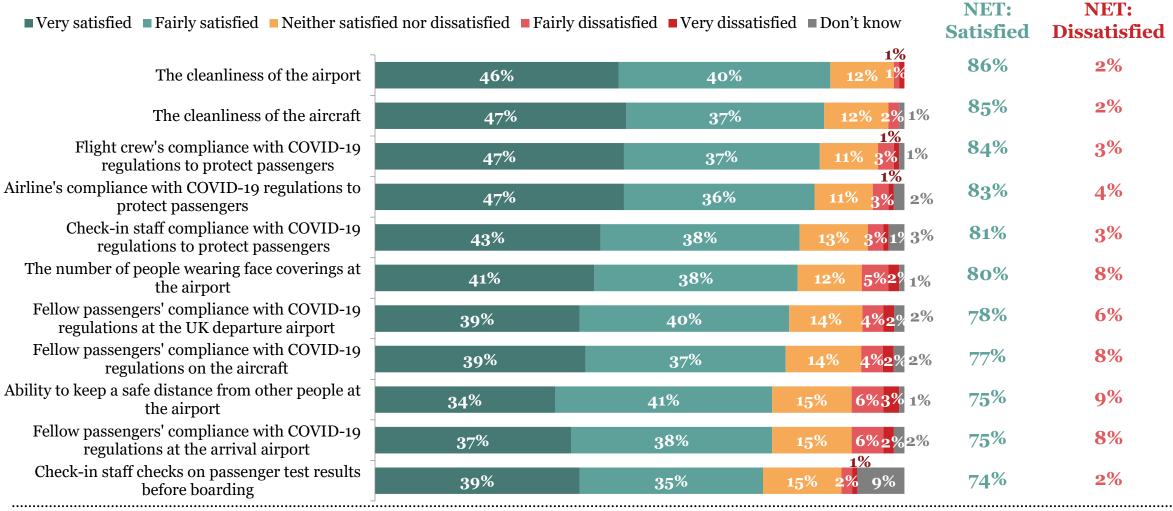
17



**NET: More** 

### Approaching nine in ten of those who have flown recently are satisfied with the cleanliness of their airport and aircraft on their most recent flight

### Last flight: Satisfaction with elements of the journey



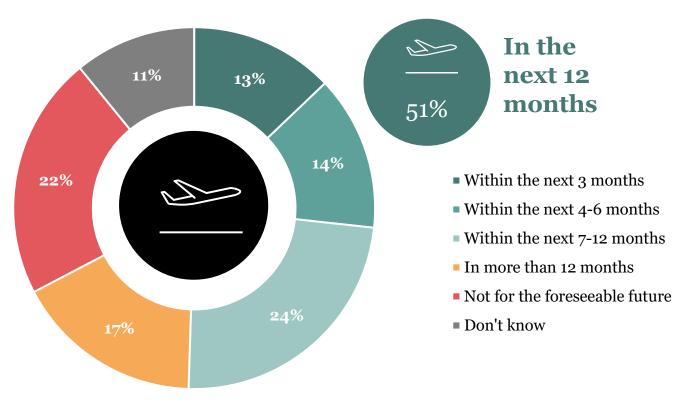
18 Q24. Thinking about some other aspects of your most recent flight, how satisfied, or dissatisfied, were you with the following...? Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months (n=585)

# Headline measures

### Half of respondents expect to travel by air in the next 12 months, but one in five do not expect to travel by air in the foreseeable future

### When do you next expect to travel by air

Showing % saying the following



Half of respondents (51%) expect to fly in the next 12 months. One in six (13%) expect to fly in the next 3 months. However, one in five (22%) do not expect to travel by air in the foreseeable future. This is an increase from 2020, where one in ten (8%) said they do not plan to fly again.

Younger people aged 18-34 (57%) or 35-54 (54%) are significantly more likely than those aged 55+ to say they will travel again in the next 12 months (42%). Men are also significantly more likely than women to say this (56% vs. 45% respectively).

Respondents from London are most likely of all regions to say they will travel in the next 12 months (69% vs. 51% average). Those from the South West are the least likely to say they will travel in the next 12 months (41%), they are also the most likely, along with those from the East of England, to say they do not expect to travel in the foreseeable future (27% for both).

## Two in three UK adults have confidence in the safety of UK airlines and airports

Among statements tested, respondents are most likely to agree they have confidence in the safety of UK airlines and airports (66%). However, they are least likely to agree the experience of travelling by air is getting better (38%).

Respondents aged 35-54 are more likely to say they enjoy travelling by air than those 55+ (62% vs. 55% respectively). This is also notably higher in the North West (63%) and London (69%) than other regions (58% average).

Those aged 18-34 or 35-54 are significantly more likely to say that the experience of travelling by air is getting better than those 55+ (46% and 41% vs. 28% respectively). This is notably higher in London also (50% vs. 38% average).

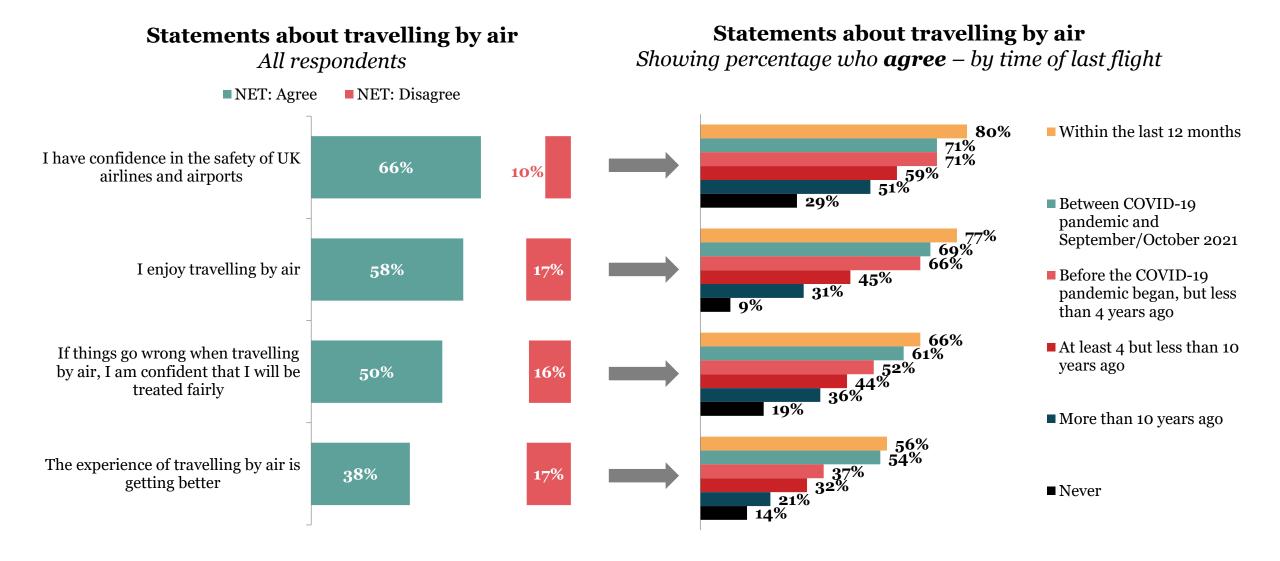
Those who have flown in the last 12 months are much more likely to have confidence in the safety of UK airlines and airports than average (80% vs. 66% overall).

