



**An
Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh**

Central
Statistics
Office

Standard SIMS Report: Inbound Tourism Statistics



Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

Inbound Tourism Statistics

This documentation applies to the reporting period:
2024

Last edited: 27/09/2024



1. Table of Contents

1. Table of Contents	3
2. Introduction	5
3. Contact	5
4. Metadata Update	5
4.1. Metadata last certified	5
4.2. Metadata last posted	5
4.3. Metadata last update	5
5. Statistical Presentation	6
5.1. Data Description	6
5.2. Classification System	6
5.3. Sector Coverage	6
5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions	6
5.5. Statistical Unit	9
5.6. Statistical Population	9
5.7. Reference Area	9
5.8. Time Coverage	9
5.9. Base period	9
6. Unit of Measure	9
7. Reference Period	9
8. Institutional Mandate	9
8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements	9
8.2. Data Sharing	9
9. Confidentiality	10
9.1. Confidentiality – policy	10
9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment	10
10. Release Policy	10
10.1. Release Calendar	10
10.2. Release calendar access	10
10.3. User access	10
11. Frequency of Dissemination	10
12. Accessibility and clarity	11
12.1. News release	11
12.2. Publications	11
12.2.1. AC 1. Data tables - consultations	11
12.3. Micro-data Access	11
12.4. Other	11
12.4.1. AC2. Metadata consultations	11
12.5. Documentation on Methodology	11
12.5.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate	11
12.6. Quality Documentation	11
13. Quality Management	11
13.1. Quality Assurance	11
13.2. Quality Assessment	12
14. Relevance	12
14.1. User Needs	12
14.1.1. Main National Users	12
14.1.2. Principal External Users	12
14.2. User Satisfaction	12
14.3. Data Completeness	12
14.3.1. Data Completeness rate	13
15. Accuracy and reliability	13
15.1. Overall accuracy	13
15.2. Sampling Error	13
15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator	13
15.3. Non-sampling Error	13



15.3.1. Coverage error	13
15.3.2. Measurement error	13
15.3.3. Non-Response Error	13
15.3.4. Processing error	15
15.3.5. Model assumption error	15
16. Timeliness and punctuality	15
16.1. Timeliness	15
16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results	15
16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results	15
16.2. Punctuality	15
16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication	15
17. Comparability	15
17.1. Comparability – Geographical	15
17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics	15
17.2. Comparability over time	15
17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series	16
17.3. Coherence – cross domain	16
17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics	16
17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts	16
17.4. Coherence – internal	16
18. Cost and Burden	16
19. Data Revision	16
19.1. Data Revision Policy	16
19.2. Data Revision Practice	17
19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size	17
20. Statistical processing	17
20.1. Source Data	17
20.1.1. Population and sampling frame	17
20.1.2. Sampling design	17
20.1.3. Survey size	17
20.1.4. Survey technique	17
20.2. Frequency of data collection	17
20.3. Data Collection	17
20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process	18
20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)	18
20.3.3. Survey Participation	18
20.3.4. Data Capture	18
20.4. Data Validation	18
20.5. Data Compilation	19
20.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)	19
20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting	19
20.6. Adjustment	19
20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment	19
21. Comment	19



2. Introduction

The purpose of the *Inbound Tourism* statistical series is to measure the travel patterns (trips, nights, purpose of trip, type of accommodation, expenditure, etc.) of foreign resident visitors to Ireland. The series is one of several Central Statistics Office (CSO) tourism series conducted to comply with the requirements of Council Directive 95/57/EC of 23 November 1995 concerning the collection of statistical information in the field of tourism for data to the end of 2011 and Regulation (EU) No 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2011 concerning European statistics on tourism and repealing Council Directive 95/57/EC in respect of data from the beginning of 2012.

