**Domestic Tourism Methodology – Overnight trips by Northern Ireland residents (2022 data)**

Data on overnight trips taken by NI residents is collected through the Continuous Household Survey (CHS). Further information on the survey methodology is available from the Central Survey Unit, NISRA ([Continuous Household Survey (external link)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/central-survey-unit))   
  
  
**Sample Size**

The CHS is carried out to a systematic random sample of addresses (9,000 since 2017/18, after increasing from 4,600 in 2016/17) drawn each year from a list of domestic addresses held by NISRA. Between April 2020 and June 2021 the sample frame was again reduced to 4,500 due to difficulty collecting data during Covid 19 pandemic. The CHS is split into two sections; the ‘household section’ when a household representative (aged 16 and over) in the selected household is asked to complete the survey on household level factors and a series of ‘individual sections’ which all members of the selected household aged 16 and over are asked to complete individually.

From April 2015, NISRA changed the methodology for the collection of data, moving the questions on overnight trips from the ‘individual’ section of the CHS to the ‘household’ section. Accordingly rather than interviewing everyone in the house about their overnight trips taken within the last 4 weeks, one Household Reference Person (HRP) is interviewed and asked about all overnight trips taken by everyone of all ages in the household. The rationale for the change of design was twofold, firstly the change enabled an increase in the sample size (that is to capture more information on trips to provide more robust estimates) and secondly, it provided the means to capture information on overnight trips taken by children (those under 16 are not interviewed in the CHS). From April 2017 the sample of addresses was doubled which further increased the sample size.

For the latest year, 2022, data was collected about 7,936 individuals and information was captured for 2,233 overnight trips of which 840 were in Northern Ireland.

**Weighting and Grossing**

In order to estimate the value and volume of overnight trips taken by NI residents, it is necessary to gross the findings from the survey to the NI population. The respondent data is weighted to the NI population by age group and sex on a monthly basis. This ensures that the sample is representative of the overall NI population.

The age groups used are 0-15,16-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74 and 75+. Due to small cell sizes within the youngest age groups, males and females are merged to form one weighting cell in the 0-24 age groups, resulting in 14 weighting cells each month.

The Household Reference Person in each household is asked to report any overnight trip from which they or anyone else in their household has returned in the last four weeks.   
  
  
**Dealing with missing expenditure**

Total expenditure is requested from all respondents and for those taking trips in NI, the expenditure is collected within categories, e.g. accommodation, travel and food & drink. In cases where expenditure is missing or implausible, a mean value is calculated for the quarterly expenditure category and applied to the missing case.   
  
 **Precision of estimates**

The Continuous Household Survey is a multi-stage sample where for the collection of overnight trips, a household reference person (aged 16 or over) is interviewed on behalf of all members of a household and estimates obtained are subject to sampling variability. The standard error and 95% confidence interval for 2022 around the estimates of all overnight trips by Northern Ireland residents in NI stands at +/-2.6%, for nights +/- 6.5% and for expenditure stands at +/-7.3%. Information on confidence intervals in the NI tourism statistics can be accessed at this [link](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/tourism-statistics-confidence-intervals).   
  
  
**Analysing and reporting expenditure**

Total expenditure is collected individually or for the travelling party of each trip. The survey is set up to ask how many people expenditure covers and expenditure data calculated and published as expenditure per person.   
  
  
**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. Details on revisions policy can be found at this [link](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/tourism-statistics-branch-statistics-revision-policy).

The results for 2019 have been revised in the publication of 2022 reports to due to a change in methodology.   
  
  
**Overnight trips**

Information on overnight trips is reported based on the month of departure on the trip. A domestic overnight trip includes any trip away from home for at least one night in Northern Ireland by a Northern Ireland resident.

Further information on the Continuous Household Survey including copies of the questionnaire can be found at this [link](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/central-survey-unit).