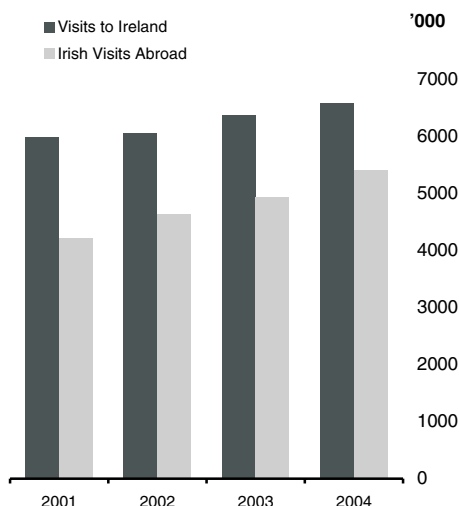




Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

26 April 2005

Number of Visits



Tourism and Travel 2004

	Visits to Ireland '000	Irish Visits Abroad '000
2001	5,990	4,216
2002	6,065	4,634
2003	6,369	4,929
2004	6,574	5,409

3% increase in Number of Visits to Ireland in 2004

There were 6,574,000 Overseas Visits to Ireland in the year 2004, compared with 6,369,000 in 2003, an increase of 3%. The number of Overseas Visits on Cross-Channel Air routes grew by 5% while the number on Cross-Channel Sea routes fell by 6%. In 2004 the number of Overseas Visits on Continental routes increased by 9% on 2003. Although the number of Visits on Transatlantic routes fell by 1% in 2004, the number of Visits by residents of the USA and Canada grew by 8% on 2003. *See Table 3 and Graph.*

The number of Overseas Visits by Irish Residents in the year 2004 was 5,409,000 compared with 4,929,000 in 2003, an increase of 10%. Overseas Visits by Irish Residents on Transatlantic routes increased by 19% and the number on Continental routes grew by 12%. *See Table 13 and Graph.*

The expenditure figures for the year 2004 show a net outflow of €104m - earnings from Visitors to Ireland accounted for €4,076m, while expenditure by Irish Visitors Abroad amounted to €4,180m. *See Table 17.*

The Tourism figures in this release also show that:

- ◆ The number of Overseas Visits to Ireland from North America in 2004 was 977,000 compared with 904,000 in 2003, an increase of 8%, although still down on the figure of 1,043,000 in 2000. *See Table 3.*
- ◆ The number of Bednights spent in Ireland by Overseas Visitors in 2004 dropped by 1% when compared with the 2003 figure. *See Table 8.*
- ◆ The average length of stay of Overseas Visits to Ireland during 2004 was 7.5 nights. This compares with an average of 8.5 nights for Irish visits abroad. *See Tables 7 and 16.*

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Table 1 Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Estimated Expenditure (Classified by Route of Travel) and Total International Tourism and Travel Earnings

	€ million				
Estimated Expenditure	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	1,145	1,244	1,282	1,334	1,388
Sea Cross-Channel	485	513	566	515	487
Continental European	603	690	747	794	841
Transatlantic	385	445	451	555	488
All Overseas Routes	2,617	2,893	3,045	3,198	3,204
Cross-Border	207	222	221	226 ¹	236 ³
Total Expenditure (excluding international fares)	2,824	3,115	3,266	3424¹	3440³
Passenger fare receipts of Irish Carriers from Visits to Ireland	813	820	723	633 ¹	636 ⁴
Total international tourism and travel earnings²	3,637	3,935	3,989	4057¹	4076⁴

¹ Revised

² Total Expenditure (excl. International Fares) plus passenger fare receipts of Irish carriers from visits to Ireland

³ Provisional

⁴ Revised and Provisional

Table 2 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Estimated Expenditure (Excluding International Fares) Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey

	€ million				
Estimated Expenditure	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Expenditure (excluding International fares)	2,617	2,893	3,045	3,198	3,204
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	1,042	1,163	1,251	1,295	1,253
Other Europe	721	810	862	884	927
USA and Canada	679	713	705	784	769
Other Areas	175	207	227	235	255
Reason for Journey					
Business	486	460	445	402	424
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	1,386	1,594	1,696	1,779	1,774
Visit to Friends/Relatives	569	648	675	708	755
Other	175	191	230	309	251