3. Contact

Contact Organisation:	Central Statistics Office
Contact Organisation Unit:	Tourism & Travel
Contact Name:	Gregg Patrick
Contact person function:	Statistician
Contact Mail address:	Central Statistics Office, Skehard Road, Mahon, Cork T12 X00
Contact email address:	tourism@cso.ie
Contact Phone Number:	(+353) 21 453 5000
Contact Fax Number:	

4. Metadata Update

4.1. Metadata last certified

27/09/2024

4.2. Metadata last posted

27/09/2024

4.3. Metadata last update

27/09/2024



5. Statistical Presentation

5.1. Data Description

Inbound travel patterns of foreign residents visiting Ireland (trips, nights, purpose of trip, type of accommodation, expenditure, etc.), which involve overnight stays and same-day trips, and associated variables.

5.2. Classification System

Departing Passenger category:	Outbound Irish, Same day visitors, Same day visitors (Northern Irish), Transfers, Other same day visitors, Overnight foreign resident visitors
Detailed Residency:	Great Britain, Belgium/Netherlands and Luxembourg, Denmark/Norway/Sweden & Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain & Portugal, Other Europe (2), Australia & New Zealand, Canada, USA, Other residencies.
Area of residence:	Great Britain, Other Europe, USA & Canada, Other residencies.
Reason for visit:	Business, Holiday/leisure or recreation, Visit friends or relatives, Other reasons.
Accommodation type:	Hotel, Guesthouse/B&B, Family/friend or own property, Rented/self-catering, Other.
Expense category:	Fare, Prepayments, Accommodation, Day-to-day.

5.3. Sector Coverage

This release covers all foreign resident visitors departing Ireland on overseas air and sea routes. Foreign resident visitors who depart Ireland via Northern Ireland are not covered. Foreign resident cruise excursionists who visit Ireland are also not covered. Information is collected via the *Passenger Survey*, an ongoing survey of departing passengers at Cork, Dublin, Kerry, Knock and Shannon Airports, and at Dublin Port, Europort Rosslare and Ringaskiddy Port.

5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

Inbound Tourism

Inbound tourism is defined as the activities of foreign residents travelling to and staying in places within the Republic of Ireland and outside their usual environment. It is important to note that trips by Northern Ireland residents to the Republic, whilst technically classed as inbound tourism, are excluded from these series for practical reasons. Northern Ireland residents who depart the Republic via an airport or seaport in the Republic, are assumed to be same day visitors simply transiting through.

Visitor

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'.

Same day visitor

A same day visitor is a visitor who spends no more than one day in the country visited. They do not stay overnight.

Overnight visitor

An overnight visitor is a visitor who stays at least one night in the country visited.



Trip

A trip refers to the travel by a person from the time of departure from his/her usual residence until he/she returns: it thus refers to a round trip. A trip may be made up of visits to different places. Only trips by foreign residents to Ireland are included in the Inbound Tourism series. Reported are foreign resident overnight and same-day trips that ended in the reference month. Note that the overnight foreign resident visitors may have arrived in Ireland prior to the reference month (e.g. if a visitor arrived in Ireland in May 2024 and departed in June 2024, this would be classed as a June 2024 trip). Included are all trips for personal or professional purposes (e.g. holidays, visiting friends or relatives, business or professional trips, sporting or religious events, medical visits, shopping trips). Excluded are all trips that are part of normal work routines, such as trips by aircrew, sea crew and commercial vehicle drivers.

Country of Residence

Country of Residence is defined as the country in which the person has resided during the greater part of the 12 months prior to being interviewed.

