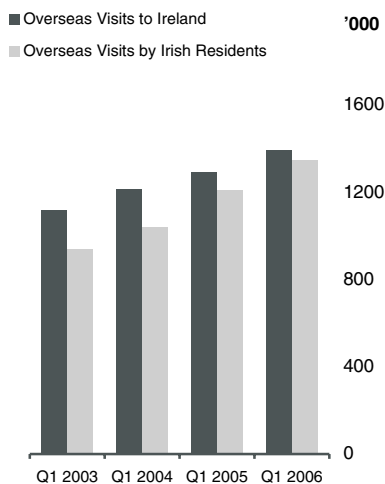




Tourism and Travel

Quarter 1 2006

Number of Visits



	Visits to Ireland '000	Irish Visits Abroad '000
Jan - Mar 2003	1,118	939
Jan - Mar 2004	1,212	1,039
Jan - Mar 2005	1,290	1,208
Jan - Mar 2006	1,390	1,346

Visits to Ireland up 8% in Q1 2006

There were 1,390,000 Overseas Visits to Ireland in the First Quarter of 2006 compared with 1,290,000 in the same period of 2005, an increase of 8%. The number of Overseas Visits by residents of Other European Countries grew by 16% while the number of Visits by residents of the USA and Canada fell by 3% on the same quarter in 2005. Visits by residents of Great Britain grew by 7% on the First Quarter of 2005. The number of Overseas Visits to Ireland by residents of Other Areas fell from 49,000 in Q1 2005 to 47,000 in Q1 2006. *See Table 1(a), Table 1(b) and Graph.*

The number of Irish Visits abroad between January and March 2006 was 1,346,000, an increase of 11% on the corresponding period in 2005. Trips abroad on Continental routes grew by 23% compared with Q1 2005 and trips on Air Cross-Channel routes increased by 6%. There was a decrease of 26% in the number travelling abroad on Sea Cross-Channel routes, compared with Q1 2005. *See Table 9(a), Table 9(b) and Graph.*

The expenditure figures for January - March 2006 show a net outflow of €276m. Earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for €733m while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to €1,008m. *See Table 15.*

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ Overseas visits to Ireland on Continental European routes in the First Quarter of 2006 increased by 18% on the corresponding Quarter of 2005. *See Table 1(b).*
- ◆ The number of Bednights spent in Rented Houses/Apartments by Overseas Visitors to Ireland decreased by 7% in the First Quarter of 2006 when compared to the same period in 2005. However, bednights spent in Guest house/B&Bs by inward visitors recorded a rise of 4% on Q1 2005. *See Table 6.*
- ◆ The Average Length of Stay of Overseas Visits to Ireland with at least one overnight grew from 6.4 nights in Q1 2005 to 6.7 nights in Q1 2006. This compares with a decrease in the Average Length of Stay of Overseas Visits by Irish residents, with at least one overnight from 7.6 nights to 7.2 nights. *See Tables 5 and 14.*

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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	2005	2005				2006
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Total Overseas Visits	6,977	1,290	1,803	2,308	1,574	1,390
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	3,595	767	876	1,055	897	839
Sea Cross-Channel	1,085	151	297	467	170	116
Continental European	1,705	287	462	561	395	338
Transatlantic	592	86	169	224	112	96
Area of Residence						
Great Britain	3,822	767	953	1,196	906	820
Other Europe	1,917	321	504	662	428	373
USA & Canada	953	154	272	350	178	150
Other Areas	285	49	74	100	62	47
Reason for Journey						
Business	967	237	248	229	252	247
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,428	533	971	1,313	611	570
Visit to Friends/Relatives	2,125	414	474	616	620	469
Other	457	106	111	149	91	103

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 1)

'000

Visits	Jan - Mar				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total Overseas Visits	1,121	1,118	1,212	1,290	1,390
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	668	673	743	767	839
Sea Cross-Channel	193	152	136	151	116
Continental European	184	203	229	287	338
Transatlantic	75	89	103	86	96
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	731	707	745	767	820
Other Europe	212	233	241	321	373
USA & Canada	134	141	173	154	150
Other Areas	45	37	53	49	47
Reason for Journey					
Business	226	199	246	237	247
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	485	500	514	533	570
Visit to Friends/Relatives	330	343	351	414	469
Other	80	76	101	106	103

