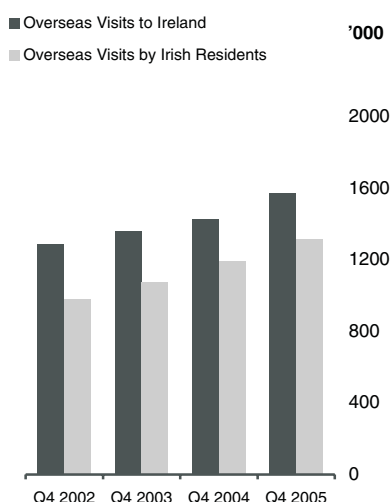




## Tourism and Travel

### Quarter 4 2005

#### Number of Visits



	Visits to Ireland '000	Irish Visits Abroad '000
Oct - Dec 2002	1,286	981
Oct - Dec 2003	1,360	1,074
Oct - Dec 2004	1,428	1,190
Oct - Dec 2005	1,574	1,316

#### Visits to Ireland up 10% in Q4 2005

There were 1,574,000 Overseas Visits to Ireland in the Fourth Quarter of 2005 compared with 1,428,000 in the same period of 2004, an increase of 10%. The number of Overseas Visits by residents of Other European Countries grew by 33% while the number of Visits by residents of the USA and Canada fell by 9% on the same quarter in 2004. Visits by residents of Great Britain grew by 8% on the Fourth Quarter of 2004. The number of Overseas Visits to Ireland by residents of Other Areas fell from 70,000 in Q4 2004 to 62,000 in Q4 2005. *See Table 1(a), Table 1(b) and Graph.*

The number of Irish Visits abroad between October and December 2005 was 1,316,000, an increase of 11% on the corresponding period in 2004. Trips abroad on Continental routes grew by 17% compared with Q4 2004 and trips on Air Cross-Channel routes increased by 7%. There was a decrease of 24% in the number travelling abroad on Sea Cross-Channel routes, compared with Q4 2004. *See Table 9(a), Table 9(b) and Graph.*

The expenditure figures for October – December 2005 show a net outflow of €106m. Earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for €929m while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to €1,035m. *See Table 15.*

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ The number of Bednights spent in Rented Houses/Apartments by Overseas Visitors to Ireland increased by 23% in the Fourth Quarter of 2005 when compared to the same period in 2004. However, bednights spent in Guest house/B&Bs by inward visitors recorded a drop of 13% on Q4 2004. *See Table 6.*
- ◆ Overseas visits to Ireland on Continental European routes in the Fourth Quarter of 2005 increased by 39% on the corresponding Quarter of 2004. *See Table 1(b).*
- ◆ The number of Irish Visits Abroad for Business reasons in Q4 2005 grew by 19% on the same period in 2004. *See Table 9(a).*

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	'000									
	2004	2005	2004				2005			
Visits			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Overseas Visits	6,574	6,977	1,212	1,762	2,173	1,428	1,290	1,803	2,308	1,574
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	3,413	3,595	743	861	967	841	767	876	1,055	897
Sea Cross-Channel	1,192	1,085	136	358	512	186	151	297	467	170
Continental European	1,408	1,705	229	393	502	285	287	462	561	395
Transatlantic	561	592	103	150	192	116	86	169	224	112
Area of Residence										
Great Britain	3,681	3,822	745	945	1,151	839	767	953	1,196	906
Other Europe	1,600	1,917	241	453	584	322	321	504	662	428
USA & Canada	977	953	173	275	333	196	154	272	350	178
Other Areas	317	285	53	89	105	70	49	74	100	62
Reason for Journey										
Business	926	967	246	203	225	252	237	248	229	252
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,413	3,428	514	994	1,310	595	533	971	1,313	611
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,807	2,125	351	443	506	507	414	474	616	620
Other	429	457	101	122	132	74	106	111	149	91

