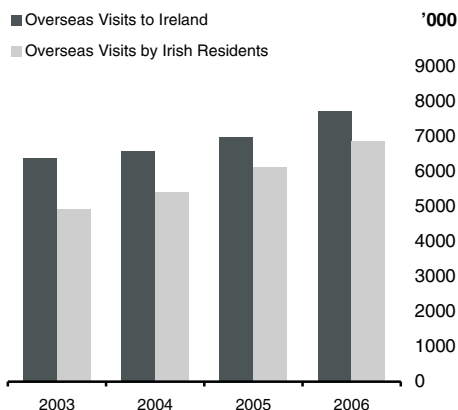




Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

15 March 2007

Number of Visits



Tourism and Travel 2006

	Overseas Visits to Ireland '000	Overseas Visits by Irish Residents '000
2003	6,369	4,929
2004	6,574	5,409
2005	6,977	6,113
2006	7,709	6,848

12% increase in Number of Overseas Visits by Irish Residents in 2006

The number of Overseas Visits by Irish Residents in the year 2006 was 6,848,000 compared with 6,113,000 in 2005, an increase of 12%. The number of Overseas Visits by Irish Residents on Continental European routes in 2006 increased by 21% on 2005. Overseas Visits by Irish Residents on Transatlantic routes in 2006 grew by 8% on 2005 while the number on Air and Sea Cross-Channel routes also increased. *See Table 13 and Graph.*

There were 7,709,000 Overseas Visits to Ireland in the year 2006, compared with 6,977,000 in 2005, an increase of 10%. The number of Overseas Visits on Continental European routes in 2006 increased by 28% on 2005. The number of Overseas Visits on Air Cross-Channel routes grew by 8% while the number on Sea Cross-Channel routes fell by 9%. The number of Visits by residents of Other European countries grew in 2006 by 19% on 2005 and the number of Visits by residents from the USA and Canada increased by 11%. *See Table 3 and Graph.*

The expenditure figures for the year 2006 show a net outflow of €625m - earnings from Visits to Ireland accounted for €4,693m, while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to €5,318m. *See Table 17.*

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ The number of Bednights spent in Ireland by Overseas Visitors in 2006 increased by 12% when compared with the 2005 figure. *See Table 8.*
- ◆ In 2006 the number of Bednights spent in Hostels by Overseas Visitors to Ireland grew by 18% on 2005. In the same period, the number of Bednights spent in Guest houses/B&Bs by Overseas Visitors to Ireland grew by 6%. *See Table 8.*
- ◆ The average length of stay of Overseas Visits to Ireland during 2006 was 7.6 nights. This compares with an average of 8.0 nights for Irish visits abroad. *See Tables 7 and 16.*

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Table 1 Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Estimated Expenditure (Classified by Route of Travel) and Total International Tourism and Travel Earnings

	€ million				
Estimated Expenditure	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	1,282	1,334	1,388	1,372	1,471
Sea Cross-Channel	566	515	487	493	453
Continental European	747	794	841	1,076	1,310
Transatlantic	451	555	488	513	559
All Overseas Routes	3,045	3,198	3,204	3,455	3,793
Cross-Border¹	221	226	228	235	237 ³
Total Expenditure (excluding international fares)	3,266	3,424	3,432	3,689	4,030³
Passenger fare receipts of Irish carriers from Visits to Ireland	723	633	634	583	663
Total international tourism and travel earnings²	3,989	4,057	4,065	4,272	4,693³

¹ Estimates are for tourist expenditure only

² Total Expenditure (excl. international fares) plus passenger fare receipts of Irish carriers from visits to Ireland

³ Provisional

Table 2 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Estimated Expenditure (Excluding International Fares) Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey

	€ million				
Estimated Expenditure	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total Expenditure (excluding international fares)	3,045	3,198	3,204	3,455	3,793
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	1,251	1,295	1,253	1,257	1,373
Other Europe	862	884	927	1,232	1,352
USA and Canada	705	784	769	731	803
Other Areas	227	235	255	234	265
Reason for Journey					
Business	445	402	424	457	473
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	1,696	1,779	1,774	1,822	2,029
Visit to Friends/Relatives	675	708	755	884	936
Other	230	309	251	292	353

Table 3 Visits to Ireland - Estimated Number of Overseas Visits by Non-Residents (Classified by Route of Travel, Area of Residence and Reason for Journey) and of Cross-Border Visits on Rail and Scheduled Bus Services

	'000				
Visits	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total Overseas Visits	6,065	6,369	6,574	6,977	7,709
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	3,073	3,253	3,413	3,595	3,900
Sea Cross-Channel	1,335	1,262	1,192	1,085	983
Continental European	1,173	1,287	1,408	1,705	2,181
Transatlantic	484	567	561	592	645
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	3,579	3,719	3,681	3,822	4,060
Other Europe	1,392	1,497	1,600	1,917	2,281
USA and Canada	849	904	977	953	1,055
Other Areas	245	249	317	285	314
Reason for Journey					
Business	906	854	926	967	1,100
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,242	3,334	3,413	3,428	3,775
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,603	1,736	1,807	2,125	2,323
Other	314	445	429	457	511
Cross Border Visits					
Rail					
Length of Stay - 1 Day or less	95	102	89	87	81 ¹
- Over 1 day	141	145	126	123	115 ¹
Scheduled Bus					
Length of Stay - 1 Day or less	119	115	113	107	100
- Over 1 day	176	162	160	152	142

