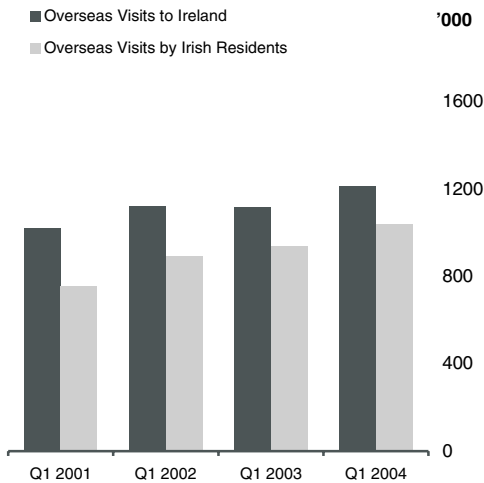




Tourism and Travel

First Quarter 2004

Number of Visits



	Visits to Ireland '000	Irish Visits Abroad '000
Jan-Mar 2001	1,020	757
Jan-Mar 2002	1,121	891
Jan-Mar 2003	1,118	939
Jan-Mar 2004	1,212	1,039

Number of Visits to Ireland by residents of North America increases by 22.7%

There were 1,212,000 Overseas Visits to Ireland in the First Quarter of 2004 compared with 1,118,000 in the same period last year, an increase of 8.4%. The number of Overseas Visits on Cross-Channel routes grew by 6.5% while the number on Continental routes increased by 12.8% on the same quarter in 2003. The number of Visits by residents of the USA and Canada grew by 22.7% on the First Quarter of 2003. The number of First Quarter Overseas Visits to Ireland by residents of Other Areas grew from 37,000 in 2003 to 53,000 in 2004. *See Table 1(a), Table 1(b) and Graph.*

The number of Irish Visits abroad between January and March 2004 was 1,039,000, an increase of 10.6% on the corresponding period last year. Irish residents travelling abroad on Cross-Channel routes grew by 10% compared with the First Quarter in 2003, while the number travelling on Continental routes grew by 10.5%. The number of Irish Residents travelling on Transatlantic routes in the First Quarter of 2004 was 21.3% higher than in the same period of 2003. *See Table 9(a), Table 9(b) and Graph.*

The expenditure figures for January – March 2004 show a net outflow of €89m, earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for €675m while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to €764m. *See Table 15.*

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ There were 246,000 Visits to Ireland for reason of Business in the First Quarter of 2004, an increase of 23.6% on the same period in 2003. *See Table 1(a).*
- ◆ The number of Same-Day Visits to Ireland in the first 3 months of 2004 was 41.8% greater than in the same period of 2003. *See Table 2.*

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

	'000					
Visits	2003	2003				2004
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Total Overseas Visits	6,369	1,118	1,704	2,187	1,360	1,212
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	3,253	673	826	957	797	743
Sea Cross-Channel	1,262	152	362	539	208	136
Continental European	1,287	203	355	488	240	229
Transatlantic	567	89	161	202	115	103
Area of Residence						
Great Britain	3,719	707	977	1,194	841	745
Other Europe	1,497	233	416	575	274	241
USA & Canada	904	141	254	324	185	173
Other Areas	249	37	58	95	60	53
Reason for Journey						
Business	854	199	203	214	238	246
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,334	500	955	1,266	613	514
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,736	343	416	529	449	351
Other	445	76	130	178	60	101

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 1)

'000

Visits	Jan - Mar			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Overseas Visits	1,020	1,121	1,118	1,212
Route of Travel				
Air Cross-Channel	600	668	673	743
Sea Cross-Channel	157	193	152	136
Continental European	172	184	203	229
Transatlantic	91	75	89	103
Area of Residence				
Great Britain	614	731	707	745
Other Europe	202	212	233	241
USA & Canada	160	134	141	173
Other Areas	43	45	37	53
Reason for Journey				
Business	250	226	199	246
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	410	485	500	514
Visit to Friends/Relatives	304	330	343	351
Other	55	80	76	101

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

'000

Visits	2003	2003				2004
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Total Overseas Visits	6,369	1,118	1,704	2,187	1,360	1,212
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	334	55	81	104	94	78
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	6,035	1,063	1,624	2,083	1,266	1,134