**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				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>1,574</b>	
<b>Route of Travel</b>					
Air Cross-Channel	744	797	841	897	
Sea Cross-Channel	209	208	186	170	
Continental European	227	240	285	395	
Transatlantic	106	115	116	112	
<b>Area of Residence</b>					
Great Britain	801	841	839	906	
Other Europe	259	274	322	428	
USA & Canada	174	185	196	178	
Other Areas	52	60	70	62	
<b>Reason for Journey</b>					
Business	220	238	252	252	
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	599	613	595	611	
Visit to Friends/Relatives	413	449	507	620	
Other	54	60	74	91	

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

										'000
Visits	2004	2005	2004				2005			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>6,574</b>	<b>6,977</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>2,173</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>1,574</b>
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	349	367	78	73	96	103	66	85	111	104
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	6,225	6,610	1,134	1,689	2,077	1,325	1,224	1,719	2,197	1,470

**Table 3 Overseas Same-Day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, Oct - Dec 2005**

						'000
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total	
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other		
<b>Total Same-Day Visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>104</b>	
<b>Area of Residence</b>						
Great Britain	31	34	18	9	92	
Other Europe	2	2	3	0	8	
USA & Canada	1	2	1	0	4	
Other Areas	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 2005**

						'000
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total	
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other		
<b>Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1,470</b>	
<b>Area of Residence</b>						
Great Britain	105	302	367	40	814	
Other Europe	88	150	154	27	420	
USA & Canada	15	98	49	12	174	
Other Areas	9	23	27	3	62	

**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	2004	2005	2004				2005			
			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	7.5	7.6	6.5	7.3	8.5	7.0	6.4	7.1	8.6	7.5
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	5.7	5.5	5.2	5.8	6.3	5.2	5.1	5.1	6.0	5.6
Sea Cross-Channel	7.7	8.2	6.3	7.1	9.0	6.8	7.4	7.3	9.4	6.9
Continental European	10.5	10.5	9.8	9.6	11.2	11.0	8.9	9.5	11.9	11.0
Transatlantic	9.9	10.0	8.0	9.7	11.2	10.0	8.3	10.0	10.7	9.9
Area of Residence										
Great Britain	5.0	4.8	4.2	4.9	6.1	4.3	4.2	4.6	5.8	4.2
Other Europe	10.5	10.9	9.6	10.0	11.3	10.5	9.5	9.4	12.4	11.5
USA & Canada	9.3	9.5	8.1	9.5	9.7	9.5	8.1	9.3	9.9	10.3
Other Areas	14.0	13.4	16.1	11.3	15.4	13.7	14.9	13.5	11.8	14.7
Reason for Journey										
Business	5.4	5.5	4.8	4.7	6.2	5.8	5.1	4.8	6.4	5.9
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	7.0	7.1	5.2	6.9	8.3	6.1	5.6	6.8	8.3	6.1
Visit to Friends/Relatives	7.9	8.2	7.4	7.0	9.0	8.1	7.8	7.5	9.1	8.1
Other	13.6	12.2	13.7	15.4	12.9	11.4	7.8	12.7	12.4	16.6

**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	2004	2005	2004				2005			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Accommodation	46,604	49,451	7,312	12,275	17,729	9,288	7,875	12,173	18,973	10,430
Hotel	10,663	10,615	1,697	2,977	3,867	2,121	1,807	3,026	3,645	2,137
Guest house/B&B	6,979	6,409	747	2,150	3,031	1,051	602	1,882	3,009	916
Rented house/Apartment	8,818	9,739	1,383	2,588	3,047	1,800	1,688	2,440	3,398	2,213
Caravan/Camping	970	848	3	256	676	35	15	323	469	41
Hostel	1,624	1,555	319	514	502	289	248	363	647	297
Friends/Relatives	13,031	15,914	2,529	2,855	4,392	3,255	2,909	3,182	5,870	3,953
Other	4,519	4,371	634	935	2,214	737	606	957	1,935	873

