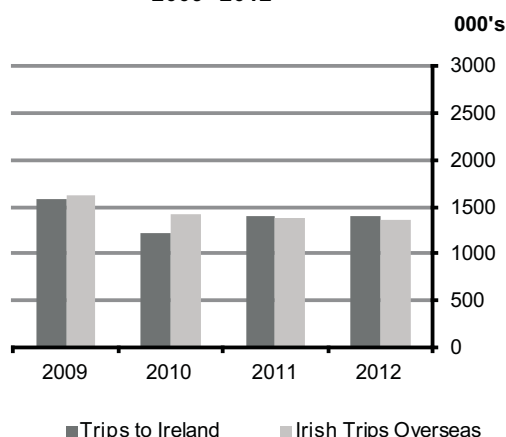




**An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh**  
Central Statistics Office

31 May 2012

**Overseas Travel February - April,  
2009 - 2012**



## Overseas Travel February - April 2012

	Trips to Ireland by Area of Residence					
	Irish Residents' Trips Overseas	Trips to Ireland				
			Great Britain	Other Europe	North America	Other Areas
<b>Feb - Apr '10</b>	1,425,500	1,209,900	618,500	398,200	145,300	47,800
<b>Feb - Apr '11</b>	1,371,400	1,403,800	650,900	497,800	192,200	62,900
<b>Feb - Apr '12</b>	1,355,900	1,401,100	653,100	497,700	178,400	72,000

### Trips to Ireland decreased by 0.2% for the period February - April 2012

In the period February - April 2012, the total number of *trips to Ireland* decreased by 0.2% to 1,401,100, an overall decrease of 2,700 compared to the same period twelve months earlier. *See tables 1 and 2.*

Trips by residents of North America to Ireland decreased by 7.2% to 178,400 while trips by residents of Great Britain increased by 0.3% to 653,100. The number of visitors from European Countries other than Great Britain (Other Europe) was virtually unchanged at 497,700. However, visitors from Other Areas increased by 14.5% to 72,000. The total number of *overseas trips made by Irish residents* decreased by 1.1% to 1,355,900. *See tables 1 and 2.*

*The total number of trips (Irish residents' trips overseas plus trips to Ireland) in the period February to April 2012 decreased by 0.7% to 2,757,000 when compared with the same period twelve months earlier. For the period February to April 2011, there was an annual increase of 5.3% in the total number of trips taken when compared to the previous corresponding period. See tables 1 and 2.*

The CSO "Airport Pairings" database contains information on every direct flight in and out of the nine Irish airports on a monthly basis. April 2012 passenger figures will be added to the database from early July 2012. For details please go to <http://cso.ie/shorturl.aspx/15>.

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**Table 1 Overseas Trips for the period February - April, 2009 - 2012**

Year	Period	All Trips	Irish Residents' Trips Overseas	Trips to Ireland	Trips to Ireland by Area of Residence			
					Great Britain	Other Europe	North America	Other Areas
2009	Feb - Apr	3,202,900	1,617,100	1,585,800	805,600	558,400	174,200	47,600
2010	Feb - Apr	2,635,400	1,425,500	1,209,900	618,500	398,200	145,300	47,800
2011	Feb - Apr	2,775,200	1,371,400	1,403,800	650,900	497,800	192,200	62,900
2012	Feb - Apr	2,757,000	1,355,900	1,401,100	653,100	497,700	178,400	72,000

**Table 2 Annual Change in Overseas Trips for the period February - April, 2010 - 2012**

Year	Period	All Trips	Irish Residents' Trips Overseas	Trips to Ireland	Trips to Ireland by Area of Residence			
					Great Britain	Other Europe	North America	Other Areas
Change versus corresponding period of previous year (number)								
2010	Feb - Apr	-567,500	-191,600	-375,900	-187,100	-160,200	-28,900	200
2011	Feb - Apr	139,800	-54,100	193,900	32,400	99,600	46,900	15,100
2012	Feb - Apr	-18,200	-15,500	-2,700	2,200	-100	-13,800	9,100
Change versus corresponding period of previous year (%)								
2010	Feb - Apr	-17.7	-11.8	-23.7	-23.2	-28.7	-16.6	0.4
2011	Feb - Apr	5.3	-3.8	16.0	5.2	25.0	32.3	31.6
2012	Feb - Apr	-0.7	-1.1	-0.2	0.3	0.0	-7.2	14.5

