



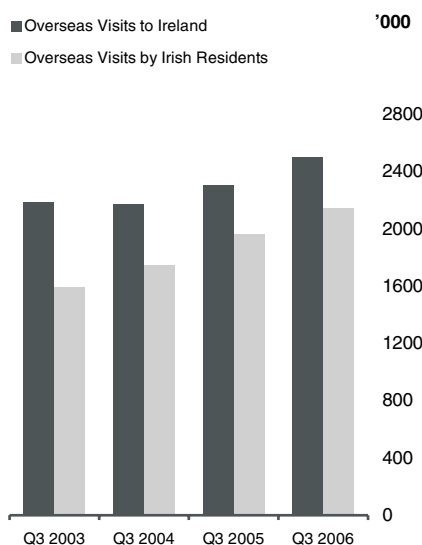
Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

21 December 2006

Tourism and Travel

Quarter 3 2006

Number of Visits



Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

Ardee Road
Dublin 6
Ireland

Skehard Road
Cork
Ireland

LoCall: 1890 313 414 (ROI)
0870 8760256 (UK/NI)

Tel: +353-1 498 4000
Fax: +353-1 498 4229

Tel: +353-21 453 5000
Fax: +353-21 453 5555

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: www.cso.ie
and go to
Business Sectors: Tourism and Travel

Director General: Donal Garvey

Enquiries:

Tourism Statistics
Queries and Sales

Tourism and Travel Section, ext 5207
Information Section, ext 5021
information@cso.ie

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Ref 236/2006

ISSN 1393-5631

	Visits to Ireland '000	Irish Visits Abroad '000
Jul - Sep 2003	2,187	1,593
Jul - Sep 2004	2,173	1,749
Jul - Sep 2005	2,308	1,963
Jul - Sep 2006	2,506	2,146

Visits to Ireland up 9% in Q3 2006

There were 2,506,000 Overseas Visits to Ireland in the Third Quarter of 2006 compared with 2,308,000 in the same period of 2005, an increase of 9%. Visits by residents of Great Britain grew by 4% while the number of Overseas Visits by residents of Other European Countries grew by 14%. Overseas Visits by residents of the USA and Canada grew by 14% and those made by residents of Other Areas rose from 100,000 in Q3 2005 to 113,000 in Q3 2006. *See Table 1(a), Table 1(b) and Graph.*

The number of Irish Visits abroad between July and September 2006 was 2,146,000, an increase of 9% on the corresponding period in 2005. Trips abroad on Continental routes grew by 15%, however trips on Air Cross-Channel routes decreased by 3%. There was an increase of 9% in the number travelling abroad on Sea Cross-Channel routes compared with Q3 2005. *See Table 9(a), Table 9(b) and Graph.*

The expenditure figures for July - September 2006 show a net outflow of €68m. Earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for €1,746m while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to €1,814m. *See Table 15.*

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ Overseas visits to Ireland on Continental European routes in the Third Quarter of 2006 increased by 30% on the corresponding Quarter of 2005. *See Table 1(b).*
- ◆ The number of Bednights spent Visiting Friends/Relatives by Overseas Visitors to Ireland increased by 9% in the Third Quarter of 2006 when compared to the same period in 2005. *See Table 6.*
- ◆ The Average Length of Stay of Overseas Visits to Ireland with at least one overnight grew from 8.6 nights in Q3 2005 to 9.0 nights in Q3 2006. This compares with a decrease in the Average Length of Stay of Overseas Visits by Irish residents, with at least one overnight from 10.5 nights to 10.2 nights. *See Tables 5 and 14.*

For more information, contact Niall O'Hanlon at 021 453 5207.

**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	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Total Overseas Visits	6,977	1,290	1,803	2,308	1,574	1,390	2,112	2,506
Route of Travel								
Air Cross-Channel	3,595	767	876	1,055	897	839	1,029	1,120
Sea Cross-Channel	1,085	151	297	467	170	116	289	418
Continental European	1,705	287	462	561	395	338	607	730
Transatlantic	592	86	169	224	112	96	188	238
Area of Residence								
Great Britain	3,822	767	953	1,196	906	820	1,082	1,240
Other Europe	1,917	321	504	662	428	373	637	755
USA & Canada	953	154	272	350	178	150	312	398
Other Areas	285	49	74	100	62	47	82	113
Reason for Journey								
Business	967	237	248	229	252	247	251	276
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,428	533	971	1,313	611	570	1,145	1,390
Visit to Friends/Relatives	2,125	414	474	616	620	469	566	655
Other	457	106	111	149	91	103	151	186

