

Household Travel Survey – Methodological Change (August 2016)

In August 2016, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) implemented an improved weighting scheme to the Household Travel Survey (HTS); which has been applied retrospectively to Quarter one 2012.

With regards to Northern Ireland (NI) Tourism Statistics and Local Government District (LGD) Tourism Statistics, the HTS is the source for the number of overnight trips to NI by residents of the Republic of Ireland (RoI). Additional information is also provided associated with these overnight trips including number of nights, expenditure, reason for visit, and accommodation type used whilst in NI.

Methodological Change

Central Statistics Office treats overnight trips to NI by residents of RoI as outbound travel. The change in weighting to outbound travel is detailed below:

From Quarter one 2012 onwards, survey data for outbound travel are weighted to agree with population estimates broken down by sex, age group and region (NUTS 3). These population estimates are provided by CSO's Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). These weightings are then applied to survey results. The results for outbound travel are subsequently further weighted to agree with the Tourism & Travel results.

Revisions to data

There have been revisions to outbound travel data from Quarter one 2012 onwards as a result of the change to the weighting methodology.

The Northern Ireland Annual Tourism Statistics 2015 and the External Overnight Visitors to Northern Ireland 2015 were also revised as of the 12th August 2016 to include the revised HTS data from Quarter one 2012 onwards.

The Northern Ireland Local Government District Tourism Statistics (2012-2015) were revised as of the 6th July 2017 to include the revised HTS data from 2012 onwards.

Due to the revisions in the HTS data, discontinuities in all of the series relating to NI Tourism Statistics (including at Local Government District level) have occurred. Therefore, results of RoI residents taking overnight trips to NI (their associated number of nights and expenditure) from Quarter one 2012 onwards are not directly comparable to results prior to Quarter one 2012. However, the impact on Local Government District tourism in Northern Ireland (trips, nights and spend during overnight trips) was minimal and insignificant.

A summary of the impact these revisions have had on the number of overnight trips, associated number of nights and expenditure for each Local Government District can be found in Tables 1 – 3 below.

Summary effect of revisions of data due to new methodology

Table 1: Estimated overnight trips by Local Government District, 2011-2015

	2012		2013		2014		2015	
	pre-revised	revised	pre-revised	revised	pre-revised	revised	pre-revised	revised
Antrim & Newtownabbey	250,806	252,379	234,264	234,055	200,545	200,582	204,290	204,902
Ards & North Down	339,991	341,775	342,685	342,388	443,358	443,481	376,755	378,254
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	128,572	129,031	201,334	201,161	231,797	231,852	149,449	149,782
Belfast	1,152,534	1,156,833	1,123,802	1,123,126	1,166,740	1,166,907	1,361,193	1,364,115
Causeway Coast & Glens	774,608	780,310	704,716	703,896	756,721	756,966	911,388	916,063
Derry City & Strabane	164,264	164,802	254,315	254,121	230,983	231,027	223,172	223,718
Fermanagh & Omagh	295,061	297,149	364,681	364,245	388,105	388,235	341,051	342,741
Lisburn & Castlereagh	123,564	123,937	123,727	123,669	117,651	117,661	130,924	131,121
Mid & East Antrim	256,076	257,450	251,338	251,140	322,113	322,198	382,224	383,861
Mid Ulster	168,532	169,592	141,231	141,122	213,732	213,795	155,708	156,252
Newry, Mourne & Down	454,092	457,419	453,109	452,567	571,040	571,238	404,442	406,302
Northern Ireland	4,108,100	4,130,675	4,195,202	4,191,491	4,642,786	4,643,943	4,640,596	4,657,109

Notes:

(1) All surveys are based on sample surveys and therefore have an associated degree of sampling error. Information on confidence intervals where these are available and sample sizes are provided in the background notes.

