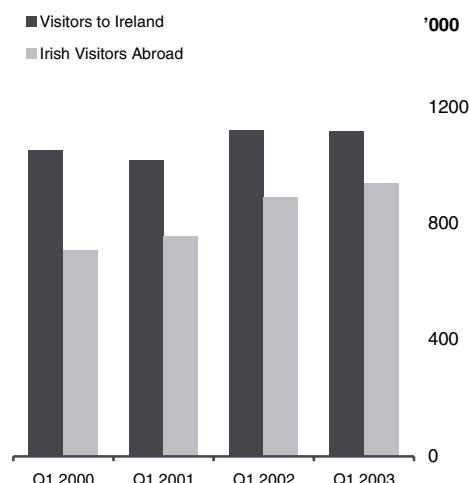




Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

12 June 2003

Number of Visits



Tourism and Travel

First Quarter 2003

	Visitors to Ireland '000	Irish Visitors Abroad '000
Jan - Mar 2000	1,052	708
Jan - Mar 2001	1,020	757
Jan - Mar 2002	1,121	891
Jan - Mar 2003	1,118	939

Number of Visitors to Ireland decreases by 0.3%

There were 1,118,000 Overseas Visitors to Ireland in the First Quarter of 2003 compared with 1,121,000 in the same period last year, a decrease of 0.3%. The number of Overseas Visitors on Cross-Channel routes fell by 4.2% while the number on Continental routes increased by 10.3% on the same quarter in 2002. Although the number of Visits by residents of the US and Canada grew by 5.2% on the First Quarter of 2002 it was down 11.9% on the same period in 2001. *See Table 1(a), Table 1(b) and Graph.*

The number of Irish Visitors going abroad between January and March 2003 was 939,000, an increase of 5.4% on the corresponding period last year. Irish residents travelling abroad on Continental routes grew by 15% compared with the first quarter in 2002, while the number travelling on Transatlantic routes fell by 2.1%. *See Table 9(a) and Graph.*

The expenditure figures for January – March 2003 show a net outflow of €27m, earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for €722m while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to €749m. *See Table 15.*

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ In the First Quarter of 2003, the number of Visitors to Ireland from Great Britain fell by 3.3% compared with the same period in 2002. *See Table 1(b).*
- ◆ In the period January–March 2003, the number of Overseas Visitors to Ireland for reason of Business fell by 11.9% and has fallen by 20.4% on the same period in 2001. *See Table 1(a) and Table 1(b).*
- ◆ Although in the first quarter of 2003 the number of Bednights spent in Ireland by Overseas Visitors increased by 1.1% compared with the same period last year, the number of bednights spent in Hotels fell by 2.5% and the number in Guest Houses/B&B's fell by 19.4%. *See Table 6.*

Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

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

						'000
	2002	2002				2003
Visits		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Total Overseas Visits	6,065	1,121	1,613	2,045	1,286	1,118
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	3,072	668	762	898	744	673
Sea Cross-Channel	1,335	193	389	544	209	152
Continental European	1,174	184	333	430	227	203
Transatlantic	484	75	129	174	106	89
Area of Residence						
Great Britain	3,579	731	916	1,131	801	707
Other Europe	1,391	212	394	526	259	233
USA & Canada	848	134	239	301	174	141
Other Areas	246	45	63	86	52	37
Reason for Journey						
Business	907	226	251	210	220	199
Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	3,242	485	904	1,254	599	500
Visit to Friends/ Relatives	1,602	330	383	476	413	343
Other	313	80	73	106	54	76

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

'000				
Visits	Jan - Mar			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Overseas Visits	1,052	1,020	1,121	1,118
Route of Travel				
Air Cross-Channel	613	600	668	673
Sea Cross-Channel	194	157	193	152
Continental European	156	172	184	203
Transatlantic	87	91	75	89
Area of Residence				
Great Britain	670	614	731	707
Other Europe	188	202	212	233
USA & Canada	155	160	134	141
Other Areas	38	43	45	37
Reason for Journey				
Business	267	250	226	199
Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	394	410	485	500
Visit to Friends/ Relatives	331	304	330	343
Other	60	55	80	76

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

'000						
Visits	2002	2002				2003
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Total Overseas Visits	6,065	1,121	1,613	2,045	1,286	1,118
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	305	63	68	97	77	55
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	5,760	1,058	1,545	1,948	1,209	1,063

Table 3 Overseas Same-day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, Jan-Mar 2003

'000

Visits	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Total Same-day Visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	34	10	5	6	55
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	27	9	3	5	44
Other Europe	5	1	1	1	7
USA & Canada	1	1	1	0	3
Other Areas	1	0	0	-	1

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, Jan-Mar 2003

'000

Visits	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Total Visits with at least one night in Ireland	166	489	338	70	1,063
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	102	298	237	26	663
Other Europe	44	85	61	36	225
USA & Canada	15	92	27	5	138
Other Areas	5	15	12	4	36

