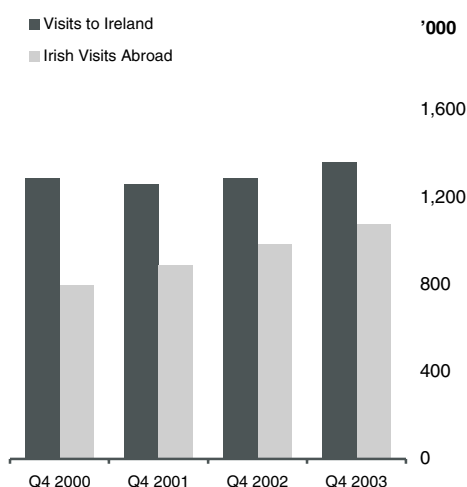




Tourism and Travel

Fourth Quarter 2003

Number of Visits



	Visits to Ireland '000	Irish Visits Abroad '000
Oct - Dec 2000	1,283	795
Oct - Dec 2001	1,255	887
Oct - Dec 2002	1,286	981
Oct - Dec 2003	1,360	1,074

Number of Visits to Ireland increases by 5.8%

There were 1,360,000 Overseas Visits to Ireland in the Fourth Quarter of 2003 compared with 1,286,000 in the same period last year, an increase of 5.8%. The number of Overseas Visits on Cross-Channel routes grew by 5.5% while the number on Continental routes increased by 5.7% on the same quarter in 2002. The number of Visits by residents of the USA and Canada grew by 6.3% on the Fourth Quarter of 2002. *See Table 1(a), Table 1(b) and Graph.*

The number of Irish Visits abroad between October and December 2003 was 1,074,000, an increase of 9.5% on the corresponding period last year. Irish residents travelling abroad on Cross-Channel routes grew by 4.2% compared with the Fourth Quarter in 2002, while the number travelling on Continental routes grew by 12.9%. The number travelling on Transatlantic routes grew by 37.3% on the Fourth Quarter of 2002. *See Table 9(a), Table 9(b) and Graph.*

The expenditure figures for October – December 2003 show a net outflow of €58m, earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for €803m while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to €861m. *See Table 15.*

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ The average length of stay of Overseas Visitors to Ireland with at least one overnight grew from 7.3 nights in the Fourth Quarter of 2002 to 7.5 nights in the same period of 2003. The average length of stay of Irish Visitors abroad with at least one overnight fell from 9.2 nights to 7.7 nights over the same period. *See Tables 5 and 14.*
- ◆ In the Fourth Quarter of 2003 the number of Bednights spent in Ireland by Overseas Visitors increased by 7.9% compared with the same period last year. However the number of Bednights spent in Hotels and Hostels both fell. *See Table 6.*

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										'000
Visits	2002	2003	2002				2003			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Overseas Visits	6,065	6,369	1,121	1,613	2,045	1,286	1,118	1,704	2,187	1,360
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	3,072	3,253	668	762	898	744	673	826	957	797
Sea Cross-Channel	1,335	1,261	193	389	544	209	152	362	539	208
Continental European	1,174	1,286	184	333	430	227	203	355	488	240
Transatlantic	484	567	75	129	174	106	89	161	202	115
Area of Residence										
Great Britain	3,579	3,719	731	916	1,131	801	707	977	1,194	841
Other Europe	1,391	1,498	212	394	526	259	233	416	575	274
USA & Canada	848	904	134	239	301	174	141	254	324	185
Other Areas	246	250	45	63	86	52	37	58	95	60
Reason for Journey										
Business	907	854	226	251	210	220	199	203	214	238
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,242	3,334	485	904	1,254	599	500	955	1,266	613
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,602	1,737	330	383	476	413	343	416	529	449
Other	313	444	80	73	106	54	76	130	178	60

Table 1 (b) Overseas Visits to Ireland - Estimated Number of Overseas Visits Classified by Route of Travel, Area of Residence and Reason for Journey (Quarter 4)