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

'000

Visits	2005	2005				2006
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Total Overseas Visits	6,977	1,290	1,803	2,308	1,574	1,390
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	367	66	85	111	104	79
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	6,610	1,224	1,719	2,197	1,470	1,311

Table 3 Overseas Same-Day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, Jan - Mar 2006

'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)	43	17	11	8	79
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	36	10	6	4	57
Other Europe	4	4	2	0	11
USA & Canada	2	2	1	4	9
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, Jan - Mar 2006

'000					
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	204	553	458	95	1,311
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	112	336	268	46	763
Other Europe	66	122	134	40	362
USA & Canada	18	78	39	6	141
Other Areas	9	17	17	3	45

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					
	2005	2005				2006
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	7.6	6.4	7.1	8.6	7.5	6.7
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	5.5	5.1	5.1	6.0	5.6	5.2
Sea Cross-Channel	8.2	7.4	7.3	9.4	6.9	6.9
Continental European	10.5	8.9	9.5	11.9	11.0	9.6
Transatlantic	10.0	8.3	10.0	10.7	9.9	8.8
Area of Residence						
Great Britain	4.8	4.2	4.6	5.8	4.2	4.1
Other Europe	10.9	9.5	9.4	12.4	11.5	10.6
USA & Canada	9.5	8.1	9.3	9.9	10.3	8.8
Other Areas	13.4	14.9	13.5	11.8	14.7	12.5
Reason for Journey						
Business	5.5	5.1	4.8	6.4	5.9	5.1
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	7.1	5.6	6.8	8.3	6.1	4.9
Visit to Friends/Relatives	8.2	7.8	7.5	9.1	8.1	7.7
Other	12.2	7.8	12.7	12.4	16.6	15.3

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					
	2005	2005				2006
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Accommodation	49,451	7,875	12,173	18,973	10,430	8,746
Hotel	10,615	1,807	3,026	3,645	2,137	1,990
Guest house/B&B	6,409	602	1,882	3,009	916	629
Rented house/Apartment	9,739	1,688	2,440	3,398	2,213	1,563
Caravan/Camping	848	15	323	469	41	18
Hostel	1,555	248	363	647	297	285
Friends/Relatives	15,914	2,909	3,182	5,870	3,953	3,798
Other	4,371	606	957	1,935	873	463

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

Bednights	'000					
	2005	2005				2006
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Great Britain	16,961	2,998	4,119	6,401	3,443	3,119
Hotel	4,075	824	1,047	1,308	895	987
Guest house/B&B	1,649	188	502	715	244	207
Rented house/Apartment	2,320	357	692	954	318	207
Caravan/Camping	276	4	88	182	3	8
Hostel	209	43	67	66	33	28
Friends/Relatives	7,413	1,405	1,473	2,750	1,785	1,582
Other	1,019	177	250	426	165	100
Other Europe	19,981	2,950	4,666	8,079	4,285	3,823
Hotel	3,086	462	919	1,064	640	559
Guest house/B&B	2,817	232	733	1,463	390	253
Rented house/Apartment	5,446	947	1,214	2,027	1,258	1,085
Caravan/Camping	515	11	224	247	33	5
Hostel	895	132	171	405	187	163
Friends/Relatives	4,718	822	930	1,640	1,326	1,462
Other	2,504	344	475	1,233	451	296
USA & Canada	8,765	1,219	2,434	3,314	1,798	1,241
Hotel	2,984	417	930	1,129	508	331
Guest house/B&B	1,494	131	521	651	191	144
Rented house/Apartment	1,308	199	398	315	396	191
Caravan/Camping	11	1	2	7	1	0
Hostel	281	50	83	94	54	75
Friends/Relatives	2,199	373	419	939	468	447
Other	488	48	81	179	180	53
Other Areas	3,746	709	954	1,177	904	563
Hotel	471	104	130	143	94	112
Guest house/B&B	449	50	127	180	92	25
Rented house/Apartment	665	186	136	102	241	80
Caravan/Camping	46	0	9	33	4	5
Hostel	170	23	42	82	22	19
Friends/Relatives	1,585	310	359	540	375	308
Other	360	36	151	97	76	14

