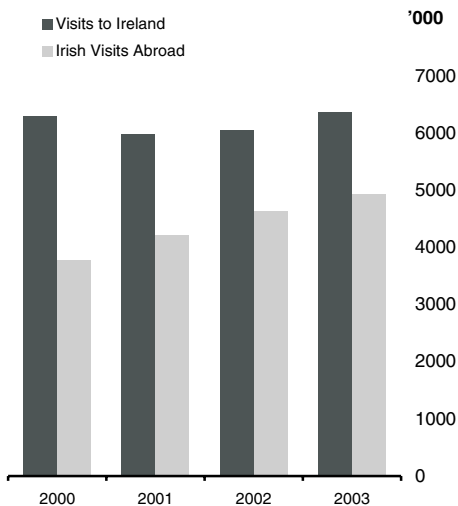




## Tourism and Travel 2003

**Number of Visits**



|             | Visits to Ireland<br>'000 | Irish Visits Abroad<br>'000 |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>2000</b> | 6,310                     | 3,783                       |
| <b>2001</b> | 5,990                     | 4,216                       |
| <b>2002</b> | 6,065                     | 4,634                       |
| <b>2003</b> | 6,369                     | 4,929                       |

### Number of Visits to Ireland increases by 5% in 2003

There were 6,369,000 Overseas Visits to Ireland in the year 2003, compared with 6,065,000 in 2002, an increase of 5%. The number of Overseas Visits on Cross-Channel routes grew by 2.4% while the number on Continental routes increased by 9.7%. Although the number of Visits on Transatlantic routes increased by 17.1% in 2003, the number of Visits by residents of the USA and Canada was still 13.3% below the number in 2000. *See Table 3 and Graph.*

The number of Overseas Visits by Irish Residents in the year 2003 was 4,929,000 compared with 4,634,000 in 2002, an increase of 6.4%. Overseas Visits by Irish Residents on Continental routes increased by 11.3% and the number on Transatlantic routes grew by 25.7%. *See Table 13 and Graph.*

The expenditure figures for the year 2003 show a net outflow of €58m - earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for €4,105m, while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to €4,163m.

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ The number of Overseas Visits to Ireland from North America in 2003 was 904,000 compared with 849,000 in 2002, 912,000 in 2001 and 1,043,000 in 2000. *See Table 3.*
- ◆ The number of Bednights spent in Ireland by Overseas Visitors in 2003 increased by 5.7% when compared with the number in 2002. *See Table 8.*
- ◆ The average length of stay for Visitors to Ireland during 2003 was 7.8 nights. This compares with 9.3 nights for Irish Residents going abroad. *See Tables 7 and 16.*

*For more information contact Niall O'Hanlon at 021-453 5207 or Clare O'Gorman at 021-453 5277.*

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Ardee Road  
Dublin 6  
Ireland

Skehard Road  
Cork  
Ireland

LoCall 1890 313 414

Tel: +353-1 498 4000  
Fax: +353-1 498 4229

Tel: +353-21 453 5000  
Fax: +353-21 453 5555

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: <http://www.cso.ie>

Director General: Donal Garvey

Enquiries:

Tourism Statistics  
Queries and Sales

Tourism Section, ext 5277  
Information Section, ext 5032  
[information@cso.ie](mailto:information@cso.ie)

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

|  | € million    |              |              |              |                         |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Estimated Expenditure  | 1999         | 2000         | 2001         | 2002         | 2003                    |
| <b>Route of Travel</b>   |              |              |              |              |                         |
| Air Cross-Channel  | 965          | 1,145        | 1,244        | 1,282        | 1,334                   |
| Sea Cross-Channel  | 494          | 485          | 513          | 566          | 515                     |
| Continental European   | 509          | 603          | 690          | 747          | 794                     |
| Transatlantic  | 314          | 385          | 445          | 451          | 555                     |
| All Overseas Routes  | 2,280        | 2,617        | 2,893        | 3,045        | 3,198                   |
| Cross-Border   | 192          | 207          | 222          | 221          | 228 <sup>1</sup>        |
| <b>Total Expenditure (excluding international fares)</b>           | <b>2,473</b> | <b>2,824</b> | <b>3,115</b> | <b>3,266</b> | <b>3,426</b>            |
| Passenger fare receipts of Irish Carriers from Visits to Ireland   | 641          | 813          | 820          | 723          | 678                     |
| <b>Total international tourism and travel earnings<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>3,115</b> | <b>3,637</b> | <b>3,935</b> | <b>3,989</b> | <b>4105<sup>3</sup></b> |

