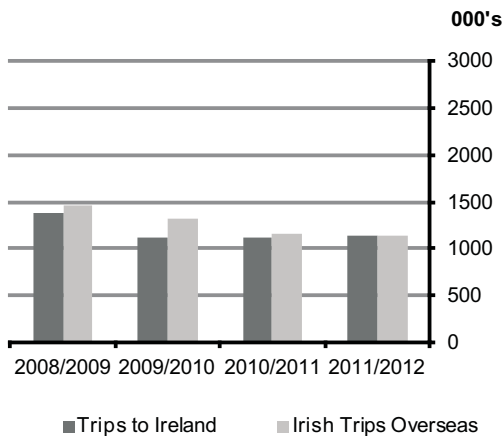




**Overseas Travel December - February,
2008 - 2012**



Overseas Travel
December 2011 - February 2012

	Irish Residents' Trips		Trips to Ireland by Area of Residence			
	Overseas	to Ireland	Great Britain	Other Europe	North America	Other Areas
Dec '09 - Feb '10	1,313,400	1,124,200	546,500	379,300	133,800	64,500
Dec '10 - Feb '11	1,163,000	1,115,300	541,600	368,400	134,700	70,700
Dec '11 - Feb '12	1,143,400	1,145,900	577,600	372,100	128,900	67,400

**Trips to Ireland increased by 2.7% for the period
December 2011 - February 2012**

In the period December 2011 - February 2012, the total number of *trips to Ireland* increased by 2.7% to 1,145,900, an overall increase of 30,600 compared to the same period twelve months earlier. *See tables 1 and 2.*

Trips by residents of Great Britain to Ireland increased by 6.6% to 577,600 while trips by residents of European Countries other than Great Britain (Other Europe) increased by 1.0% to 372,100. Visitors from North America decreased by 4.3% to 128,900 while visitors from Other Areas decreased by 4.7%. The total number of *overseas trips made by Irish residents* decreased by 1.7% to 1,143,400. *See tables 1 and 2.*

The total number of trips (Irish residents' trips overseas plus trips to Ireland) in the period December 2011 to February 2012 increased by 0.5% to 2,289,300 when compared with the same period twelve months earlier. For the period December 2010 to February 2011, there was an annual decrease of 6.5% 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. February 2012 passenger figures will be added to the database from early May 2012. For details please go to <http://cso.ie/shorturl.aspx/15>.

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Table 1 Overseas Trips for the period December - February, 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
Dec 08 - Feb 09	2,840,600	1,467,300	1,373,300	719,100	459,100	137,000	58,200
Dec 09 - Feb 10	2,437,600	1,313,400	1,124,200	546,500	379,300	133,800	64,500
Dec 10 - Feb 11	2,278,300	1,163,000	1,115,300	541,600	368,400	134,700	70,700
Dec 11 - Feb 12	2,289,300	1,143,400	1,145,900	577,600	372,100	128,900	67,400

Table 2 Annual Change in Overseas Trips for the period December - February, 2009 - 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
Change versus corresponding period of previous year (number)							
Dec 09 - Feb 10	-403,000	-153,900	-249,100	-172,600	-79,800	-3,200	6,300
Dec 10 - Feb 11	-159,300	-150,400	-8,900	-4,900	-10,900	900	6,200
Dec 11 - Feb 12	11,000	-19,600	30,600	36,000	3,700	-5,800	-3,300
Change versus corresponding period of previous year (%)							
Dec 09 - Feb 10	-14.2	-10.5	-18.1	-24.0	-17.4	-2.3	10.8
Dec 10 - Feb 11	-6.5	-11.5	-0.8	-0.9	-2.9	0.7	9.6
Dec 11 - Feb 12	0.5	-1.7	2.7	6.6	1.0	-4.3	-4.7

Table 3 Overseas Trips to Ireland by Area of Residence for the period December - February, 2008 - 2012

Area of Residence ¹	December - February			
	Dec 08 - Feb 09	Dec 09 - Feb 10	Dec 10 - Feb 11	Dec 11 - Feb 12
Total Overseas Trips to Ireland	1,373,300	1,124,200	1,115,300	1,145,900
Great Britain	719,100	546,500	541,600	577,600
Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg	49,700	38,600	41,700	45,300
France	76,100	49,600	64,900	58,400
Germany	71,100	51,200	58,800	61,900
Italy	42,100	45,400	30,800	34,500
Spain	45,500	41,900	40,100	42,700
Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark	25,800	23,100	27,800	25,800
Other Europe ²	148,800	129,500	104,400	103,500
USA and Canada	137,000	133,800	134,700	128,900
Australia, New Zealand and Other Oceania ²	23,600	23,100	24,600	22,700
Other Areas ²	34,600	41,400	46,100	44,700

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

² See Background Notes for Countries included.