**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

	2004	2005	2004				2005			
Bednights										
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Great Britain	16,986	16,961	2,872	4,354	6,514	3,246	2,998	4,119	6,401	3,443
Hotel	4,034	4,075	810	1,021	1,311	892	824	1,047	1,308	895
Guest house/B&B	1,891	1,649	203	598	796	294	188	502	715	244
Rented house/Apartment	3,012	2,320	354	822	1,475	361	357	692	954	318
Caravan/Camping	334	276	2	96	219	17	4	88	182	3
Hostel	255	209	76	88	46	45	43	67	66	33
Friends/Relatives	6,615	7,413	1,268	1,527	2,370	1,450	1,405	1,473	2,750	1,785
Other	845	1,019	159	202	297	187	177	250	426	165
Other Europe	16,481	19,981	2,260	4,410	6,517	3,293	2,950	4,666	8,079	4,285
Hotel	2,795	3,086	355	825	1,156	459	462	919	1,064	640
Guest house/B&B	2,930	2,817	316	844	1,384	387	232	733	1,463	390
Rented house/Apartment	3,806	5,446	677	1,174	1,083	872	947	1,214	2,027	1,258
Caravan/Camping	573	515	0	154	402	17	11	224	247	33
Hostel	822	895	109	235	325	152	132	171	405	187
Friends/Relatives	3,186	4,718	513	670	911	1,091	822	930	1,640	1,326
Other	2,369	2,504	290	508	1,256	315	344	475	1,233	451
USA & Canada	8,790	8,765	1,358	2,525	3,105	1,803	1,219	2,434	3,314	1,798
Hotel	3,199	2,984	452	949	1,169	629	417	930	1,129	508
Guest house/B&B	1,692	1,494	190	557	661	284	131	521	651	191
Rented house/Apartment	1,167	1,308	176	355	315	321	199	398	315	396
Caravan/Camping	21	11	1	3	16	1	1	2	7	1
Hostel	315	281	72	117	80	46	50	83	94	54
Friends/Relatives	1,713	2,199	406	354	535	418	373	419	939	468
Other	683	488	61	190	329	104	48	81	179	180
Other Areas	4,348	3,746	822	986	1,592	946	709	954	1,177	904
Hotel	635	471	80	182	231	141	104	130	143	94
Guest house/B&B	466	449	38	152	191	86	50	127	180	92
Rented house/Apartment	833	665	176	237	174	245	186	136	102	241
Caravan/Camping	42	46	0	2	39	1	0	9	33	4
Hostel	233	170	62	74	51	46	23	42	82	22
Friends/Relatives	1,517	1,585	342	304	575	296	310	359	540	375
Other	622	360	124	35	331	131	36	151	97	76

**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 2005**

					'000
Bednights	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
<b>Accommodation Used</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>3,468</b>	<b>4,614</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>10,430</b>
Hotel	561	1,225	225	126	2,137
Guest house/B&B	62	574	159	121	916
Rented house/Apartment	327	789	729	367	2,213
Caravan/Camping	0	34	7	0	41
Hostel	29	225	34	9	297
Friends/Relatives	145	429	3,254	126	3,953
Other	139	192	206	335	873

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

										'000
Visits	2004	2005	2004				2005			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>5,409</b>	<b>6,113</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>1,749</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>1,626</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>1,316</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>										
Air Cross-Channel	1,982	2,215	485	485	514	498	526	588	566	535
Sea Cross-Channel	384	336	65	103	138	78	73	85	118	59
Continental European	2,735	3,205	432	773	1,006	524	534	874	1,183	614
Transatlantic	309	357	57	70	92	90	75	79	95	108
<b>Reason for Journey</b>										
Business	671	738	160	178	168	166	168	191	182	197
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,081	3,518	523	837	1,105	616	618	965	1,252	684
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,296	1,416	280	336	356	324	316	345	392	363
Other	361	441	76	80	120	85	106	125	137	72

**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									
					2002	2003	2004	2005		
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>					<b>981</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,316</b>		
<b>Route of Travel</b>										
Air Cross-Channel					463	494	498	535		
Sea Cross-Channel					80	72	78	59		
Continental European					388	438	524	614		
Transatlantic					51	70	90	108		
<b>Reason for Journey</b>										
Business					148	155	166	197		
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation					472	526	616	684		
Visit to Friends/Relatives					300	332	324	363		
Other					61	61	85	72		