Departing Passenger Categories

All passengers departing Ireland on overseas routes are divided into one of five categories;

- Outbound Irish; these are Irish residents heading abroad for tourism or other purposes. Irish residents (which may include foreign nationals) are those who have lived in Ireland for at least the last 12 months.
- Same Day Visitor: Northern Ireland; these are residents of Northern Ireland departing the Island of Ireland through an airport or seaport in the Republic of Ireland. It is assumed that these residents of Northern Ireland are merely transiting through the Republic to avail of the various additional overseas travel routes on offer. Therefore, these passengers are categorised as same day visitors.
- Same Day Visitor: Transfer; these are foreign residents who travel to an Irish airport solely for the purpose of catching a connecting flight to a foreign destination. They are usually in the country for just an hour or so and are therefore considered same day visitors. Transfer passengers are not the same as transit passengers, who remain onboard their aircraft before it flies on to a further destination. Transit passengers are outside the scope of this *Inbound Tourism*.
- Same Day Visitor: Other; these are foreign resident departing passengers, other than Northern Irish residents or transfer passengers, who depart an Irish airport or seaport on the same day they arrived. Examples include business travellers flying in and out on the same day for a business meeting or travellers flying in and out for a family funeral.
- Overnight Foreign Resident Visitors: these are departing foreign resident visitors to Ireland whose trip has comprised at least one overnight stay in the country.

Nights

Nights refer to the number of nights stayed in the country by the foreign resident visitors. By definition, same day visitors spend no nights in the country. It is important to note that the number of nights reported in a particular reference month refer to the cumulative trip nights spent in the country by the visitor *departing* that reference month. They are not apportioned out over individual months. Thus, a visitor who arrives in Ireland on 24 May and departs on 8 June will be classed as having spent 14 nights in the country as he departs in June (even though 7 of those nights were actually spent in May). Seasonal factors (e.g. foreign students departing the country at the end of term) may inflate the number of nights reported in specific months (e.g. December).



Main Reason for Travel

The main reason for travel is the primary purpose for which the visitor came to Ireland. A visitor may have multiple reasons for visiting Ireland, but only the main reason is reported.

Main Accommodation Type

Main accommodation type is the type of accommodation the visitors used more than any other type. Very often, visitors will stay in only one accommodation type and this is their main accommodation type by default. If visitors stay in more than one accommodation type, the type they spent the most nights in is designated their main accommodation type.

Expenditure

Expenditure covers all routine expenditure relating directly to a trip. Expenditure is divided into four categories:

- Fares; the cost of air and ferry tickets to travel to and from Ireland.
- Prepayments; purchases of services in Ireland (e.g. car hire, tour bookings, concert tickets, etc, but excluding accommodation) undertaken in advance of the trip and relating directly to the trip.
- Accommodation; the cost of hotels, guesthouses, rented holiday homes etc, during the trip.
- Day-to-day expenditure; These are all other routine costs incurred *during* the trip. These include the cost of eating out, the purchase of gifts and routine consumables, tour and equipment costs (where not prepaid in advance of the trip) and other incidental expenses.

All expenditure relates to individual expenditure. Where visitors travel as a group and can only provide the cost of the group fare, group accommodation, etc. these group costs are divided by the number of persons in the travelling party to estimate the individual costs. The expenditure covers both payments made by the travelling party and all expenses paid for or reimbursed by others (e.g. an employer).

Fares only cover the cost of travelling directly to and from Ireland. Where a visitor purchases a ticket covering multiple destinations only the cost of the direct route to Ireland is nominally included (e.g. if a US visitor flies from John F Kennedy Airport to Heathrow Airport and from there to Dublin Airport, only the Heathrow-Dublin element of the fare is included). In these cases, the visitor is assigned the median fare of those who only travel the direct route. For those who travel to Ireland by ferry, their accompanying vehicle (if any) is included in the cost of the fare.

Package fares are assumed to cover the cost of both fares and accommodation. Visitors who package fares are assigned a median fare based on their travel route and the remainder of their package costs are assumed to be their accommodation costs.

Prepayments only cover the purchases of services in Ireland. The purchase of travel-related services in other countries (e.g. airport parking at their point of embarkation to Ireland) are excluded.

Accommodation costs cover all direct costs associated with booking a room, bed or space in the accommodation premises. The purchase of additional services from the accommodation provider (e.g. an evening meal or on-site parking) are classed as day-to-day expenditures (or prepayments, when booked in advance). Note that nights spent with friends or relatives or in the visitors own properties are assumed to be unpaid accommodation.