**Table 3 Overseas Trips to Ireland by Area of Residence for the period February - April, 2009 - 2012**

Area of Residence <sup>1</sup>	February - April			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Total Overseas Trips to Ireland</b>	<b>1,585,800</b>	<b>1,209,900</b>	<b>1,403,800</b>	<b>1,401,100</b>
Great Britain	805,600	618,500	650,900	653,100
Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg	59,400	43,400	52,500	55,500
France	103,800	63,900	94,400	89,300
Germany	86,800	63,100	84,700	88,300
Italy	67,800	46,700	46,400	52,200
Spain	57,800	43,300	53,500	52,400
Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark	42,600	31,500	39,700	40,500
Other Europe <sup>2</sup>	140,300	106,200	126,500	119,500
USA and Canada	174,200	145,300	192,200	178,400
Australia, New Zealand and Other Oceania <sup>2</sup>	18,200	17,900	21,200	25,600
Other Areas <sup>2</sup>	29,500	30,000	41,700	46,400

<sup>1</sup> Country estimates are subject to high levels of sample variation and therefore should be interpreted with caution. See Background Notes.

<sup>2</sup> See Background Notes for Countries included.

**Table 4 Overseas Trips in each calendar quarter, 2008 - 2012**

					Trips to Ireland by Area of Residence			
					Great Britain	Other Europe	North America	Other Areas
	Period	All Trips	Irish Residents' Trips Overseas	Trips to Ireland				
2008	Quarter 1	3,304,700	1,762,500	1,542,200	849,500	480,200	155,900	56,700
	Quarter 2	4,210,200	2,050,800	2,159,400	1,023,200	729,000	312,100	95,200
	Quarter 3	4,900,700	2,428,300	2,472,400	1,148,900	839,900	357,200	126,400
	Quarter 4	3,300,800	1,635,800	1,665,000	850,900	561,200	179,400	73,500
2009	Quarter 1	2,941,900	1,539,800	1,402,200	722,400	488,700	142,200	48,800
	Quarter 2	3,801,500	1,899,600	1,901,900	858,500	658,200	305,000	80,300
	Quarter 3	4,314,400	2,137,100	2,177,300	956,100	757,600	356,400	107,300
	Quarter 4	2,918,900	1,472,900	1,446,100	720,100	477,800	176,800	71,500
2010	Quarter 1	2,523,900	1,439,200	1,084,800	526,600	366,500	137,300	54,200
	Quarter 2	3,214,500	1,673,100	1,541,400	701,700	500,500	264,000	75,200
	Quarter 3	4,133,800	2,137,200	1,996,600	852,600	700,900	332,800	110,200
	Quarter 4	2,736,800	1,322,500	1,414,300	657,600	477,300	201,400	78,100
2011	Quarter 1	2,445,200	1,266,400	1,178,800	550,700	407,800	154,700	65,600
	Quarter 2	3,558,000	1,753,000	1,805,000	760,700	647,500	303,800	92,900
	Quarter 3	4,114,100	1,962,400	2,151,700	911,600	763,200	352,400	124,600
	Quarter 4	2,680,700	1,311,000	1,369,700	655,200	464,700	176,200	73,600
2012	Quarter 1	2,399,900	1,234,800	1,165,100	562,400	392,800	144,700	65,200

**Table 5 Overseas Trips to Ireland by Area of Residence, 2011 - 2012**

Area of Residence <sup>1</sup>	2011	2011				2012
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
<b>Total Overseas Trips to Ireland</b>	<b>6,505,200</b>	<b>1,178,800</b>	<b>1,805,000</b>	<b>2,151,700</b>	<b>1,369,700</b>	<b>1,165,100</b>
Great Britain	2,878,100	550,700	760,700	911,600	655,200	562,400
Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg	235,100	47,500	59,600	71,500	56,400	44,900
France	401,500	68,700	126,500	136,700	69,600	66,600
Germany	422,900	66,300	123,100	143,000	90,600	65,900
Italy	220,100	38,000	55,700	83,800	42,700	39,700
Spain	244,900	46,400	59,600	88,400	50,400	43,100
Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark	181,700	31,400	50,800	58,400	41,100	30,000
Other Europe <sup>2</sup>	577,100	109,400	172,300	181,400	114,000	102,500
USA and Canada	987,100	154,700	303,800	352,400	176,200	144,700
Australia, New Zealand and Other Oceania <sup>2</sup>	141,100	21,400	38,200	54,600	26,900	21,600
Other Areas <sup>2</sup>	215,600	44,200	54,700	70,000	46,600	43,600

<sup>1</sup> Country estimates are subject to high levels of sample variation and therefore should be interpreted with caution. See Background Notes.

