

Summary:

Transport Performance in Norway 1946-2003

General Trends

The growth in passenger transport work in 2003 is calculated at 1.1 per cent, a slightly lower figure compared to the previous year. The transport work for passenger car increased by 2.5 per cent in 2003, while the transport work for the public transportation sector showed a decrease. Around 88 per cent of all passenger transport in Norway is by road. Air transport accounted for 6 per cent of the transport work and rail transport (railroads and tramways) accounted for about 5 per cent.

The decrease in freight transport work in 2003 is calculated at four per cent. There was a marked downward trend for sea and rail transport, while road transport showed a modest decrease the same year. However, the latter is mainly due to new information about the level of freight transport carried out by vans etc.

Preliminary figures from the national accounts show that the gross domestic product (GDP) and consumption in private households rose by 0.4 and 3.5 per cent respectively in 2003. This entails a lower growth in GDP in 2003 than in the average over the last five years. The growth in private consumption in 2003 is slightly above average for the last five year period. The annual population growth varies little from year to year and has been about 0.6 per cent in recent years.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 1.4 per cent in 2003 compared to 2002. The Petrol prices increased in average about three per cent in 2003. Likewise it was registered higher prices for rail and bus transport in 2003, while air transport rates diminished by about six per cent.

Private Transport

In 2003 the stock of vehicles that are mainly used for private transport was about 2 070 000. The increase in traffic for this category of vehicles was 2.5 per cent. The average annual mileage per car is calculated at 13,800 kilometres in 2003 compared to 13,700 kilometres in 2002.

About 120,000 private cars were registered for the first time in 2003, a minor decrease from 122,000 in the previous year. Roughly 90,000 of these private cars were brand new, while the remaining 30,000 were imported used. The average age of private cars was 10.3 years at the close of last year.

Both the number of traffic accidents and the number of injuries in traffic decreased in 2003 compared with the previous year. The number of traffic

fatalities varies considerably from year to year. In 2003 280 persons were killed and 11,851 were injured in traffic accidents.

Public Transportation

The number of persons transported by bus has been very stable for the last 6-7 years. In 2003, there was a slight increase in the number of bus trips, while the transport work carried out by bus diminished.

Oslo Municipal Transport Company (Oslo Sporveier) reported a remarkable decrease in rail traffic in 2003, when a total of 30 million trips were taken on tramways and 66 million trips were taken on suburban railways that year.

The Norwegian State Railway (NSB) reported 45 million trips in 2003. Together with four million trips by Airport Express Train, this means altogether 49 million trips by rail, compared to 50 million trips in 2002.

Domestic air traffic has in the years 2001 and 2002 experienced a decrease in transport work. From 2003 on, however, the air transport will most likely show an upward trend.

Trips Abroad

Based on statistics from the Public Roads Administration, the Institute of Transport Economics has calculated that about 20.5 million people travelled out of or into Norway by road in 2003. More than nine million air trips and a little over six million ferry trips were taken between Norway and foreign countries in 2003, while the number of train and bus trips across the border was modest, about 1.1 million trips.

Freight Transport

The decrease in freight transport was modest for sea transport and marked for rail transport, while freight transport on roads showed a stable trend. Almost half of the transport work (48 %) now occurs at sea, road transport accounts for 47 per cent, while rail transport takes the remaining five per cent.

Ships completely dominate the scene with respect to shipments to and from abroad, 86 per cent of the quantity of freight to and from the mainland is carried by ship. The quantity of goods imported was slightly over 30 million tons in 2003, compared to an export quantity of about 41 million tons the same year.

197 million tons of oil and gas were exported directly from the Norwegian continental shelf in 2003. This is a decrease from 202 million tons in 2002, which was an all-time high figure. It has been a trend for the latest years towards more oil and gas export transported by pipe, while there has been a slight decrease in oil and gas exports by ship. Yet, about two-third of the export of oil and gas in 2003 went by ship, while the rest was piped.