



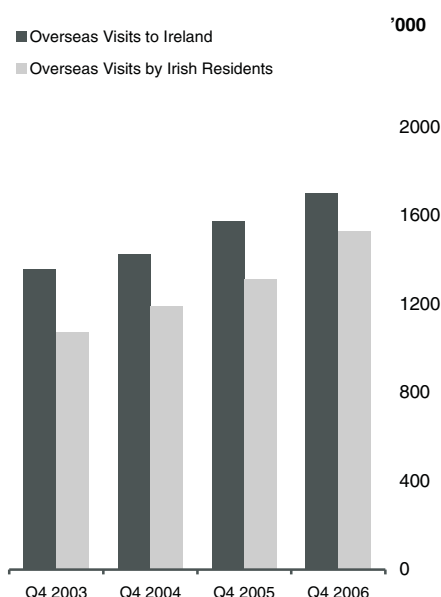
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Tourism and Travel

Quarter 4 2006

Number of Visits



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	Visits to Ireland '000	Irish Visits Abroad '000
Oct - Dec 2003	1,360	1,074
Oct - Dec 2004	1,428	1,190
Oct - Dec 2005	1,574	1,316
Oct - Dec 2006	1,701	1,530

Visits to Ireland up 8% in Q4 2006

There were 1,701,000 Overseas Visits to Ireland in the Fourth Quarter of 2006 compared with 1,574,000 in the same period of 2005, an increase of 8%. The number of Overseas Visits by residents of Other European Countries grew by 21% while the number of Visits by residents of the USA and Canada grew by 10%. Overseas Visits by residents of Great Britain grew by 1% and those made by residents of Other Areas rose from 62,000 in Q4 2005 to 71,000 in Q4 2006. *See Tables 1(a), 1(b) and Graph.*

The number of Irish Visits abroad between October and December 2006 was 1,530,000 an increase of 16% on the corresponding period in 2005. Trips abroad on Continental European routes grew by 27% and trips on Air Cross-Channel routes increased by 5%. There was an increase of 15% in the number travelling abroad on Sea Cross-Channel routes compared with Q4 2005. *See Tables 9(a), 9(b) and Graph.*

The expenditure figures for October - December 2006 show a net outflow of €198m. Earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for €983m while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to €1,180m. *See Table 15.*

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ There were 106,000 same-day visits to Ireland in the Fourth Quarter of 2006, of which 82,000 were made by residents of Great Britain. In the same period, there were 42,000 Overseas same-day visits by Irish Residents. *See Tables 3 and 11.*
- ◆ The large increase in the number of Business trips to Ireland in Q4 2006 of 29% was offset by a decrease in the Average Length of Stay from 5.9 to 4.2 nights. *See Tables 1(a) and 5.*
- ◆ The Average Length of Stay of Overseas Visits to Ireland with at least one overnight fell from 7.5 nights in Q4 2005 to 6.8 nights in Q4 2006. The Average Length of Stay of Overseas Visits by Irish residents with at least one overnight also showed a decrease from 7.7 nights to 6.9 nights. *See Tables 5 and 14.*

For more information, contact Niall O'Hanlon at 021 453 5207 or Colm Noonan at 021 453 5463.

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	2006	2005				2006			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Overseas Visits	6,977	7,709	1,290	1,803	2,308	1,574	1,390	2,112	2,506	1,701
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	3,595	3,900	767	876	1,055	897	839	1,029	1,120	912
Sea Cross-Channel	1,085	983	151	297	467	170	116	289	418	160
Continental European	1,705	2,181	287	462	561	395	338	607	730	506
Transatlantic	592	645	86	169	224	112	96	188	238	123
Area of Residence										
Great Britain	3,822	4,060	767	953	1,196	906	820	1,082	1,240	919
Other Europe	1,917	2,281	321	504	662	428	373	637	755	516
USA & Canada	953	1,055	154	272	350	178	150	312	398	196
Other Areas	285	314	49	74	100	62	47	82	113	71
Reason for Journey										
Business	967	1,100	237	248	229	252	247	251	276	326
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,428	3,775	533	971	1,313	611	570	1,145	1,390	671
Visit to Friends/Relatives	2,125	2,323	414	474	616	620	469	566	655	633
Other	457	511	106	111	149	91	103	151	186	71

