

Visitors from the Republic of Ireland to Northern Ireland 2012

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This report provides the analysis of the most recent (January-December 2012) annual information regarding visitors to Northern Ireland from the Republic of Ireland. The key points to note are as follows:

- During 2012, approximately 430,000 visitors from the Republic of Ireland spent at least one night in Northern Ireland, an increase from 370,000 when compared to 2011.
- In 2012 visitors from the Republic of Ireland spent 1.18 million nights in Northern Ireland, showing a slight increase from 1.15 million nights when compared to 2011.
- The total expenditure in Northern Ireland of visitors from the Republic of Ireland was £70 million in 2012, which had increased from £59 million in 2011.

Results from the Household Travel Survey 2012, CSO

Introduction

This provides information on visitors to Northern Ireland (NI) who have come from the Republic of Ireland and stayed at least one night in NI. The information is collected through the Household Travel Survey, conducted by Central Statistics Organisation (CSO), and is not seasonally adjusted.

Executive Summary

Estimated number of visitors to NI

During 2012, approximately 430,000 visitors spending at least one night in NI came from the Republic of Ireland.

Estimated number of nights

Visitors from the ROI spent over 1.1 million nights in NI.

Estimated Expenditure

Visitors from the ROI spent an estimated £70 million during their stay in NI.

Table 1: Estimated ROI visitors, nights and expenditure in NI 2011⁽³⁾, 2012

	2011	2012
Visitors (000s)	370	430
Nights (000s)	1,147	1,181
Expenditure (£m)	59	70
Average length of visit (nights)	3.1	2.7
Average spend per trip (£)	160	200
Average spend per night (£)	50	70

Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO)

Notes:

- (1) The estimates for ROI visitors to NI are based on approximately 414 respondents
- (2) No information is available on the number of same day visits to NI by ROI residents during 2012
- (3) HTS figures for 2011 have been revised by CSO

As with overseas visitors, there was a decline in numbers coming to see friends and relatives (12%); and a rise in those coming for holiday purposes (69%) (Table 2).

Table 2: Estimated ROI visitors (000s) to NI by reason for visit 2011, 2012⁽¹⁾

Reason for visit	Visitors	
	2011	2012
Total	370	430
Visiting friends/ relatives	189	166
Holiday/short break/ leisure/recreation	100	170
Business	24	22
Other	57	72

Source: Household Travel Survey (CSO)

Note

(1) *Figures for 2011 have been revised*

Household Travel Survey (HTS) – Survey methodology

The Household Travel Survey (HTS) is conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and its primary purpose is to measure domestic and outbound travel patterns involving overnight stays and associated details of Irish residents.

Information is collected via a postal survey of private households on a monthly basis by the Central Statistics Office.

The HTS is a random stratified sample. Each month, over 4,600 households are randomly selected from the 2011 Electoral Register, where the selection is stratified by District Electoral Division.

Survey results for domestic travel are weighted to agree with household population estimates broken down by household type (the number of people aged 18 or over) and region. The household population estimates are provided by the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS).

The sample size for some sub categories/ breakdowns can be small and therefore caution should be taken when analysing this data.

Table 3: 2012 HTS Sample

Household Travel Survey	2012
Visitors who Overnight in NI	400

Figures rounded to the nearest 100.