21

### **Statements about travelling by air - General** *All respondents*

■ NET: Agree	NET: Disagree	
I have confidence in the safety of UK airlines and airports	66%	10%
I am confident when travelling by air that I will get the service I have paid for	61%	12%
I enjoy travelling by air	58%	17%
The balance between security screening and convenience to passengers at UK airports is about right	56%	12%
When searching for a flight it is easy to find other information that is important to me and to make comparisons between the information	56%	13%
When searching for a flight it is easy to understa how much it costs to travel with different airling and to make comparisons between them	55%	16%
If things go wrong when travelling by air, I am confident that I will be treated fairly	50%	16%
The experience of travelling by air is getting better	38%	17%

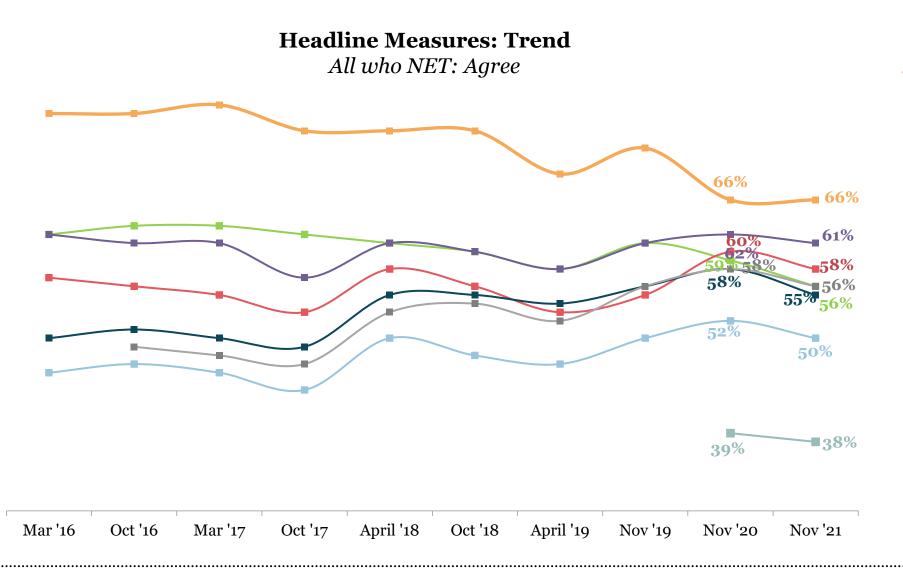
### Negative opinions about travelling by air are much more common amongst those who have not flown recently or have never flown



Q19. Below are various statements about travelling by air. Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the statements. Base: All respondents (n=3502);

within the last 12 months (n=585); between COVID-19 pandemic and September/October (n=273); before the COVID-19 pandemic but less than 4 years ago (n=1586); at least 4 but less than 10 years ago (n=478); more than 10 years ago (n=364); never (n=187)

# Most headline measures have remained static or seen slight decreases since last wave



- Confidence in safety of UK airlines and airports
- Balance between security screening and convenience about right
- Confident will get the service paid for
- --- Easy to understand cost to travel and make comparison
- ---- Easy to find important information and make comparisons
- If things go wrong confident will be treated fairly

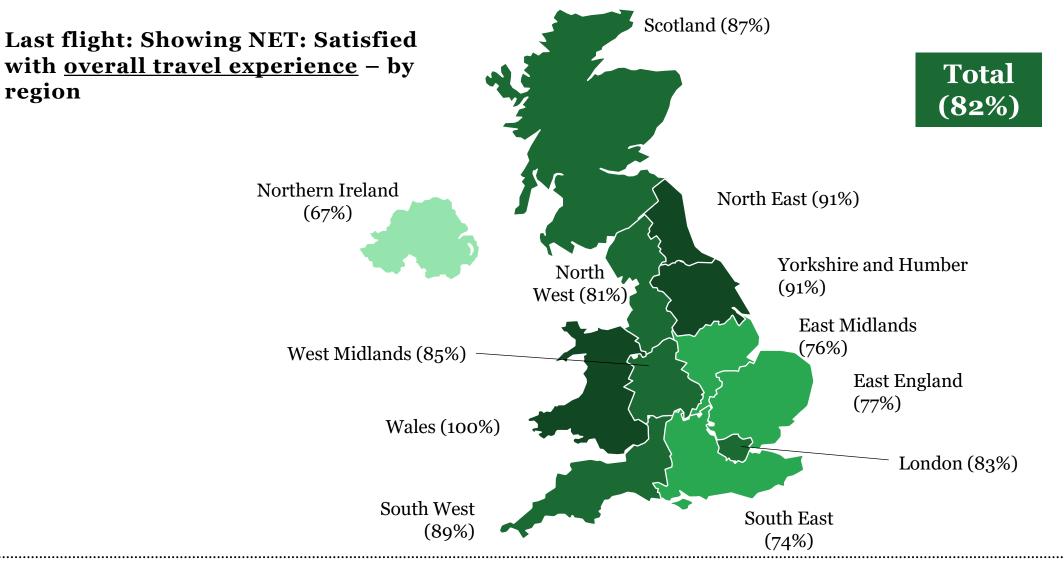
# **Satisfaction Ratings**

DA

H.C

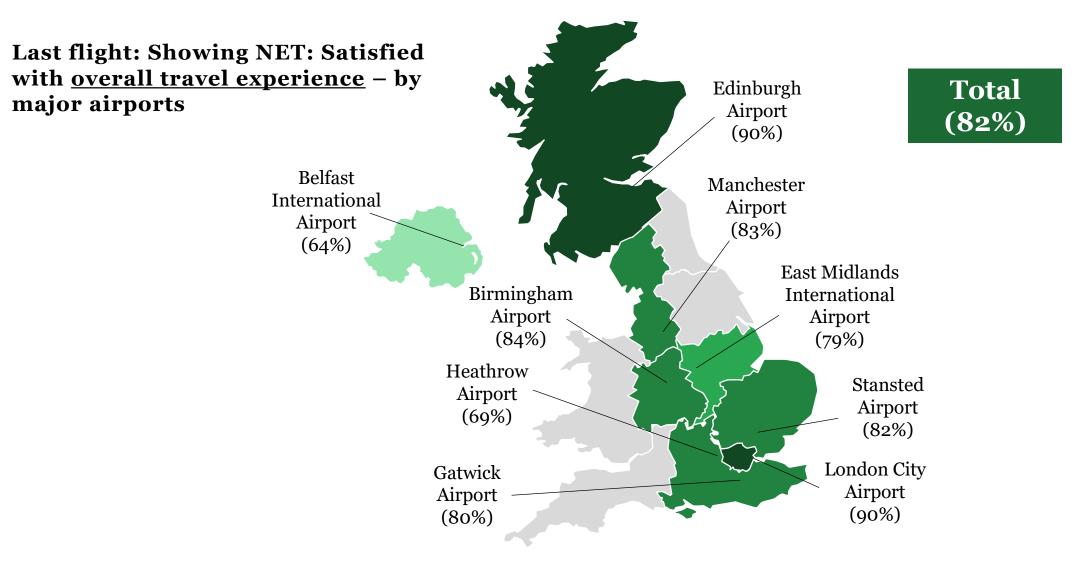


### Passengers from Wales and the North East are most satisfied with the overall travel experience from their most recent flight



25 Q21.17 Thinking now about some more specific aspects of your most recent flight, please tell us how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with the following elements? Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months, excluding DK and NA responses (n=581)

# Passengers who flew from Edinburgh and London City are most satisfied with their overall travel experience



26 Q21.17. Thinking now about some more specific aspects of your most recent flight, please tell us how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with the following elements? Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months, excluding DK and NA responses (n=581)

# Overall satisfaction has returned to a level similar to that recorded before the pandemic began

Last flight: Overall satisfaction All those who have flown in the last 12 months, excluding 'Don't know' and 'Not applicable' November 2021 90% 88% 87% 86% 84% ■ Very satisfied 84% 83% 82% 81% 77% 39% Fairly satisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 44% Fairly dissatisfied 4% **6%** 13% **5%** 5% 5% 5% **4%** 4% 3% 3% Very dissatisfied 4% 1% Apr' 19 Nov '19 Nov '20 Nov'20 Nov'21 Oct '16 Oct '18 Mar '16 Mar '17 Oct '17 Apr '18 Dissatisfied (NET)