Excluded from trip costs are any expenditure on housing, land, real estate, goods for resale, donations to charities/institutions or cash presents/payments to relatives and friends who are not part of the travel party.

5.5. Statistical Unit

The data are collected at the individual passenger level.

5.6. Statistical Population

The statistical population is nominally all foreign resident visitors who overnight in Ireland. However, foreign resident visitors who depart Ireland via the border with Northern Ireland are excluded for practical reasons.

5.7. Reference Area

State.

5.8. Time Coverage

January 2023 to present (Monthly). 2023 (Annual).

5.9. Base period

Not applicable.

6. Unit of Measure

The main units of measure are

- Visitor numbers
- Nights spent in the state
- Visitor expenditure

These units of measure are broken down by residency, reason for travel and main accommodation type.

7. Reference Period

August 2024.

8. Institutional Mandate

8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

The Inbound Tourism release is one of several Central Statistics Office (CSO) tourism series conducted to comply with the requirements of Council Directive 95/57/EC of 23 November 1995 concerning the collection of statistical information in the field of tourism for data to the end of 2011 and Regulation (EU) No 692/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2011 concerning European statistics on tourism and repealing Council Directive 95/57/EC in respect of data from the beginning of 2012.

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 out 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/>

9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

The confidentiality of all information provided to the CSO by individual respondents is guaranteed by law under the Statistics Act 1993. All CSO office and field personnel become 'Officers of Statistics' on appointment and are liable to penalties under this Act if they divulge confidential information on any individual or organisation to any outside person or body. Data received from the airports and ferry operators is in aggregated form and thus it is not possible to identify any person from this data.

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

Monthly.



12. Accessibility and clarity

12.1. News release

There is no news release associated with Inbound Travel Statistics.

12.2. Publications

The Inbound Tourism release was launched in August 2023 (covering the reference months April, May and June 2023). Data estimates for January, February and March 2023 were published for the first time, and included in the May 2024 release. The first annual publication (2023) was published in June 2024.

On-line database

The Inbound Tourism and related Air and Sea Travel statistical tables and are accessible from the CSO dissemination database, PxStat, via these links: <https://data.cso.ie/product/ast>, <https://data.cso.ie/product/ITA>

12.2.1. AC 1. Data tables - consultations

In the period 01/09/2023 to 31/08/2024 the Inbound Tourism statistics had 17,938 page views. Inbound Toursim had 6,622 Unique web-hits in this period.

12.3. Micro-data Access

There is no microdata access to Inbound Tourism data.

12.4. Other

Not applicable.

12.4.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not conducted.

12.5. Documentation on Methodology

Further information on the Methodology used to compile the Inbound Tourism release can be found in the CSO's methods page for the release, directly from this link:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/tourismandtravel/inboundtourism/>

12.5.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated

12.6. Quality Documentation

For more information and documentation on the quality associated to this release please refer to the CSO's methods page: <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/tourismandtravel/inboundtourism/>

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.

Procedures are in place to internally monitor product quality. Results are analysed regularly and improving actions are undertaken, if needed. There is a regular and thorough review of the key statistical outputs.

13.2. Quality Assessment

As part of the overall CSO Quality strategy an annual self-assessment exercise is completed to evaluate the quality of processes and outputs. The CSO also liaises closely with the key data users and any divergences between the published results and third-party data sources are examined carefully to determine if they have any quality implications for the series.

14. Relevance

14.1. User Needs

The Inbound Tourism Statistics series were launched to meet a national need for more visibility on Inbound travel to and from Ireland.

14.1.1. Main National Users

- Failte Ireland
- Tourism Ireland
- National Accounts and Balance of Payments, CSO
- Research centres and universities.
- International Embassies in Ireland.
- Balance of Payments section in the CSO.
- The general public.

14.1.2. Principal External Users

- Eurostat
- OECD
- Tourism Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)

14.2. User Satisfaction

No user satisfaction survey has been conducted.

