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Strong overseas visitor growth of +13.7% for January-May 2016

Today's figures from the CSO (Central Statistics Office) confirm that visitors from overseas grew by +13.7% in the first five months of 2016 – that's an additional 418,000 visitors more than the same period last year.

January – May 2016	Total – All Markets	GB	North America	Mainland Europe	Other Areas
Total Overseas Visitors	+13.7%	+15.7%	+18.3%	+11.5%	+0.7%

Niall Gibbons, CEO of Tourism Ireland, said: *“Today’s figures represent an excellent performance for overseas tourism to date, with growth of almost +14% for January to May. We have seen exceptional results from North America for the five months – up over +18% on the same period in 2015. I also welcome the strong increase in British visitors – up almost +16%. Mainland Europe has turned in a superb performance with +11.5% growth and important markets like Italy, Spain and the Benelux countries are all showing really good increases.”*

Niall Gibbons continued: *“The outcome of the recent EU referendum in the UK has given rise to economic uncertainty and currency movements, which have the capacity to hamper growth. Tourism Ireland is liaising with our key stakeholders and monitoring developments. We are determined to get the message out that it is business as usual. Britain remains an extremely important market for tourism to the island of Ireland and Tourism Ireland is undertaking an extensive programme of promotions in Britain, and elsewhere around the world, to ensure this strong performance continues. Our aim is to ensure that 2016 is another record-breaking year for tourism.”*

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