Table 4 Overseas Trips in each calendar quarter, 2008 - 2011

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	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

Table 5 Overseas Trips to Ireland by Area of Residence, 2010 - 2011

Area of Residence ¹	2010	2011	2010				2011			
			Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Total Overseas Trips to Ireland	6,037,100	6,505,200	1,084,800	1,541,400	1,996,600	1,414,300	1,178,800	1,805,000	2,151,700	1,369,700
Great Britain	2,738,500	2,878,100	526,600	701,700	852,600	657,600	550,700	760,700	911,600	655,200
Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg	200,100	235,100	35,500	49,200	64,500	51,100	47,500	59,600	71,500	56,400
France	342,500	401,500	54,000	92,800	119,900	75,700	68,700	126,500	136,700	69,600
Germany	377,300	422,900	58,400	104,900	135,500	78,500	66,300	123,100	143,000	90,600
Italy	221,800	220,100	43,400	39,600	90,700	48,100	38,000	55,700	83,800	42,700
Spain	221,300	244,900	35,600	52,900	80,000	52,800	46,400	59,600	88,400	50,400
Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark	164,500	181,700	25,500	41,400	55,800	41,800	31,400	50,800	58,400	41,100
Other Europe ²	517,700	577,100	114,200	119,700	154,600	129,300	109,400	172,300	181,400	114,000
USA and Canada	935,600	987,100	137,300	264,000	332,800	201,400	154,700	303,800	352,400	176,200
Australia, New Zealand and Other Oceania ²	135,300	141,100	19,200	33,100	49,900	33,100	21,400	38,200	54,600	26,900
Other Areas ²	182,500	215,600	35,100	42,100	60,300	45,000	44,200	54,700	70,000	46,600

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

² See Background Notes for Countries included.

Table 6 Overseas Trips in each calendar quarter - Seasonally Adjusted, 2008 - 2011

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	4,086,900	2,065,300	1,987,800	997,700	640,600	262,000	85,300
	Quarter 2	3,995,700	1,948,500	2,039,700	1,014,200	663,100	261,600	91,200
	Quarter 3	3,853,100	1,946,300	1,894,000	927,800	632,300	245,600	89,800
	Quarter 4	3,795,800	1,942,400	1,925,400	924,500	681,700	237,600	83,200
2009	Quarter 1	3,792,400	1,843,900	1,885,000	898,700	668,200	238,100	73,300
	Quarter 2	3,515,700	1,773,600	1,746,400	819,600	591,200	256,700	76,000
	Quarter 3	3,375,200	1,711,300	1,669,500	779,500	570,900	245,800	76,400
	Quarter 4	3,357,000	1,739,500	1,676,900	777,700	573,800	236,800	81,600
2010	Quarter 1	3,229,100	1,700,700	1,421,400	651,000	513,200	228,400	79,800
	Quarter 2	2,990,300	1,571,000	1,436,700	673,700	447,700	213,700	70,900
	Quarter 3	3,219,500	1,707,700	1,538,900	696,100	520,000	231,000	79,000
	Quarter 4	3,142,800	1,552,000	1,624,800	705,500	577,500	265,700	88,900
2011	Quarter 1	3,223,700	1,539,900	1,578,400	685,000	566,700	255,000	97,500
	Quarter 2	3,258,200	1,621,500	1,653,300	729,500	573,700	254,500	89,300
	Quarter 3	3,191,300	1,568,400	1,655,600	744,300	576,200	244,100	89,000
	Quarter 4	3,110,400	1,546,900	1,589,900	709,300	563,700	235,000	83,500

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.
Publication of data	The data in the tables are rounded individually for each period and therefore the sum of the individual components may not be the same as the aggregate.
Sample Design	<p>A sample of flights and sailings is selected to facilitate proper representation of airport/seaport pairings, day, night, week day and weekend flights/sailings.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Sample results are grossed to total passenger numbers travelling for each airport or seaport pairing, as provided by the airports and ferry companies.</p> <p>Where there is no survey coverage in a period for an airport/seaport pairing, results are imputed using the 'nearest neighbour' imputation methodology.</p>
Sample Size	The sample size for the Overseas Travel release in respect of the three month period December 2011 - February 2012 was just under 85,100 passengers.
Seasonal Adjustment	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendar effects, e.g. the timing of Easter (see definition (4) on page 9) • 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 to Quarter 4 2011 calendar quarters are presented in the following tables.