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	2006
Total Overseas Visits	1,286	1,360	1,428	1,574	1,701
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	744	797	841	897	912
Sea Cross-Channel	209	208	186	170	160
Continental European	227	240	285	395	506
Transatlantic	106	115	116	112	123
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	801	841	839	906	919
Other Europe	259	274	322	428	516
USA & Canada	174	185	196	178	196
Other Areas	52	60	70	62	71
Reason for Journey					
Business	220	238	252	252	326
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	599	613	595	611	671
Visit to Friends/Relatives	413	449	507	620	633
Other	54	60	74	91	71

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

'000

Visits	2005	2006	2005				2006			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Overseas Visits	6,977	7,709	1,290	1,803	2,308	1,574	1,390	2,112	2,506	1,701
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	367	424	66	85	111	104	79	108	131	106
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	6,610	7,285	1,224	1,719	2,197	1,470	1,311	2,004	2,375	1,594

Table 3 Overseas Same-Day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, Oct - Dec 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)	50	30	16	10	106	
Area of Residence						
Great Britain	43	22	11	6	82	
Other Europe	5	2	3	2	13	
USA & Canada	1	4	2	1	8	
Other Areas	1	2	1	0	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, Oct - Dec 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	276	640	617	61	1,594	
Area of Residence						
Great Britain	148	327	327	34	837	
Other Europe	98	181	206	19	503	
USA & Canada	22	101	58	6	187	
Other Areas	8	31	26	3	67	

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	2006	2005				2006			
			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	7.6	7.6	6.4	7.1	8.6	7.5	6.7	7.3	9.0	6.8
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	5.5	5.1	5.1	5.1	6.0	5.6	5.2	4.9	5.6	4.6
Sea Cross-Channel	8.2	8.3	7.4	7.3	9.4	6.9	6.9	7.7	9.3	7.7
Continental European	10.5	11.1	8.9	9.5	11.9	11.0	9.6	10.6	13.3	9.7
Transatlantic	10.0	9.6	8.3	10.0	10.7	9.9	8.8	8.8	10.9	9.0
Area of Residence										
Great Britain	4.8	4.8	4.2	4.6	5.8	4.2	4.1	4.6	5.8	4.1
Other Europe	10.9	11.2	9.5	9.4	12.4	11.5	10.6	10.7	13.3	9.3
USA & Canada	9.5	9.0	8.1	9.3	9.9	10.3	8.8	8.2	9.4	9.8
Other Areas	13.4	12.4	14.9	13.5	11.8	14.7	12.5	11.0	12.8	13.5
Reason for Journey										
Business	5.5	4.2	5.1	4.8	6.4	5.9	5.1	3.9	3.8	4.2
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	7.1	7.0	5.6	6.8	8.3	6.1	4.9	6.8	8.3	6.2
Visit to Friends/Relatives	8.2	8.5	7.8	7.5	9.1	8.1	7.7	8.2	10.5	7.2
Other	12.2	15.8	7.8	12.7	12.4	16.6	15.3	13.1	16.6	20.1

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	2006	2005				2006			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Accommodation	49,451	55,615	7,875	12,173	18,973	10,430	8,746	14,622	21,459	10,785
Hotel	10,615	12,063	1,807	3,026	3,645	2,137	1,990	3,317	4,297 ¹	2,459
Guest house/B&B	6,409	6,771	602	1,882	3,009	916	629	2,149	2,853	1,140
Rented house/Apartment	9,739	10,654	1,688	2,440	3,398	2,213	1,563	3,237	4,043 ¹	1,810
Caravan/Camping	848	983	15	323	469	41	18	260	667	37
Hostel	1,555	1,835	248	363	647	297	285	502	705	343
Friends/Relatives	15,914	18,230	2,909	3,182	5,870	3,953	3,798	3,960	6,364 ¹	4,107
Other	4,371	5,079	606	957	1,935	873	463	1,197	2,530 ¹	889