'000

Visits	Oct-Dec			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Overseas Visits	1,283	1,255	1,286	1,360
Route of Travel				
Air Cross-Channel	724	722	744	797
Sea Cross-Channel	224	235	209	208
Continental European	225	205	227	240
Transatlantic	110	93	106	115
Area of Residence				
Great Britain	767	826	801	841
Other Europe	265	231	259	274
USA & Canada	196	148	174	185
Other Areas	55	49	52	60
Reason for Journey				
Business	282	244	220	238
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	537	561	599	613
Visit to Friends/Relatives	406	397	413	449
Other	57	52	54	60

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

'000

Visits	2002	2003	2002				2003			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Overseas Visits	6,065	6,369	1,121	1,613	2,045	1,286	1,118	1,704	2,187	1,360
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	305	334	63	68	97	77	55	81	104	94
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	5,760	6,036	1,058	1,545	1,948	1,209	1,063	1,624	2,083	1,266

Table 3 Overseas Same-day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, Oct - Dec 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)	38	35	17	4	94
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	34	32	11	3	81
Other Europe	3	1	3	0	6
USA & Canada	1	2	3	0	5
Other Areas	0	1	1	0	2

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 2003

'000

Visits	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	200	578	432	56	1,266
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	115	328	294	24	761
Other Europe	61	107	77	22	268
USA & Canada	15	117	41	6	180
Other Areas	9	26	19	3	58

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									
Length of Stay	2002	2002				2003			
		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	7.7	6.6	7.5	8.7	7.3	6.6	7.2	8.9	7.5
Route of Travel									
Air Cross-Channel	5.7	5.3	5.6	6.3	5.5	5.2	5.3	6.1	6.1
Sea Cross-Channel	8.3	7.8	7.6	9.3	7.5	7.8	7.4	8.8	6.7
Continental European	10.8	8.8	10.8	11.4	11.0	9.4	9.4	13.1	11.2
Transatlantic	10.6	8.9	10.2	11.6	10.6	8.6	11.1	11.7	10.8
Area of Residence									
Great Britain	5.3	4.5	5.2	6.2	4.6	4.5	4.9	6.2	4.7
Other Europe	11.2	9.7	10.7	12.0	11.4	9.2	9.5	13.0	11.1
USA & Canada	9.6	8.4	9.0	10.2	10.2	8.5	10.4	10.1	10.7
Other Areas	15.1	18.9	14.8	12.5	16.6	22.2	13.3	13.0	19.1
Reason for Journey									
Business	5.9	5.3	5.4	6.7	6.5	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.2
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	7.1	5.0	6.9	8.3	6.3	5.3	6.7	8.2	6.9
Visit to Friends/Relatives	8.1	7.8	8.2	8.6	7.8	7.8	7.2	8.5	7.7
Other	16.7	14.7	18.8	16.2	18.0	12.6	14.2	18.6	21.2

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	2003	2002				2003			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Accommodation	44,339	46,846	6,962	11,642	16,896	8,839	7,041	11,693	18,573	9,539
Hotel	10,199	10,278	1,562	2,975	3,662	1,999	1,523	2,935	3,833	1,987
Guest house/B&B	7,122	7,471	846	2,046	3,163	1,068	682	2,119	3,504	1,166
Rented house/Apartment	8,350	8,743	1,383	2,128	2,857	1,982	1,420	2,344	2,591	2,388
Caravan/Camping	1,056	1,077	32	304	687	33	20	319	705	33
Hostel	1,580	1,709	280	381	549	370	350	372	678	309
Friends/Relatives	12,012	13,122	2,376	2,824	4,212	2,600	2,566	2,652	4,879	3,025
Other	4,020	4,446	483	984	1,766	787	480	952	2,383	631