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 2006

'000					
Bednights	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Accommodation Used	1,037	2,716	3,533	1,461	8,746
Hotel	582	1,104	164	140	1,990
Guest house/B&B	56	339	123	110	629
Rented house/Apartment	217	336	214	797	1,563
Caravan/Camping	0	14	4	0	18
Hostel	49	163	40	33	285
Friends/Relatives	107	594	2,893	205	3,798
Other	26	166	95	176	463

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

	'000					
Visits	2005	2005				2006
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Total Overseas Visits	6,113	1,208	1,626	1,963	1,316	1,346
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	2,215	526	588	566	535	559
Sea Cross-Channel	336	73	85	118	59	54
Continental European	3,205	534	874	1,183	614	656
Transatlantic	357	75	79	95	108	77
Reason for Journey						
Business	738	168	191	182	197	201
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,518	618	965	1,252	684	679
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,416	316	345	392	363	335
Other	441	106	125	137	72	131

Table 9 (b) Overseas Visits by Irish Residents - Estimated Number of Visits Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey (Quarter 1)

	'000				
Visits	Jan - Mar				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total Overseas Visits	891	939	1,039	1,208	1,346
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	432	428	485	526	559
Sea Cross-Channel	71	72	65	73	54
Continental European	340	391	432	534	656
Transatlantic	48	47	57	75	77
Reason for Journey					
Business	139	140	160	168	201
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	455	500	523	618	679
Visit to Friends/Relatives	238	250	280	316	335
Other	59	49	76	106	131

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

	'000					
Visits	2005	2005				2006
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Total Overseas Visits	6,113	1,208	1,626	1,963	1,316	1,346
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	195	45	39	66	45	46
Visits with at least one overnight abroad	5,918	1,163	1,587	1,897	1,271	1,301

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

	'000					
Visits	2005	2005				2006
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Total Overseas Visits	195	45	39	66	45	46
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	113	30	23	35	25	32
Sea Cross-Channel	50	10	10	17	13	5
Continental European	30	4	5	14	7	9
Transatlantic	2	2	0	-	-	0
Reason for Journey						
Business	81	16	20	28	18	28
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	64	18	9	23	13	7
Visit to Friends/Relatives	39	7	9	13	10	8
Other	11	4	1	2	4	3

Table 12 Overseas Same-Day Visits by Irish Residents - Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Jan - Mar 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)	28	7	8	3	46
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	22	4	3	3	32
Sea Cross-Channel	2	-	2	0	5
Continental European	4	3	2	0	9
Transatlantic	-	-	-	0	0

Table 13 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents with at least one overnight abroad - Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Jan - Mar 2006

'000					
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Total Visits with at least one overnight abroad	174	671	330	126	1,301
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	92	185	202	49	528
Sea Cross-Channel	5	10	19	17	49
Continental European	67	429	91	59	646
Transatlantic	10	48	18	1	77

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	2005	2005				2006	
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec		
All Overseas Visits	8.4	7.6	7.0	10.5	7.7	7.2	
Route of Travel							
Air Cross-Channel	8.3	7.5	6.3	11.1	8.3	7.0	
Sea Cross-Channel	6.5	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.7	
Continental European	8.3	7.4	7.2	10.0	7.1	7.1	
Transatlantic	11.7	10.0	11.2	16.7	9.0	10.1	
Reason for Journey							
Business	6.6	5.3	6.2	8.0	6.7	5.3	
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	8.4	7.0	7.0	10.9	7.2	7.1	
Visit to Friends/Relatives	9.1	9.1	7.7	10.7	8.7	8.7	
Other	8.8	9.7	7.1	8.8	10.7	6.5	

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
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	4,065	4,179	-114
2005 Year	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	850	842	+8
2005 January – March	712	876	-164
April – June	1,124	1,152	-28
July – September	1,506	1,710	-204
October – December	929	1,035	-106
2006 January – March ⁴	733	1,008	-276

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 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 1 2006 was just over 129,000 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 1 2006 was just under 91,000 passengers.