Table 3 Visits to Ireland - Estimated Number of Overseas Visits by Non-Residents (Classified by Route of Travel, Area of Residence and Reason for Journey) and of Cross-Border Visits on Rail and Scheduled Bus Services

	'000				
Visits	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Overseas Visits	6,310	5,990	6,065	6,369	6,574
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	3,047	2,969	3,073	3,253	3,413
Sea Cross-Channel	1,518	1,313	1,335	1,262	1,192
Continental European	1,187	1,170	1,173	1,287	1,408
Transatlantic	560	539	484	567	561
Area of Residence					
Great Britain	3,559	3,462	3,579	3,719	3,681
Other Europe	1,453	1,357	1,392	1,497	1,600
USA and Canada	1,043	912	849	904	977
Other Areas	256	260	245	249	317
Reason for Journey					
Business	1,074	975	906	854	926
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	3,346	3,177	3,242	3,334	3,413
Visit to Friends/Relatives	1,564	1,566	1,603	1,736	1,807
Other	328	273	314	445	429
Cross Border Visits					
Rail					
Length of Stay - 1 Day or less	98	99	95	102 ¹	103 ²
- Over 1 day	153	151	141	145 ¹	146 ²
Scheduled Bus					
Length of Stay - 1 Day or less	200	126	119	115	113
- Over 1 day	94	192	176	162	160

¹ Revised

² Provisional

Table 4 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents Distinguishing Same-Day Visits

		'000
Visits	2003	2004
Total Overseas Visits	6,369	6,574
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	334	349
Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	6,035	6,225

Table 5 Overseas Same-Day Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, 2004

	Reason for Journey				'000
Visits	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	Total
Total Same-Day Visits (i.e. no overnight in Ireland)	129	129	56	36	349
Great Britain	114	107	40	21	282
Other Europe	9	7	5	11	32
USA & Canada	5	12	9	4	30
Other Areas	2	2	1	1	6

Table 6 Overseas Visits to Ireland by Non-Residents, with at least one overnight in Ireland - Classified by Area of Residence and Reason for Journey, 2004

	Reason for Journey				'000
Visits	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	Total
Total Visits with at least one overnight in Ireland	797	3,284	1,751	393	6,225
Great Britain	418	1,657	1,142	181	3,399
Other Europe	277	816	330	146	1,568
USA & Canada	68	649	189	40	947
Other Areas	34	162	90	26	311

Table 7 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	2003	2004
All Overseas Visits	7.8	7.5
Route of Travel		
Air Cross-Channel	5.7	5.7
Sea Cross-Channel	7.9	7.7
Continental European	11.1	10.5
Transatlantic	10.9	9.9
Area of Residence		
Great Britain	5.2	5.0
Other Europe	11.1	10.5
USA and Canada	10.0	9.3
Other Areas	15.9	14.0
Reason for Journey		
Business	5.6	5.4
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	7.1	7.0
Visit to Friends/Relatives	7.8	7.9
Other	16.8	13.6

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

		'000				
Bednights	2003	2004	2004			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Accommodation	46,846	46,604	7,312	12,275	17,729	9,288
Hotel	10,278	10,663	1,697	2,977	3,867	2,121
Guest house/B&B	7,470	6,979	747	2,150	3,031	1,051
Rented house/Apartment	8,744	8,818	1,383	2,588	3,047	1,800
Caravan/Camping	1,077	970	3	256	676	35
Hostel	1,709	1,624	319	514	502	289
Friends/Relatives	13,122	13,031	2,529	2,855	4,392	3,255
Other	4,446	4,519	634	935	2,214	737