Table 5 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents with at least one overnight in Ireland - Average Length of Stay (Nights) Classified by Route of Travel, Area of Residence and Reason for Journey

		Nights				
Length of Stay	2002	2002				2003
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	7.7	6.6	7.5	8.7	7.3	6.6
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	5.7	5.3	5.6	6.3	5.5	5.2
Sea Cross-Channel	8.3	7.8	7.6	9.3	7.5	7.8
Continental European	10.8	8.8	10.8	11.4	11.0	9.4
Transatlantic	10.6	8.9	10.2	11.6	10.6	8.6
Area of Residence						
Great Britain	5.3	4.5	5.2	6.2	4.6	4.5
Other Europe	11.2	9.7	10.7	12.0	11.4	9.2
USA & Canada	9.6	8.4	9.0	10.2	10.2	8.5
Other Areas	15.1	18.9	14.8	12.5	16.6	22.2
Reason for Journey						
Business	5.9	5.3	5.4	6.7	6.5	5.8
Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	7.1	5.0	6.9	8.3	6.3	5.3
Visit to Friends/ Relatives	8.1	7.8	8.2	8.6	7.8	7.8
Other	16.7	14.7	18.8	16.2	18.0	12.6

Table 6 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents with at least one overnight in Ireland – Number of Bednights Classified by Type of Accommodation used

		'000				
Bednights	2002	2002				2003
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Accommodation	44,339	6,962	11,642	16,896	8,839	7,041
Hotel	10,199	1,562	2,975	3,662	1,999	1,523
Guest house/B&B	7,122	846	2,046	3,163	1,068	682
Rented house/ Apartment	8,350	1,383	2,128	2,857	1,982	1,420
Caravan/Camping	1,056	32	304	687	33	20
Hostel	1,580	280	381	549	370	350
Friends/Relatives	12,012	2,376	2,824	4,212	2,600	2,566
Other	4,020	483	984	1,766	787	480

Table 7 Overseas Visitors to Ireland with at least one overnight in Ireland - Number of Bednights Classified by Area of Residence and Type of Accommodation used

'000						
	2002	2002				2003
Bednights						
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Great Britain	17,507	3,086	4,485	6,545	3,391	3,005
Hotel	4,452	872	1,221	1,374	986	813
Guest house/B&B	2,204	300	710	843	351	217
Rented house/ Apartment	2,777	309	646	1,359	463	307
Caravan/Camping	411	27	126	244	14	16
Hostel	283	77	57	92	56	61
Friends/Relatives	6,604	1,381	1,479	2,390	1,354	1,467
Other	776	120	246	243	167	124
Other Europe	15,231	1,974	4,107	6,270	2,879	2,066
Hotel	2,520	282	809	1,023	406	294
Guest house/B&B	2,609	245	731	1,362	271	168
Rented house/ Apartment	3,687	667	935	1,028	1,057	634
Caravan/Camping	617	3	175	426	14	4
Hostel	749	98	176	286	189	208
Friends/Relatives	2,481	430	706	781	563	548
Other	2,568	249	575	1,364	379	210
USA & Canada	7,998	1,095	2,129	3,037	1,737	1,171
Hotel	2,770	318	826	1,086	539	358
Guest house/B&B	1,808	213	479	765	352	265
Rented house/ Apartment	974	154	271	305	244	123
Caravan/Camping	12	1	2	8	1	0
Hostel	322	56	91	112	63	51
Friends/Relatives	1,703	292	379	647	385	286
Other	409	61	81	114	153	88
Other Areas	3,602	806	923	1,044	834	797
Hotel	457	90	120	179	69	58
Guest house/B&B	501	88	126	193	95	32
Rented house/ Apartment	912	253	276	165	218	356
Caravan/Camping	15	1	2	10	4	0
Hostel	226	48	57	59	62	29
Friends/Relatives	1,224	273	260	393	298	265
Other	267	53	82	45	88	57

**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 and Reason
for Journey, Jan-Mar 2003**

					'000
Bednights	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure /Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Accommodation Used					
Hotel	374	936	133	80	1,523
Guesthouse/B & B	76	462	98	46	682
Rented house/Apartment	361	386	271	402	1,420
Caravan/Camping	4	11	5	1	20
Hostel	7	283	34	25	350
Friends/Relatives	86	335	1,999	145	2,566
Other	56	157	81	185	480

Table 9 (a) Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Number of Visits Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey

							'000
Visits	2002	2002				2003	
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec		
Total Overseas Visits	4,634	891	1,208	1,554	981	939	
Route of Travel							
Air Cross-Channel	1,825	432	439	492	463	428	
Sea Cross-Channel	413	71	110	153	80	72	
Continental European	2,190	340	613	848	388	391	
Transatlantic	206	48	47	61	51	47	
Reason for Journey							
Business	559	139	149	126	148	140	
Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	2,706	455	724	1,053	472	500	
Visit to Friends/ Relatives	1,099	238	258	302	300	250	
Other	270	59	77	73	61	49	