¹ Revised

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	2005	2006	2005				2006			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Great Britain	16,961	17,895	2,998	4,119	6,401	3,443	3,119	4,683	6,693	3,400
Hotel	4,075	4,535	824	1,047	1,308	895	987	1,125	1,367 ¹	1,055
Guest house/B&B	1,649	1,627	188	502	715	244	207	547	654	218
Rented house/Apartment	2,320	2,720	357	692	954	318	207	908	1,222	382
Caravan/Camping	276	320	4	88	182	3	8	81	201	31
Hostel	209	170	43	67	66	33	28	66	51	25
Friends/Relatives	7,413	7,651	1,405	1,473	2,750	1,785	1,582	1,742	2,804	1,524
Other	1,019	872	177	250	426	165	100	214	394 ¹	165
Other Europe	19,981	24,902	2,950	4,666	8,079	4,285	3,823	6,626	9,799	4,651
Hotel	3,086	3,626	462	919	1,064	640	559	1,009	1,322	736
Guest house/B&B	2,817	3,232	232	733	1,463	390	253	974	1,390	615
Rented house/Apartment	5,446	6,109	947	1,214	2,027	1,258	1,085	1,876	2,252 ¹	896
Caravan/Camping	515	603	11	224	247	33	5	172	419	6
Hostel	895	1,162	132	171	405	187	163	279	489	231
Friends/Relatives	4,718	6,670	822	930	1,640	1,326	1,462	1,483	1,967	1,757
Other	2,504	3,500	344	475	1,233	451	296	833	1,960 ¹	410
USA & Canada	8,765	9,052	1,219	2,434	3,314	1,798	1,241	2,426	3,557	1,826
Hotel	2,984	3,167	417	930	1,129	508	331	961	1,342	533
Guest house/B&B	1,494	1,496	131	521	651	191	144	525	596	231
Rented house/Apartment	1,308	1,209	199	398	315	396	191	285	401 ¹	331
Caravan/Camping	11	18	1	2	7	1	0	3	14	0
Hostel	281	350	50	83	94	54	75	99	123 ¹	53
Friends/Relatives	2,199	2,261	373	419	939	468	447	451	931	432
Other	488	551	48	81	179	180	53	102	150	246
Other Areas	3,746	3,768	709	954	1,177	904	563	889	1,410	908
Hotel	471	735	104	130	143	94	112	222	267 ¹	135
Guest house/B&B	449	417	50	127	180	92	25	103	213 ¹	76
Rented house/Apartment	665	617	186	136	102	241	80	168	168	201
Caravan/Camping	46	42	0	9	33	4	5	5	33	0
Hostel	170	153	23	42	82	22	19	59	41	34
Friends/Relatives	1,585	1,647	310	359	540	375	308	284	662 ¹	393
Other	360	157	36	151	97	76	14	48	26 ¹	69

¹ Revised

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 2006

					'000
Bednights	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Accommodation Used	1,172	3,948	4,439	1,227	10,785
Hotel	678	1,432	270	80	2,459
Guest house/B&B	87	504	196	353	1,140
Rented house/Apartment	237	828	453	292	1,810
Caravan/Camping	1	22	4	11	37
Hostel	5	260	58	19	343
Friends/Relatives	111	483	3,336	177	4,107
Other	53	419	122	295	889