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

'000

Bednights	2002		2003		2002				2003			
					Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Great Britain	17,507	17,823	3,086	4,485	6,545	3,391	3,005	4,469	6,809	3,540		
Hotel	4,452	4,306	872	1,221	1,374	986	813	1,153	1,421	919		
Guest house/B&B	2,204	2,156	300	710	843	351	217	622	961	356		
Rented house/Apartment	2,777	2,661	309	646	1,359	463	307	804	1,067	483		
Caravan/Camping	411	401	27	126	244	14	16	146	215	24		
Hostel	283	261	77	57	92	56	61	75	89	36		
Friends/Relatives	6,604	7,184	1,381	1,479	2,390	1,354	1,467	1,470	2,661	1,586		
Other	776	854	120	246	243	167	124	199	395	136		
Other Europe	15,231	16,321	1,974	4,107	6,270	2,879	2,066	3,898	7,381	2,976		
Hotel	2,520	2,414	282	809	1,023	406	294	770	916	434		
Guest house/B&B	2,609	3,106	245	731	1,362	271	168	864	1,656	418		
Rented house/Apartment	3,687	3,594	667	935	1,028	1,057	634	891	1,068	1,001		
Caravan/Camping	617	657	3	175	426	14	4	166	482	5		
Hostel	749	954	98	176	286	189	208	175	416	155		
Friends/Relatives	2,481	2,823	430	706	781	563	548	555	1,045	675		
Other	2,568	2,773	249	575	1,364	379	210	477	1,798	288		
USA & Canada	7,998	8,833	1,095	2,129	3,037	1,737	1,171	2,567	3,176	1,919		
Hotel	2,770	3,096	318	826	1,086	539	358	904	1,287	547		
Guest house/B&B	1,808	1,798	213	479	765	352	265	534	695	304		
Rented house/Apartment	974	1,362	154	271	305	244	123	486	280	473		
Caravan/Camping	12	8	1	2	8	1	0	4	2	2		
Hostel	322	312	56	91	112	63	51	91	95	75		
Friends/Relatives	1,703	1,721	292	379	647	385	286	388	679	368		
Other	409	536	61	81	114	153	88	160	138	150		
Other Areas	3,602	3,867	806	923	1,044	834	797	757	1,207	1,106		
Hotel	457	463	90	120	179	69	58	108	209	88		
Guest house/B&B	501	410	88	126	193	95	32	98	192	88		
Rented house/Apartment	912	1,127	253	276	165	218	356	163	176	432		
Caravan/Camping	15	11	1	2	10	4	0	3	6	2		
Hostel	226	180	48	57	59	62	29	30	78	43		
Friends/Relatives	1,224	1,394	273	260	393	298	265	239	494	396		
Other	267	282	53	82	45	88	57	116	52	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, Oct - Dec 2003

'000

Bednights	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Accommodation Used					
Hotel	466	1,255	194	72	1,987
Guest house/B&B	82	797	197	90	1,166
Rented house/Apartment	275	999	554	561	2,388
Caravan/Camping	0	16	16	1	33
Hostel	34	176	55	44	309
Friends/Relatives	137	489	2,159	240	3,025
Other	52	235	163	181	631

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

'000

Visits	2002	2003	2002				2003			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Overseas Visits	4,634	4,929	891	1,208	1,554	981	939	1,323	1,593	1,074
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	1,825	1,825	432	439	492	463	428	427	476	494
Sea Cross-Channel	413	407	71	110	153	80	72	116	147	72
Continental European	2,190	2,438	340	613	848	388	391	717	892	438
Transatlantic	206	258	48	47	61	51	47	62	79	70
Reason for Journey										
Business	559	598	139	149	126	148	140	161	142	155
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	2,706	2,876	455	724	1,053	472	500	801	1,049	526
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,099	1,169	238	258	302	300	250	270	317	332
Other	270	286	59	77	73	61	49	91	85	61

Table 9 (b) Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Number of Visits Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey (Quarter 4)

'000

Visits	Oct - Dec			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Overseas Visits	795	887	981	1,074
Route of Travel				
Air Cross-Channel	388	430	463	494
Sea Cross-Channel	75	90	80	72
Continental European	266	313	388	438
Transatlantic	65	55	51	70
Reason for Journey				
Business	164	131	148	155
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	329	440	472	526
Visit to Friends/Relatives	253	272	300	332
Other	48	44	61	61

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

'000

Visits	2002	2003	2002				2003			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Overseas Visits	4,634	4,929	891	1,208	1,554	981	939	1,323	1,593	1,074
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	243	176	55	71	68	49	36	50	54	36
Visits with at least one overnight abroad	4,392	4,754	836	1,137	1,487	932	903	1,273	1,540	1,038

