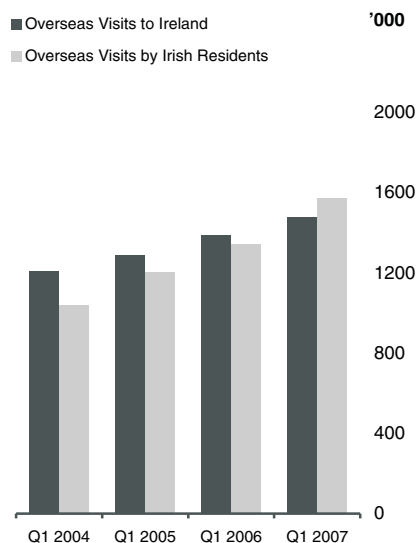




## Tourism and Travel

### Quarter 1 2007

#### Number of Visits



	Visits to Ireland '000	Irish Visits Abroad '000
<b>Jan - Mar 2004</b>	1,212	1,039
<b>Jan - Mar 2005</b>	1,290	1,208
<b>Jan - Mar 2006</b>	1,390	1,346
<b>Jan - Mar 2007</b>	1,478	1,575

#### Irish Visits Abroad exceed Visits to Ireland in Q1 2007

There were 1,575,000 Irish Visits Overseas in the first quarter of 2007 compared with 1,478,000 Overseas Visits to Ireland. This is the first time since this quarterly series began in 1990 that Overseas Visits by Irish Residents exceeds the number of Overseas Visits to Ireland. *See Tables 1(a), 9(a) and Graph.*

The number of Irish Visits abroad between January and March 2007 was 1,575,000 an increase of 17% on the corresponding period in 2006. Overseas trips on Continental European routes grew by 28% compared with Q1 2006 and trips on Air Cross-Channel routes increased by 7%. There was a decrease of 2% in the number of overseas trips on Sea Cross-Channel routes, compared with Q1 2006. *See Tables 9(a), 9(b) and Graph.*

There were 1,478,000 Overseas Visits to Ireland in the First Quarter of 2007 compared with 1,390,000 in the same period of 2006, an increase of 6%. The number of Overseas Visits by residents of Other European Countries grew by 33% while the number of Visits by residents of Great Britain fell by 6% on the same quarter in 2006. Visits by residents of the USA & Canada grew by 4% on the First Quarter of 2006. The number of Overseas Visits to Ireland by residents of Other Areas increased from 47,000 in Q1 2006 to 54,000 in Q1 2007. *See Tables 1(a), 1(b) and Graph.*

The expenditure figures for January - March 2007 show a net outflow of €324m. Earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for €819m while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to €1,143m. *See Table 15.*

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ In Q1 2007 Holiday/Leisure/Recreation was the primary Reason for Journey accounting for 48% of Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents and 57% of Overseas Visits by Irish Residents. *See Tables 1(b) and 9(b).*
- ◆ The Average Length of Stay of Overseas Visits to Ireland with at least one overnight in Ireland fell from 6.7 nights in Q1 2006 to 6.4 nights in Q1 2007. The Average Length of Stay of Overseas Visits by Irish Residents abroad with at least one overnight also showed a decrease from 7.2 nights to 6.6 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	2006	2006				2007
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>7,709</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>2,112</b>	<b>2,506</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>1,478</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>						
Air Cross-Channel	3,900	839	1,029	1,120	912	767
Sea Cross-Channel	983	116	289	418	160	131
Continental European	2,181	338	607	730	506	491
Transatlantic	645	96	188	238	123	90
<b>Area of Residence</b>						
Great Britain	4,060	820	1,082	1,240	919	771
Other Europe	2,281	373	637	755	516	496
USA & Canada	1,055	150	312	398	196	156
Other Areas	314	47	82	113	71	54
<b>Reason for Journey</b>						
Business	1,100	247	251	276	326	255
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,775	570	1,145	1,390	671	714
Visit to Friends/Relatives	2,323	469	566	655	633	428
Other	511	103	151	186	71	82