Overseas trips to Ireland by Area of Residence

Q1 2011	Irish Residents' Trips Overseas	Great Britain	Other Europe	North America	Other Areas
Total trips	1,266,423	550,671	407,762	154,747	65,595
Standard error	5,030	3,612	3,415	2,192	1,679
Standard error as % of estimate	0.40	0.66	0.84	1.42	2.56

Overseas trips to Ireland by Area of Residence

Q2 2011	Irish Residents' Trips Overseas	Great Britain	Other Europe	North America	Other Areas
Total trips	1,752,969	760,729	647,525	303,812	92,943
Standard error	5,393	3,628	3,892	2,730	1,768
Standard error as % of estimate	0.31	0.48	0.60	0.90	1.90

Overseas trips to Ireland by Area of Residence

Q3 2011	Irish Residents' Trips Overseas	Great Britain	Other Europe	North America	Other Areas
Total trips	1,962,417	911,575	763,153	352,367	124,593
Standard error	5,725	3,811	4,270	2,956	1,981
Standard error as % of estimate	0.29	0.42	0.56	0.84	1.59

Overseas trips to Ireland by Area of Residence

Q4 2011	Irish Residents' Trips Overseas	Great Britain	Other Europe	North America	Other Areas
Total trips	1,310,955	655,171	464,724	176,221	73,591
Standard error	4,445	3,163	3,074	1,994	1,451
Standard error as % of estimate	0.34	0.48	0.66	1.13	1.97

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 22nd and April 25th, inclusively. In 2011 Easter Sunday fell on April 24th, while in 2010 it fell on April 4th. Visitor numbers each year are greatly influenced by when Easter falls.

Dates for Easter Sunday

2011 - 24th April
 2010 - 4th April
 2009 - 12th April

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

Other Europe includes the following countries:

EU 27 i.e.	
Austria	Latvia
Belgium	Lithuania
Bulgaria	Luxembourg
Cyprus	Malta
Czech Republic	Netherlands
Denmark	Poland
Estonia	Portugal
Finland	Romania
France	Slovakia
Germany	Slovenia
Greece	Spain
Hungary	Sweden
Italy	

Other countries included are:

Aland Islands	Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of
Albania	Moldova, Republic of
Andorra	Monaco
Belarus	Montenegro
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Norway
Croatia	Russian Federation
Faroe Islands	San Marino
Gibraltar	Serbia
Guernsey	Switzerland
Iceland	Turkey
Isle of Man	Ukraine
Jersey	Vatican City
Liechtenstein	

**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 12 for breakdown of countries)
Australia, New Zealand and Other Oceania (see page 11 for breakdown of countries)
Central, South and Other Americas (see page 12 for breakdown of countries)
Eastern Asia, Middle East and Other Asia (see page 13 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
 Antigua and Barbuda
 Argentina
 Aruba
 Bahamas
 Barbados
 Belize
 Bermuda
 Bolivia
 Brazil
 Cayman Islands
 Chile
 Colombia
 Costa Rica
 Cuba
 Dominica
 Dominican Republic
 Ecuador
 El Salvador
 Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
 French Guiana
 Greenland
 Grenada
 Guadeloupe
 Guatemala
 Guyana
 Haiti
 Honduras
 Jamaica
 Martinique
 Mexico
 Montserrat
 Netherlands Antilles
 Nicaragua
 Panama
 Paraguay
 Peru
 Puerto Rico
 Saint Kitts and Nevis
 Saint Lucia
 Saint Pierre and Miquelon
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
 Suriname
 Trinidad and Tobago
 Turks and Caicos Islands
 Uruguay
 Venezuela
 Virgin Islands, British
 Virgin Islands, US

Africa

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

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