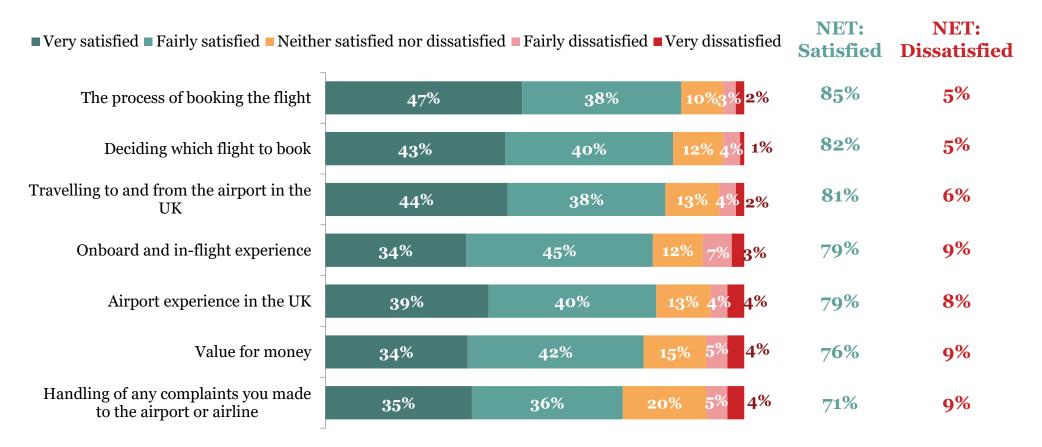
Savanta:

27 Q21. Thinking now about some more specific aspects of your most recent flight, please tell us how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with the following elements? Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months, excluding DK and NA responses (n=581)

### Respondents are least satisfied with handling of complaints made to the airport or airline

Last flight: Satisfaction with elements of the journey (UK bookings and airports)

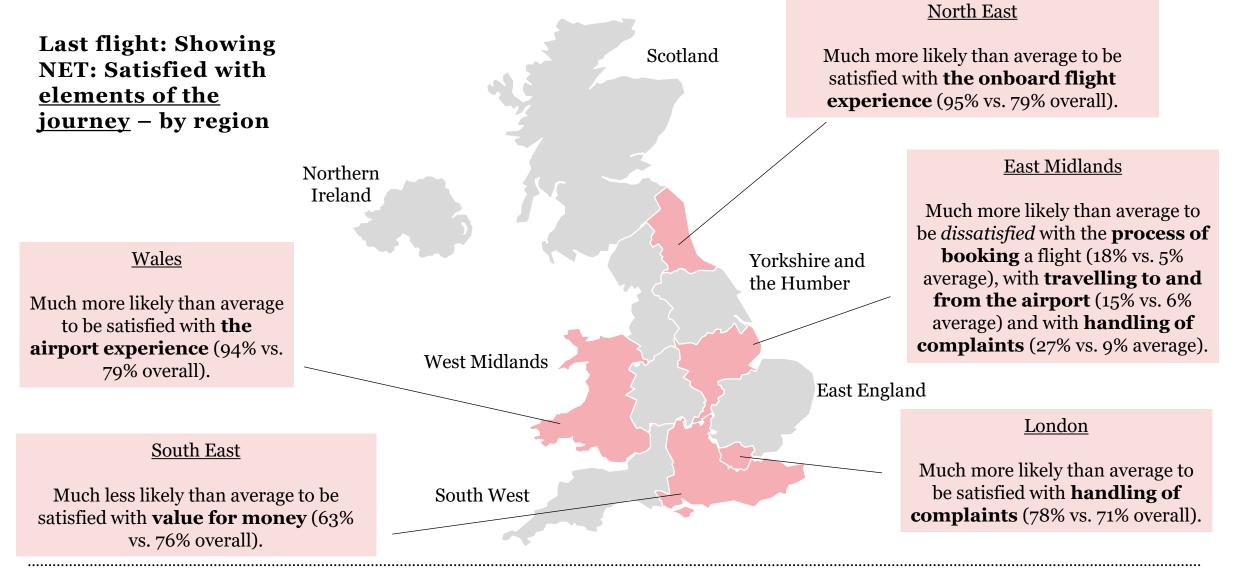
All those who have flown in the last 12 months, excluding 'Don't know' and 'Not applicable'



Q20. We'd now like to ask you how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with different aspects of your most recent flight. How satisfied were you with the following elements? Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months, excluding DK and NA responses (n= 389-583)

28

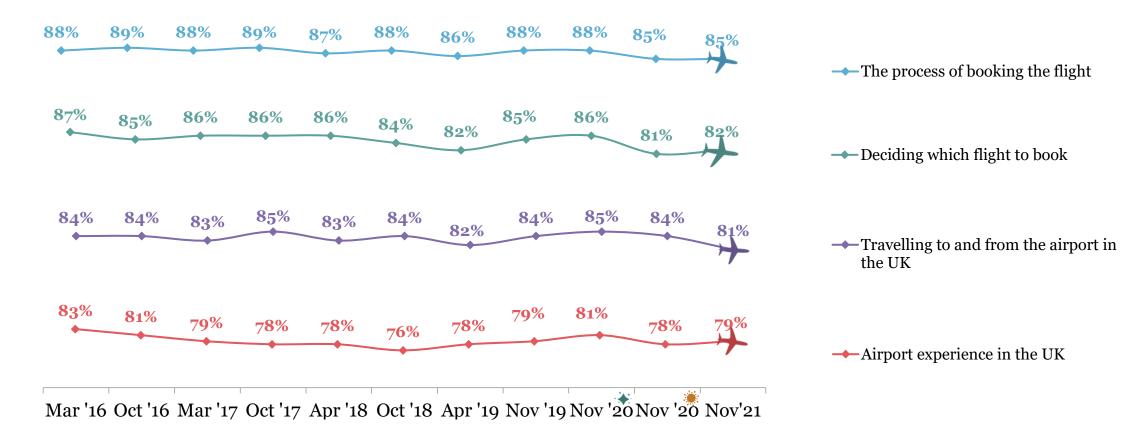
## Satisfaction with flight elements varies between UK regions



29 Q20. We'd now like to ask you how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with different aspects of your most recent flight. How satisfied were you with the following elements? Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months, excluding DK and NA responses (n= 389-583)

# Satisfaction with travelling to and from the airport and the process of booking the flight is the lowest since tracking began

Last flight: Satisfaction with elements of the journey All who say NET: Satisfied (Part 1)

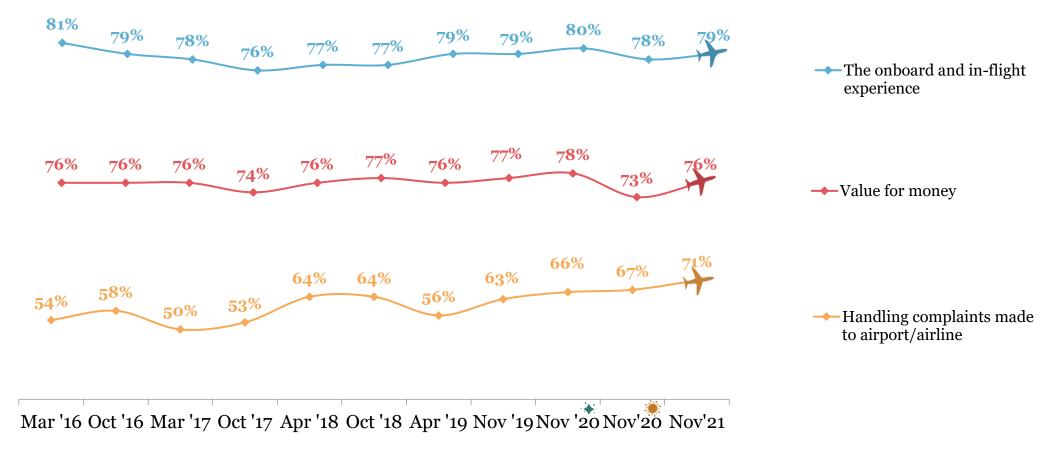


30 Q20. We'd now like to ask you how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with different aspects of your most recent flight. How satisfied were you with the following elements? Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months, excluding DK and NA responses (n= 576-581)

