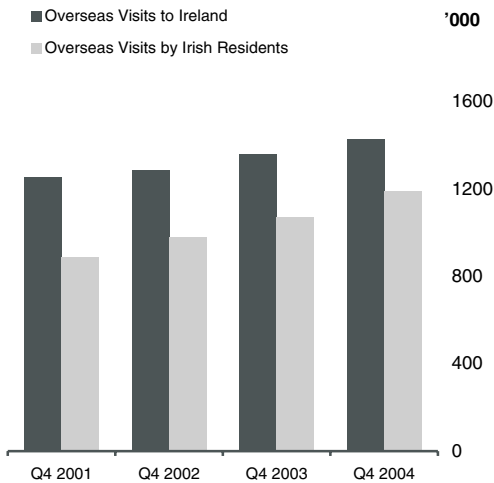




Tourism and Travel

Quarter 4 2004

Number of Visits



	Visits to Ireland '000	Irish Visits Abroad '000
Oct-Dec 2001	1,255	887
Oct-Dec 2002	1,286	981
Oct-Dec 2003	1,360	1,074
Oct-Dec 2004	1,428	1,190

Number of Visits to Ireland increases by 5%

There were 1,428,000 Overseas Visits to Ireland in the Fourth Quarter of 2004 compared with 1,360,000 in the same period in 2003, an increase of 5%. The number of Overseas Visits to Ireland by residents of Great Britain fell by 0.2% while the number of Visits by residents of Other European Countries increased by 17.5% on the same quarter in 2003. The number of Visits by residents of the USA and Canada grew by 5.9% on the Fourth Quarter of 2003. The number of Fourth Quarter Overseas Visits to Ireland by residents of Other Areas grew from 60,000 in 2003 to 70,000 in 2004. *See Table 1(a), Table 1(b) and Graph.*

The number of Irish Visits abroad between October and December 2004 was 1,190,000, an increase of 10.8% on the corresponding period in 2003. Irish residents travelling abroad on Cross-Channel sea routes grew by 8.3% compared with the Fourth Quarter in 2003, while the number travelling on Continental routes grew by 19.6%. The number of Irish residents travelling on Transatlantic routes in the Fourth Quarter of 2004 was 28.6% higher than in the same period of 2003. *See Table 9(a), Table 9(b) and Graph.*

The expenditure figures for October – December 2004 show a net inflow of €15m, earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for €857m while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to €842m. *See Table 15.*

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ The number of Bednights spent in Guest House/B&B's fell by 9.9% in the Fourth Quarter of 2004 when compared to the same period in 2003. The number of Bednights spent in Hotels increased by 6.7%. *See Table 6.*
- ◆ The Average Length of Stay of Overseas Visits to Ireland with at least one overnight fell from 7.5 nights in Q4 2003 to 7.0 nights in Q4 2004. *See Table 5.*

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

'000

Visits	2003	2004	2003				2004			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Overseas Visits	6,369	6,574	1,118	1,704	2,187	1,360	1,212	1,762	2,173	1,428
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	3,253	3,413	673	826	957	797	743	861	967	841
Sea Cross-Channel	1,262	1,192	152	362	539	208	136	358	512	186
Continental European	1,287	1,408	203	355	488	240	229	393	502	285
Transatlantic	567	561	89	161	202	115	103	150	192	116
Area of Residence										
Great Britain	3,719	3,681	707	977	1,194	841	745	945	1,151	839
Other Europe	1,497	1,600	233	416	575	274	241	453	584	322
USA & Canada	904	977	141	254	324	185	173	275	333	196
Other Areas	249	317	37	58	95	60	53	89	105	70
Reason for Journey										
Business	854	926	199	203	214	238	246	203	225	252
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,334	3,413	500	955	1,266	613	514	994	1,310	595
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,736	1,807	343	416	529	449	351	443	506	507
Other	445	429	76	130	178	60	101	122	132	74

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

'000				
Visits	Oct - Dec			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Overseas Visits	1,255	1,286	1,360	1,428
Route of Travel				
Air Cross-Channel	722	744	797	841
Sea Cross-Channel	235	209	208	186
Continental European	205	227	240	285
Transatlantic	93	106	115	116
Area of Residence				
Great Britain	826	801	841	839
Other Europe	231	259	274	322
USA & Canada	148	174	185	196
Other Areas	49	52	60	70
Reason for Journey				
Business	244	220	238	252
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	561	599	613	595
Visit to Friends/Relatives	397	413	449	507
Other	52	54	60	74

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

'000										
Visits	2003	2004	2003				2004			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
	Total Overseas Visits	6,369	6,574	1,118	1,704	2,187	1,360	1,212	1,762	2,173
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	334	349	55	81	104	94	78	73	96	103
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	6,035	6,225	1,063	1,624	2,083	1,266	1,134	1,689	2,077	1,325

Table 3 Overseas Same-Day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, Oct - Dec 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)	34	39	19	11	103	
Area of Residence						
Great Britain	30	34	14	8	87	
Other Europe	2	2	2	3	9	
USA & Canada	1	2	2	1	6	
Other Areas	0	0	1	-	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, Oct - Dec 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	218	556	488	63	1,325	
Area of Residence						
Great Britain	119	296	305	32	753	
Other Europe	74	111	112	15	313	
USA & Canada	16	117	50	7	190	
Other Areas	8	32	21	9	69	

