



**An
Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh**

Central
Statistics
Office

Standard SIMS Report: Recreation in Nature



Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

Recreation in Nature

This documentation applies to the reporting period:

2024

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2. Introduction

These data were collected as part of the CSO's Household Environment survey. The questionnaire was designed to capture the contribution of ecosystems to our quality of life and the economy. The aim was to estimate the consumption of recreational ecosystem services by households in Ireland.

3. Contact

Contact Organisation:	Central Statistics Office
Contact Organisation Unit:	Ecosystem and Agriculture Accounts
Contact Name:	Nova Sharkey
Contact person function:	Statistician
Contact Mail address:	Central Statistics Office, Ardee Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 FX52
Contact email address:	nova.sharkey@csso.ie
Contact Phone Number:	01 498 4217
Contact Fax Number:	

4. Metadata Update

4.1. Metadata last certified

09/06/2025

4.2. Metadata last posted

10/06/2025

4.3. Metadata last update

09/06/2025



5. Statistical Presentation

5.1. Data Description

The data published provides information on visits to spend time in nature, including type of visit (same-day or overnight), type of ecosystem visited, activities engaged in, distance travelled, and expenditure. A detailed breakdown by demographic characteristic is provided where appropriate.

5.2. Classification System

NUTS 2 Regions

The regional classification used in this release is based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. The composition of the regions is set out below:

- **Northern & Western Region** (Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo)
- **Southern Region** (Carlow, Clare, Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford)
- **Eastern & Midland Region** (Dublin, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wicklow)

Urban/Rural location

Areas are classified as Urban or Rural based on Census of Population 2022. The six-way urban/rural classification was aggregated to Urban locations (comprising Cities, Satellite urban towns, and Independent urban towns) and Rural locations (comprising Rural areas with high urban influence, Rural areas with moderate urban influence, and Highly rural/remote areas). See

<https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2022/census2022smallareapopulationstatistics/> for more details.

5.3. Sector Coverage

Households.

5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

- Same-day visits to ecosystems,
- overnight trips to ecosystems,
- mode of travel,
- distance travelled,
- expenditure,
- effects of spending time in nature,
- barriers to spending more time in nature.

5.5. Statistical Unit

Persons living in a private household.

5.6. Statistical Population

All persons aged 16 and over living in private households. Institutional households (e.g. nursing homes, barracks, boarding schools, hotels etc.) were not covered by the survey.

5.7. Reference Area

Ireland, with breakdown by NUTS 2 region.



5.8. Time Coverage

June to August 2024.

5.9. Base period

Not applicable.

6. Unit of Measure

- Proportion of persons (%),
- Number of overnight stays,
- Distance travelled (km),
- Expenditure (€).

7. Reference Period

June to August 2024.

8. Institutional Mandate

8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

Not applicable.

8.2. Data Sharing

Not applicable.

9. Confidentiality

9.1. Confidentiality – policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body.

These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes. Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/>

Confidentiality – data treatment

Data are published at aggregated level such that no confidential data is made available.

10. Release Policy

10.1. Release Calendar

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published in CSO.ie. This calendar is regularly updated.



10.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, www.cso.ie, or directly from this link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar/>

10.3. User access

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests. The full pre-release access policy can be accessed at <https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/>

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format as well as on the CSO website (www.cso.ie). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.

11. Frequency of Dissemination

Once-off basis.

12. Accessibility and clarity

12.1. News release

No news release is issued with the publication of the statistics.

12.2. Publications

The data were published on the CSO website, see <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/ecosystemaccounts/recreationinnature/>

12.3. On-line database

The data can be downloaded in various formats from the CSO's main dissemination database, PxStat from this link <https://data.cso.ie/product/RN>

12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables -consultations

Not calculated.

12.4. Micro-data Access

The micro-data are not currently available.

12.5. Other

Not applicable.



12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.

12.6. Documentation on Methodology

Further information on the methodology used in the compilation of this release can be found on the CSO's methods page: <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/ecosystemaccounts/ecosystemaccounts-recreationinnature/>

12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.

12.7. Quality Documentation

National quality reports are published alongside the national release and can be found at the following link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/qualityreports/recreationinnature/>

13. Quality Management

13.1. Quality Assurance

Quality Management Framework

The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCoP). The QMF foundations are based on establishing the UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.

A peer review of the R code used to analyse the data was carried out.

13.2. Quality Assessment

Not assessed.

14. Relevance

14.1. User Needs

The CSO consulted with stakeholders including representatives from the Department of Health, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the Marine Institute.

14.1.1. Main National Users

Policy-makers and media, including the Department of Health and Inland Fisheries Ireland.

14.1.2. Principal External Users

European Union/Eurostat.

14.2. User Satisfaction

There is no formal user satisfaction survey specific to this survey.



14.3. Data Completeness

14.3.1. Data Completeness rate

Not applicable.

15. Accuracy and reliability

15.1. Overall accuracy

While no formal evaluation of sampling and non-sampling errors have been carried out for this publication there have been several statistical techniques used to minimise possible sources of error. These include an analysis of comprehension errors, data capture errors and weight calibration methodologies for non-response and are describe in more detail in the following sections.

15.2. Sampling Error

As the Household Environment Survey is a survey it is subject to sampling error. The data were adjusted for non-response and weighted to the population total using data from the Labour Force Survey.

15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator

Not calculated.

15.3. Non-sampling Error

In addition to known sampling errors, any survey will be subject to other non-sampling errors (for example measurement errors arising from questions not capturing the desired information accurately). Non-sampling error is far more difficult to measure than sampling error and no formal estimate of non-sampling error is available for this survey.

15.3.1. Coverage error

The full sampling frame was individuals 16 years of age and older living in private households, based on Census 2022.