# Satisfaction with handling of complaints made to the airport/airline has improved, to its highest ever level, though still performs worse than other metrics



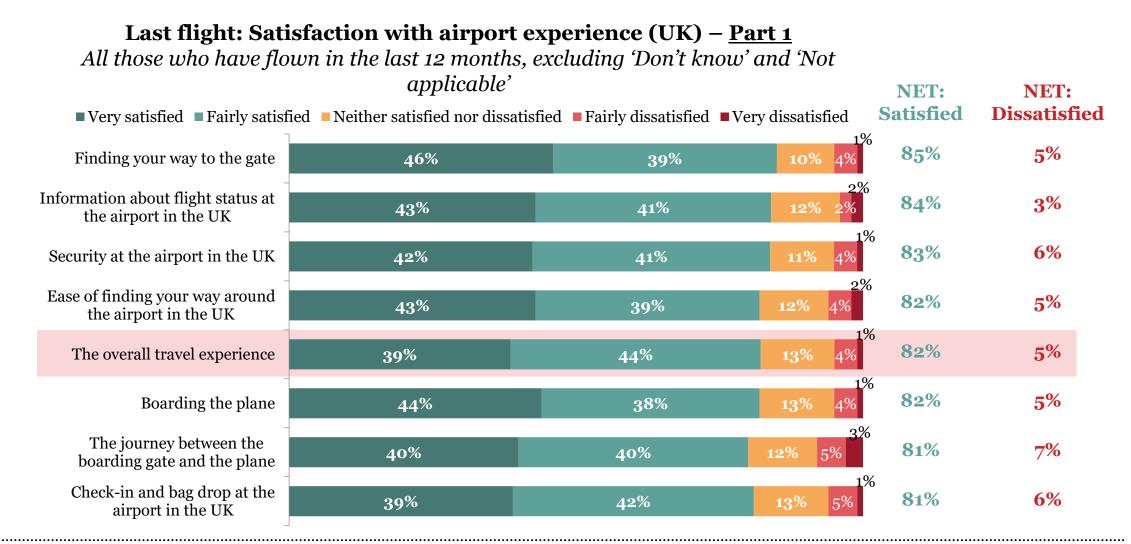
All who say NET: Satisfied (Part 2)



Q20. We'd now like to ask you how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with different aspects of your most recent flight. How satisfied were you with the following elements? Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months, excluding DK and NA responses (n= 389-583)

31

# Four in five of those who have flown recently were satisfied with each aspect of the airport experience, particularly with finding their way to the gate in the UK airport and information about flight status



Q21. Thinking now about some more specific aspects of your most recent flight, please tell us how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with the following elements? Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months, excluding DK and NA responses (n=557-582)

32

## Recent passengers are least likely to have been satisfied with the amount of choice between airlines

#### Last flight: Satisfaction with airport experience (UK) – Part 2 All those who have flown in the last 12 months, excluding 'Don't know' and 'Not applicable' NET: NET: Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied Fairly dissatisfied Very dissatisfied Very satisfied Fairly satisfied Satisfied Dissatisfied 8% 79% Passport control/immigration in the UK 41% 38% 13% 79% 7% Baggage collection at the airport in the UK 2% 39% 40% 14% 78% 6% Transfer/connection to another flight 5% 1% 38% 40% Ease of finding the information to compare 3% 2% 77% 5% 38% 18% 39% the choices of airport and airline 5% 1% 76% 7% Waiting at the boarding gate 35% 41% 17% Amount of choice between UK departure 74% 3% 9% 6% 36% 37% 18% airports Shops, restaurants and services provided at 74% 8% 35% 18% 39% the airport in the UK COVID-19 mitigation and social distancing 74% 11% 4% 33% 41% 16% measures 11% 70% Amount of choice between airlines 2% 32% 38% 19% 8%

Q21. Thinking now about some more specific aspects of your most recent flight, please tell us how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with the following elements? Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months, excluding DK and NA responses (n=386-578)

33

# Satisfaction levels are generally high, but fluctuate throughout the flight experience

#### Last flight: Satisfaction with airport experience All who say NET: Satisfied Ease of finding your Ease of finding the way around the **Finding** your airport in the UK information to way to the gate Boarding compare the choices Security at the the plane Information about Waiting at the of airport and airline airport in the UK Baggage flight status at the boarding gate Shops, restaurants and Check-in and bag collection at the airport in the UK services provided at drop at the The journey between airport in the UK Amount of choice the airport in the UK airport in the UK Passport control/ the boarding gate between UK immigration in Transfer departure airports and the plane /connection to the UK another flight Amount of choice between airlines 85% 84% 83% 82% 82% 81% 79% 81% 79% 78% 77% 76% 74% 74% 70% The overall travel experience

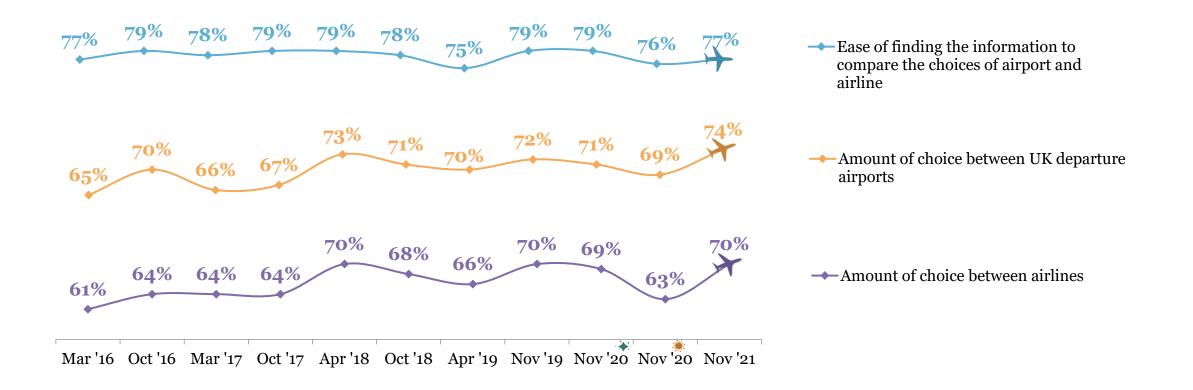
All who say NET: Satisfied

Q21. Thinking now about some more specific aspects of your most recent flight, please tell us how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with the following elements? Base:

All those who have flown within the last 12 months, excluding DK and NA responses (n=386-582)

# Satisfaction with the amount of choice between UK departure airports is the highest since tracking began

Last flight: Satisfaction with elements of pre-booking All who say NET: Satisfied