	'000				
	Jul - Sep				
Visits	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total Overseas Visits	2,045	2,187	2,173	2,308	2,506
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	898	957	967	1,055	1,120
Sea Cross-Channel	544	539	512	467	418
Continental European	429	488	502	561	730
Transatlantic	174	202	192	224	238
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	1,131	1,194	1,151	1,196	1,240
Other Europe	526	575	584	662	755
USA & Canada	301	324	333	350	398
Other Areas	86	95	105	100	113
Reason for Journey					
Business	210	214	225	229	276
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	1,254	1,266	1,310	1,313	1,390
Visit to Friends/Relatives	476	529	506	616	655
Other	106	178	132	149	186

									'000
Visits	2005	2005				2006			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	
Total Overseas Visits	6,977	1,290	1,803	2,308	1,574	1,390	2,112	2,506	
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	367	66	85	111	104	79	108	131	
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	6,610	1,224	1,719	2,197	1,470	1,311	2,004	2,375	

Table 3 Overseas Same-Day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, Jul - Sep 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)	46	49	18	18	131	
Area of Residence						
Great Britain	38	35	10	10	92	
Other Europe	5	9	4	1	18	
USA & Canada	3	5	2	7	18	
Other Areas	1	0	2	1	3	

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, Jul - Sep 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	229	1,341	637	168	2,375	
Area of Residence						
Great Britain	130	574	396	48	1,148	
Other Europe	71	443	124	99	737	
USA & Canada	21	257	84	17	380	
Other Areas	7	67	32	4	110	

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	2005	2005				2006		
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	7.6	6.4	7.1	8.6	7.5	6.7	7.3	9.0
Route of Travel								
Air Cross-Channel	5.5	5.1	5.1	6.0	5.6	5.2	4.9	5.6
Sea Cross-Channel	8.2	7.4	7.3	9.4	6.9	6.9	7.7	9.3
Continental European	10.5	8.9	9.5	11.9	11.0	9.6	10.6	13.3
Transatlantic	10.0	8.3	10.0	10.7	9.9	8.8	8.8	10.9
Area of Residence								
Great Britain	4.8	4.2	4.6	5.8	4.2	4.1	4.6	5.8
Other Europe	10.9	9.5	9.4	12.4	11.5	10.6	10.7	13.3
USA & Canada	9.5	8.1	9.3	9.9	10.3	8.8	8.2	9.4
Other Areas	13.4	14.9	13.5	11.8	14.7	12.5	11.0	12.8
Reason for Journey								
Business	5.5	5.1	4.8	6.4	5.9	5.1	3.9	3.8
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	7.1	5.6	6.8	8.3	6.1	4.9	6.8	8.3
Visit to Friends/Relatives	8.2	7.8	7.5	9.1	8.1	7.7	8.2	10.5
Other	12.2	7.8	12.7	12.4	16.6	15.3	13.1	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	2005	2005				2006		
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Accommodation	49,451	7,875	12,173	18,973	10,430	8,746	14,622	21,930
Hotel	10,615	1,807	3,026	3,645	2,137	1,990	3,317	4,327
Guest house/B&B	6,409	602	1,882	3,009	916	629	2,149	2,853
Rented house/Apartment	9,739	1,688	2,440	3,398	2,213	1,563	3,237	4,383
Caravan/Camping	848	15	323	469	41	18	260	667
Hostel	1,555	248	363	647	297	285	502	705
Friends/Relatives	15,914	2,909	3,182	5,870	3,953	3,798	3,960	6,372
Other	4,371	606	957	1,935	873	463	1,197	2,623

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	2004	2005				2006		
	2004	2005				2006		
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Great Britain	16,961	2,998	4,119	6,401	3,443	3,119	4,683	6,716
Hotel	4,075	824	1,047	1,308	895	987	1,125	1,376
Guest house/B&B	1,649	188	502	715	244	207	547	654
Rented house/Apartment	2,320	357	692	954	318	207	908	1,222
Caravan/Camping	276	4	88	182	3	8	81	201
Hostel	209	43	67	66	33	28	66	51
Friends/Relatives	7,413	1,405	1,473	2,750	1,785	1,582	1,742	2,804
Other	1,019	177	250	426	165	100	214	408
Other Europe	19,981	2,950	4,666	8,079	4,285	3,823	6,626	10,155
Hotel	3,086	462	919	1,064	640	559	1,009	1,322
Guest house/B&B	2,817	232	733	1,463	390	253	974	1,390
Rented house/Apartment	5,446	947	1,214	2,027	1,258	1,085	1,876	2,585
Caravan/Camping	515	11	224	247	33	5	172	419
Hostel	895	132	171	405	187	163	279	489
Friends/Relatives	4,718	822	930	1,640	1,326	1,462	1,483	1,967
Other	2,504	344	475	1,233	451	296	833	1,983
USA & Canada	8,765	1,219	2,434	3,314	1,798	1,241	2,426	3,565
Hotel	2,984	417	930	1,129	508	331	961	1,342
Guest house/B&B	1,494	131	521	651	191	144	525	596
Rented house/Apartment	1,308	199	398	315	396	191	285	408
Caravan/Camping	11	1	2	7	1	0	3	14
Hostel	281	50	83	94	54	75	99	124
Friends/Relatives	2,199	373	419	939	468	447	451	931
Other	488	48	81	179	180	53	102	150
Other Areas	3,746	709	954	1,177	904	563	889	1,493
Hotel	471	104	130	143	94	112	222	287
Guest house/B&B	449	50	127	180	92	25	103	212
Rented house/Apartment	665	186	136	102	241	80	168	168
Caravan/Camping	46	0	9	33	4	5	5	33
Hostel	170	23	42	82	22	19	59	41
Friends/Relatives	1,585	310	359	540	375	308	284	670
Other	360	36	151	97	76	14	48	82

