



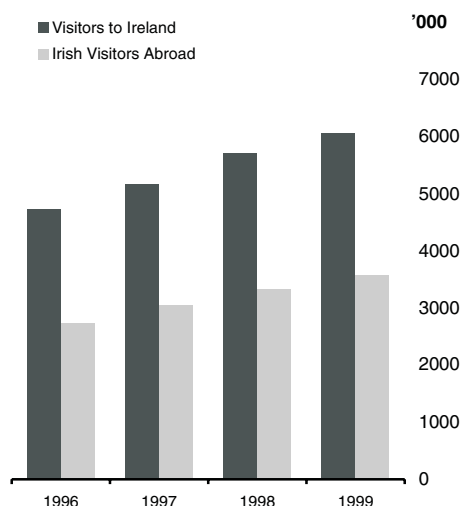
Central Statistics Office

An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

19 June 2000

Tourism and Travel 1999

Number of Visits



**Visitors to
Ireland**

**Irish Visitors
Abroad
'000**

1996	4,739	2,733
1997	5,164	3,053
1998	5,716	3,330
1999	6,068	3,576

Over 6 million Visitors to Ireland in 1999

There were 6,068,000 overseas visits to Ireland by non-residents in the year 1999, compared with 5,716,000 in 1998, an increase of 6.2%. *See Table 3 and Graph.* Travel on transatlantic routes accounted for 19.9% of this increase.

The number of visits abroad by Irish Residents in the year 1999 was 3,576,000 compared with 3,330,000 in 1998, an increase of 7.4%. *See Table 10 and Graph.* Irish Residents travelling abroad on continental routes increased by 24.9% while travel on transatlantic routes increased by 27.5%.

The expenditure figures for the year 1999 show a net inflow of £565m - earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for £2,502m, while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to £1,937m.

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ The number of overseas visitors to Ireland from North America in 1999 was 943,000 compared with 855,000 in 1998, an increase of 10.3%
- ◆ During 1999, the number of Overseas Visitors on Continental routes increased by 9.3% compared with 1998.
- ◆ There were 344,000 same-day Overseas Visitors to Ireland in 1999, of which 86.6% were Visitors from Great Britain. *See Table 5.*
- ◆ The average length of stay for Visitors to Ireland during 1999 was 7.7 nights. This compares with 9.4 nights for Irish Residents going abroad. *See tables 7 and 11.*

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Table 1 Visitors to Ireland - Estimated Expenditure (Classified by Route of Travel) and Total International Tourism and Travel Earnings

£ million

Estimated Expenditure	1995	1996	1997	1998 ²	1999
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	495	572	675	705	754
Sea Cross-Channel	305	314	374	415	389
Continental European	307	356	344	357	401
Transatlantic	140	168	167	204	247
All Overseas Routes	1,247	1,411	1,560	1,681	1,791
Cross-Border	131	133	145	147	151
Total Expenditure (excluding international fares)	1,377	1,543	1,705	1,828	1,942
Passenger fare receipts of Irish Carriers from Visitors to Ireland	302	345	400	470	560 ³
Total international tourism and travel earnings¹	1,679	1,889	2,105	2,297	2,502³

¹ Total Expenditure (excl. International Fares) plus passenger fare receipts of Irish carriers from Visitors to Ireland

² Revised

³ Provisional

Table 2 Overseas Visitors to Ireland - Estimated Expenditure (Excluding International Fares) Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey

£ million

Estimated Expenditure	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Expenditure (excluding international fares)	1,247	1,411	1,560	1,681	1,791
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	479	552	667	739	758
Other Europe	409	462	454	461	490
USA and Canada	268	307	343	381	432
Other Areas	92	90	95	101	111
Reason for Journey					
Business	174	212	260	284	340
Tourist	686	755	838	903	-
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation ¹	-	-	-	-	967
Visit to Friends/Relatives	259	296	317	342	357
Other	127	147	145	152	127

¹ A Change in classification was introduced from the start of 1999 – see notes page 8

Table 3 Visitors to Ireland - Estimated Number of Overseas Visits (Classified by Route of Travel, Area of Residence and Reason for Journey) And Cross-Border Visits on Rail and Scheduled Bus Services