15.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate

Not applicable.

15.3.1.2. A3. Common units – proportion

Not applicable.

15.3.2. Measurement error

No formal evaluation of sources of error is available, although measures are in place to minimise error:

- Comprehension errors – an effort is made to ensure that the terms used in the survey are clear and readily understood.

15.3.3. Non-Response Error

No imputation for non-response currently takes place either for entirely missing returns or missing data for particular individuals. As part of the weighting procedure, design weights were calibrated to population totals in age/sex/region.



15.3.3.1. Unit non response rate

54%.

15.3.3.2. Item non response rate

Not calculated.

15.3.4. Processing error

Data capture errors are minimised by logic checks. Questionnaire routing is used to ensure questions are only asked to relevant respondents.

15.3.5. Model assumption error

Not applicable.

16. Timeliness and punctuality

16.1. Timeliness

The survey closed in November 2024. Publication of the first release on 6 June 2025.

16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results

No preliminary data released.

16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results

10 months.

16.2. Punctuality

The results were published on time in accordance with the date specified in the CSO's advance release calendar.

16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication

0 days.

17. Comparability

17.1. Comparability – Geographical

Not applicable.

17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Not applicable.

17.2. Comparability over time

Not applicable.

17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

Not applicable.



17.3. Coherence – cross domain

Coherence checks were carried out with the Household Travel Survey.

17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable.

17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts

Not applicable.

17.4. Coherence – internal

All results are based on the same microdata and results are calculated using the same methods, therefore the data are internally coherent.

18. Cost and Burden

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer

<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/multisectoral/responseburdenbarometer/> Survey specific information is available via CSO's dissemination database PxStat. <https://data.cso.ie/product/RBB>

19. Data Revision

19.1. Data Revision Policy

Published statistics are subject to correction and revision for a variety of reasons. The most common reasons include the receipt of additional information (for example, late survey responses) and updated seasonal factors. Occasional revisions also occur as a result of changes to definitions, methodology, classifications and general updating of statistical series.

It is recognised internationally that the existence of a sound revisions policy maintains credibility in official statistics. The CSO General Revisions Policy, which details how revisions should be managed and communicated to users, outlines the three main types of revisions:

- Planned Routine Revisions
- Planned Major Revisions
- Unplanned Revisions.

One reason for unplanned revisions occurring can be when errors are detected after publication. The 'CSO Error Correction Policy – How to deal with Publication Errors' outlines the steps taken when these errors are detected. As required under Principle 6.3 of the European Statistics Code of Practice, errors detected in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and users are informed. An important step in the process is the documentation and analysis of errors that have occurred and their causes. This allows the CSO to take measures preventing similar errors from occurring in the future and uniformity in dealing with them when they do.

The data revision policy that CSO statistics adheres to can be found via the following link:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/quality/treatmentofrevisions/>

19.2. Data Revision Practice

Not applicable.



19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not applicable.

20. Statistical processing

20.1. Source Data

Information is collected from individuals in households using questionnaires. The mode of collection varies between CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing) and CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing).

20.1.1. Population and sampling frame

The frame used is the Census of population 2022.

20.1.2. Sampling design

Letters of invitation were issued to a simple random sample of the population of approximately 100,000 persons aged 16 years or over, asking if they would be willing to join a panel to participate in CSO surveys. Approximately 7,900 persons indicated they would be willing to participate and provided contact details to the CSO for this purpose.

20.1.3. Survey size

Emails were issued to approximately 7,900 persons with a link to the online questionnaire.

20.1.4. Survey technique

Participants received an email with a link to an online questionnaire. Participants were prompted to enter a unique identifier and access key to start the survey (CAWI data collection mode). A very small cohort, who indicated they wished to be contacted by phone only, were invited to take part via phone call (CATI data collection mode).

20.2. Frequency of data collection

Once-off.

20.3. Data Collection

20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

Survey.

20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

The Household Environment Survey questionnaire consisted of a short series of questions about energy use, recreation in green and natural spaces, and attitudes towards environmental issues. The Recreation in Nature publication was based on the questions on recreation in green and natural spaces, aimed at capturing the contribution of ecosystems to our quality of life and the economy.

The questionnaire can be found on the methods page:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/ecosystemaccounts/ecosystemaccounts-recreationinnature/>

20.3.3. Survey Participation

Participation is voluntary.



20.3.4. Data Capture

Data were captured through CAWI and CATI.

20.4. Data Validation

Comprehensive data checking was carried out against similar published figures.

20.5. Data Compilation

Operations performed on data to derive new information according to a given set of rules.

20.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

Not applicable.

20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not applicable.

20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

To provide national population results, the survey results were weighted to represent the entire population of persons aged 16 years and over. The survey results were weighted to agree with population estimates broken down by age group, sex and region.

Design weights were calculated for all individuals in the initial sample. The design weights are computed as the inverse of the selection probability of the unit. The purpose of design weights is to eliminate the bias induced by unequal selection probabilities.

These design weights were then adjusted for non-response. This eliminated the bias introduced by discrepancies caused by non-response, particularly critical when the non-responding individuals are different from the responding ones in respect to some survey variables as this may create substantial bias in the estimates. Design weights are adjusted for non-response by dividing the design weights of each responding unit in the final/achieved sample by the (weighted) response probability of the corresponding group or strata.

To obtain the final respondent weights for the results, after the previous steps were carried out, the distribution of respondents by NUTS3 region, sex and age was calibrated to the population based on the Labour Force Survey for Quarter 3 2024, using the R package Icarus.

20.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.

21. Comment

The Central Statistics Office wishes to thank the participating respondents for their co-operation in agreeing to take part in the Household Environment Survey and for facilitating the collection of the relevant data.