The first quarter accounts for about 19% of overseas trips to Ireland each year. Trips from Great Britain grew by 0.3% to 789,000 compared to Q1 2017. However, the volume of British trips is down 2016.

Fig. 1: Overseas trips to Ireland (000s) JANUARY–MARCH 2016 to 2018

Fig. 2: Market Share of Overseas trips JANUARY-MARCH 2018

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Just four markets, Germany, France, Spain and Italy accounted for more than half of Mainland European trips to Ireland in the first two months of the year.

Fig. 3: Breakdown of Trips (000s) from Mainland Europe JANUARY-MARCH 2018

These figures include both staying and same day visits to Ireland and do not include any estimates for those who travel via Northern Ireland.

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January accounts for just about 6% of overseas trips to Ireland each year. Trips from Great Britain fell 4% to 241,500 compared to January 2017. Trips from North America (93,800) and Mainland Europe (206,500) are up 3% and 17% respectively.

The majority of trips to Ireland in January are short haul, more than three quarters come from either Britain or the rest of Europe.
February accounts for about 5% of overseas trips to Ireland each year. Trips from Great Britain grew 13% to 263,500 compared to February 2017. However, trips from Britain in February were 14% lower than in 2016. Trips from North America (79,600) and Mainland Europe (202,100) are up 5% and 18% respectively.

More than 80% of overseas trips to Ireland were short haul, about one in five trips from long haul markets.

Fig. 1.2: Overseas trips to Ireland (000s) FEBRUARY 2016 to 2018

Fig. 2.2: Market Share of Overseas trips FEBRUARY 2018

Fig. 3.2: Breakdown of Trips (000s) from Mainland Europe FEBRUARY 2018

Fig. 4.2: Year on Year change (%) FEBRUARY 2018 vs 2017

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February accounts for about 10% of overseas trips to Ireland each year. Trips from Great Britain fell by 6% to 293,300 compared to March 2017. Trips from North America (158,200) and Mainland Europe (269,700) are up 25% and 9% respectively.

France and Germany accounted for over a third of European Trips in March.

About three-quarters of overseas trips to Ireland were short haul, just over a quarter of trips from long haul markets, a higher proportion compared to January and February.

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