<sup>2</sup> See Background Notes for Countries included.

**Table 6 Overseas Trips in each calendar quarter - Seasonally Adjusted, 2008 - 2012**

Period		All Trips	Irish Residents' Trips Overseas	Trips to Ireland	Trips to Ireland by Area of Residence			
					Great Britain	Other Europe	North America	Other Areas
2008	Quarter 1	4,087,700	2,066,000	1,989,500	997,700	636,900	263,100	85,200
	Quarter 2	3,993,000	1,949,300	2,040,000	1,014,600	664,600	261,400	91,100
	Quarter 3	3,853,100	1,945,300	1,893,100	927,600	632,600	245,500	89,800
	Quarter 4	3,799,200	1,940,900	1,924,200	924,000	680,800	236,500	83,400
2009	Quarter 1	3,794,300	1,846,600	1,888,100	899,300	661,400	240,300	73,200
	Quarter 2	3,512,300	1,774,300	1,746,800	819,900	594,500	256,300	75,800
	Quarter 3	3,374,300	1,709,800	1,668,300	779,300	572,700	245,900	76,300
	Quarter 4	3,363,700	1,736,800	1,674,600	776,900	571,800	235,100	81,800
2010	Quarter 1	3,231,100	1,705,800	1,426,000	651,800	509,000	231,400	79,600
	Quarter 2	2,985,900	1,571,700	1,436,800	674,100	450,400	213,500	70,600
	Quarter 3	3,218,000	1,705,400	1,537,500	695,700	521,000	231,100	79,000
	Quarter 4	3,151,200	1,548,000	1,621,000	704,200	573,000	263,100	89,300
2011	Quarter 1	3,227,300	1,547,900	1,585,900	687,200	565,200	258,500	97,300
	Quarter 2	3,251,500	1,621,700	1,653,400	729,900	576,500	253,900	88,800
	Quarter 3	3,188,400	1,565,700	1,653,900	743,700	576,300	244,500	89,000
	Quarter 4	3,123,600	1,541,700	1,584,900	707,400	559,200	232,400	83,800
2012	Quarter 1	3,168,700	1,489,300	1,566,400	704,500	547,100	237,500	96,300

## Background Notes

**Periodicity** Quarterly - rolling three month release.

**Scope** Overseas Travel.

**Coverage** This release covers Overseas Travel into and out of the Republic of Ireland. However, travel by residents of Northern Ireland into or out of the Republic of Ireland or domestic travel within the Republic of Ireland is excluded.

**Data Collection** Data from the Country of Residence Survey (CRS) is used in this release. This survey is conducted at Dublin, Cork, Shannon, Knock, Galway and Kerry airports and Rosslare, Ringaskiddy, Dún Laoghaire and Dublin seaports. Residency data is collected from passengers by a Central Statistics Office (CSO) interviewer.

**Sample Design** A sample of flights and sailings is selected to facilitate proper representation of airport/seaport pairings, day, night, week day and weekend flights/sailings.

On the selected flights/sailings for the CRS, a 1 in 5 (20%) systematic sample of passengers is selected and their country of residence is recorded.

Sample results are grossed to total passenger numbers travelling for each airport or seaport pairing, as provided by the airports and ferry companies.

Where there is no survey coverage in a period for an airport/seaport pairing, results are imputed using the 'nearest neighbour' imputation methodology.

**Sample Size** The sample size for the Overseas Travel release in respect of the three month period February - April 2012 was just over 99,600 passengers.

**Seasonal Adjustment** Seasonally adjusted quarterly data is available in Table 6. Visitor numbers to Ireland are subject to a high degree of seasonality. These seasonal fluctuations do not affect annual comparisons but they do affect monthly or quarterly comparisons. Typically trips are at their highest during the summer months, although there are also clear peaks around Christmas and Easter. To facilitate interpretation of underlying trends, visitor numbers are adjusted to remove these seasonal trends.