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

<sup>2</sup> Total Expenditure (excl. International Fares) plus passenger fare receipts of Irish carriers from visits to Ireland

<sup>3</sup> Revised provisional figure

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

|  | € million    |              |              |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Estimated Expenditure                                    | 1999         | 2000         | 2001         | 2002         | 2003         |
| <b>Total Expenditure (excluding International fares)</b> | <b>2,280</b> | <b>2,617</b> | <b>2,893</b> | <b>3,045</b> | <b>3,198</b> |
| <b>Area of Residence</b>                                 |              |              |              |              |              |
| Great Britain  | 968          | 1,042        | 1,163        | 1,251        | 1,295        |
| Other Europe   | 623          | 721          | 810          | 862          | 884          |
| USA and Canada   | 549          | 679          | 713          | 705          | 784          |
| Other Areas  | 141          | 175          | 207          | 227          | 235          |
| <b>Reason for Journey</b>                                |              |              |              |              |              |
| Business   | 438          | 486          | 460          | 445          | 402          |
| Holiday/Leisure/Recreation                               | 1,228        | 1,386        | 1,594        | 1,696        | 1,779        |
| Visit to Friends/Relatives                               | 453          | 569          | 648          | 675          | 708          |
| Other  | 161          | 175          | 191          | 230          | 309          |

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

|                                | '000         |              |              |              |                  |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| Visits                         | 1999         | 2000         | 2001         | 2002         | 2003             |
| <b>Total Overseas Visits</b>   | <b>6,068</b> | <b>6,310</b> | <b>5,990</b> | <b>6,065</b> | <b>6,369</b>     |
| <b>Route of Travel</b>         |              |              |              |              |                  |
| Air Cross-Channel              | 2,836        | 3,047        | 2,969        | 3,073        | 3,253            |
| Sea Cross-Channel              | 1,677        | 1,518        | 1,313        | 1,335        | 1,262            |
| Continental European           | 1,065        | 1,187        | 1,170        | 1,173        | 1,287            |
| Transatlantic                  | 489          | 560          | 539          | 484          | 567              |
| <b>Area of Residence</b>       |              |              |              |              |                  |
| Great Britain                  | 3,558        | 3,559        | 3,462        | 3,579        | 3,719            |
| Other Europe                   | 1,333        | 1,453        | 1,357        | 1,392        | 1,497            |
| USA and Canada                 | 943          | 1,043        | 912          | 849          | 904              |
| Other Areas                    | 233          | 256          | 260          | 245          | 249              |
| <b>Reason for Journey</b>      |              |              |              |              |                  |
| Business                       | 994          | 1,074        | 975          | 906          | 854              |
| Holiday/Leisure/Recreation     | 3,306        | 3,346        | 3,177        | 3,242        | 3,334            |
| Visit to Friends/Relatives     | 1,439        | 1,564        | 1,566        | 1,603        | 1,736            |
| Other                          | 328          | 328          | 273          | 314          | 445              |
| <b>Cross Border Visits</b>     |              |              |              |              |                  |
| <b>Rail</b>                    |              |              |              |              |                  |
| Length of Stay - 1 Day or less | 79           | 98           | 99           | 95           | 91 <sup>1</sup>  |
| - Over 1 day                   | 147          | 153          | 151          | 141          | 129 <sup>1</sup> |
| <b>Scheduled Bus</b>           |              |              |              |              |                  |
| Length of Stay - 1 Day or less | 193          | 200          | 126          | 119          | 115              |
| - Over 1 day                   | 97           | 94           | 192          | 176          | 162              |

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

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

|  | '000         |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Visits   | 2002         | 2003         |
| <b>Total Overseas Visits</b>                   | <b>6,065</b> | <b>6,369</b> |
| Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland) | 305          | 334          |
| Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland  | 5,760        | 6,035        |

**Table 5 Overseas Same-Day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, 2003**

|   | Reason for Journey |                                |                                |           | '000       |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Visits  | Business           | Holiday/Leisure/<br>Recreation | Visit to Friends/<br>Relatives | Other     | Total      |
| <b>Total Same-Day Visits<br/>(i.e. no overnight in Ireland)</b> | <b>129</b>         | <b>115</b>                     | <b>46</b>                      | <b>43</b> | <b>334</b> |
| Great Britain   | 114                | 97                             | 32                             | 37        | 280        |
| Other Europe  | 11                 | 5                              | 6                              | 3         | 25         |
| USA & Canada  | 3                  | 10                             | 6                              | 3         | 22         |
| Other Areas   | 2                  | 2                              | 2                              | 0         | 6          |