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

											'000
Visits	2005	2006	2005				2006				
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	
Total Overseas Visits	6,113	6,848	1,208	1,626	1,963	1,316	1,346	1,826	2,146	1,530	
Route of Travel											
Air Cross-Channel	2,215	2,252	526	588	566	535	559	581	550	562	
Sea Cross-Channel	336	341	73	85	118	59	54	90	129	68	
Continental European	3,205	3,867	534	874	1,183	614	656	1,067	1,363	781	
Transatlantic	357	387	75	79	95	108	77	88	104	119	
Reason for Journey											
Business	738	813	168	191	182	197	201	193	201	219	
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,518	3,864	618	965	1,252	684	679	1,067	1,325	793	
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,416	1,648	316	345	392	363	335	397	485	431	
Other	441	523	106	125	137	72	131	169	135	87	

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	2006	
Total Overseas Visits	1,554	1,074	1,190	1,316	1,530	
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	492	494	498	535	562	
Sea Cross-Channel	153	72	78	59	68	
Continental European	848	438	524	614	781	
Transatlantic	61	70	90	108	119	
Reason for Journey						
Business	126	155	166	197	219	
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	1,053	526	616	684	793	
Visit to Friends/Relatives	302	332	324	363	431	
Other	73	61	85	72	87	

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

'000

Visits	2005	2006	2005				2006			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Overseas Visits	6,113	6,848	1,208	1,626	1,963	1,316	1,346	1,826	2,146	1,530
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	195	191	45	39	66	45	46	52	51	42
Visits with at least one overnight abroad	5,918	6,657	1,163	1,587	1,897	1,271	1,301	1,774	2,095	1,488

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

'000

Visits	2005	2006	2005				2006			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Total Overseas Visits	195	191	45	39	66	45	46	52	51	42
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	113	109	30	23	35	25	32	32	20	25
Sea Cross-Channel	50	37	10	10	17	13	5	13	13	6
Continental European	30	45	4	5	14	7	9	6	18	11
Transatlantic	2	0	2	0	-	-	0	-	-	0
Reason for Journey										
Business	81	94	16	20	28	18	28	26	19	21
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	64	50	18	9	23	13	7	14	17	12
Visit to Friends/Relatives	39	38	7	9	13	10	8	10	13	8
Other	11	9	4	1	2	4	3	2	3	1

Table 12 Overseas Same-Day Visits by Irish Residents - Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Oct - Dec 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)	21	12	8	1	42	
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	19	3	2	1	25	
Sea Cross-Channel	1	3	2	-	6	
Continental European	2	5	4	0	11	
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, Oct - Dec 2006

						'000
Visits	Reason for Journey				Total	
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other		
Total Visits with at least one overnight abroad	199	779	423	86	1,488	
Route of Travel						
Air Cross-Channel	93	197	214	34	537	
Sea Cross-Channel	6	15	37	5	62	
Continental European	91	486	146	47	770	
Transatlantic	10	82	27	1	119	

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	2006	2005				2006			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
All Overseas Visits	8.4	8.0	7.6	7.0	10.5	7.7	7.2	6.9	10.2	6.9
Route of Travel										
Air Cross-Channel	8.3	7.5	7.5	6.3	11.1	8.3	7.0	6.5	9.7	7.0
Sea Cross-Channel	6.5	7.1	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.7	5.9	8.4	6.2
Continental European	8.3	8.0	7.4	7.2	10.0	7.1	7.1	6.9	10.0	6.7
Transatlantic	11.7	10.9	10.0	11.2	16.7	9.0	10.1	9.4	16.7	7.5
Reason for Journey										
Business	6.6	6.3	5.3	6.2	8.0	6.7	5.3	6.0	8.1	5.7
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	8.4	8.0	7.0	7.0	10.9	7.2	7.1	6.9	10.2	6.6
Visit to Friends/Relatives	9.1	9.0	9.1	7.7	10.7	8.7	8.7	7.7	11.7	7.3
Other	8.8	7.0	9.7	7.1	8.8	10.7	6.5	5.8	6.9	10.0

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
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
2006 Year ⁵	4,693	5,318	-625
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	1,231	1,312	-81
July – September ⁴	1,746	1,818	-71
October – December ⁵	983	1,180	-198

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 2006 was just under 133,300 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 2006 was just over 68,500 passengers..