¹ Provisional

Table 4 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents Distinguishing Same-Day Visits

		'000
Visits	2005	2006
Total Overseas Visits	6,977	7,709
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	367	424
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	6,610	7,285

Table 5 Overseas Same-Day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, 2006

	Reason for Journey				'000
Visits	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	Total
Total Same-day Visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	182	130	61	50	424
Great Britain	153	90	38	24	305
Other Europe	19	18	12	10	59
USA & Canada	8	18	8	16	49
Other Areas	2	4	3	1	11

Table 6 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents, with at least one overnight in Ireland - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, 2006

	Reason for Journey				'000
Visits	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	Total
Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	917	3,645	2,262	460	7,285
Great Britain	496	1,740	1,317	202	3,755
Other Europe	309	1,096	610	208	2,222
USA & Canada	79	652	237	38	1,005
Other Areas	34	158	98	13	303

Table 7 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	2005	2006
All Overseas Visits	7.6	7.6
Route of Travel		
Air Cross-Channel	5.5	5.1
Sea Cross-Channel	8.2	8.3
Continental European	10.5	11.1
Transatlantic	10.0	9.6
Area of Residence		
Great Britain	4.8	4.8
Other Europe	10.9	11.2
USA and Canada	9.5	9.0
Other Areas	13.4	12.4
Reason for Journey		
Business	5.5	4.2
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	7.1	7.0
Visit to Friends/Relatives	8.2	8.5
Other	12.2	15.8

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

		'000				
Bednights	2005	2006	2006			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Accommodation	49,451	55,615	8,746	14,622	21,459	10,785
Hotel	10,615	12,063	1,990	3,317	4,297	2,459
Guest house/B&B	6,409	6,771	629	2,149	2,853	1,140
Rented house/Apartment	9,739	10,654	1,563	3,237	4,043	1,810
Caravan/Camping	848	983	18	260	667	37
Hostel	1,555	1,835	285	502	705	343
Friends/Relatives	15,914	18,230	3,798	3,960	6,364	4,107
Other	4,371	5,079	463	1,197	2,530	889

Table 9 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	2005	2006	2006			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Great Britain	16,961	17,895	3,119	4,683	6,693	3,400
Hotel	4,075	4,535	987	1,125	1,367	1,055
Guest house/B&B	1,649	1,627	207	547	654	218
Rented house/Apartment	2,320	2,720	207	908	1,222	382
Caravan/Camping	276	320	8	81	201	31
Hostel	209	170	28	66	51	25
Friends/Relatives	7,413	7,651	1,582	1,742	2,804	1,524
Other	1,019	872	100	214	394	165
Other Europe	19,981	24,902	3,823	6,626	9,799	4,651
Hotel	3,086	3,626	559	1,009	1,322	736
Guest house/B&B	2,817	3,232	253	974	1,390	615
Rented house/Apartment	5,446	6,109	1,085	1,876	2,252	896
Caravan/Camping	515	603	5	172	419	6
Hostel	895	1,162	163	279	489	231
Friends/Relatives	4,718	6,670	1,462	1,483	1,967	1,757
Other	2,504	3,500	296	833	1,960	410
USA & Canada	8,765	9,052	1,241	2,426	3,557	1,826
Hotel	2,984	3,167	331	961	1,342	533
Guest house/B&B	1,494	1,496	144	525	596	231
Rented house/Apartment	1,308	1,209	191	285	401	331
Caravan/Camping	11	18	0	3	14	0
Hostel	281	350	75	99	123	53
Friends/Relatives	2,199	2,261	447	451	931	432
Other	488	551	53	102	150	246
Other Areas	3,746	3,768	563	889	1,410	908
Hotel	471	735	112	222	267	135
Guest house/B&B	449	417	25	103	213	76
Rented house/Apartment	665	617	80	168	168	201
Caravan/Camping	46	42	5	5	33	0
Hostel	170	153	19	59	41	34
Friends/Relatives	1,585	1,647	308	284	662	393
Other	360	157	14	48	26	69

Table 10 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, 2006

'000

Bednights	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Accommodation Used	3,877	25,329	19,157	7,253	55,615
Hotel	2,312	8,253	1,023	476	12,063
Guest house/B&B	281	4,625	1,002	863	6,771
Rented house/Apartment	636	5,071	2,346	2,601	10,654
Caravan/Camping	5	894	71	14	983
Hostel	81	1,263	237	253	1,835
Friends/Relatives	423	3,253	13,881	673	18,230
Other	139	1,970	597	2,373	5,079

Table 11 Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Estimated Expenditure (Including International Fares) Classified by Route of Travel and Total Net International Tourism and Travel Expenditure