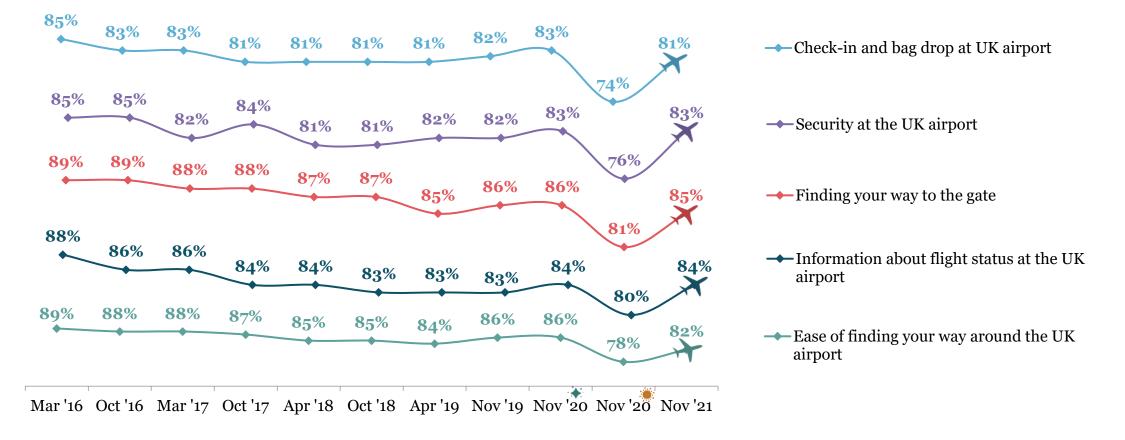
Q21. Thinking now about some more specific aspects of your most recent flight, please tell us how satisfied or dissatisfied you were with the following elements? Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months, excluding DK and NA responses (n=551-557)

35

# Satisfaction with nearly all elements of the airport experience are bouncing back to pre-pandemic levels

Last flight: Satisfaction with airport experience

All who say NET: Satisfied – Part 1



# Satisfaction with transfer/connection to another flight has risen to its highest level since March 2016

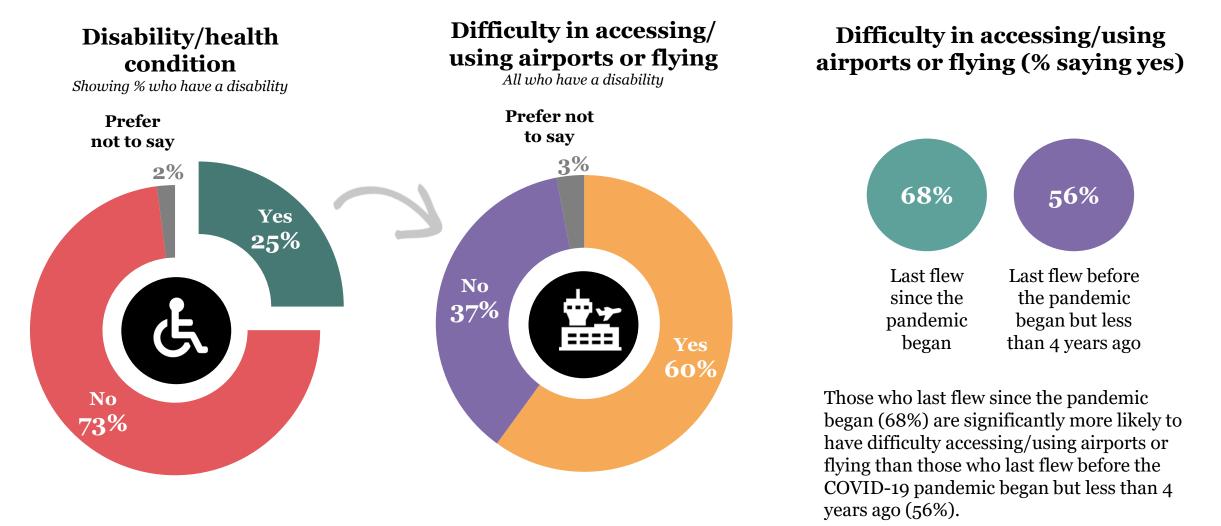
All who say NET: Satisfied – Part 2 83% 82% 81% 81% 80% 80% **79%** 79% 79% 79% 78% --- Passport control / immigration in the UK 78% 78% 76% 75% 75% 75% -Shops, restaurants and services provided at 74% 73% the UK airport 83% 82% 82% 79% 79% ----Baggage collection at the airport in the UK 78% 77% 77% 74% 78% -Transfer / connection to another flight 77% **75%** 74% 74% 74% 73% 70% Satisfaction with shops, restaurants and services provided at UK airports have bounced back to prepandemic levels, after COVID-19 restrictions meant Mar '16 Oct '16 Mar '17 Oct '17 Apr '18 Oct '18 Apr '19 Nov '19 Nov '20 Nov'20 Nov '21 they had to close during the pandemic

Last flight: Satisfaction with airport experience

37

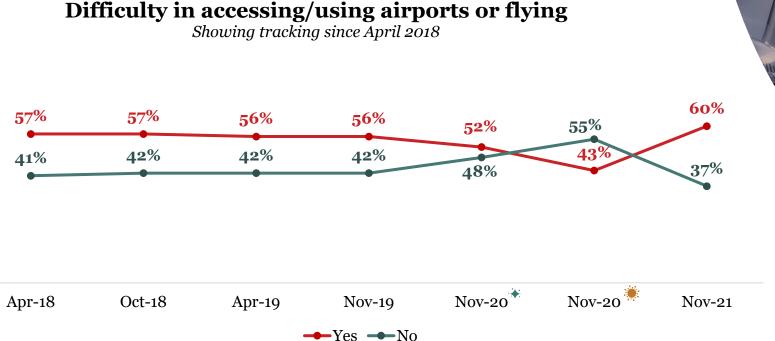
# Accessibility and experience of disabled passengers

# Three in five of those who have a disability have or would have difficulties accessing and/or using airports or flying



Q7. Do you have any disability or health condition that limits your day-to-day activities? It could include a physical disability or health condition. Base: All respondents (n=3502)
 Q8. Does your disability or health condition make accessing and/or using airports or flying difficult? / Would your disability or health condition make accessing and/or using airports or flying difficult? Base: All who have a disability (n=878)

Difficulty accessing/using airports or flying has risen to its highest point since tracking began





Savanta:

This wave, three in five (60%) disabled respondents reported that their disability makes or would make accessing and using airports difficult. This is the highest proportion since tracking began, after a much lower score of two in five (43%) was recorded in the first months of the pandemic.

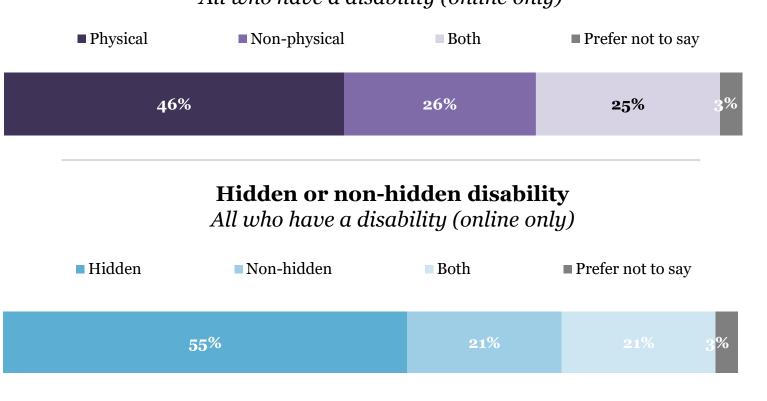
<sup>40</sup> Q8. Does/Would your disability or health condition make accessing and/or using airports or flying difficult? Base: All respondents who have a disability (April 2018 n= 734; October 2018 n= 945; April 2019 n= 875; November 2019 n= 821; November 2020 n=661; November 2021 n=878)