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

											'000
Visits	2004	2005	2004				2005				
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	
Total Overseas Visits	5,409	6,113	1,039	1,431	1,749	1,190	1,208	1,626	1,963	1,316	
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	195	195	30	54	60	50	45	39	66	45	
Visits with at least one overnight abroad	5,212	5,918	1,007	1,376	1,689	1,140	1,163	1,587	1,897	1,271	

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

											'000
Visits	2004	2005	2004				2005				
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	
Total Overseas Visits	195	195	30	54	60	50	45	39	66	45	
Route of Travel											
Air Cross-Channel	105	113	21	29	25	31	30	23	35	25	
Sea Cross-Channel	55	50	6	14	23	12	10	10	17	13	
Continental European	30	30	3	10	11	6	4	5	14	7	
Transatlantic	4	2	1	1	1	1	2	0	-	-	
Reason for Journey											
Business	77	81	17	20	19	20	16	20	28	18	
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	67	64	7	21	25	13	18	9	23	13	
Visit to Friends/Relatives	35	39	5	8	9	12	7	9	13	10	
Other	17	11	1	5	7	4	4	1	2	4	

**Table 12 Overseas Same-Day Visits by Irish Residents - Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Oct - Dec 2005**

						'000
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total	
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other		
<b>Total Same-Day Visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>45</b>	
<b>Route of Travel</b>						
Air Cross-Channel	14	6	5	1	25	
Sea Cross-Channel	3	6	3	1	13	
Continental European	1	2	2	2	7	
Transatlantic	-	-	-	-	-	

**Table 13 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents, with at least one overnight abroad - Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Oct - Dec 2005**

						'000
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total	
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other		
<b>Total Visits with at least one overnight abroad</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1,271</b>	
<b>Route of Travel</b>						
Air Cross-Channel	88	174	210	37	509	
Sea Cross-Channel	8	7	30	1	47	
Continental European	77	419	85	26	607	
Transatlantic	8	70	26	4	108	

**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	2004	2005	2004				2005			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
<b>All Overseas Visits</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>										
Air Cross-Channel	8.4	8.3	7.9	7.9	10.4	7.5	7.5	6.3	11.1	8.3
Sea Cross-Channel	8.4	6.5	5.5	9.3	9.3	8.2	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.6
Continental European	8.0	8.3	7.2	7.3	9.6	6.5	7.4	7.2	10.0	7.1
Transatlantic	14.3	11.7	12.1	12.2	19.7	11.7	10.0	11.2	16.7	9.0
<b>Reason for Journey</b>										
Business	6.3	6.6	5.7	5.5	7.8	6.3	5.3	6.2	8.0	6.7
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	8.7	8.4	7.6	7.9	10.6	7.6	7.0	7.0	10.9	7.2
Visit to Friends/Relatives	8.8	9.1	8.9	8.6	9.9	7.6	9.1	7.7	10.7	8.7
Other	9.6	8.8	7.6	9.4	12.6	7.5	9.7	7.1	8.8	10.7

**Table 15 Tourism and Travel Estimated Earnings and Expenditure**

€ million

Period	Earnings from all Visits to Ireland <sup>1</sup>	Expenditure by all Irish Visitors abroad <sup>2</sup>	Balance <sup>3</sup>
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 <sup>4</sup>	4,065	4,179	-114
2005 Year <sup>5</sup>	4,272	4,773	-501
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	675	768	-93
April – June	1,113	1,048	+65
July – September	1,427	1,521	-93
October – December <sup>4</sup>	850	842	+8
2005 January – March <sup>4</sup>	712	876	-164
April – June <sup>4</sup>	1,124	1,152	-28
July – September <sup>4</sup>	1,506	1,710	-204
October – December <sup>5</sup>	929	1,035	-106

<sup>1</sup> Expenditure (excluding international fares) plus passenger fare receipts of Irish carriers from visitors to Ireland<sup>2</sup> Expenditure (including international fares) less passenger fare payments by Irish visitors abroad to Irish carriers<sup>3</sup> + = Net inflow - = Net outflow<sup>4</sup> Revised<sup>5</sup> 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 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** 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 2005 was almost 143,000 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 2005 was almost 83,000 passengers.