14.3. Data Completeness

The series is incomplete insofar as it does not include foreign visitors entering Ireland via the border with Northern Ireland.



14.3.1. Data Completeness rate

The extent of cross border tourism is not currently quantifiable. However, discussions have taken place with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency to arrive at an estimate for cross-border visitor numbers.

15. Accuracy and reliability

15.1. Overall accuracy

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

Administrative data on the overall total volumes of passengers departing on flights/sailings are received from the various Irish airports/ports on a monthly basis and are considered very reliable. Whilst the possibility of error can never be fully excluded, there has never been any reason to doubt the quality of this source data.

15.2. Sampling Error

The complexity of the various survey operations at differing airports and seaports and the multiplicity of survey variables makes it very difficult to distil sampling error down to a simple single set of indicators. As a matter of routine, sampling error is only calculated on an airport-by-airport/port-by-port basis.

15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator

By way of example, the 95% confidence interval for some of the key country of residence proportional estimators for passengers departing Dublin Airport in August 2024 were as follows:

- Residents of Ireland: 56.3% to 59.6%
- Residents of Great Britain: 9.3% to 11.4%
- Residents of USA: 8.8% to 10.9%

15.3. Non-sampling Error

Non-sampling error cannot be precluded. Collection, processing and aggregation of data all introduce potential for additional sources of error. However, there is no evidence to date to suggest that non-sampling error is a significant source of error for this series.

15.3.1. Coverage error

Not Quantifiable.

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

Not quantifiable.

15.3.3. Non-Response Error

Not quantifiable.



15.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate

Passenger non-response rates are of the order of 10%.

15.3.3.2. Item non-response rate

As the survey is administered by field enumerators, all items have a full completion rate.



15.3.4. Processing error

Processing errors are technically possible as the source data are coded and aggregated. However, consistency checks are applied to the data so it is very unlikely that a significant processing error would remain undetected.

15.3.5. Model assumption error

Not applicable.

16. Timeliness and punctuality

16.1. Timeliness

Data tables are updated monthly in synchronisation with the Inbound Tourism release.

16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results

30 days from end of reference month.

16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results

Data tables are updated monthly in synchronisation with the Inbound Tourism release within 30 days of the reference month.

16.2. Punctuality

Data tables are updated for any given reference month in accordance with the date indicated in the release calendar for the Inbound Tourism release for that same reference month.

16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication

0 days. All dissemination is completed as scheduled.

17. Comparability

17.1. Comparability – Geographical

The country of residence information is based on the Passenger Survey conducted continuously at all airports and seaports. The questionnaire captures information on the flight or sailing of the departing passenger and passenger residency of respondents.

17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Not applicable.

17.2. Comparability over time

Inbound Tourism statistics were launched in June 2023 following the return to frontier surveying in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The statistics produced have been fully comparable for the duration of the series.



17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

The length of the comparable time series is currently 20 months (January 2023 to August 2024).

17.3. Coherence – cross domain

The Inbound Tourism series is fully coherent with the CSO Air & Sea Travel Statistics series and 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

Individual figures have been rounded independently and the sum of the component items therefore may not necessarily add to the totals shown.

18. Cost and Burden

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

<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/enterprisestatistics/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

The data in the Inbound Tourism series may be subject to revision if the administrative source volume data changes.

If revisions are required, the necessary changes to the data and are highlighted on the release.

19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not calculated.

20. Statistical processing

20.1. Source Data

The numbers of passengers arriving and departing by air in Dublin and Cork airports is provided by the Dublin Airport Authority. The passenger numbers at Donegal, Galway, Kerry, Knock, Shannon and Waterford airports are obtained from these airports directly. The numbers of passengers arriving and departing by sea is obtained from the ferry companies operating cross-channel and continental routes.

20.1.1. Population and sampling frame

All foreign resident visitors departing Ireland on overseas air and sea routes. Foreign resident visitors who depart Ireland via Northern Ireland are not covered. Foreign resident cruise excursionists who visit Ireland are also not covered.

