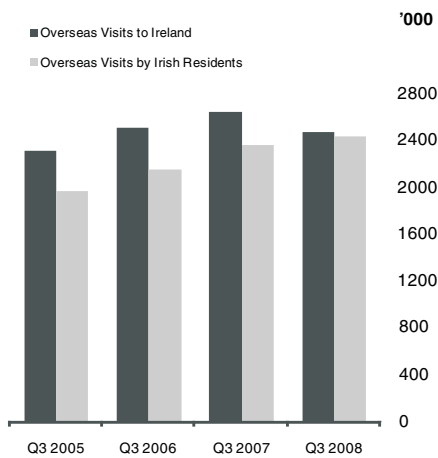




## Tourism and Travel

### Quarter 3 2008

**Number of Visits Q3, 2005-2008**



	Visits to Ireland '000	Irish Visits Abroad '000
<b>Jul - Sep 2005</b>	2,308	1,963
<b>Jul - Sep 2006</b>	2,506	2,146
<b>Jul - Sep 2007</b>	2,646	2,356
<b>Jul - Sep 2008</b>	2,472	2,428

### Visits to Ireland down 7% in Q3 2008

The number of Overseas Visits to Ireland from July to September 2008 was 2,472,000, a decrease of 7% on the corresponding period in 2007. The number of Overseas Visits by residents of Great Britain decreased by 9% to 1,149,000 while visits by residents of the USA and Canada showed a fall of 8% to 357,000. Visits by residents of Other European Countries fell by the largest percentage since Q3 2001 decreasing by 4% on Q3 2007 to 840,000. In contrast, visits by residents of Other Areas increased by 12% to 126,000 on Q3 2007. *See Table 1(b) and Graph.*

In Q3 2008 the number of Irish Visits abroad increased by just over 3% to 2,428,000, compared to the corresponding period in 2007. Irish Trips abroad on Transatlantic routes grew by 13% to 142,000 over the same period. Trips taken cross-channel by sea also increased significantly, with a 19% growth on Q3 2007. *See Table 9(b) and Graph.*

Earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for €1,734m while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to €2,366m in Q3 2008, resulting in a net outflow of €632m. *See Table 15.*

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ Overseas Visits to Ireland for the reason of Holiday/Leisure/Recreation decreased by 11% compared to Q3 2007. Irish Visits abroad for the reason of Holiday/Leisure/Recreation increased marginally by 3% to 1,642,000. *See Tables 1(a) and 9(a).*
- ◆ Nights spent in Hotels by overseas visitors decreased by just over 1% in Q3 2008 with nights spent in hotels for the purpose of Business decreasing by 13% alone. North America and Great Britain decreased their nights spent in Hotels by 9% and 7% respectively. *See Tables 6 and 7*

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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	2007	2007				2008		
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>8,012</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>2,131</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>1,756</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>2,159</b>	<b>2,472</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>								
Air Cross-Channel	3,754	767	985	1,102	901	822	960	1,065
Sea Cross-Channel	1,013	131	281	439	162	141	258	353
Continental European	2,575	490	670	854	562	480	756	836
Transatlantic	669	90	195	252	132	99	184	218
<b>Area of Residence</b>								
Great Britain	4,032	771	1,070	1,269	922	849	1,023	1,149
Other Europe	2,590	496	662	874	558	480	729	840
USA & Canada	1,073	156	319	390	208	156	312	357
Other Areas	317	54	80	113	69	57	95	126
<b>Reason for Journey</b>								
Business	1,211	255	288	323	345	310	336	330
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	4,035	714	1,178	1,430	713	665	1,119	1,277
Visit to Friends/Relatives	2,247	428	524	699	597	487	557	642
Other	519	82	141	194	102	80	147	224

**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 3)**

'000					
Visits	Jul - Sep				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>2,173</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>2,506</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>2,472</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>					
Air Cross-Channel	967	1,055	1,120	1,102	1,065
Sea Cross-Channel	512	467	418	439	353
Continental European	502	561	730	854	836
Transatlantic	192	224	238	252	218
<b>Area of Residence</b>					
Great Britain	1,151	1,196	1,240	1,269	1,149
Other Europe	584	662	755	874	840
USA & Canada	333	350	398	390	357
Other Areas	105	100	113	113	126
<b>Reason for Journey</b>					
Business	225	229	276	323	330
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	1,310	1,313	1,390	1,430	1,277
Visit to Friends/Relatives	506	616	655	699	642
Other	132	149	186	194	224

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

'000								
Visits	2007	2007				2008		
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>8,012</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>2,131</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>1,756</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>2,159</b>	<b>2,472</b>
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	422	75	111	137	98	86	150	155
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	7,590	1,403	2,019	2,509	1,659	1,456	2,009	2,317

**Table 3 Overseas Same-Day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, Jul - Sep 2008**

'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>58</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Area of Residence</b>					
Great Britain	46	26	12	7	91
Other Europe	8	16	2	3	30
USA & Canada	4	15	7	5	31
Other Areas	0	2	0	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, Jul - Sep 2008**