**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, 2003**

|  | Reason for Journey |                                |                                |            | '000         |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Visits   | Business           | Holiday/Leisure/<br>Recreation | Visit to Friends/<br>Relatives | Other      | Total        |
| <b>Total Visits with at least<br/>one overnight in Ireland</b> | <b>725</b>         | <b>3,219</b>                   | <b>1,690</b>                   | <b>402</b> | <b>6,035</b> |
| Great Britain  | 412                | 1,727                          | 1,175                          | 125        | 3,439        |
| Other Europe   | 212                | 764                            | 275                            | 221        | 1,472        |
| USA & Canada   | 68                 | 608                            | 171                            | 35         | 882          |
| Other Areas  | 32                 | 120                            | 69                             | 21         | 243          |

**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     |            |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
|                            | 2002       | 2003       |
| <b>All Overseas Visits</b> | <b>7.7</b> | <b>7.8</b> |
| <b>Route of Travel</b>     |            |            |
| Air Cross-Channel          | 5.7        | 5.7        |
| Sea Cross-Channel          | 8.3        | 7.9        |
| Continental European       | 10.8       | 11.1       |
| Transatlantic              | 10.6       | 10.9       |
| <b>Area of Residence</b>   |            |            |
| Great Britain              | 5.3        | 5.2        |
| Other Europe               | 11.2       | 11.1       |
| USA and Canada             | 9.6        | 10.0       |
| Other Areas                | 15.1       | 15.9       |
| <b>Reason for Journey</b>  |            |            |
| Business                   | 5.9        | 5.6        |
| Holiday/Leisure/Recreation | 7.1        | 7.1        |
| Visit to Friends/Relatives | 8.1        | 7.8        |
| Other                      | 16.7       | 16.8       |

**Table 8 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents with at least one overnight in Ireland - Number of Bednights Classified by Type of Accommodation used**

| Bednights              | '000          |               |              |               |               |              |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|                        | 2002          | 2003          | 2003         |               |               |              |
|                        |               |               | Jan-Mar      | Apr-Jun       | Jul-Sep       | Oct-Dec      |
| <b>Accommodation</b>   | <b>44,339</b> | <b>46,846</b> | <b>7,041</b> | <b>11,693</b> | <b>18,573</b> | <b>9,539</b> |
| Hotel                  | 10,199        | 10,278        | 1,523        | 2,935         | 3,833         | 1,987        |
| Guest house/B&B        | 7,122         | 7,470         | 682          | 2,119         | 3,504         | 1,166        |
| Rented house/Apartment | 8,350         | 8,744         | 1,420        | 2,344         | 2,591         | 2,388        |
| Caravan/Camping        | 1,056         | 1,077         | 20           | 319           | 705           | 33           |
| Hostel                 | 1,580         | 1,709         | 350          | 372           | 678           | 309          |
| Friends/Relatives      | 12,012        | 13,122        | 2,566        | 2,652         | 4,879         | 3,025        |
| Other                  | 4,020         | 4,446         | 480          | 952           | 2,383         | 631          |

**Table 9 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents with at least one overnight in Ireland - Number of Bednights Classified by Area of Residence and Type of Accommodation used**

