

Irish trips abroad up almost 8pc last year

Sean Duffy - April 8 2017 2:30 AM



Irish people spent over €6.5bn on foreign trips last year, according to the latest data from the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

Irish people took a total of 7.6 million trips abroad over the course of 2016, a rise of more than 7.8pc compared to 2015.

The UK remains the most popular destination for Irish tourists, with 2.4 million trips made across the Irish Sea over the course of the year.

Spain remains a hugely popular destination for Irish holidaymakers, with 1.5 million trips made.

The total Irish spend in Spain last year hit €1.4bn compared to a spend of €993m in the UK.

Meanwhile, Irish businesses hoping to send goods and services abroad will be bolstered by the launch of a new initiative being launched by the Irish Exporters Association (IEA) in conjunction with Ulster Bank, Iarnród Éireann and Rhenus Logistics.

The first of four seminars of the IEA Supply Chain Series to be held this year took place in Dublin yesterday.

Each seminar has a specific focus on life sciences, food and drink, information technology, manufacturing, energy and engineering.

"This initiative will provide a network for our corporate members across all sectors to interact and exchange information on challenges, industry requirements and best practice," said Simon McKeever, chief executive of the IEA.

"Due to the increasing complexity and challenges of the global supply chain across all sectors, the IEA understands there is a requirement to offer members an open forum for addressing issues," he added.

Irish Independent