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

'000

Visits	2002	2003	2002				2003			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Same-day Visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	243	176	55	71	68	49	36	50	54	36
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	134	106	38	34	35	26	28	31	22	25
Sea Cross-Channel	60	48	10	17	22	11	4	14	23	7
Continental European	44	17	6	17	10	11	3	3	8	3
Transatlantic	5	5	0	3	1	1	1	2	1	1
Reason for Journey										
Business	108	71	32	23	28	25	21	17	19	14
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	81	61	12	29	29	11	8	22	22	9
Visit to Friends/Relatives	37	31	7	11	8	10	6	8	9	8
Other	16	13	4	7	3	3	2	3	3	5

Table 12 Same-day Visits Abroad by Irish Residents – Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Oct - Dec 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)	14	9	8	5	36
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	12	5	5	4	25
Sea Cross-Channel	1	3	2	0	7
Continental European	1	1	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, Oct - Dec 2003

'000

Visits	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Total Visits with at least one overnight abroad	142	516	324	56	1,038
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	70	165	213	20	468
Sea Cross-Channel	7	20	35	3	65
Continental European	57	293	54	31	435
Transatlantic	8	37	22	2	69

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

									Nights
Length of Stay	2002	2002				2003			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
All Overseas Visits	9.6	7.9	8.8	11.5	9.2	8.0	8.9	11.7	7.7
Route of Travel									
Air Cross-Channel	9.6	7.8	8.9	11.3	9.8	8.6	8.4	11.2	7.5
Sea Cross-Channel	8.0	8.0	6.6	9.8	6.4	6.5	10.9	8.1	6.0
Continental European	9.3	7.2	8.7	11.0	8.3	7.0	8.2	11.3	7.3
Transatlantic	16.6	13.6	13.7	23.1	14.0	13.0	15.4	24.0	12.9
Reason for Journey									
Business	7.6	6.3	6.6	10.1	7.8	6.8	7.3	8.2	7.0
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	10.0	7.9	9.1	11.9	9.2	7.7	8.6	12.3	7.6
Visit to Friends/Relatives	9.2	8.6	8.9	9.9	9.0	9.1	9.0	9.9	7.4
Other	11.3	8.3	9.6	14.5	12.3	8.1	13.0	16.1	12.2

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	3,935	3,224	+711
2002 Year	3,989	3,952	+37
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	625	512	+113
April – June	1,058	861	+197
July – September	1,453	1,203	+251
October – December	798	649	+150
2002 January – March	664	649	+15
April – June	1,082	976	+106
July – September	1,416	1,491	-75
October – December	828	837	-9
2003 January – March	725	742	-17
April – June ⁴	1,059	1,074	-16
July – September ⁵	1,491	1,533	-42
October – December ⁵	803	861	-58

¹ Expenditure (excluding international fares) plus passenger fare receipts of Irish carriers from visitors to Ireland² Expenditure (including international fares) less passenger fare payments by Irish visitors abroad to Irish carriers³ + = Net inflow - = Net outflow⁴ Revised⁵ Provisional

Background Notes

Introduction	This quarterly series gives details on the number of overseas visits to Ireland and Irish visits abroad for the quarter. It includes data on the reason for journey, average length of stay (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 1 st 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 the recommendation of the World Tourism Organisation (W.T.O.).
Commercial Drivers	<p>From the 1st January, 2000 Commercial Drivers on sea routes are excluded from visitor numbers.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>One of the fundamental criteria that are used to distinguish a visitor from a traveller is that the <i>trip should be to a place other than that of the usual environment</i>. Places that are frequently visited are part of a person's <i>usual environment</i> 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 <i>usual environment</i> criterion.</p>
Sources	<p>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.</p> <p>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 visits abroad and visits to Ireland by non-residents. Visits to Ireland are further categorised into the areas of residence shown in this release.</p> <p>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 visit estimates from the Country of Residence Survey to provide the overseas tourism and travel estimates shown in this release.</p>