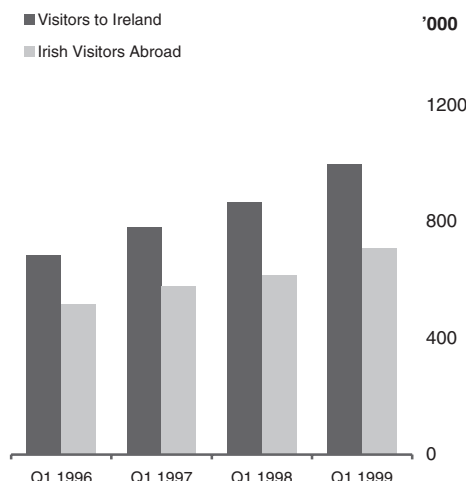


18 June 1999

Number of Visits



Tourism and Travel

First Quarter 1999

	Visitors to Ireland	Irish Visitors Abroad '000
Jan - Mar 1998	867	616
Jan - Mar 1999	998	708
% change	+ 15.1%	+ 14.9%

Increase of over 15% in Visitors to Ireland

There were 998,000 Overseas Visitors to Ireland in the First Quarter of 1999 compared with 867,000 in the same period last year, an increase of 15.1%. *See Table 1 and Graph.* Overseas Visitors on Transatlantic routes increased from 53,000 to 76,000 (43.4%).

The number of Irish Visitors going abroad between January and March 1999 was 708,000, an increase of 14.9% on the corresponding period last year. *See Table 6 and Graph.* Irish residents travelling abroad on Continental routes increased by 36.7% compared with the First Quarter in 1998.

The expenditure figures for October - December 1998 show a net inflow of £142m - earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for £468m while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to £326m. The balance represents an increase of 13.6% on the same period in 1997. *See Table 8.*

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The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ In the First Quarter of 1999, the number of Visitors to Ireland from the USA and Canada increased by 23.7% compared with the same period in 1998.
- ◆ The number of Overseas Visitors to Ireland travelling on Continental routes in the First Quarter of 1999 increased by 18.4% compared with the corresponding period in 1998.
- ◆ There were 89,000 same-day Visitors to Ireland between October and December 1998, of which 82,000 were Visitors from Great Britain. *See Tables 2 and 3.*
- ◆ The average length of stay for Visitors to Ireland during the Fourth Quarter of 1998 was 7.4 nights. This compares with 8.7 nights for Irish Residents going abroad. *See Tables 5 and 7.*

For more information, contact Maureen Delamere on ext 5207 or Mary O'Connell on ext 5274.

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Table 1 Overseas Visitors to Ireland - Estimated Number of Overseas Visits Classified by Route of Travel, Area of Residence and Reason for Journey

							'000
Visits	1997	1998				1999	
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	
Total Overseas Visits	5,716	867	1,568	2,120	1,161	998	
Route of Travel							
Air Cross-Channel	2,570	495	666	794	615	579	
Sea Cross-Channel	1,753	205	521	728	299	207	
Continental European	974	114	271	427	162	135	
Transatlantic	419	53	110	170	85	76	
Area of Residence							
Great Britain	3,383	574	917	1,132	760	644	
Other Europe	1,262	149	349	568	197	176	
USA & Canada	855	114	245	336	159	141	
Other Areas	216	30	56	84	45	36	
Reason for Journey ¹							
Business	891	212	206	243	230		
Tourist	3,097	349	961	1,258	529		
Visit to Relatives	1,290	230	283	450	327		
Other	438	76	117	169	76		

¹ Data on Reason for Journey are issued one quarter in arrears on each occasion

Table 2 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents distinguishing Same-Day Visits

											'000
Visits	1997	1998	1997				1998				
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	
Total Overseas Visits	5,164	5,716	781	1,412	1,932	1,040	867	1,568	2,120	1,161	
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	336	364	43	87	126	80	60	89	126	89	
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	4,828	5,352	738	1,325	1,805	960	807	1,479	1,994	1,072	

Table 3 Overseas Same-day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, Oct-Dec 1998

					'000
Visits	Reason for Journey ¹				Total
	Business	Tourist	Visit to Relatives	Other	
Total Same-day Visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	33	39	9	9	89
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	30	37	8	8	82
Other Europe	3	1	1	0	4
USA & Canada	0	1	1	0	2
Other Areas	0	-	0	0	1

¹ Data on Reason for Journey are issued one quarter in arrears on each occasion

Table 4 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents, with at least one overnight in Ireland - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, Oct-Dec 1998

					'000
Visits	Reason for Journey ¹				Total
	Business	Tourist	Visit to Relatives	Other	
Total Visits with at least one night in Ireland	197	490	318	67	1,072
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	109	280	248	40	678
Other Europe	60	82	31	20	192
USA & Canada	21	102	31	4	157
Other Areas	7	26	9	3	45