€ million

Estimated Expenditure	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	1,464	1,393	1,419	1,610	1,638
Sea Cross-Channel	213	220	211	202	192
Continental European	2,237	2,452	2,480	2,846	3,402
Transatlantic	395	521	551	612	686
All Overseas Routes	4,310	4,586	4,661	5,270	5,918
Cross-Border ¹	120	127	128	131	131 ³
Total Expenditure (including international fares)	4,429	4,713	4,789	5,401	6,049³
Passenger fare payments by Irish Visitors abroad to Irish carriers	477	555	610	629	732
Total net international tourism and travel expenditure²	3,952	4,158	4,179	4,773	5,318³

¹ Estimates are for tourist expenditure only

² Total Expenditure (incl. international fares) less passenger fare payments by Irish Visitors abroad to Irish carriers

³ Provisional

Table 12 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents - Estimated Expenditure (Including International Fares) Classified by Reason for Journey

€ million

Estimated Expenditure	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total Expenditure (including international fares)	4,310	4,586	4,661	5,270	5,918
Reason for Journey					
Business	581	605	612	708	781
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	2,720	2,895	2,882	3,220	3,557
Visit to Friends/Relatives	754	796	862	945	1,132
Other	255	290	304	397	448

Table 13 Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Estimated Number of Overseas Visits (Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey) and of Cross-Border Visits on Rail and Scheduled Bus Services

'000

Visits	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total Overseas Visits	4,634	4,929	5,409	6,113	6,848
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	1,825	1,825	1,982	2,215	2,252
Sea Cross-Channel	413	408	384	336	341
Continental European	2,190	2,438	2,735	3,205	3,867
Transatlantic	206	259	309	357	387
Reason for Journey					
Business	559	597	671	738	813
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	2,706	2,876	3,081	3,518	3,864
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,099	1,170	1,296	1,416	1,648
Other	270	287	361	441	523
Cross Border Visits					
Rail					
Length of Stay - 1 Day or less	131	152	132	129	121 ¹
- Over 1 day	58	58	50	49	46 ¹
Scheduled Bus					
Length of Stay - 1 Day or less	163	170	168	159	149
- Over 1 day	72	65	64	60	56

¹ Provisional

Table 14 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents Distinguishing Same-Day Visits

		'000
Visits	2005	2006
Total Overseas Visits	6,113	6,848
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	195	191
Visits with at least one overnight abroad	5,918	6,657

Table 15 Overseas Same-Day Visits by Irish Residents - Classified by Reason for Journey and Route of Travel, 2006

					'000
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Total Same-day Visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	94	50	38	9	191
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	75	15	14	5	109
Sea Cross-Channel	6	20	9	2	37
Continental European	13	14	16	2	45
Transatlantic	-	-	0	0	0

**Table 16 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents - Estimated Average Length of Stay (Nights)
Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey**

	Nights				
Length of Stay	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
All Overseas Visits	9.6	9.3	8.5	8.4	8.0
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	9.6	8.9	8.4	8.3	7.5
Sea Cross-Channel	8.0	8.2	8.4	6.5	7.1
Continental European	9.3	9.0	8.0	8.3	8.0
Transatlantic	16.6	16.9	14.3	11.7	10.9
Reason for Journey					
Business	7.6	7.3	6.3	6.6	6.3
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	10.0	9.6	8.7	8.4	8.0
Visit to Friends/Relatives	9.2	8.8	8.8	9.1	9.0
Other	11.3	12.9	9.6	8.8	7.0

Table 17 Tourism and Travel Estimated Earnings and Expenditure

	€ million				
Estimated Earnings and Expenditure	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
International Tourism and Travel					
Earnings from visits to Ireland	3,989	4,057	4,065	4,272	4,693 ¹
Net International Tourism and Travel					
Expenditure by Irish Visitors abroad	3,952	4,158	4,179	4,773	5,318 ¹
Tourism and Travel Balance	+37	-101	-114	-501	-625¹

¹ Provisional

Background Notes

Introduction

This annual series gives details on the number of overseas visits to Ireland and Irish visits abroad for the year. It includes data on the reason for journey, average length of stay (nights) and expenditure.

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.

Passenger fare payments by non-residents to Irish carriers refer to total fare payments to Irish carriers, that is, including fares for non-Irish travel.

The *Country of Residence Survey* is a continuous sample survey of passengers (both inward and outward) at all major air and sea ports 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 the numbers 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 in the 2006 *Country of Residence Survey* was just over 665,500 passengers.

The *Passenger Card Inquiry* is a continuous sample survey of incoming and departing passengers at major air and sea ports. 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 the tables. The sample size in the 2006 *Passenger Card Inquiry* at air and sea ports was just over 383,000 passengers (213,000 inward and 170,000 outward).

The estimates for cross-border visits on rail and scheduled bus services are derived from the *Passenger Card Inquiry* on rail services and from passenger movement statistics. In this case the *Passenger Card Inquiry* results are used to estimate the country of residence distribution in addition to the reason for journey, average length of stay, expenditure and fare costs. The estimates of expenditure by cross-border visitors using private cars (or un-scheduled bus services) are based on very limited information and must be regarded as subject to error.