(2) Figures derived from the Northern Ireland Passenger Survey (NIPS) conducted by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), the Survey of Overseas Travellers (SOT) conducted on behalf of Fáilte Ireland, the Household Travel Survey (HTS) conducted by Central Statistics Office (CSO) and from the Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey (CHS) conducted by NISRA.

Table 2: Estimated number of nights on overnight trips by Local Government District, 2011-2015

	2012		2013		2014		2015	
	pre-revised	revised	pre-revised	revised	pre-revised	revised	pre-revised	revised
Antrim & Newtownabbey	741,841	745,134	914,193	907,684	729,648	730,015	672,902	673,876
Ards & North Down	1,272,875	1,277,107	1,239,892	1,232,882	1,572,908	1,575,270	1,397,895	1,401,779
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	495,158	496,880	821,771	817,881	769,129	769,692	562,866	563,238
Belfast	3,966,829	3,975,948	3,658,819	3,646,239	3,684,382	3,685,719	4,237,733	4,241,808
Causeway Coast & Glens	2,553,712	2,575,883	2,347,447	2,324,226	2,704,057	2,708,972	3,141,914	3,156,874
Derry City & Strabane	704,042	706,128	936,200	932,153	810,310	810,809	889,416	890,527
Fermanagh & Omagh	845,445	851,089	1,215,313	1,203,004	1,067,842	1,069,680	1,136,816	1,141,673
Lisburn & Castlereagh	582,745	583,313	522,020	520,669	471,202	471,286	714,336	715,670
Mid & East Antrim	655,396	658,168	839,952	835,646	1,146,162	1,147,683	1,007,755	1,010,302
Mid Ulster	549,082	551,659	526,674	524,318	621,832	622,592	613,667	614,960
Newry, Mourne & Down	1,424,090	1,436,455	1,464,543	1,449,132	1,487,973	1,490,653	1,056,896	1,060,063
Northern Ireland	13,791,215	13,857,763	14,486,823	14,393,835	15,065,446	15,082,371	15,432,195	15,470,769

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Table 3: Estimated expenditure (£) on overnight trips by Local Government District, 2011-2015

	2012		2013		2014		2015	
	pre-revised	revised	pre-revised	revised	pre-revised	revised	pre-revised	revised
Antrim & Newtownabbey	27,930,414	27,825,985	43,240,000	42,759,353	37,272,022	37,069,831	34,164,529	34,307,867
Ards & North Down	50,960,382	50,810,316	48,446,867	48,034,526	44,346,389	44,023,129	51,013,302	51,320,839
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	14,936,142	14,917,602	21,998,869	21,894,975	28,276,354	28,120,012	22,476,581	22,539,092
Belfast	268,857,894	268,418,126	227,189,795	225,982,902	247,564,826	246,448,671	278,034,119	278,739,428
Causeway Coast & Glens	123,684,196	122,994,450	110,137,241	108,491,911	133,245,930	131,276,188	136,770,965	138,015,972
Derry City & Strabane	26,718,843	26,654,278	46,814,887	46,305,147	39,744,803	39,497,818	42,502,028	42,712,577
Fermanagh & Omagh	35,728,660	35,545,072	86,329,960	85,136,754	63,765,281	62,762,328	54,585,277	55,149,963
Lisburn & Castlereagh	18,956,807	18,942,007	24,605,752	24,530,574	22,471,010	22,412,378	24,910,212	24,955,287
Mid & East Antrim	32,832,608	32,730,465	40,451,130	40,133,287	53,847,818	53,278,474	45,628,631	45,857,199
Mid Ulster	23,188,577	23,076,817	23,109,188	22,884,881	26,600,119	26,369,906	22,285,891	22,396,554
Newry, Mourne & Down	64,773,610	64,406,734	49,849,323	49,036,625	54,301,421	53,643,562	47,736,730	48,071,493
Northern Ireland	688,568,132	686,321,850	722,173,013	715,190,934	751,435,972	744,902,295	760,108,265	764,066,272

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