## Three-quarters of disabled respondents report having a hidden disability

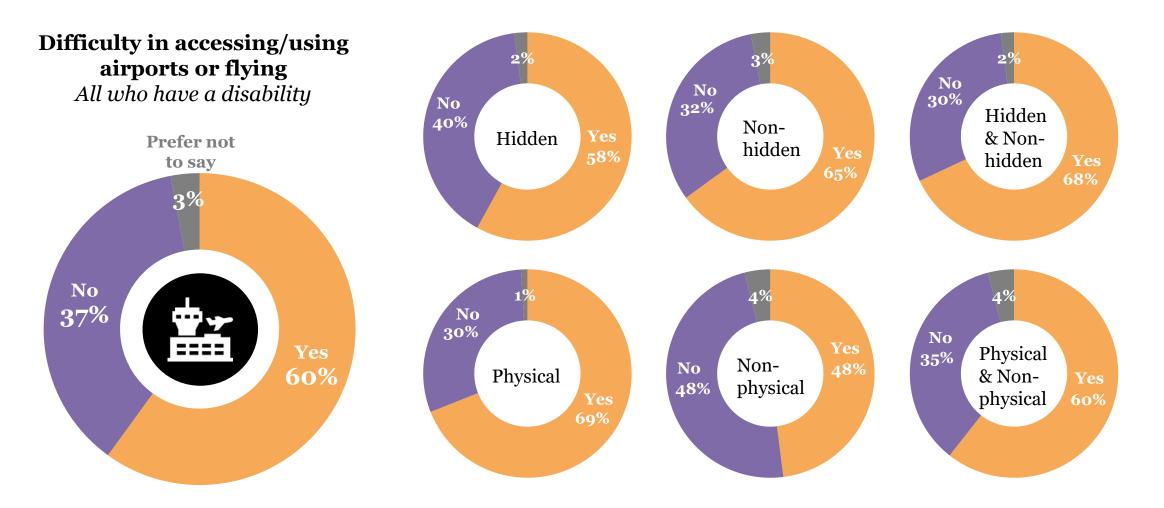
Almost half (46%) of disabled passengers say that their disability is a physical one, compared to one in four (26%) who say they have a nonphysical disability.

Just over three-quarters (76%) say either that they have a hidden disability or that they have both a hidden and a non-hidden disability, meaning that the vast majority will not necessarily have their condition immediately recognised by others.

#### **Physical or non-physical disability** All who have a disability (online only)



41 Q9. Would you classify your disability or health condition as physical, non-physical or both? Base: All who have a disability - online only (n=808) Q10. Would you consider your disability to be a hidden or a non-hidden disability? Base: All who have a disability - online only (n=808) Disabled respondents with physical disabilities or health conditions are considerably more likely than others to have difficulties in accessing or using airports and flying



Three in ten disabled respondents expect to fly more in the next 12 months, around double the proportion that say they expect to fly less

#### **Expectations of flying compared to the last 12 months** *All who have a disability*

■ More	Same amount/ no change	Less	■ Don't know	
29%	47%		14%	10%



Almost half (47%) of disabled respondents expect there to be no change in the amount of travelling they do over the next 12 months. Three in ten (29%) expect to travel more, whilst just 14% expect to fly less over this period.

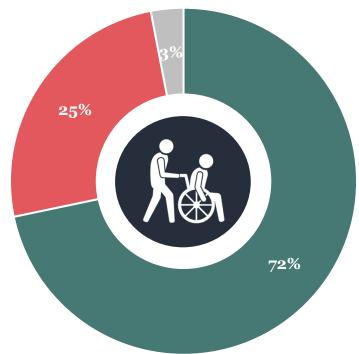
The proportion of disabled respondents saying they expect to fly more has risen since last wave, by nearly 10 percentage points (20% in Wave 9 vs. 29% in Wave 10).



<sup>43</sup> Q11. In the next 12 months, do you expect that you will fly more, the same amount or less compared to the number of times you have flown over the last 12 months? Base: All respondents who have a disability (n=878)

### Of those who have a disability, seven in ten would require assistance when flying

Would assistance be required? All who have a disability which makes flying difficult



44 Q12. Does your disability or health condition mean that you would need or think you would need specific assistance from the airport or airline when making a flight? Base: All those who have a disability which makes accessing/using airports or flying difficult (n=531)

YesNo

Prefer not to say



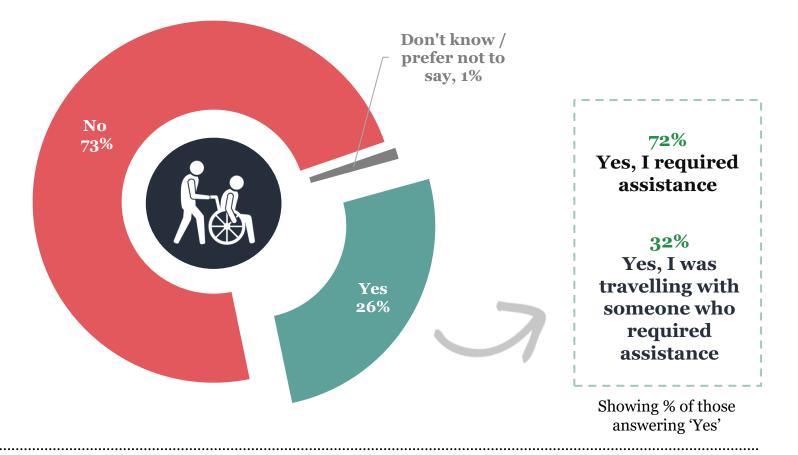
### A quarter of recent flyers reported that someone in their party required assistance on their most recent flight

Assistance required

Recent flyers or someone in their party who required assistance

The majority (73%) of flyers did not have anyone in their party requiring assistance. One in four (26%) *did* need assistance, either for themselves (19%) or for another member of their travelling party (8%).

The proportion reporting that someone in their party required assistance has doubled since Wave 9 (26% in W10, 12% in W9).

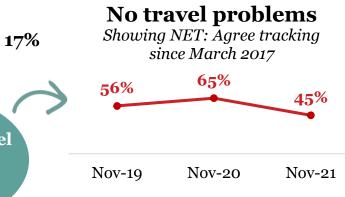


# **Travel disruption and complaint handling**

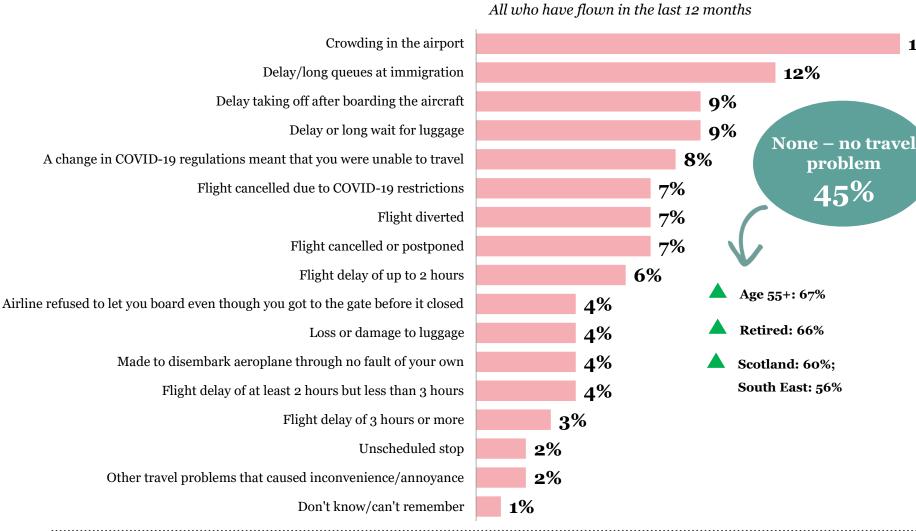


### Crowding in the airport is the most common flight issue, though almost one in two experienced no travel issues

#### **Experience of recent flight issue(s)**



The proportion of passengers who report no travel problems has fallen by 20 percentage points after a brief high of 65% in Wave 9. This increase being short-lived suggests that low passenger numbers last year made for a smoother flying experience, and this is ceasing to be the case as passenger numbers start to increase again. In fact, with COVID-19 restrictions in place, the numbers suggest that people are experiencing issues more than ever.