**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, Jul - Sep 2006**

					'000
Bednights	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Accommodation Used	877	11,433	6,697	2,924	21,930
Hotel	581	3,302	348	95	4,327
Guest house/B&B	83	2,103	411	256	2,853
Rented house/Apartment	83	2,549	926	825	4,383
Caravan/Camping	3	626	38	1	667
Hostel	20	465	116	105	705
Friends/Relatives	67	1,545	4,593	167	6,372
Other	40	843	265	1,475	2,623

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

									'000
		2005				2006			
Visits									
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	
Total Overseas Visits	6,113	1,208	1,626	1,963	1,316	1,346	1,826	2,146	
Route of Travel									
Air Cross-Channel	2,215	526	588	566	535	559	581	550	
Sea Cross-Channel	336	73	85	118	59	54	90	129	
Continental European	3,205	534	874	1,183	614	656	1,067	1,363	
Transatlantic	357	75	79	95	108	77	88	104	
Reason for Journey									
Business	738	168	191	182	197	201	193	201	
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,518	618	965	1,252	684	679	1,067	1,325	
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,416	316	345	392	363	335	397	485	
Other	441	106	125	137	72	131	169	135	

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	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Total Overseas Visits	6,113	1,208	1,626	1,963	1,316	1,346	1,826	2,146
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	195	45	39	66	45	46	52	51
Visits with at least one overnight abroad	5,918	1,163	1,587	1,897	1,271	1,301	1,774	2,095

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	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Total Overseas Visits	195	45	39	66	45	46	52	51
Route of Travel								
Air Cross-Channel	113	30	23	35	25	32	32	20
Sea Cross-Channel	50	10	10	17	13	5	13	13
Continental European	30	4	5	14	7	9	6	18
Transatlantic	2	2	0	-	-	0	-	-
Reason for Journey								
Business	81	16	20	28	18	28	26	19
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	64	18	9	23	13	7	14	17
Visit to Friends/Relatives	39	7	9	13	10	8	10	13
Other	11	4	1	2	4	3	2	3

Table 12 Overseas Same-Day Visits by Irish Residents - Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Jul - Sep 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)	19	17	13	3	51
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	12	3	4	1	20
Sea Cross-Channel	2	9	2	0	13
Continental European	5	4	7	1	18
Transatlantic	-	-	-	-	-

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

					'000
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Total Visits with at least one overnight abroad	183	1,302	478	132	2,095
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	77	198	212	43	530
Sea Cross-Channel	7	63	40	6	116
Continental European	87	990	188	80	1,346
Transatlantic	12	52	37	3	104

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	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
All Overseas Visits	8.4	7.6	7.0	10.5	7.7	7.2	6.9	10.2
Route of Travel								
Air Cross-Channel	8.3	7.5	6.3	11.1	8.3	7.0	6.5	9.7
Sea Cross-Channel	6.5	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.7	5.9	8.4
Continental European	8.3	7.4	7.2	10.0	7.1	7.1	6.9	10.0
Transatlantic	11.7	10.0	11.2	16.7	9.0	10.1	9.4	16.7
Reason for Journey								
Business	6.6	5.3	6.2	8.0	6.7	5.3	6.0	8.1
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	8.4	7.0	7.0	10.9	7.2	7.1	6.9	10.2
Visit to Friends/Relatives	9.1	9.1	7.7	10.7	8.7	8.7	7.7	11.7
Other	8.8	9.7	7.1	8.8	10.7	6.5	5.8	6.9

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	733	1,008	-276
April – June ⁴	1,231	1,312	-81
July – September ⁵	1,746	1,814	-68

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 3 2006 was just under 213,000 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 3 2006 was just under 108,000 passengers.