Seasonal adjustment is conducted using the direct seasonal adjustment approach. Under this approach each individual series is independently adjusted each month, e.g. aggregate series are adjusted without reference to the component series. Seasonal adjustment models are developed for each series based on unadjusted data from January 2000 to the current period. These models are then applied to the entire series. Seasonal factors are updated each quarter.

The adjustments are completed by applying the X-12-ARIMA model, developed by the U.S. Census Bureau to the unadjusted data. This methodology estimates seasonal factors while also taking into consideration factors that impact on the quality of the seasonal adjustment such as:

- Calendar effects, e.g. the timing of Easter (see definition (4) on page 8)
- Outliers, temporary changes and level shifts in the series

**Reliability of Results**

Estimation of survey results using the above sampling design introduces a statistical variability which would not be present if *all* passengers from *every* flight/sailing had been sampled. This means that the survey results are best estimates based on the information collected for the sample.

This variability is expressed by the standard error calculation. The standard error gives the relative size of the 'sampling error' (variability) present in an estimate compared with the estimate itself. In general, estimates can be said to have a relative precision of twice their standard error.

The effect of sampling error is greater for small estimates and may, in particular, make it more difficult to compare figures for different time periods. Standard error estimates in respect of the major Area of Residence categories for Quarter 1 2012 is presented in the following table

Overseas trips to Ireland by Area of Residence					
Q1 2012	Irish Residents' Trips Overseas	Great Britain	Other Europe	North America	Other Areas
Total trips	1,234,757	562,424	392,777	144,724	65,206
Standard error	4,070	2,850	2,763	1,825	1,313
Standard error as % of estimate	0.33	0.51	0.70	1.26	2.01

In general, the more detailed the classification provided the greater the standard error of the estimates. In the derivation of the results, the assumption was made that non-respondents had similar characteristics and activity levels to those respondents in the same stratification cell. This assumption, which is usual in surveys such as this, may introduce some slight bias into the results. Moreover, although every effort was made to ensure that the information collected is correct, it is possible that some minor non-sampling errors remain undetected.

**Definitions**

- (1) Trips** The data presented in this report is in terms of trip numbers. A trip is defined as a journey (usually including the return) from one place to another.
- (2) Visitor** The definition of Visitor used in these surveys is based on that agreed with Eurostat, the European Statistical Office. A Visitor is defined as '*any person travelling to a place other than that of his/her usual environment for less than twelve months and whose main purpose is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited*'. However, as the CRS does not establish the reason for an individual's trip or length of stay, those travelling for reason of remuneration or for more than one year to a country cannot be excluded. Therefore, trips may include those travelling for paid work. Commercial Drivers travelling on sea routes are excluded.
- (3) Country of Residence** Country of Residence is defined as the country in which the person has resided during the past year.
- (4) Timing of Easter** Easter falls each year on a Sunday between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>, inclusively. In 2012 Easter Sunday fell on April 8<sup>th</sup>, while in 2011 it fell on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Visitor numbers each year are greatly influenced by when Easter falls.

Dates for Easter Sunday

2012 - 8<sup>th</sup> April  
 2011 - 24<sup>th</sup> April  
 2010 - 4<sup>th</sup> April



**Country Breakdowns****Other Europe  
Tables 1-2, 4 and 6**

Other Europe includes the following countries:

EU 27 i.e.

Austria

Belgium

Bulgaria

Cyprus

Czech Republic

Denmark

Estonia

Finland

France

Germany

Greece

Hungary

Italy

Latvia

Lithuania

Luxembourg

Malta

Netherlands

Poland

Portugal

Romania

Slovakia

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

Other countries included are:

Aland Islands

Albania

Andorra

Belarus

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Croatia

Faroe Islands

Gibraltar

Guernsey

Iceland

Isle of Man

Jersey

Liechtenstein

Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of

Moldova, Republic of

Monaco

Montenegro

Norway

Russian Federation

San Marino

Serbia

Switzerland

Turkey

Ukraine

Vatican City

**North America  
Tables 1-2, 4 and 6**

North America includes the following countries:

Canada

United States

**Other Areas  
Tables 1-2, 4 and 6**

Other Areas includes the following countries:

Africa (see page 11 for breakdown of countries)