**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				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>1,478</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>					
Air Cross-Channel	673	743	767	839	767
Sea Cross-Channel	152	136	151	116	131
Continental European	203	229	287	338	491
Transatlantic	89	103	86	96	90
<b>Area of Residence</b>					
Great Britain	707	745	767	820	771
Other Europe	233	241	321	373	496
USA & Canada	141	173	154	150	156
Other Areas	37	53	49	47	54
<b>Reason for Journey</b>					
Business	199	246	237	247	255
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	500	514	533	570	714
Visit to Friends/Relatives	343	351	414	469	428
Other	76	101	106	103	82

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

'000

Visits	2006	2006				2007
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>7,709</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>2,112</b>	<b>2,506</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>1,478</b>
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	424	79	108	131	106	75
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	7,285	1,311	2,004	2,375	1,594	1,403

**Table 3 Overseas Same-Day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, Jan - Mar 2007**

'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>33</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Area of Residence</b>					
Great Britain	27	13	8	7	54
Other Europe	4	1	4	2	11
USA & Canada	2	2	2	2	7
Other Areas	0	1	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, Jan - Mar 2007**

'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>222</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1,403</b>
<b>Area of Residence</b>					
Great Britain	111	355	221	30	717
Other Europe	86	231	139	29	485
USA & Canada	17	89	35	8	149
Other Areas	8	21	18	4	52

**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	2006	2006				2007
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
<b>Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>						
Air Cross-Channel	5.1	5.2	4.9	5.6	4.6	4.4
Sea Cross-Channel	8.3	6.9	7.7	9.3	7.7	7.7
Continental European	11.1	9.6	10.6	13.3	9.7	8.8
Transatlantic	9.6	8.8	8.8	10.9	9.0	8.6
<b>Area of Residence</b>						
Great Britain	4.8	4.1	4.6	5.8	4.1	4.0
Other Europe	11.2	10.6	10.7	13.3	9.3	8.3
USA & Canada	9.0	8.8	8.2	9.4	9.8	8.9
Other Areas	12.4	12.5	11.0	12.8	13.5	16.4
<b>Reason for Journey</b>						
Business	4.2	5.1	3.9	3.8	4.2	5.0
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	7.0	4.9	6.8	8.3	6.2	5.0
Visit to Friends/Relatives	8.5	7.7	8.2	10.5	7.2	8.2
Other	15.8	15.3	13.1	16.6	20.1	14.4

**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	2006	2006				2007
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>55,615</b>	<b>8,746</b>	<b>14,622</b>	<b>21,459</b>	<b>10,785</b>	<b>9,042</b>
Hotel	12,063	1,990	3,317	4,297	2,459	2,241
Guest house/B&B	6,771	629	2,149	2,853	1,140	606
Rented house/Apartment	10,654	1,563	3,237	4,043	1,810	2,022
Caravan/Camping	983	18	260	667	37	14
Hostel	1,835	285	502	705	343	276
Friends/Relatives	18,230	3,798	3,960	6,364	4,107	3,446
Other	5,079	463	1,197	2,530	889	437

**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	2006	2006				2007
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>17,895</b>	<b>3,119</b>	<b>4,683</b>	<b>6,693</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>2,833</b>
Hotel	4,535	987	1,125	1,367	1,055	991
Guest house/B&B	1,627	207	547	654	218	212
Rented house/Apartment	2,720	207	908	1,222	382	287
Caravan/Camping	320	8	81	201	31	4
Hostel	170	28	66	51	25	34
Friends/Relatives	7,651	1,582	1,742	2,804	1,524	1,177
Other	872	100	214	394	165	128
<b>Other Europe</b>	<b>24,902</b>	<b>3,823</b>	<b>6,626</b>	<b>9,799</b>	<b>4,651</b>	<b>4,047</b>
Hotel	3,626	559	1,009	1,322	736	692
Guest house/B&B	3,232	253	974	1,390	615	254
Rented house/Apartment	6,109	1,085	1,876	2,252	896	1,258
Caravan/Camping	603	5	172	419	6	10
Hostel	1,162	163	279	489	231	154
Friends/Relatives	6,670	1,462	1,483	1,967	1,757	1,501
Other	3,500	296	833	1,960	410	178
<b>USA &amp; Canada</b>	<b>9,052</b>	<b>1,241</b>	<b>2,426</b>	<b>3,557</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>1,317</b>
Hotel	3,167	331	961	1,342	533	444
Guest house/B&B	1,496	144	525	596	231	112
Rented house/Apartment	1,209	191	285	401	331	241
Caravan/Camping	18	0	3	14	0	0
Hostel	350	75	99	123	53	46
Friends/Relatives	2,261	447	451	931	432	391
Other	551	53	102	150	246	83
<b>Other Areas</b>	<b>3,768</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>846</b>
Hotel	735	112	222	267	135	115
Guest house/B&B	417	25	103	213	76	27
Rented house/Apartment	617	80	168	168	201	236
Caravan/Camping	42	5	5	33	0	0
Hostel	153	19	59	41	34	42
Friends/Relatives	1,647	308	284	662	393	378
Other	157	14	48	26	69	48