	'000				
Visits	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Overseas Visits	4,256	4,739	5,164	5,716	6,068
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	1,799	2,064	2,305	2,570	2,836
Sea Cross-Channel	1,394	1,477	1,635	1,753	1,677
Continental European	785	868	885	974	1,065
Transatlantic	277	330	339	419	489
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	2,365	2,698	3,025	3,383	3,558
Other Europe	1,085	1,164	1,175	1,262	1,333
USA and Canada	617	703	764	855	943
Other Areas	190	174	201	216	233
Reason for Journey					
Business	597	757	785	891	994
Tourist	2,314	2,466	2,767	3,097	-
Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation ¹	-	-	-	-	3,306
Visit to Friends/ Relatives	1,014	1,139	1,231	1,290	1,439
Other	332	376	380	438	328
Cross Border Visits					
Rail					
Length of Stay - 1 day or less	77	80	79	70	79
- Over 1 day	95	110	113	123	147
Scheduled Bus					
Length of Stay - 1 day or less	137	138	177	210	193
- Over 1 day	49	51	71	99	97

¹ A change in classification was introduced from the start of 1999 – see notes page 8

Table 4 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents Distinguishing Same-Day Visits

			'000
Visits	1998	1999	
Total Overseas Visits	5,716	6,068	
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	364	344	
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	5,352	5,723	

Table 5 Overseas Same-Day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, 1999

						'000
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total	
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation ¹	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other		
Total Same-day Visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	138	154	37	15	344	
Great Britain	121	137	30	9	298	
Other Europe	14	8	4	4	29	
USA & Canada	2	9	2	1	14	
Other Areas	1	1	0	0	3	

¹ A change in classification was introduced from the start of 1999 – see notes page 8

Table 6 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents, with at least one overnight in Ireland - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, 1999

						'000
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total	
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation ¹	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other		
Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	856	3,152	1,402	313	5,723	
Great Britain	473	1,646	1,014	128	3,260	
Other Europe	252	744	171	138	1,304	
USA & Canada	96	633	165	34	928	
Other Areas	36	129	52	13	230	

¹ A change in classification was introduced from the start of 1999 – see notes page 8

Table 7 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents with at least one overnight in Ireland - Estimated Average Length of Stay (Nights) Classified by Route of Travel, Area of Residence and Reason for Journey

Length of Stay	Nights	
	1998	1999
All Overseas Visits	8.1	7.7
Route of Travel		
Air Cross-Channel	6.2	6.0
Sea Cross-Channel	8.9	7.9
Continental European	10.4	10.4
Transatlantic	10.8	10.5
Area of Residence		
Great Britain	6.3	5.8
Other Europe	10.8	10.3
USA and Canada	9.6	9.5
Other Areas	12.0	11.5
Reason for Journey		
Business	5.1	5.6
Tourist	8.0	-
Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation ¹	-	7.4
Visit to Friends/ Relatives	9.0	8.3
Other	12.4	13.0

¹ A change in classification was introduced from the start of 1999 – see notes page 8

Table 8 Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Estimated Expenditure (Including International Fares) Classified by Route of Travel and Total Net International Tourism and Travel Expenditure

Estimated Expenditure	£ million				
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	621	725	793	867	917
Sea Cross-Channel	169	133	145	146	135
Continental European	468	501	567	692	876
Transatlantic	155	163	178	209	271
All Overseas Routes	1,414	1,521	1,683	1,914	2,199
Cross-Border ¹	83	85	82	83	85
Total Expenditure (including international fares)	1,497	1,606	1,765	1,997	2,284
Passenger fare payments by Irish Visitors abroad to Irish carriers	230	235	299	325 ³	347 ⁴
Total net international tourism and travel expenditure²	1,267	1,371	1,466	1,672³	1,937⁴

¹ Estimates are for tourist expenditure only

² Total Expenditure (incl. International Fares) less passenger fare payments by Irish visitors abroad to Irish carriers

³ Revised

⁴ Provisional

Table 9 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents - Estimated Expenditure (Including International Fares) Classified by Reason for Journey

£ million

Estimated Expenditure	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Expenditure (including international fares)	1,414	1,521	1,683	1,914	2,199
Reason for Journey					
Business	326	393	357	413	438
Tourist	655	680	752	907	-
Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation ¹	-	-	-	-	1,182
Visit to Friends/ Relatives	256	286	358	395	437
Other	176	162	216	199	142

¹ A change in classification was introduced from the start of 1999 – see notes page 8

Table 10 Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Estimated Number of Overseas Visits (Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey) and Cross-Border Visits on Rail and Scheduled Bus Services