'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>272</b>	<b>1,218</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>2,317</b>
<b>Area of Residence</b>					
Great Britain	163	483	381	30	1,058
Other Europe	68	448	136	157	810
USA & Canada	29	224	61	13	326
Other Areas	11	62	41	8	123

**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							
	2007	2007				2008		
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
<b>Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>10.1</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>								
Air Cross-Channel	4.8	4.4	4.6	5.3	4.6	4.3	4.7	6.3
Sea Cross-Channel	8.4	7.7	7.3	9.7	7.1	8.2	8.2	9.3
Continental European	9.9	8.8	8.8	11.6	9.4	9.9	10.2	14.9
Transatlantic	9.5	8.6	8.9	10.0	10.2	8.9	10.4	10.5
<b>Area of Residence</b>								
Great Britain	4.7	4.0	4.4	5.8	4.2	4.1	4.6	6.1
Other Europe	9.6	8.3	8.8	11.6	8.5	9.7	10.2	14.5
USA & Canada	9.1	8.9	8.5	9.1	10.0	8.1	9.1	9.6
Other Areas	14.5	16.4	12.4	13.8	16.5	15.5	13.3	16.5
<b>Reason for Journey</b>								
Business	5.2	5.0	4.1	5.7	5.8	3.8	4.9	5.6
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	6.8	5.0	6.5	8.6	5.6	5.6	6.7	8.6
Visit to Friends/Relatives	7.9	8.2	7.4	8.4	7.5	8.6	7.5	9.3
Other	13.1	14.4	11.1	13.2	14.8	15.6	21.5	26.5

**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							
	2007	2007				2008		
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>55,628</b>	<b>9,041</b>	<b>13,610</b>	<b>21,652</b>	<b>11,328</b>	<b>9,826</b>	<b>15,316</b>	<b>23,335</b>
Hotel	13,474	2,241	3,473	4,956	2,804	2,421	3,972	4,892
Guest house/B&B	6,017	606	2,022	2,577	812	504	1,853	2,406
Rented house/Apartment	10,388	2,021	2,602	3,537	2,229	1,888	3,083	5,078
Caravan/Camping	1,083	14	291	748	31	33	198	516
Hostel	1,684	276	455	689	265	232	574	526
Friends/Relatives	17,292	3,446	3,589	6,238	4,020	3,911	3,982	5,978
Other	5,689	437	1,178	2,907	1,167	836	1,655	3,939

**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	2007	2007				2008		
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>17,487</b>	<b>2,833</b>	<b>4,364</b>	<b>6,707</b>	<b>3,582</b>	<b>3,261</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>6,460</b>
Hotel	4,993	991	1,345	1,475	1,182	1,157	1,249	1,377
Guest house/B&B	1,552	212	472	665	203	133	382	636
Rented house/Apartment	2,408	287	690	1,197	233	339	664	1,255
Caravan/Camping	364	4	80	267	13	15	72	128
Hostel	173	34	39	75	25	24	29	62
Friends/Relatives	7,143	1,177	1,529	2,692	1,745	1,458	1,564	2,602
Other	854	128	209	336	181	135	370	400
<b>Other Europe</b>	<b>24,288</b>	<b>4,044</b>	<b>5,675</b>	<b>9,959</b>	<b>4,612</b>	<b>4,515</b>	<b>7,175</b>	<b>11,727</b>
Hotel	4,508	691	1,145	1,873	799	669	1,609	2,014
Guest house/B&B	2,578	254	813	1,171	341	241	854	1,184
Rented house/Apartment	5,698	1,257	1,402	1,637	1,402	1,054	1,677	2,704
Caravan/Camping	670	10	194	452	15	18	123	369
Hostel	862	154	197	394	117	127	341	293
Friends/Relatives	6,174	1,500	1,151	2,103	1,420	1,847	1,527	2,041
Other	3,798	178	773	2,329	518	559	1,044	3,121
<b>USA &amp; Canada</b>	<b>9,381</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>3,445</b>	<b>2,028</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>2,618</b>	<b>3,118</b>
Hotel	3,356	444	852	1,351	710	499	934	1,230
Guest house/B&B	1,401	112	560	546	182	78	460	394
Rented house/Apartment	1,376	241	331	402	402	169	434	403
Caravan/Camping	47	0	16	29	2	0	1	8
Hostel	333	46	128	108	51	43	140	105
Friends/Relatives	2,149	391	538	828	393	289	429	636
Other	719	83	167	181	288	122	220	341
<b>Other Areas</b>	<b>4,472</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>1,105</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>2,030</b>
Hotel	617	115	131	257	114	96	180	270
Guest house/B&B	485	27	177	195	86	53	156	192
Rented house/Apartment	906	235	179	301	191	325	309	716
Caravan/Camping	3	0	2	0	1	0	2	11
Hostel	317	42	90	112	72	39	63	66
Friends/Relatives	1,826	378	371	615	462	317	462	698
Other	318	48	29	61	179	20	20	77