'000

| Bednights               | 2002          | 2003          | 2003         |              |              |              |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                         |               |               | Jan-Mar      | Apr-Jun      | Jul-Sep      | Oct-Dec      |
| <b>Great Britain</b>    | <b>17,507</b> | <b>17,823</b> | <b>3,005</b> | <b>4,469</b> | <b>6,809</b> | <b>3,540</b> |
| Hotel                   | 4,452         | 4,306         | 813          | 1,153        | 1,421        | 919          |
| Guest house/B&B         | 2,204         | 2,156         | 217          | 622          | 961          | 356          |
| Rented house/Apartment  | 2,777         | 2,660         | 307          | 804          | 1,067        | 483          |
| Caravan/Camping         | 411           | 401           | 16           | 146          | 215          | 24           |
| Hostel                  | 283           | 261           | 61           | 75           | 89           | 36           |
| Friends/Relatives       | 6,604         | 7,184         | 1,467        | 1,470        | 2,661        | 1,586        |
| Other                   | 776           | 855           | 124          | 199          | 395          | 136          |
| <b>Other Europe</b>     | <b>15,231</b> | <b>16,320</b> | <b>2,066</b> | <b>3,898</b> | <b>7,381</b> | <b>2,976</b> |
| Hotel                   | 2,520         | 2,414         | 294          | 770          | 916          | 434          |
| Guest house/B&B         | 2,609         | 3,106         | 168          | 864          | 1,656        | 418          |
| Rented house/Apartment  | 3,687         | 3,594         | 634          | 891          | 1,068        | 1,001        |
| Caravan/Camping         | 617           | 656           | 4            | 166          | 482          | 5            |
| Hostel                  | 749           | 954           | 208          | 175          | 416          | 155          |
| Friends/Relatives       | 2,481         | 2,823         | 548          | 555          | 1,045        | 675          |
| Other                   | 2,568         | 2,773         | 210          | 477          | 1,798        | 288          |
| <b>USA &amp; Canada</b> | <b>7,998</b>  | <b>8,834</b>  | <b>1,171</b> | <b>2,567</b> | <b>3,176</b> | <b>1,919</b> |
| Hotel                   | 2,770         | 3,095         | 358          | 904          | 1,287        | 547          |
| Guest house/B&B         | 1,808         | 1,798         | 265          | 534          | 695          | 304          |
| Rented house/Apartment  | 974           | 1,362         | 123          | 486          | 280          | 473          |
| Caravan/Camping         | 12            | 8             | 0            | 4            | 2            | 2            |
| Hostel                  | 322           | 313           | 51           | 91           | 95           | 75           |
| Friends/Relatives       | 1,703         | 1,722         | 286          | 388          | 679          | 368          |
| Other                   | 409           | 536           | 88           | 160          | 138          | 150          |
| <b>Other Areas</b>      | <b>3,602</b>  | <b>3,868</b>  | <b>797</b>   | <b>757</b>   | <b>1,207</b> | <b>1,106</b> |
| Hotel                   | 457           | 463           | 58           | 108          | 209          | 88           |
| Guest house/B&B         | 501           | 410           | 32           | 98           | 192          | 88           |
| Rented house/Apartment  | 912           | 1,127         | 356          | 163          | 176          | 432          |
| Caravan/Camping         | 15            | 11            | 0            | 3            | 6            | 2            |
| Hostel                  | 226           | 181           | 29           | 30           | 78           | 43           |
| Friends/Relatives       | 1,224         | 1,394         | 265          | 239          | 494          | 396          |
| Other                   | 267           | 282           | 57           | 116          | 52           | 57           |

**Table 10 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents with at least one overnight in Ireland - Number of Bednights Classified by Type of Accommodation used and Reason for Journey, 2003**

'000

| Bednights                 | Reason for Journey |                                |                                |              | Total         |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
|                           | Business           | Holiday/Leisure/<br>Recreation | Visit to Friends/<br>Relatives | Other        |               |
| <b>Accommodation Used</b> | <b>4,029</b>       | <b>22,841</b>                  | <b>13,251</b>                  | <b>6,726</b> | <b>46,846</b> |
| Hotel                     | 1,830              | 7,021                          | 840                            | 587          | 10,278        |
| Guest house/B&B           | 358                | 5,307                          | 835                            | 970          | 7,470         |
| Rented house/Apartment    | 1,104              | 4,345                          | 1,444                          | 1,851        | 8,744         |
| Caravan/Camping           | 14                 | 983                            | 70                             | 9            | 1,077         |
| Hostel                    | 77                 | 1,157                          | 198                            | 278          | 1,709         |
| Friends/Relatives         | 416                | 2,565                          | 9,339                          | 803          | 13,122        |
| Other                     | 230                | 1,463                          | 525                            | 2,228        | 4,446         |

**Table 11 Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Estimated Expenditure (Including International Fares) Classified by Route of Travel and Total Net International Tourism and Travel Expenditure**