Table 9 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	2003	2004	2004			
			Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Great Britain	17,823	16,986	2,872	4,354	6,514	3,246
Hotel	4,306	4,034	810	1,021	1,311	892
Guest house/B&B	2,156	1,891	203	598	796	294
Rented house/Apartment	2,660	3,012	354	822	1,475	361
Caravan/Camping	401	334	2	96	219	17
Hostel	261	255	76	88	46	45
Friends/Relatives	7,184	6,615	1,268	1,527	2,370	1,450
Other	855	845	159	202	297	187
Other Europe	16,320	16,481	2,260	4,410	6,517	3,293
Hotel	2,414	2,795	355	825	1,156	459
Guest house/B&B	3,106	2,930	316	844	1,384	387
Rented house/Apartment	3,594	3,806	677	1,174	1,083	872
Caravan/Camping	656	573	0	154	402	17
Hostel	954	822	109	235	325	152
Friends/Relatives	2,823	3,186	513	670	911	1,091
Other	2,773	2,369	290	508	1,256	315
USA & Canada	8,834	8,790	1,358	2,525	3,105	1,803
Hotel	3,095	3,199	452	949	1,169	629
Guest house/B&B	1,798	1,692	190	557	661	284
Rented house/Apartment	1,362	1,167	176	355	315	321
Caravan/Camping	8	21	1	3	16	1
Hostel	313	315	72	117	80	46
Friends/Relatives	1,722	1,713	406	354	535	418
Other	536	683	61	190	329	104
Other Areas	3,868	4,348	822	986	1,592	946
Hotel	463	635	80	182	231	141
Guest house/B&B	410	466	38	152	191	86
Rented house/Apartment	1,127	833	176	237	174	245
Caravan/Camping	11	42	0	2	39	1
Hostel	181	233	62	74	51	46
Friends/Relatives	1,394	1,517	342	304	575	296
Other	282	622	124	35	331	131

Table 10 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, 2004

'000

Bednights	Reason for Journey				Total
	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	
Accommodation Used	4,299	23,105	13,871	5,329	46,604
Hotel	1,929	7,364	906	465	10,663
Guest house/B&B	475	4,981	963	560	6,979
Rented house/Apartment	963	4,677	1,572	1,606	8,818
Caravan/Camping	12	896	56	6	970
Hostel	76	1,196	166	186	1,624
Friends/Relatives	567	2,365	9,464	634	13,031
Other	277	1,626	744	1,872	4,519

Table 11 Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Estimated Expenditure (Including International Fares) Classified by Route of Travel and Total Net International Tourism and Travel Expenditure

€ million

Estimated Expenditure	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	1,232	1,265	1,464	1,393	1,419
Sea Cross-Channel	172	208	213	220	211
Continental European	1,382	1,699	2,237	2,452	2,480
Transatlantic	402	429	395	521	551
All Overseas Routes	3,187	3,600	4,310	4,586	4,661
Cross-Border ¹	112	121	120	127 ²	133 ³
Total Expenditure (including international fares)	3,300	3,721	4,429	4713²	4794³
Passenger fare payments by Irish Visitors abroad to Irish carriers	495	497	477	555 ²	614 ⁵
Total net international tourism and travel expenditure⁴	2,804	3,224	3,952	4158²	4180⁵

¹ Estimates are for tourist expenditure only

² Revised

³ Provisional

⁴ Total Expenditure (incl. International Fares) less passenger fare payments by Irish Visitors abroad to Irish carriers

⁵ Revised and Provisional

Table 12 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents - Estimated Expenditure (Including International Fares) Classified by Reason for Journey

€ million

Estimated Expenditure	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Expenditure (including International fares)	3,187	3,600	4,310	4,586	4,661
Reason for Journey					
Business	657	521	581	605	612
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	1,737	2,205	2,720	2,895	2,882
Visit to Friends/Relatives	598	678	754	796	862
Other	195	196	255	290	304

Table 13 Visits Abroad by Irish Residents - Estimated Number of Overseas Visits (Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey) and of Cross-Border Visits on Rail and Scheduled Bus Services

'000

Visits	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Overseas Visits	3,783	4,216	4,634	4,929	5,409
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	1,577	1,670	1,825	1,825	1,982
Sea Cross-Channel	414	439	413	408	384
Continental European	1,550	1,864	2,190	2,438	2,735
Transatlantic	242	243	206	259	309
Reason for Journey					
Business	631	542	559	597	671
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	1,963	2,402	2,706	2,876	3,081
Visit to Friends/Relatives	946	1,048	1,099	1,170	1,296
Other	243	224	270	287	361
Cross Border Visits					
Rail					
Length of Stay - 1 Day or less	137	112	131	152 ¹	153 ²
- Over 1 day	77	56	58	58 ¹	58 ²
Scheduled Bus					
Length of Stay - 1 Day or less	243	142	163	170	168
- Over 1 day	7	71	72	65	64