Table 9 (b) Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Number of Visits Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey (Quarter 1)

					'000
Visits	Jan-Mar				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	
Total Overseas Visits	708	757	891	939	
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	363	358	432	428	
Sea Cross-Channel	71	63	71	72	
Continental European	229	282	340	391	
Transatlantic	45	54	48	47	
Reason for Journey					
Business	152	143	139	140	
Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	307	352	455	500	
Visit to Friends/ Relatives	191	225	238	250	
Other	56	37	59	49	

Table 10 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents distinguishing Same-Day Visits

							'000
Visits	2002	2002				2003	
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	
Total Overseas Visits	4,634	891	1,208	1,554	981	939	
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	243	55	71	68	49	36	
Visits with at least one overnight abroad	4,392	836	1,137	1,487	932	903	

Table 11 Same-day Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey

							'000
Visits	2002	2002				2003	
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	
Total Overseas Visits	243	55	71	68	49	36	
Route of Travel							
Air Cross-Channel	134 ¹	38	34	35	26	28	
Sea Cross-Channel	60	10	17	22	11	4	
Continental European	44	6	17	10	11	3	
Transatlantic	5	0	3	1	1	1	
Reason for Journey							
Business	108	32	23	28	25	21	
Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	81	12	29	29	11	8	
Visit to Friends/ Relatives	37 ¹	7	11	8	10	6	
Other	16 ¹	4	7	3	3	2	

¹ Revised

Table 12 Same-day Visits Abroad by Irish Residents – Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Jan–Mar 2003

						'000
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total	
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other		
Total Same-day Visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	21	8	6	2	36	
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	19	4	4	2	28	
Sea Cross-Channel	1	2	1	0	4	
Continental European	1	2	1	0	3	
Transatlantic	0	0	0	0	1	

Table 13 Visits Abroad by Irish Residents, with at least one overnight – Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Jan–Mar 2003

						'000
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total	
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other		
Total Visits with at least one overnight abroad	120	490	246	47	903	
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	66	148	164	23	401	
Sea Cross-Channel	9	23	29	7	68	
Continental European	37	297	37	17	388	
Transatlantic	8	22	16	1	47	

Table 14 Visits Abroad by Irish Residents with at least one overnight – Estimated Average Length of Stay (Nights) Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey

Length of Stay	Nights					
	2002	2002				2003
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
All Overseas Visits	9.6	7.9	8.8	11.5	9.2	8.0
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	9.6	7.8	8.9	11.3	9.8	8.6
Sea Cross-Channel	8.0	8.0	6.6	9.8	6.4	6.5
Continental European	9.3	7.2	8.7	11.0	8.3	7.0
Transatlantic	16.6	13.6	13.7	23.1	14.0	13.0
Reason for Journey						
Business	7.6	6.3	6.6	10.1	7.8	6.8
Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	10.0	7.9	9.1	11.9	9.2	7.7
Visit to Friends/ Relatives	9.2	8.6	8.9	9.9	9.0	9.1
Other	11.3	8.3	9.6	14.5	12.3	8.1

Table 15 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
1997	Year	2,675	1,880	+ 795
1998	Year	2,896	2,160	+ 738
1999	Year	3,115	2,465	+ 650
2000	Year	3,637	2,804	+ 832
2001	Year ⁴	3,922	3,211	+ 711
2002	Year ⁴	3,985	3,956	+ 29
1997	January – March	376	324	+ 52
	April – June	725	469	+ 256
	July – September	1,044	711	+ 334
	October – December	531	377	+ 152
1998	January – March	423	361	+ 62
	April – June	787	576	+ 213
	July – September	1,093	795	+ 298
	October – December	594	428	+ 166
1999	January – March	481	424	+ 57
	April – June	847	663	+ 185
	July – September	1,141	891	+ 250
	October – December	645	486	+ 157
2000	January – March	554	441	+ 113
	April – June	984	732	+ 252
	July – September	1,345	1,060	+ 284
	October – December	754	571	+ 183
2001	January – March	616	500	+ 116
	April – June ⁴	1,059	862	+ 197
	July – September ⁴	1,449	1,202	+ 246
	October – December ⁴	798	647	+ 151
2002	January – March ⁴	658	652	+ 7
	April – June	1,081	977	+ 104
	July – September	1,418	1,490	- 72
	October – December	828	837	- 9
2003	January – March ⁵	722	749	- 27

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 - = Net Outflow

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. The quarterly series supplements the annual release, which provides more extensive annual information on tourism and travel.
- 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, visits to friends or relatives and other) also accords with recommendation of the World Tourism Organisation (W.T.O.).
- Commercial Drivers** From the 1st 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.
- The Country of Residence Survey is a continuous sample survey of passengers (both inward and outward) at all major airports 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 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 airports 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 this release.