¹ Data on Reason for Journey are issued one quarter in arrears on each occasion

Table 5 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

										Nights ¹
Length of Stay	1997	1998	1997				1998			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	8.6	8.1	7.4	8.4	10.0	7.2	6.8	7.8	9.3	7.4
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	6.8	6.2	6.3	6.5	8.0	5.8	5.6	5.8	7.2	5.9
Sea Cross-Channel	9.2	8.9	8.2	9.0	10.4	7.6	7.6	8.5	9.9	8.4
Continental European	11.0	10.4	9.5	11.1	11.9	9.7	8.9	10.7	11.0	9.4
Transatlantic	11.3	10.8	10.4	10.3	12.3	11.2	10.2	9.4	12.1	10.5
Area of Residence										
Great Britain	6.8	6.3	6.0	6.7	8.1	5.6	5.3	6.1	7.5	5.7
Other Europe	11.3	10.8	9.9	11.4	12.2	9.7	9.1	10.8	11.5	9.7
USA & Canada	9.9	9.6	9.5	9.0	10.7	9.9	9.1	8.9	10.3	10.1
Other Areas	12.1	12.0	13.6	9.5	13.1	12.7	13.6	9.8	12.3	13.0
Reason for Journey										
Business	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.6	5.1	4.3	5.1	5.3	5.5
Tourist	8.5	8.0	6.0	8.5	9.9	6.3	5.9	7.7	9.2	6.6
Visit to Relatives	9.2	9.0	9.4	8.3	10.7	8.2	8.6	8.0	9.9	8.8
Other	13.0	12.4	10.6	14.6	13.9	12.1	11.4	12.4	13.0	11.8

¹ Data on Number of Nights are issued one quarter in arrears on each occasion

Table 6 Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Estimated Number of Visits Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey

							'000
Visits	1997	1998				1999	
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	
Total Overseas Visits	3,330	616	894	1,096	724	708	
Route of Travel							
Air Cross-Channel	1,641	367	418	457	399	398	
Sea Cross-Channel	490	70	129	189	101	68	
Continental European	1,022	147	304	389	182	201	
Transatlantic	178	32	43	61	42	42	
Reason for Journey ¹							
Business	596	142	146	156	152		
Tourist	1,474	219	425	575	255		
Visit to Relatives	917	184	221	272	240		
Other	344	71	102	93	78		

¹ Data on Reason for Journey are issued one quarter in arrears on each occasion

Table 7 Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Estimated Average Length of Stay (Nights) Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey

										Nights ¹
Length of Stay	1997	1998	1997				1998			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
All Overseas Visits	9.3	9.3	7.9	8.2	11.2	9.2	7.5	8.5	10.8	8.7
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	8.6	8.9	7.6	7.3	10.4	9.0	7.3	8.3	10.1	8.5
Sea Cross-Channel	6.9	6.9	7.0	6.6	8.4	6.3	6.3	6.6	7.9	5.6
Continental European	10.3	9.5	8.2	9.3	12.1	9.8	7.5	8.6	11.3	9.1
Transatlantic	17.6	17.3	12.0	14.8	21.8	18.2	13.0	13.8	22.4	16.9
Reason for Journey										
Business	6.1	6.1	6.6	5.9	5.8	6.4	5.8	6.5	6.3	5.6
Tourist	9.2	9.5	6.8	8.6	11.2	8.3	7.5	8.8	11.3	8.0
Visit to Relatives	9.4	9.4	8.8	8.1	10.4	10.3	8.2	8.5	9.7	9.9
Other	13.7	12.9	10.6	10.1	18.6	14.3	9.4	9.6	18.6	13.6

¹ Data on Number of Nights are issued one quarter in arrears on each occasion

Table 8 Tourism and Travel Estimated Earnings and Expenditure

		£ million		
Period		Earnings from all Visitors to Ireland ¹	Expenditure by all Irish Visitors abroad ²	Balance ³
1993	Year	1,367	834	+ 533
1994	Year	1,498	1,072	+ 426
1995	Year	1,679	1,267	+ 412
1996	Year	1,889	1,371	+ 518
1997	Year	2,105	1,466	+ 639
1998 ⁵	Year	2,289	1,665	+ 624
1993	January - March	171	118	+ 53
	April - June	354	199	+ 155
	July - September	590	351	+ 239
	October - December	252	165	+ 87
1994	January - March	217	164	+ 53
	April - June	376	244	+ 132
	July - September	605	427	+ 178
	October - December	300	236	+ 64
1995	January - March	242	210	+ 32
	April - June	420	298	+ 122
	July - September	686	489	+ 197
	October - December	332	270	+ 62
1996	January - March	265	245	+ 20
	April - June	518	337	+ 181
	July - September	741	514	+ 227
	October - December	366	276	+ 90
1997	January - March	294	252	+ 42
	April - June	569	365	+ 204
	July - September	823	556	+ 267
	October - December ⁴	418	293	+ 125
1998	January - March ⁴	333	279	+ 54
	April - June ⁴	621	444	+ 177
	July - September ⁴	867	616	+ 251
	October - December ⁵	468	326	+ 142

¹ Expenditure (excluding international fares) plus passenger fare receipts of Irish carriers from visitors to Ireland

² Expenditure (including international fares) less passenger fare payments by Irish visitors abroad to Irish carriers

³ + = Net inflow

⁴ Revised

⁵ Provisional

Background Notes

Introduction This quarterly series gives details on the number of visits made by Overseas Visitors to Ireland and by Irish Residents travelling abroad for the quarter. It includes data on the reason for journey, average number of nights and expenditure which is issued one quarter in arrears on each occasion. Additional information on overseas same day visits to Ireland by non-residents was first introduced for the quarter January to March 1997. The quarterly series supplements the annual release which provides more extensive annual information on tourism and travel.

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 continuous sample survey of passengers (both inward and outward) at all major air and sea ports 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 Irish residents travelling abroad and visits to Ireland by non-residents. Visitors to Ireland are further broken down into the areas of residence shown in this release.

The Passenger Card Inquiry is a continuous sample survey of incoming and departing passengers at air and sea ports. This survey provides 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 this release.