€ million

| Estimated Expenditure   | 1999         | 2000         | 2001         | 2002         | 2003                    |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Route of Travel</b>  |              |              |              |              |                         |
| Air Cross-Channel   | 1,164        | 1,232        | 1,265        | 1,464        | 1,393                   |
| Sea Cross-Channel   | 171          | 172          | 208          | 213          | 220                     |
| Continental European  | 1,112        | 1,382        | 1,699        | 2,237        | 2,452                   |
| Transatlantic   | 344          | 402          | 429          | 395          | 521                     |
| All Overseas Routes   | 2,792        | 3,187        | 3,600        | 4,310        | 4,586                   |
| Cross-Border <sup>1</sup>   | 108          | 112          | 121          | 120          | 114 <sup>2</sup>        |
| <b>Total Expenditure (including international fares)</b>                  | <b>2,900</b> | <b>3,300</b> | <b>3,721</b> | <b>4,429</b> | <b>4,700</b>            |
| Passenger fare payments by Irish Visitors abroad to Irish carriers        | 436          | 495          | 497          | 477          | 538                     |
| <b>Total net international tourism and travel expenditure<sup>3</sup></b> | <b>2,465</b> | <b>2,804</b> | <b>3,224</b> | <b>3,952</b> | <b>4163<sup>4</sup></b> |

<sup>1</sup> Estimates are for tourist expenditure only

<sup>2</sup> Provisional

<sup>3</sup> Total Expenditure (incl. International Fares) less passenger fare payments by Irish Visitors abroad to Irish carriers

<sup>4</sup> Revised provisional figure

**Table 12 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents - Estimated Expenditure (Including International Fares) Classified by Reason for Journey**

€ million

| Estimated Expenditure                                    | 1999         | 2000         | 2001         | 2002         | 2003         |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Total Expenditure (including International fares)</b> | <b>2,792</b> | <b>3,187</b> | <b>3,600</b> | <b>4,310</b> | <b>4,586</b> |
| <b>Reason for Journey</b>                                |              |              |              |              |              |
| Business   | 556          | 657          | 521          | 581          | 605          |
| Holiday/Leisure/Recreation                               | 1,501        | 1,737        | 2,205        | 2,720        | 2,895        |
| Visit to Friends/Relatives                               | 555          | 598          | 678          | 754          | 796          |
| Other  | 180          | 195          | 196          | 255          | 290          |

**Table 13 Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Estimated Number of Overseas Visits (Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey) and of Cross-Border Visits on Rail and Scheduled Bus Services**

'000

| Visits                         | 1999         | 2000         | 2001         | 2002         | 2003             |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| <b>Total Overseas Visits</b>   | <b>3,576</b> | <b>3,783</b> | <b>4,216</b> | <b>4,634</b> | <b>4,929</b>     |
| <b>Route of Travel</b>         |              |              |              |              |                  |
| Air Cross-Channel              | 1,618        | 1,577        | 1,670        | 1,825        | 1,825            |
| Sea Cross-Channel              | 454          | 414          | 439          | 413          | 408              |
| Continental European           | 1,276        | 1,550        | 1,864        | 2,190        | 2,438            |
| Transatlantic                  | 227          | 242          | 243          | 206          | 259              |
| <b>Reason for Journey</b>      |              |              |              |              |                  |
| Business                       | 594          | 631          | 542          | 559          | 597              |
| Holiday/Leisure/Recreation     | 1,752        | 1,963        | 2,402        | 2,706        | 2,876            |
| Visit to Friends/Relatives     | 958          | 946          | 1,048        | 1,099        | 1,170            |
| Other                          | 261          | 243          | 224          | 270          | 287              |
| <b>Cross Border Visits</b>     |              |              |              |              |                  |
| <b>Rail</b>                    |              |              |              |              |                  |
| Length of Stay - 1 Day or less | 131          | 137          | 112          | 131          | 135 <sup>1</sup> |
| - Over 1 day                   | 65           | 77           | 56           | 58           | 51 <sup>1</sup>  |
| <b>Scheduled Bus</b>           |              |              |              |              |                  |
| Length of Stay - 1 Day or less | 246          | 243          | 142          | 163          | 170              |
| - Over 1 day                   | 5            | 7            | 71           | 72           | 65               |

<sup>1</sup> Provisional



**Table 14 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents Distinguishing Same-Day Visits**

|   |              | '000         |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Visits  | 2002         | 2003         |
| <b>Total Overseas Visits</b>                      | <b>4,634</b> | <b>4,929</b> |
| Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)        | 243          | 176          |
| Visits with at least one overnight abroad Ireland | 4,392        | 4,754        |