**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 2007**

Bednights	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
<b>Accommodation Used</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>3,508</b>	<b>3,398</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>9,042</b>
Hotel	496	1,446	225	74	2,241
Guest house/B&B	51	383	157	15	606
Rented house/Apartment	277	818	363	564	2,022
Caravan/Camping	0	12	2	0	14
Hostel	5	203	50	19	276
Friends/Relatives	184	489	2,503	270	3,446
Other	94	157	98	89	437

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

	'000					
Visits	2006	2006				2007
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>6,848</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>2,146</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,575</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>						
Air Cross-Channel	2,252	559	581	550	562	600
Sea Cross-Channel	341	54	90	129	68	53
Continental European	3,867	656	1,067	1,363	781	841
Transatlantic	387	77	88	104	119	81
<b>Reason for Journey</b>						
Business	813	201	193	201	219	236
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,864	679	1,067	1,325	793	890
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,648	335	397	485	431	365
Other	523	131	169	135	87	84

**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				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>1,575</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>					
Air Cross-Channel	428	485	526	559	600
Sea Cross-Channel	72	65	73	54	53
Continental European	391	432	534	656	841
Transatlantic	47	57	75	77	81
<b>Reason for Journey</b>					
Business	140	160	168	201	236
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	500	523	618	679	890
Visit to Friends/Relatives	250	280	316	335	365
Other	49	76	106	131	84



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

Visits	'000					
	2006	2006				2007
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>6,848</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>2,146</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,575</b>
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	191	46	52	51	42	59
Visits with at least one overnight abroad	6,657	1,301	1,774	2,095	1,488	1,517

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

Visits	'000					
	2006	2006				2007
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>						
Air Cross-Channel	109	32	32	20	25	43
Sea Cross-Channel	37	5	13	13	6	5
Continental European	45	9	6	18	11	11
Transatlantic	0	0	-	-	0	-
<b>Reason for Journey</b>						
Business	94	28	26	19	21	33
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	50	7	14	17	12	14
Visit to Friends/Relatives	38	8	10	13	8	10
Other	9	3	2	3	1	1

**Table 12 Overseas Same-Day Visits by Irish Residents - Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Jan - Mar 2007**

'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>33</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>					
Air Cross-Channel	29	6	6	1	43
Sea Cross-Channel	2	1	2	0	5
Continental European	2	6	2	0	11
Transatlantic	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 13 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents, with at least one overnight abroad - Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Jan - Mar 2007**

'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>205</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1,517</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>					
Air Cross-Channel	108	206	204	39	557
Sea Cross-Channel	6	18	20	5	48
Continental European	80	597	115	38	830
Transatlantic	11	51	18	1	81

**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**

Length of Stay	Nights					
	2006	2006				2007
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
<b>All Overseas Visits</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>						
Air Cross-Channel	7.5	7.0	6.5	9.7	7.0	7.3
Sea Cross-Channel	7.1	6.7	5.9	8.4	6.2	5.2
Continental European	8.0	7.1	6.9	10.0	6.7	6.0
Transatlantic	10.9	10.1	9.4	16.7	7.5	8.5
<b>Reason for Journey</b>						
Business	6.3	5.3	6.0	8.1	5.7	5.6
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	8.0	7.1	6.9	10.2	6.6	6.2
Visit to Friends/Relatives	9.0	8.7	7.7	11.7	7.3	7.9
Other	7.0	6.5	5.8	6.9	10.0	7.6

**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>
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 <sup>4</sup>	4,692	5,318	-626
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	1,746	1,818	-71
October – December <sup>4</sup>	982	1,180	-198
2007 January – March <sup>5</sup>	819	1,143	-324

<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 1 2007 was just over 105,000 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 2007 was just under 74,000 passengers.