Q25. During this most recent journey, did you experience any of the following issues? Please count onward and return flights and any transfers as one journey. Base: All those who have flown in the last 12 months (n=585)

47



# Three-quarters of passengers say they were informed about the cause of travel issues, with airlines the most common source of information

**Receiving information on the** 

cause of the issue(s)

All who have flown in the last 12

months and experienced travel

Three quarters of (74%) passengers who travelled in the last 12 months and experienced issues say they received information on the cause of this issue. A quarter (24%) say that they did not receive this information, down 11 percentage points from Wave 9 (35%)

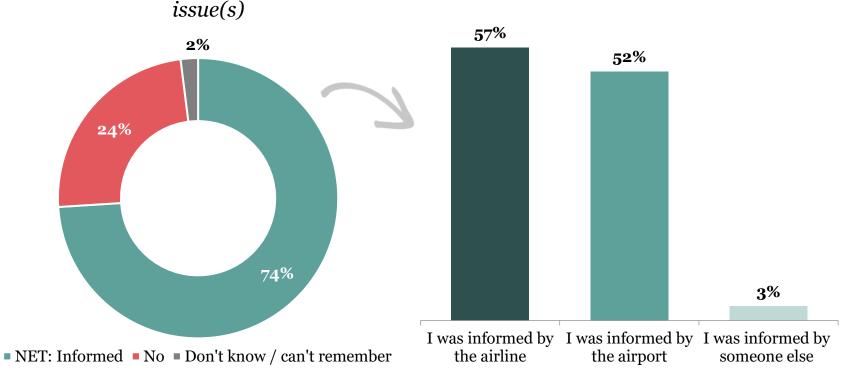
Airlines continue to be the most common source of information, with almost three in five (57%) of those who were informed saying that this information came from the airline. Just over half of respondents (52%) say that they were informed by the airport.

48

#### **Receiving information on travel issues**

#### Source of information

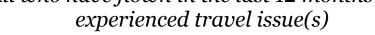
All who have flown in the last 12 months and experienced travel issue(s) and received information



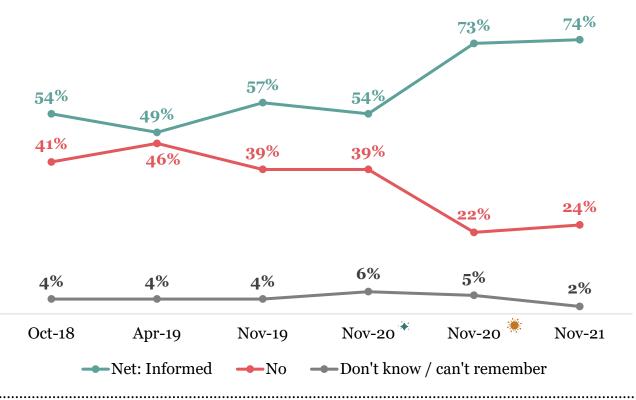
Q27. Were you informed of the cause of the issue(s) you experienced on your most recent journey? Please count outward and return flights and any transfers as one journey. Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months and experienced travel issues (n=313) Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months and experienced a travel problem excluding 'No' and 'Don't know / can't remember' responses (n=229)

### Three quarters of passengers continue to receive information on the cause of travel issues

Receiving information on the cause of the issue(s) All who have flown in the last 12 months and



49



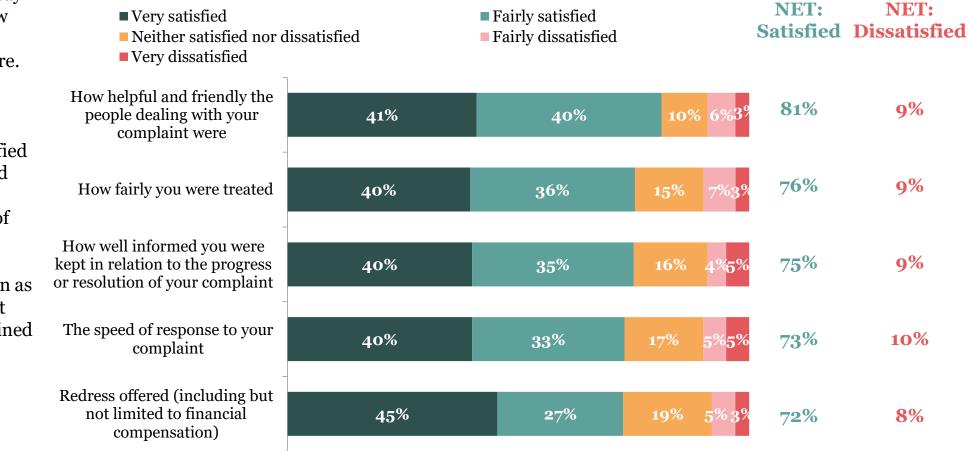




### At least seven in ten passengers who made a complaint are satisfied with the services provided

#### Satisfaction with how complaints were handled

All who have flown in the last 12 months, experienced a travel issue and complained, excluding 'Don't know' responses



Four in five respondents (81%) say that they were satisfied with how helpful and friendly the people dealing with their complaint were.

Other complaint handling areas also performed strongly, with around three in four being satisfied with how fairly they were treated (76%), how well informed they were kept (75%) and the speed of response (73%).

The redress offered was also seen as broadly satisfactory, with almost half (45%) of those who complained being *very* satisfied with this outcome.

50 Q29. Thinking more specifically about any complaints you made to the airport, airline or holiday company about the travel issue, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with each of the following aspects? Base: All who have flown in the last 12 months and made a complaint about a travel issue(s) excluding 'Not applicable' and 'Don't know' responses (n=164-171)

### Over two-thirds of flyers who had to postpone or cancel their flight were satisfied with the process

# • Very satisfied • Satisfied • Neither satisfied or dissatisfied • Dissatisfied • Very dissatisfied • NET: NET: NET: Satisfied Dissatisfied 35% 34% 9% 11% 11% 69% 22%

**Satisfaction with postponing or cancelling flight** *All respondents who had to postpone or cancel their flight* 

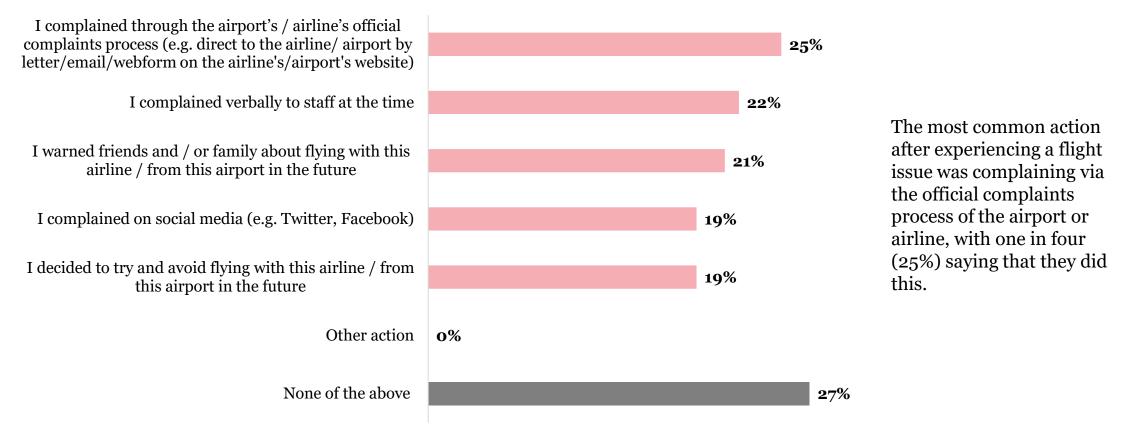
Two-thirds (69%) of those who had to postpone or cancel their flight were happy with the process by which they did this, with around one in three (35%) *very* satisfied with this process. One in ten (9%) were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, whilst just over a fifth of respondents (22%) were dissatisfied with the process by which they postponed or cancelled their flight.