**Table 15 Overseas Same-Day Visits by Irish Residents - Classified by Reason for Journey and Route of Travel, 2003**

|   | Reason for Journey |                                |                                |           | '000       |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Visits  | Business           | Holiday/Leisure/<br>Recreation | Visit to Friends/<br>Relatives | Other     | Total      |
| <b>Total Same-Day Visits<br/>(i.e. no overnight abroad)</b> | <b>71</b>          | <b>61</b>                      | <b>31</b>                      | <b>13</b> | <b>176</b> |
| <b>Route of Travel</b>                                      |                    |                                |                                |           |            |
| Air Cross-Channel   | 62                 | 22                             | 14                             | 8         | 107        |
| Sea Cross-Channel   | 6                  | 28                             | 12                             | 3         | 48         |
| Continental European  | 2                  | 10                             | 2                              | 2         | 17         |
| Transatlantic   | 0                  | 1                              | 2                              | 1         | 4          |

**Table 16 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents - Estimated Average Length of Stay (Nights)  
Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey**

|                            | Nights     |            |            |            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Length of Stay             | 1999       | 2000       | 2001       | 2002       | 2003       |
| <b>All Overseas Visits</b> | <b>9.4</b> | <b>9.6</b> | <b>9.8</b> | <b>9.6</b> | <b>9.3</b> |
| <b>Route of Travel</b>     |            |            |            |            |            |
| Air Cross-Channel          | 8.9        | 9.4        | 9.4        | 9.6        | 8.9        |
| Sea Cross-Channel          | 6.4        | 6.8        | 7.4        | 8.0        | 8.2        |
| Continental European       | 9.7        | 9.5        | 9.8        | 9.3        | 9.0        |
| Transatlantic              | 17.2       | 16.0       | 15.6       | 16.6       | 16.9       |
| <b>Reason for Journey</b>  |            |            |            |            |            |
| Business                   | 6.6        | 7.1        | 7.2        | 7.6        | 7.3        |
| Holiday/Leisure/Recreation | 10.0       | 10.3       | 10.4       | 10.0       | 9.6        |
| Visit to Friends/Relatives | 9.2        | 9.3        | 8.9        | 9.2        | 8.8        |
| Other                      | 12.6       | 11.9       | 13.7       | 11.3       | 12.9       |

**Table 17 Tourism and Travel Estimated Earnings and Expenditure**

|                                      | € million   |             |             |            |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|
| Estimated Earnings and Expenditure   | 1999        | 2000        | 2001        | 2002       | 2003              |
| International Tourism and Travel     |             |             |             |            |                   |
| Earnings from visits to Ireland      | 3,115       | 3,637       | 3,935       | 3,989      | 4105 <sup>1</sup> |
| Net International Tourism and Travel |             |             |             |            |                   |
| Expenditure by Irish Visitors abroad | 2,465       | 2,804       | 3,224       | 3,952      | 4163 <sup>1</sup> |
| <b>Tourism and Travel Balance</b>    | <b>+650</b> | <b>+832</b> | <b>+711</b> | <b>+37</b> | <b>-58</b>        |

<sup>1</sup> Revised provisional figure

## Background Notes

**Introduction** This annual series gives details on the number of overseas visits to Ireland and Irish visits abroad for the year. It includes data on the reason for journey, average length of stay (nights) and expenditure.

**Commercial Drivers** From the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2000 Commercial Drivers on sea routes are excluded from visitor numbers.

The agreed European interpretation of Annex 1 of Commission Decision of 9 December 1998 implementing Council Directive 95/57/EC is that commercial drivers should be considered travellers rather than visitors.

One of the fundamental criteria that are used to distinguish a visitor from a traveller is that the *trip should be to a place other than that of the usual environment*. Places that are frequently visited are part of a person's *usual environment* even though they may be located at a considerable distance (or in another country) from the place of residence. Persons who work in means of transport are included in visitor numbers under "Business" unless their trips consist of frequent routine travel, in which case they may be excluded by the *usual environment* criterion.

**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.

Passenger fare payments by non-residents to Irish carriers refer to total fare payments to Irish carriers, that is, including fares for non-Irish travel.

The *Country of Residence Survey* is a continuous 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 Irish visits abroad and visits to Ireland by non-residents. Visits to Ireland are further categorised into the areas of residence shown in this release. The sample size in the 2003 *Country of Residence Survey* was 574 thousand passengers (288 thousand inward and 286 thousand outward).

The *Passenger Card Inquiry* is a continuous sample survey of incoming and departing passengers at major air and seaports. 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 the tables. The sample size in the 2003 *Passenger Card Inquiry* at air and seaports was 519 thousand passengers (278 thousand inward and 241 thousand outward).

The estimates for cross-border visits on rail and scheduled bus services are derived from the *Passenger Card Inquiry* on rail 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 2003 was 10 thousand passengers (5 thousand inward and 5 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.