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

Length of Stay	Nights									
	2003	2004	2003				2004			
			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	7.8	7.5	6.6	7.2	8.9	7.5	6.5	7.3	8.5	7.0
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	5.7	5.7	5.2	5.3	6.1	6.1	5.2	5.8	6.3	5.2
Sea Cross-Channel	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.4	8.8	6.7	6.3	7.1	9.0	6.8
Continental European	11.1	10.5	9.4	9.4	13.1	11.2	9.8	9.6	11.2	11.0
Transatlantic	10.9	9.9	8.6	11.1	11.7	10.8	8.0	9.7	11.2	10.0
Area of Residence										
Great Britain	5.2	5.0	4.5	4.9	6.2	4.7	4.2	4.9	6.1	4.3
Other Europe	11.1	10.5	9.2	9.5	13.0	11.1	9.6	10.0	11.3	10.5
USA & Canada	10.0	9.3	8.5	10.4	10.1	10.7	8.1	9.5	9.7	9.5
Other Areas	15.9	14.0	22.2	13.3	13.0	19.1	16.1	11.3	15.4	13.7
Reason for Journey										
Business	5.6	5.4	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.2	4.8	4.7	6.2	5.8
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	7.1	7.0	5.3	6.7	8.2	6.9	5.2	6.9	8.3	6.1
Visit to Friends/Relatives	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.2	8.5	7.7	7.4	7.0	9.0	8.1
Other	16.8	13.6	12.6	14.2	18.6	21.2	13.7	15.4	12.9	11.4

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	2004	2003				2004			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Accommodation	46,846	46,604	7,041	11,693	18,573	9,539	7,312	12,275	17,729	9,288
Hotel	10,278	10,663	1,523	2,935	3,833	1,987	1,697	2,977	3,867	2,121
Guest house/B&B	7,470	6,979	682	2,119	3,504	1,166	747	2,150	3,031	1,051
Rented house/Apartment	8,744	8,818	1,420	2,344	2,591	2,388	1,383	2,588	3,047	1,800
Caravan/Camping	1,077	970	20	319	705	33	3	256	676	35
Hostel	1,709	1,624	350	372	678	309	319	514	502	289
Friends/Relatives	13,122	13,031	2,566	2,652	4,879	3,025	2,529	2,855	4,392	3,255
Other	4,446	4,519	480	952	2,383	631	634	935	2,214	737

Table 7 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	2003	2004	2003				2004			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Great Britain	17,823	16,986	3,005	4,469	6,809	3,540	2,872	4,354	6,514	3,246
Hotel	4,306	4,034	813	1,153	1,421	919	810	1,021	1,311	892
Guest house/B&B	2,156	1,891	217	622	961	356	203	598	796	294
Rented house/Apartment	2,660	3,012	307	804	1,067	483	354	822	1,475	361
Caravan/Camping	401	334	16	146	215	24	2	96	219	17
Hostel	261	255	61	75	89	36	76	88	46	45
Friends/Relatives	7,184	6,615	1,467	1,470	2,661	1,586	1,268	1,527	2,370	1,450
Other	855	845	124	199	395	136	159	202	297	187
Other Europe	16,320	16,481	2,066	3,898	7,381	2,976	2,260	4,410	6,517	3,293
Hotel	2,414	2,795	294	770	916	434	355	825	1,156	459
Guest house/B&B	3,106	2,930	168	864	1,656	418	316	844	1,384	387
Rented house/Apartment	3,594	3,806	634	891	1,068	1,001	677	1,174	1,083	872
Caravan/Camping	656	573	4	166	482	5	0	154	402	17
Hostel	954	822	208	175	416	155	109	235	325	152
Friends/Relatives	2,823	3,186	548	555	1,045	675	513	670	911	1,091
Other	2,773	2,369	210	477	1,798	288	290	508	1,256	315
USA & Canada	8,834	8,790	1,171	2,567	3,176	1,919	1,358	2,525	3,105	1,803
Hotel	3,095	3,199	358	904	1,287	547	452	949	1,169	629
Guest house/B&B	1,798	1,692	265	534	695	304	190	557	661	284
Rented house/Apartment	1,362	1,167	123	486	280	473	176	355	315	321
Caravan/Camping	8	21	0	4	2	2	1	3	16	1
Hostel	313	315	51	91	95	75	72	117	80	46
Friends/Relatives	1,722	1,713	286	388	679	368	406	354	535	418
Other	536	683	88	160	138	150	61	190	329	104
Other Areas	3,868	4,348	797	757	1,207	1,106	822	986	1,592	946
Hotel	463	635	58	108	209	88	80	182	231	141
Guest house/B&B	410	466	32	98	192	88	38	152	191	86
Rented house/Apartment	1,127	833	356	163	176	432	176	237	174	245
Caravan/Camping	11	42	0	3	6	2	0	2	39	1
Hostel	181	233	29	30	78	43	62	74	51	46
Friends/Relatives	1,394	1,517	265	239	494	396	342	304	575	296
Other	282	622	57	116	52	57	124	35	331	131

