

ITIC Headline summary based on CSO Household travel survey Q4'22

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Domestic travel bounced back in 2022 to surpass pre-pandemic levels

13.3 million domestic trips taken by Irish residents last year was 14% up on 2019. Expenditure at €2.93 billion was more than a third ahead (+36%) of pre-pandemic levels.

Holiday travel accounted for 6.6 million trips, 18.6 million nights away from home, with expenditure of €1.86 billion. Volume and expenditure on holiday/leisure trips was up 14% and 39% respectively up on 2019 levels.

The bounce back in domestic travel demand due to pent up demand, with expenditure reflecting price inflation over the period. Average length of trip at 2.8 nights unchanged from 2019.

Domestic leisure trips as a share of total leisure travel by Irish residents in 2022 was 55%, up from 51% in 2019, reflecting the later reopening of many overseas destinations. Irish residents spend three times as much on out of state holiday travel than on domestic holiday/leisure trips.

Domestic Travel		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	'22v'19
All reasons							
Trips	000s	13,274	5,663	7,721	11,621	10,919	+14%
Nights	000s	34,236	17,886	23,518	29,469	28,393	+16%
Expenditure	€m	2,930	1,291	1,554	2,147	2,006	+36%
Holiday							
Trips	000s	6,620	3,164	4,155	5,819	5,323	+14%
Nights	000s	18,607	10,835	13,351	16,003	15,058	+16%
Expenditure	€m	1,859	998	1,128	1,336	1,233	+39%

Source: CSO

Some characteristics of demand in 2022 include:

- Demand for domestic travel accelerated as the year progressed with trip volume up 12% over the first half of the year, with demand in the second half up 16%, compared to 2019.
- Counties Galway and Kerry increased in popularity for domestic trips (based on nights spent) in 2022 compare to 2019.
- Regionally the top earners from domestic travel in 2022 were the South West, West, Dublin, and the South East. Each region increased its earning from the domestic market by more than 20% compared to 2019, with Dublin estimated to have increased its receipts by 41%.
- Demand for hotels, while almost double the level from the previous year, bed nights at 8.3m was almost unchanged from the demand in 2019.

Outbound travel speedily recovered as restrictions were lifted in 2022

An estimated 8.8 million trips abroad by Irish residents, of which 54% were for holiday, was 6% below pre-pandemic levels. While night spent abroad was down 8%, expenditure at €8.6 billion was 4% on 2019.

The reopening of foreign travel was slow over the first half of the year, with total outbound trips down 24%, as travel restrictions were lifted and destinations reopened. Recovery picked up speed over the second half of the year with outbound trips up 10% compared to the latter half of 2019. The recovery continued to gather pace to year end, with outbound trips in the last quarter of the year up 14% on the same period in 2019.