'000

Visits	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Overseas Visits	2,547	2,733	3,053	3,330	3,576
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	1,200	1,398	1,570	1,641	1,618
Sea Cross-Channel	512	458	491	490	454
Continental European	689	725	830	1022	1,276
Transatlantic	146	153	161	178	227
Reason for Journey					
Business	451	551	530	596	594
Tourist	1,176	1,182	1,299	1,474	-
Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation ¹	-	-	-	-	1,752
Visit to Friends/ Relatives	635	721	864	917	958
Other	285	278	360	344	261
Cross Border Visits					
Rail					
Length of Stay - 1 day or less	154	113	103	112	131
- Over 1 day	69	78	63	57	65
Scheduled Bus					
Length of Stay - 1 day or less	237	235	264	266	246
- Over 1 day	5	5	5	4	5

¹ A change in classification was introduced from the start of 1999 – see notes page 8

Table 11 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents - Estimated Average Length of Stay (Nights) Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey

	Nights				
Length of Stay	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
All Overseas Visits	10.0	9.5	9.3	9.3	9.4
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	9.3	8.7	8.6	8.9	8.9
Sea Cross-Channel	8.1	7.5	6.9	6.9	6.4
Continental European	11.3	10.9	10.3	9.5	9.7
Transatlantic	17.2	17.2	17.6	17.3	17.2
Reason for Journey					
Business	6.9	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.6
Tourist	10.0	9.9	9.2	9.5	-
Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation ¹	-	-	-	-	10.0
Visit to Friends/ Relatives	10.3	9.8	9.4	9.4	9.2
Other	14.7	13.9	13.7	12.9	12.6

¹ A change in classification was introduced from the start of 1999 – see notes page 8

Table 12 Tourism and Travel Estimated Earnings and Expenditure

	£ million				
Estimated Earnings and Expenditure	1995	1996	1997	1998 ¹	1999 ²
International Tourism and Travel Earnings from Visitors to Ireland	1,679	1,889	2,105	2,297	2,502
Net International Tourism and Travel Expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad	1,267	1,371	1,466	1,672	1,937
Tourism and Travel Balance	+412	+518	+639	+625	+565

¹ Revised

² Provisional

Background Notes

Introduction This annual series gives details on the number of visits made by Overseas Visitors to Ireland and by Irish Residents travelling abroad for the year. It includes data on the reason for journey, average number of nights and earnings and expenditure.

Reason for Journey From the 1st January 1999, the classification by reason for journey was changed in accordance with Council Directive 95/57/EC. The new Classification (business, holiday/leisure/recreation, visit to friends/relatives and other) also accords with the recommendations of the World Tourism Organisation (W.T.O.) Sources

Sources Two sample surveys of passengers, the *Country of Residence Survey* and the *Passenger Card Inquiry* are carried out by the Central Statistics Office. These are used in conjunction with passenger movement figures supplied by the transport companies to provide estimates for overseas tourism and travel.

The Country of Residence Survey is a sample survey of passengers (both inward and outward) at all major air and seaports to provide an estimated distribution of passengers by country of residence. This distribution is applied to the total passenger movement figures to provide estimates of the numbers of visits abroad by Irish residents and of visits to Ireland by non-residents. This 'Visits to Ireland by non-residents' figure is further broken down into the areas of residence shown in this release. The sample size in the 1999 Country of Residence Survey was 477 thousand passengers (203 thousand inward and 274 thousand outward).

The Passenger Card Inquiry is a sample survey of incoming and departing passengers at major air and seaports. Cards are distributed and completed by passengers which give information on the reason for journey, area of residence, length of stay, expenditure and fare costs. The results are combined with the overall visitor estimates from the Country of Residence Survey to provide the overseas tourism and travel estimates shown in the tables. The sample size in the 1999 Passenger Card Inquiry at air and seaports was 347 thousand passengers (157 thousand inward and 190 thousand outward).

The estimates for cross-border visitors on rail and scheduled bus services are derived from the Passenger Card Inquiry on these services and from passenger movement statistics. In this case the Passenger Card Inquiry results are used to estimate the country of residence distribution in addition to the reason for journey, average length of stay, expenditure and fare costs. The sample size in the Passenger Card Inquiry on cross-border services in 1999 was 17 thousand passengers (9 thousand inward and 8 thousand outward). The estimates of expenditure by cross-border visitors using private cars (or un-scheduled bus services) are based on very limited information and must be regarded as subject to error.