Table 3 Overseas Same-day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, Jan - Mar 2004

'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)	36	22	11	10	78
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	31	20	7	8	66
Other Europe	3	0	1	1	5
USA & Canada	1	1	3	1	5
Other Areas	1	0	0	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, Jan - Mar 2004

'000

Visits	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	210	492	340	91	1,134
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	110	294	225	51	679
Other Europe	76	69	61	30	236
USA & Canada	16	107	39	5	168
Other Areas	8	23	15	5	51

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

Length of Stay	Nights					
	2003	2003				2004
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	7.8	6.6	7.2	8.9	7.5	6.5
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	5.7	5.2	5.3	6.1	6.1	5.2
Sea Cross-Channel	7.9	7.8	7.4	8.8	6.7	6.3
Continental European	11.1	9.4	9.4	13.1	11.2	9.8
Transatlantic	10.9	8.6	11.1	11.7	10.8	8.0
Area of Residence						
Great Britain	5.2	4.5	4.9	6.2	4.7	4.2
Other Europe	11.1	9.2	9.5	13.0	11.1	9.6
USA & Canada	10.0	8.5	10.4	10.1	10.7	8.1
Other Areas	15.9	22.2	13.3	13.0	19.1	16.1
Reason for Journey						
Business	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.2	4.8
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	7.1	5.3	6.7	8.2	6.9	5.2
Visit to Friends/Relatives	7.8	7.8	7.2	8.5	7.7	7.4
Other	16.8	12.6	14.2	18.6	21.2	13.7

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

Bednights	'000					
	2003	2003				2004
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Accommodation	46,846	7,041	11,693	18,573	9,539	7,312
Hotel	10,278	1,523	2,935	3,833	1,987	1,697
Guest house/B&B	7,470	682	2,119	3,504	1,166	747
Rented house/Apartment	8,744	1,420	2,344	2,591	2,388	1,383
Caravan/Camping	1,077	20	319	705	33	3
Hostel	1,709	350	372	678	309	319
Friends/Relatives	13,122	2,566	2,652	4,879	3,025	2,529
Other	4,446	480	952	2,383	631	634

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	2003	2003				2004
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Great Britain	17,823	3,005	4,469	6,809	3,540	2,872
Hotel	4,306	813	1,153	1,421	919	810
Guest house/B&B	2,156	217	622	961	356	203
Rented house/Apartment	2,660	307	804	1,067	483	354
Caravan/Camping	401	16	146	215	24	2
Hostel	261	61	75	89	36	76
Friends/Relatives	7,184	1,467	1,470	2,661	1,586	1,268
Other	855	124	199	395	136	159
Other Europe	16,320	2,066	3,898	7,381	2,976	2,260
Hotel	2,414	294	770	916	434	355
Guest house/B&B	3,106	168	864	1,656	418	316
Rented house/Apartment	3,594	634	891	1,068	1,001	677
Caravan/Camping	656	4	166	482	5	0
Hostel	954	208	175	416	155	109
Friends/Relatives	2,823	548	555	1,045	675	513
Other	2,773	210	477	1,798	288	290
USA & Canada	8,834	1,171	2,567	3,176	1,919	1,358
Hotel	3,095	358	904	1,287	547	452
Guest house/B&B	1,798	265	534	695	304	190
Rented house/Apartment	1,362	123	486	280	473	176
Caravan/Camping	8	0	4	2	2	1
Hostel	313	51	91	95	75	72
Friends/Relatives	1,722	286	388	679	368	406
Other	536	88	160	138	150	61
Other Areas	3,868	797	757	1,207	1,106	822
Hotel	463	58	108	209	88	80
Guest house/B&B	410	32	98	192	88	38
Rented house/Apartment	1,127	356	163	176	432	176
Caravan/Camping	11	0	3	6	2	0
Hostel	181	29	30	78	43	62
Friends/Relatives	1,394	265	239	494	396	342
Other	282	57	116	52	57	124