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 2004

Bednights	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Accommodation Used	1,258	3,380	3,926	723	9,288
Hotel	518	1,279	247	77	2,121
Guest house/B&B	118	664	195	73	1,051
Rented house/Apartment	313	624	639	224	1,800
Caravan/Camping	1	30	4	0	35
Hostel	17	180	54	37	289
Friends/Relatives	177	364	2,568	147	3,255
Other	114	239	219	165	737

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

'000

Visits	2003		2004		2003				2004			
	2003	2004	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec		
Total Overseas Visits	4,929	5,409	939	1,323	1,593	1,074	1,039	1,431	1,749	1,190		
Route of Travel												
Air Cross-Channel	1,825	1,982	428	427	476	494	485	485	514	498		
Sea Cross-Channel	408	384	72	116	147	72	65	103	138	78		
Continental European	2,438	2,735	391	717	892	438	432	773	1,006	524		
Transatlantic	259	309	47	62	79	70	57	70	92	90		
Reason for Journey												
Business	597	671	140	161	142	155	160	178	168	166		
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	2,876	3,081	500	801	1,049	526	523	837	1,105	616		
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,170	1,296	250	270	317	332	280	336	356	324		
Other	287	361	49	91	85	61	76	80	120	85		

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

'000

Visits	Oct - Dec			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Overseas Visits	887	981	1,074	1,190
Route of Travel				
Air Cross-Channel	430	463	494	498
Sea Cross-Channel	90	80	72	78
Continental European	313	388	438	524
Transatlantic	55	51	70	90
Reason for Journey				
Business	131	148	155	166
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	440	472	526	616
Visit to Friends/Relatives	272	300	332	324
Other	44	61	61	85

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

'000

Visits	2003	2004	2003				2004			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Overseas Visits	4,929	5,409	939	1,323	1,593	1,074	1,039	1,431	1,749	1,190
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	176	195	36	50	54	36	30	54	60	50
Visits with at least one overnight abroad	4,754	5,212	903	1,273	1,540	1,038	1,007	1,376	1,689	1,140

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

'000

Visits	2003	2004	2003				2004			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Overseas Visits	176	195	36	50	54	36	30	54	60	50
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	107	105	28	31	22	25	21	29	25	31
Sea Cross-Channel	48	55	4	14	23	7	6	14	23	12
Continental European	17	30	3	3	8	3	3	10	11	6
Transatlantic	4	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Reason for Journey										
Business	71	77	21	17	19	14	17	20	19	20
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	61	67	8	22	22	9	7	21	25	13
Visit to Friends/Relatives	31	35	6	8	9	8	5	8	9	12
Other	13	17	2	3	3	5	1	5	7	4

Table 12 Overseas Same-Day Visits by Irish Residents - Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Oct - Dec 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)	20	13	12	4	50
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	15	6	6	3	31
Sea Cross-Channel	2	6	3	0	12
Continental European	3	1	2	0	6
Transatlantic	0	1	0	0	1

Table 13 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents, with at least one overnight abroad - Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Oct - Dec 2004

'000					
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Total Visits with at least one overnight abroad	144	604	312	79	1,140
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	73	168	185	42	467
Sea Cross-Channel	7	23	32	4	66
Continental European	55	364	70	30	518
Transatlantic	9	50	25	4	89

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

Nights										
Length of Stay	2003	2004	2003				2004			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
All Overseas Visits	9.3	8.5	8.0	8.9	11.7	7.7	7.7	7.9	10.3	7.4
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	8.9	8.4	8.6	8.4	11.2	7.5	7.9	7.9	10.4	7.5
Sea Cross-Channel	8.2	8.4	6.5	10.9	8.1	6.0	5.5	9.3	9.3	8.2
Continental European	9.0	8.0	7.0	8.2	11.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	9.6	6.5
Transatlantic	16.9	14.3	13.0	15.4	24.0	12.9	12.1	12.2	19.7	11.7
Reason for Journey										
Business	7.3	6.3	6.8	7.3	8.2	7.0	5.7	5.5	7.8	6.3
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	9.6	8.7	7.7	8.6	12.3	7.6	7.6	7.9	10.6	7.6
Visit to Friends/Relatives	8.8	8.8	9.1	9.0	9.9	7.4	8.9	8.6	9.9	7.6
Other	12.9	9.6	8.1	13.0	16.1	12.2	7.6	9.4	12.6	7.5

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	4,057	4,158	-101
2004 Year ⁵	4,073	4,181	-109
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	641	739	-98
April – June	1,059	1,071	-12
July – September	1,495	1,536	-41
October – December	861	811	+50
2004 January – March ⁴	676	768	-92
April – June ⁵	1,114	1,049	+65
July – September ⁵	1,426	1,523	-97
October – December ⁵	857	842	+15

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.

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. The results of these surveys 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 sample size of the Country of Residence Survey in Quarter 4 2004 was almost 133,000 passengers.

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. The sample size of the Passenger Card Inquiry in Quarter 4 2004 was almost 106,000 passengers.