¹ Revised

² Provisional

Table 14 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents Distinguishing Same-Day Visits

		'000
Visits	2003	2004
Total Overseas Visits	4,929	5,409
Same-day visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	176	195
Visits with at least one overnight abroad	4,754	5,212

Table 15 Overseas Same-Day Visits by Irish Residents - Classified by Reason for Journey and Route of Travel, 2004

	Reason for Journey				'000
Visits	Business	Holiday/Leisure/ Recreation	Visit to Friends/ Relatives	Other	Total
Total Same-Day Visits (i.e. no overnight abroad)	77	67	35	17	195
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	63	20	16	7	105
Sea Cross-Channel	5	30	12	8	55
Continental European	8	16	5	2	30
Transatlantic	1	1	1	1	4

**Table 16 Overseas Visits by Irish Residents - Estimated Average Length of Stay (Nights)
Classified by Route of Travel and Reason for Journey**

	Nights				
Length of Stay	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
All Overseas Visits	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.3	8.5
Route of Travel					
Air Cross-Channel	9.4	9.4	9.6	8.9	8.4
Sea Cross-Channel	6.8	7.4	8.0	8.2	8.4
Continental European	9.5	9.8	9.3	9.0	8.0
Transatlantic	16.0	15.6	16.6	16.9	14.3
Reason for Journey					
Business	7.1	7.2	7.6	7.3	6.3
Holiday/Leisure/Recreation	10.3	10.4	10.0	9.6	8.7
Visit to Friends/Relatives	9.3	8.9	9.2	8.8	8.8
Other	11.9	13.7	11.3	12.9	9.6

Table 17 Tourism and Travel Estimated Earnings and Expenditure

	€ million				
Estimated Earnings and Expenditure	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
International Tourism and Travel					
Earnings from visits to Ireland	3,637	3,935	3,989	4057 ¹	4076 ²
Net International Tourism and Travel					
Expenditure by Irish Visitors abroad	2,804	3,224	3,952	4158 ¹	4180 ²
Tourism and Travel Balance	+832	+711	+37	-101	-104

¹ Revised

² Revised and Provisional

Background Notes

Introduction This annual series gives details on the number of overseas visits to Ireland and Irish visits abroad for the year. It includes data on the reason for journey, average length of stay (nights) and expenditure.

Commercial Drivers From the 1st 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 Two sample surveys of passengers, the *Country of Residence Survey* and the *Passenger Card Inquiry*, are carried out by the Central Statistics Office. These are used in conjunction with passenger movement figures supplied by the transport companies to provide estimates for overseas tourism and travel.

Passenger fare payments by non-residents to Irish carriers refer to total fare payments to Irish carriers, that is, including fares for non-Irish travel.

The *Country of Residence Survey* is a continuous sample survey of passengers (both inward and outward) at all major air 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 the numbers 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 in the 2004 *Country of Residence Survey* was 585 thousand passengers (290 thousand inward and 295 thousand outward).

The *Passenger Card Inquiry* is a continuous sample survey of incoming and departing passengers at major air 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 visitor estimates from the *Country of Residence Survey* to provide the overseas tourism and travel estimates shown in the tables. The sample size in the 2004 *Passenger Card Inquiry* at air and seaports was 482 thousand passengers (255 thousand inward and 227 thousand outward).

The estimates for cross-border visits on rail and scheduled bus services are derived from the *Passenger Card Inquiry* on rail services and from passenger movement statistics. In this case the *Passenger Card Inquiry* results are used to estimate the country of residence distribution in addition to the reason for journey, average length of stay, expenditure and fare costs. The estimates of expenditure by cross-border visitors using private cars (or un-scheduled bus services) are based on very limited information and must be regarded as subject to error.