

# Unique footfall insights. Benchmark your performance.



The first week of October was met with rail disruptions across the UK which resulted in a decline in footfall across all UK retail destinations from the week before.

It was a mixed week for all destination types as footfall rose on only three out of the seven days last week from the week before; Sunday, Tuesday and Saturday . The drop in activity on the days in between were likely to have been impacted by rail strikes and an increasing number of people choosing to work from home.

The decline in footfall was reflected across all regions except for the East of England and Northern Ireland. Scotland was particularly affected with heavy rain and flooding from Wednesday onwards contributing to a significant drop in footfall.

Despite last week's disruption, footfall rose year on year across high streets, remained steady across retail parks, and declined in shopping centres. The gap from the 2019 level widened slightly in high streets and retail parks but improved marginally in shopping centres.

Footfall declined across all UK retail destinations by -1.6% last week from the week before however it was very much a mixed week as footfall rose on only three out of the seven days from the week before – Sunday, Tuesday and Saturday – with declines in activity on the days in between likely to have been impacted by rail strikes and people choosing to work from home.

On Wednesday, the day of the rail strike, high streets took the greatest impact as footfall fell by -4.3% from the week before however shopping centres and retail parks proved their resiliency as footfall rose by +0.5% and +2.5% respectively. The impact of Wednesday's rail strike action was evident in Central London as footfall fell by -23.9% up until 11am on that day compared with a rise of +3.4% in the week before for the same time period indicating that employees opted to work from home that day. This was also reflected in MRI OnLocation's Central London 'Back to the Office' benchmark as footfall fell by -19.8% up until 11am from the week before.

The overall impact of the strike action was less severe than initially anticipated in Central London overall with only a -2.2% drop in footfall from the week before and only a -1.6% decline in Central London locations that are closest to the office as reflected by MRI OnLocation's Central London 'Back to the office' benchmark. This could be due to the last-minute cancellations of the tube strikes which lessened the overall impact of the strike action. Friday was the second day of the week where overtime bans and strike action occurred and all UK retail destinations took a hit as footfall fell by -6.4%.

With the exception of the East of England (+1.3%) and Northern Ireland (+3.9%), all regions across the UK saw a decline in footfall. Scotland felt the force of the heavy rain and flooding as footfall declined by -4.4% from the week before.

Despite the disruption faced across UK retail destination's last week, footfall rose year on year in high streets by +1.9% but remained flat across retail parks and declined in shopping centres by -1.0%. The gap from the 2019 level worsened in high streets last week from the week before to -10.5% from -9.0%, to -3.3% from -3.2% in retail parks however improved slightly in shopping centres to -15.8% from -16.0%.



James Massey, Managing Director OnLocation for Footfall Analytics MRI Software



SB.

# North & Yorkshire

Week 40			
01 Oct 2023	2022	2019	wow
Springboard Index	0.3%	-12.3%	-2.8%
High Street Index	0.2%	-15.8%	-3.2%
Retail Park Index	2.6%	-1.9%	-1.9%
Shopping Centre Index	-1.9%	-15.3%	-2.7%
			00

### **Insights From the Inside**

We have noticed a change in shopper behaviour as weekdays now tend to be busier than weekends

2.6%	39.1%	47.5%	10.6%
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

# **Further Reading**



#### Webinar On Demand: Understanding Today's Retail Landscape

Watch our latest webinar as Diane Wehrle, Marketing & Insights Director, took a deep dive into footfall performance across UK retail destinations throughout the first half of 2023. In this insightful session Diane analysed the continuing effect on footfall and spend in retail destinations from hybrid working and the key economic challenge from rising interest rates and inflation.



Insights Report: UK Monthly Commentary - August 2023

Each month Insights and Marketing Director, Diane Wehrle, delivers insights on retail performance for UK retail destinations. Footfall in August continued to weaken, with consumers reining in leisure trips as the cost of living crisis continues to rise.



**Download Free Report** 