**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 2008**

					'000
Bednights	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
<b>Accommodation Used</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>10,496</b>	<b>5,782</b>	<b>5,525</b>	<b>23,335</b>
Hotel	628	3,666	402	195	4,892
Guest house/B&B	72	1,764	202	368	2,406
Rented house/Apartment	486	2,448	525	1,619	5,078
Caravan/Camping	3	483	21	9	516
Hostel	17	437	27	45	526
Friends/Relatives	202	978	4,154	645	5,978
Other	124	721	450	2,645	3,939

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

'000

Visits	2007								2008		
	2007	2007				2008					
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep			
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>7,713</b>	<b>1,575</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>2,356</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>2,428</b>			
<b>Route of Travel</b>											
Air Cross-Channel	2,356	600	578	574	604	642	609	613			
Sea Cross-Channel	333	53	97	108	75	67	89	129			
Continental European	4,583	841	1,286	1,548	908	944	1,238	1,544			
Transatlantic	441	81	88	126	146	109	115	142			
<b>Reason for Journey</b>											
Business	886	236	245	174	232	229	283	189			
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	4,654	890	1,254	1,599	911	1,044	1,243	1,642			
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,753	365	424	465	499	423	445	503			
Other	420	84	126	118	92	67	79	94			

**Table 9 (b) Overseas Visits by Irish Residents - Estimated Number of Visits Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, (Quarter 3)**

'000

Visits	Jul - Sep				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>1,749</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>2,146</b>	<b>2,356</b>	<b>2,428</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>					
Air Cross-Channel	514	566	550	574	613
Sea Cross-Channel	138	118	129	108	129
Continental European	1,006	1,183	1,363	1,548	1,544
Transatlantic	92	95	104	126	142
<b>Reason for Journey</b>					
Business	168	182	201	174	189
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	1,105	1,252	1,325	1,599	1,642
Visit to Friends/Relatives	356	392	485	465	503
Other	120	137	135	118	94



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

Visits	'000							
	2007	2007				2008		
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>7,713</b>	<b>1,575</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>2,356</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>2,428</b>
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	205	59	50	55	41	42	76	41
Visits with at least one overnight abroad	7,508	1,517	1,999	2,300	1,693	1,721	1,975	2,387

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

Visits	'000							
	2007	2007				2008		
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
<b>Total Overseas Visits</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>								
Air Cross-Channel	134	43	37	26	28	33	42	15
Sea Cross-Channel	28	5	9	11	4	1	7	9
Continental European	42	11	4	19	9	7	27	16
Transatlantic	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Reason for Journey</b>								
Business	109	33	31	26	19	24	40	13
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	57	14	11	19	13	8	29	19
Visit to Friends/Relatives	32	10	6	8	8	9	5	8
Other	6	1	2	2	0	1	2	2

**Table 12 Overseas Same-Day Visits by Irish Residents - Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey, Jul - Sep 2008**

'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>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>					
Air Cross-Channel	10	1	4	1	15
Sea Cross-Channel	2	5	2	0	9
Continental European	1	13	2	0	16
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, Jul - Sep 2008**

'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>175</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2,387</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>					
Air Cross-Channel	76	266	220	36	598
Sea Cross-Channel	6	63	42	9	120
Continental European	78	1,208	199	43	1,528
Transatlantic	14	90	35	2	142

**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	2007	2007				2008		
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
<b>All Overseas Visits</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>10.5</b>
<b>Route of Travel</b>								
Air Cross-Channel	8.5	7.3	7.9	11.9	7.2	7.0	6.3	10.2
Sea Cross-Channel	6.5	5.2	5.9	8.7	5.0	7.2	6.3	7.8
Continental European	7.8	6.0	7.2	9.9	6.8	7.4	7.3	10.5
Transatlantic	10.2	8.5	10.1	13.4	8.3	10.3	9.9	14.8
<b>Reason for Journey</b>								
Business	6.1	5.6	5.7	8.5	5.2	4.9	4.7	8.3
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	8.4	6.2	7.7	10.7	7.2	7.2	7.4	10.8
Visit to Friends/Relatives	8.3	7.9	8.2	10.1	7.1	9.1	7.4	10.0
Other	8.2	7.6	5.1	12.4	7.7	9.0	9.4	13.2

**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>
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	4,692	5,318	-626
2007 Year	4,902	6,163	-1,261
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	982	1,180	-198
2007 January – March	819	1,143	-324
April – June	1,291	1,526	-235
July – September	1,768	2,098	-330
October – December	1,024	1,396	-373
2008 January – March	824	1,452	-628
April – June	1,313	1,627	-315
July – September <sup>4</sup>	1,734	2,366	-632

<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> 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 3 2008 was just over 141,700 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 2008 was just under 94,200 passengers.