

1st March 2012

Coverage

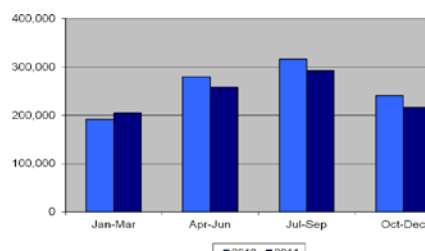
Northern Ireland, unless otherwise stated.

Please note that the figures presented in this document relate to overseas visitors exiting through a Northern Ireland air/sea port. Overseas visitors, who stay at least one night in Northern Ireland, exiting through a port in the Republic of Ireland are not included.

Theme

Tourism Statistics

Chart 1: Estimated overseas visitors to NI (exiting through a NI port) January 2010 - December 2011



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Summary of results from the Northern Ireland (NI) Passenger Survey January-December 2011

During January-December 2011, an estimated 973,000 overseas visitors stayed at least one night in NI, a decrease of 5% from the same period in 2010.

Table 1: Estimated overseas visitors to NI by country of residence, January - December 2010 and 2011

Country of residence	Visitors (000s)	
	2010	2011
Great Britain	865 (84%)	816 (84%)
Other European	70 (7%)	76 (8%)
North America	45 (4%)	40 (4%)
Other overseas	48 (5%)	41 (4%)
Total	1,028	973

The estimated proportion of visitors by purpose of visit remained the same in 2011 as 2010.

Table 2: Estimated overseas visitors to NI by reason for visit, January - December 2010 and 2011

Reason for visit	Visitors (000s)	
	2010	2011
Visiting friends/ relatives	598 (58%)	563 (58%)
Holiday/short break/leisure/recreation	206 (20%)	196 (20%)
Business	189 (18%)	177 (18%)
Other	35 (3%)	36 (4%)
Total	1,028	973

Note: Those visitors with unknown reason for visit have been apportioned across the known reasons.

TOURISM STATISTICS

Background

Information on **overseas visitors** to NI is collected through the Northern Ireland Passenger Survey (NIPS). The survey methodology may be viewed at:

<http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/tourism-statistics/stats-overseas-visitors/stats-nips-methodology.htm>

Overseas visitors include anyone reporting their country of residence as outside Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland. The estimates published in this report refer to those overseas visitors who stayed at least one night in Northern Ireland and exited Northern Ireland via one of the air or sea ports.

Events affecting travel

During April and May 2010, UK and Irish airspace was closed at times due to the ash cloud created by the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland. This had an affect on the number of flights arriving and departing from NI and the number of ferry passengers during this period.

During December 2010, snow and low temperatures caused disruption at UK and Irish airports for a number of days, affecting the number of flights arriving and departing.

STATISTICS BULLETIN

Sampling variability

The NIPS is a sample survey and estimates obtained from it are subject to sampling variability. Table 3 details the confidence intervals of the visitor estimates by country of residence for January – December 2011.

Table 3: Country of residence and confidence intervals for visitor estimates January – December 2011

Country of Residence	95% Confidence Interval
Great Britain	+/- 6%
Other European	+/- 8%
North America	+/- 10%
Other overseas	+/- 9%

Data revisions

Tourism estimates are produced to provide timely data to the tourism industry and Government policy makers. The estimates may be subject to revision due to improvements to the survey/ analysis methodology or the inclusion of data returned after the publication date. The figures in this document are the most up-to-date available at the time of publication.