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 2004

'000

Bednights	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Accommodation Used					
Hotel	500	970	150	77	1,697
Guest house/B&B	83	379	93	192	747
Rented house/Apartment	244	449	278	412	1,383
Caravan/Camping	0	1	1	0	3
Hostel	18	195	31	74	319
Friends/Relatives	114	403	1,803	209	2,529
Other	43	167	146	278	634

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

'000						
Visits	2003	2003				2004
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	
Total Overseas Visits	4,929	939	1,323	1,593	1,074	1,039
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	1,825	428	427	476	494	485
Sea Cross-Channel	408	72	116	147	72	65
Continental European	2,438	391	717	892	438	432
Transatlantic	259	47	62	79	70	57
Reason for Journey						
Business	597	140	161	142	155	160
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	2,876	500	801	1,049	526	523
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,170	250	270	317	332	280
Other	287	49	91	85	61	76

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			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Overseas Visits	757	891	939	1,039
Route of Travel				
Air Cross-Channel	358	432	428	485
Sea Cross-Channel	63	71	72	65
Continental European	282	340	391	432
Transatlantic	54	48	47	57
Reason for Journey				
Business	143	139	140	160
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	352	455	500	523
Visit to Friends/Relatives	225	238	250	280
Other	37	59	49	76

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

Visits	'000					
	2003	2003				2004
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	
Total Overseas Visits	4,929	939	1,323	1,593	1,074	1,039
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	176	36	50	54	36	30
Visits with at least one overnight abroad	4,754	903	1,273	1,540	1,038	1,007

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

Visits	'000					
	2003	2003				2004
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	
Total Overseas Visits	176	36	50	54	36	30
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	107	28	31	22	25	21
Sea Cross-Channel	48	4	14	23	7	6
Continental European	17	3	3	8	3	3
Transatlantic	4	1	2	1	1	1
Reason for Journey						
Business	71	21	17	19	14	17
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	61	8	22	22	9	7
Visit to Friends/Relatives	31	6	8	9	8	5
Other	13	2	3	3	5	1

Table 12 Overseas Same-day Visits by Irish Residents – Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Jan - Mar 2004

'000					
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Total Same-day Visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	17	7	5	1	30
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	15	2	2	1	21
Sea Cross-Channel	1	3	2	0	6
Continental European	1	1	1	0	3
Transatlantic	0	0	0	0	1

Table 13 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents, with at least one overnight – Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Jan - Mar 2004

'000					
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Total Visits with at least one overnight abroad	142	514	276	75	1,007
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	76	171	174	43	465
Sea Cross-Channel	9	19	27	3	59
Continental European	51	294	55	28	427
Transatlantic	6	30	20	1	57

Table 14 Overseas Visits 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					
	2003	2003				2004
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
All Overseas Visits	9.3	8.0	8.9	11.7	7.7	7.7
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	8.9	8.6	8.4	11.2	7.5	7.9
Sea Cross-Channel	8.2	6.5	10.9	8.1	6.0	5.5
Continental European	9.0	7.0	8.2	11.3	7.3	7.2
Transatlantic	16.9	13.0	15.4	24.0	12.9	12.1
Reason for Journey						
Business	7.3	6.8	7.3	8.2	7.0	5.7
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	9.6	7.7	8.6	12.3	7.6	7.6
Visit to Friends/Relatives	8.8	9.1	9.0	9.9	7.4	8.9
Other	12.9	8.1	13.0	16.1	12.2	7.6

Table 15 Tourism and Travel Estimated Earnings and Expenditure

€ million

Period	Earnings from all Visits to Ireland ¹	Expenditure by all Irish Visitors abroad ²	Balance ³
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
2003 Year ⁴	4,046	4,159	-113
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 ⁴	641	739	-98
April – June	1055	1076	-21
July – September ⁵	1491	1533	-42
October – December ⁵	860	811	+49
2004 January – March ⁵	675	764	-89

¹Expenditure (excluding international fares) plus passenger fare receipts of Irish carriers from visitors to Ireland²Expenditure (including international fares) less passenger fare payments by Irish visitors abroad to Irish carriers³+ = Net inflow - = Net outflow⁴Revised⁵Provisional

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.

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 The Central Statistics Office carries out two sample surveys of passengers, the Country of Residence Survey and the Passenger Card Inquiry. 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 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 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.