20.1.2. Sampling design

The *Passenger Survey* employs a hybrid sample design. At Dublin Airport, where the main enumeration effort is made, a two-stage cluster sample approach is used. A sample of departing flights (clusters) is randomly selected. Then the enumerators interview a systematic sample of passengers preparing to board those flights. At Cork, Kerry, Knock and Shannon Airports, where flight departures are less frequent, a different approach is used. Enumerators are allocated rotating shifts that represent the full range of flight activity.

20.1.3. Survey size

The overall sample size of the Passenger Survey for 2023 was 125,459. The monthly sample size for August 2024 was 16,468.

20.1.4. Survey technique

Face to face interview is conducted by enumerators, and data is recorded on a mobile device.

20.2. Frequency of data collection

Monthly.

20.3. Data Collection

Information is collected via the Passenger Survey, an ongoing survey of departing passengers at Cork, Dublin, Kerry, Knock and Shannon Airports, and at Dublin Port, Europort Rosslare and Ringaskiddy Port.

Why departing passengers (as opposed to arriving passengers). There are three reasons for this:



- EU Regulation on tourism statistics specifies that it is the date of departure, rather than the date of arrival, that determines the reference month for tourism flows. Surveying departing passengers aligns with this concept.
- The full details of a trip are not always known the moment a visitor first arrives in a country. This is particularly the case in relation to expenditure, where the visitor will not usually know exactly how much he/she will spend on their trip. Surveying departing passengers only, when the full trip details are known, avoids this ambiguity.
- From an operational perspective, it is easier to survey departing passengers (whilst waiting at an airport departure gate or waiting to board a vessel) than arriving passengers (who often depart directly the airport or port facilities).

The Passenger Survey is conducted by CSO enumerators and consists of enumerator-led interviews of a sample of departing passengers. The data is captured by the enumerators using of an electronic questionnaire hosted on tablets and mobile devices. The questionnaire captures information on the flight or sailing of the departing passenger, their residency, reason for travel, their length of stay in the country, the accommodation types they used and various expenditure information such as their fare cost, accommodation cost and day-to-day expenditure.

The Passenger Survey was first trialled in Dublin Airport in 2019 then, following a hiatus due to COVID-19, was fully implemented in Dublin Airport in 2022, before being rolled out to the other airports and seaports in early 2023.

20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

The survey data is collected through enumerator led interviewing. The survey data provided by respondents is recorded by the enumerators using a CSO designed electronic questionnaire on handheld devices.

20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

The data is captured by the enumerators using an electronic questionnaire hosted on tablets and mobile devices. The questionnaire broadly captures information on:

- the flight or sailing of the departing passenger;
- their residency;
- reason for travel;
- their length of stay in the country;
- the accommodation types they used and;
- various expenditure information such as their fare cost, accommodation cost and day-to-day expenditure.

20.3.3. Survey Participation

Participation by selected passengers is voluntary.

20.3.4. Data Capture

Statistical data is obtained from airports and ferry operators by monthly agreement.

Once saved, the survey data is immediately returned electronically from the devices to the CSO Tourism and Travel Section.

20.4. Data Validation

The survey data reported by airports includes assigned IATA codes. The ferry operator data and any missing airport codes, e.g. Irish airport code, foreign airport code, country code (of foreign airport) are coded by Tourism and Travel Section.



20.5. Data Compilation

There is minimal editing of the data. Enumerator administered surveying assures the quality of the collected data.

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

Very occasionally, a smaller airport or seaport cannot be covered in a particular reference month for operational reasons. In these cases, returns for this departure point will be imputed based on returns for the same departure point in a comparable month, with estimated expenditure adjusted in line with the rate of inflation.

20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Individual Passenger Survey returns are weighted to the total number of passengers flying to different country destinations in the case of air passengers, and to ferry port destinations in the case of sea passengers.

20.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.

21. Comment