It should be noted, however, that dissatisfaction with having had to postpone or cancel may have inflated the dissatisfaction figures concerning the *process* of cancellation.

### Travellers experiencing a flight issue responded in a variety of ways but one in four took no action at all

#### Actions during or after flight issue

All respondents who experienced a flight issue





### Two-fifths of those complaining did so because they wanted changes to be made to prevent the issue arising in the future

#### Expectations after making a formal complaint

All respondents who complained about a travel problem



The most common expected outcome from making a complaint was changes being made by the airport or airline to ensure that issues were less likely to arise in future, with almost one in five (39%) saying that they were expecting this to happen as a result of their complaint being made.

# Aviation and the environment

### Two in five think about the impact of flying on the environment when deciding to travel by air, up from pre-pandemic levels and almost doubling in the last five years

When deciding to travel by air, I think about the impact of flying on the environment All respondents

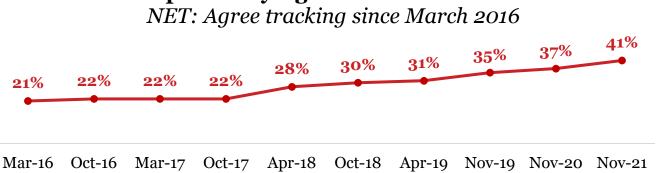
■ Strongly agree ■ Tend to agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Tend to disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know

Last flew since the pandemic began (% saying NET: Agree) Last flew before the pandemic began but less than 4 years ago (% saying NET: Agree)

38%



### When deciding to travel by air, I think about the impact of flying on the environment

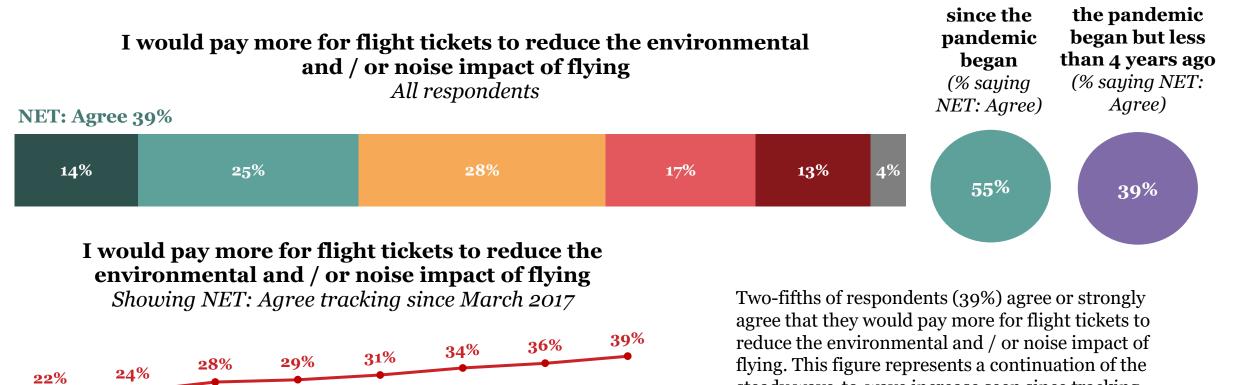


Two-fifths of respondents (41%) agree or strongly agree that they think about the impact of flying on the environment when considering travelling by air, which is nearly double the figure recorded in March 2016 (21%).

The proportion of respondents who agree or strongly agree is much higher amongst those who last flew since the pandemic began than amongst UK adults in general (at 50% vs. 41% overall this wave).

55 Q19.09. When deciding whether to travel by air, I think about the impact of flying on the environment: Below are various statements about travelling by air. Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the statements. Base: All respondents (n=3,502)

# Two in five would pay more for flight tickets to reduce the environmental or noise impact of flying



Nov-21

reduce the environmental and / or noise impact of flying. This figure represents a continuation of the steady wave-to-wave increase seen since tracking began, and is nearly double the figure recorded in March 2017 (22%).

Last flew

56 Q19.10. I would pay more for flight tickets to reduce the environmental / or noise impact of flying: Below are various statements about travelling by air. Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the statements. Base: All respondents (n=3,502)

Nov-20

Nov-19

Oct-18

Apr-19

Mar-17

Oct-17

Apr-18



Last flew before

# ATOL



# Almost two-thirds of respondents think that their last holiday was ATOL-protected, though one in five don't know

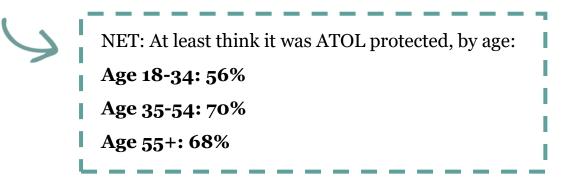
#### Was your last holiday ATOL protected?

All respondents

I am certain it was ATOL protected
 I am certain it was not ATOL protected
 Don't know
 I don't think it was ATOL protected
 Don't know

#### NET: At least think it was ATOL protected 65%

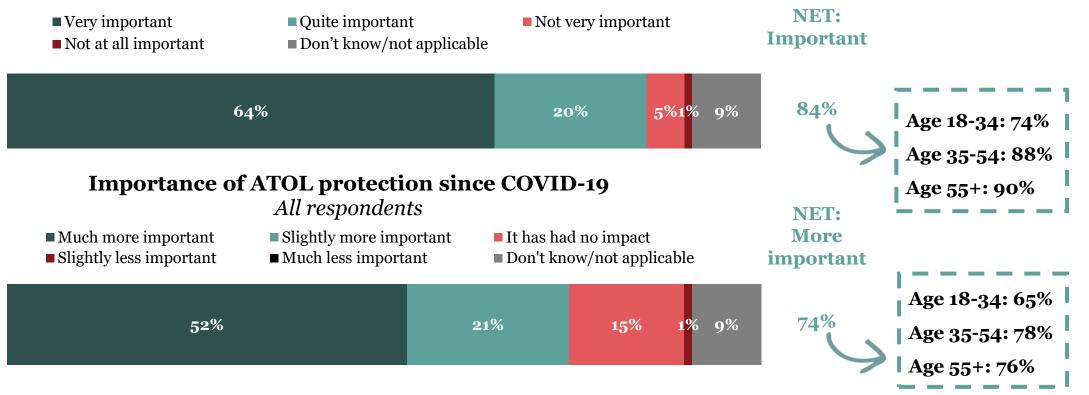
Two-thirds of respondents (65%) either thought that their last holiday was ATOL protected, or were certain of this.



# Four in five respondents think that it is important their holiday is ATOL protected, and three quarters believe this has become more important since the pandemic began

### Importance of ATOL protection

All respondents



With the pandemic having increased the amount of uncertainty surrounding holidays and travelling, three quarters (74%) regard ATOL protection as more important than before. The precarious position that some travel companies are experiencing or have experienced in the past may have contributed to this figure.

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