Australia, New Zealand and Other Oceania (see page 10 for breakdown of countries)

Central, South and Other Americas (see page 11 for breakdown of countries)

Eastern Asia, Middle East and Other Asia (see page 12 for breakdown of countries)

**Other Europe  
Tables 3 and 5**

Other Europe includes the following countries:

Aland Islands	Latvia
Albania	Liechtenstein
Andorra	Lithuania
Austria	Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of
Belarus	Malta
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Moldova, Republic of
Bulgaria	Monaco
Croatia	Montenegro
Cyprus	Poland
Czech Republic	Portugal
Estonia	Romania
Faroe Islands	Russian Federation
Gibraltar	San Marino
Greece	Serbia
Guernsey	Slovakia
Hungary	Slovenia
Iceland	Switzerland
Isle of Man	Turkey
Jersey	Ukraine
	Vatican City

**Australia,  
New Zealand and  
Other Oceania  
Tables 3 and 5**

Australia, New Zealand and Other Oceania includes the following countries:

American Samoa	New Zealand
Australia	Niue
Antarctica	Norfolk Island
Christmas Island	Northern Mariana Islands
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Palau
Cook Islands	Papua New Guinea
Fiji	Pitcairn
French Polynesia	Samoa
French Southern Territories	Solomon Islands
Guam	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
Heard Island and McDonald Islands	Svalbard and Jan Mayen
Kiribati	Tokelau
Marshall Islands	Tonga
Micronesia, Federated States of	Tuvalu
Nauru	United States Minor Outlying Islands
New Caledonia	Vanuatu
	Wallis and Futuna

**Other Areas  
Tables 3 and 5**

Other Areas includes the following group of countries:

**Central, South and  
Other Americas**

Anguilla	Guyana
Antigua and Barbuda	Haiti
Argentina	Honduras
Aruba	Jamaica
Bahamas	Martinique
Barbados	Mexico
Belize	Montserrat
Bermuda	Netherlands Antilles
Bolivia	Nicaragua
Brazil	Panama
Cayman Islands	Paraguay
Chile	Peru
Colombia	Puerto Rico
Costa Rica	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Cuba	Saint Lucia
Dominica	Saint Pierre and Miquelon
Dominican Republic	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Ecuador	Suriname
El Salvador	Trinidad and Tobago
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	Turks and Caicos Islands
French Guiana	Uruguay
Greenland	Venezuela
Grenada	Virgin Islands, British
Guadeloupe	Virgin Islands, US
Guatemala	

**Africa**

Algeria	Malawi
Angola	Mali
Benin	Mauritania
Botswana	Mauritius
Burkina Faso	Mayotte
Burundi	Morocco
Cameroon	Mozambique
Cape Verde	Namibia
Central African Republic	Niger
Chad	Nigeria
Comoros	Reunion
Congo	Rwanda
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the	Saint Helena
Cote d'Ivoire	Sao Tome and Principe
Djibouti	Senegal
Egypt	Seychelles
Equatorial Guinea	Sierra Leone
Eritrea	Somalia
Ethiopia	South Africa
Gabon	South Sudan
Gambia	Sudan
Ghana	Swaziland
Guinea	Tanzania, United Republic of
Guinea-Bissau	Togo
Kenya	Tunisia
Lesotho	Uganda
Liberia	Western Sahara
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Zambia
Madagascar	Zimbabwe

<b>Eastern Asia</b>	China	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of
	Hong Kong	Mongolia
	Japan	Taiwan, Province of China
	Korea, Republic of	
<b>Middle East</b>	Afghanistan	Oman
	Bahrain	Palestinian Territory, Occupied
	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Qatar
	Iraq	Saudi Arabia
	Israel	Syrian Arab Republic
	Jordan	United Arab Emirates
	Kuwait	Yemen
	Lebanon	
<b>Other Asia</b>	Armenia	Malaysia
	Azerbaijan	Maldives
	Bangladesh	Myanmar
	Bhutan	Nepal
	British Indian Ocean Territory	Pakistan
	Brunei Darussalam	Philippines
	Cambodia	Singapore
	Georgia	Sri Lanka
	India	Tajikistan
	Indonesia	Thailand
	Kazakhstan	Timor Leste
	Kyrgyzstan	Turkmenistan
	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Uzbekistan
	Macao	Vietnam