

Summary:

Transport Volumes in Norway 1946-2008

General Trends

For 2008 the growth in the passenger transport volume in Norway is estimated to be 2.1 per cent, compared to 2.9 per cent the previous year. The number of person-kilometres by passenger car increased by 2.0 per cent in 2008, while the number of passenger-kilometres in public transportation showed a 2.2 per cent increase. Around 87 per cent of all passenger transport in Norway is by road. Air transport accounted for 6 per cent of the transport volume and rail transport (railroads and tramways) accounted for about 5 per cent.

The increase in freight transport in 2007 is estimated at 4.6 per cent. There was a marked upward trend for all modes; especially rail and road transport.

Preliminary figures from the national accounts show that the gross domestic product (GDP) and consumption in private households rose by 2.0 and 1.4 per cent, respectively in 2008. The growth in GDP has not been lower since 1991. Annual population growth was about 1.3 per cent in 2008.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 3.8 per cent in 2008 compared to 2007. Petrol prices increased on average by 8.4 per cent in 2008.

Private Transport

At the end of 2008, the stock of vehicles that are mainly used for private transport was about 2.74 million. About 138,000 private cars were registered for the first time in 2007.

The number of road accidents with injury decreased in 2008 compared to the previous year. The number of traffic fatalities varies considerably from year to year. 255 persons were killed and 11 123 persons were injured in traffic accidents in 2008.

Public Transportation

The number of journeys by bus has decreased somewhat from last year, to 337 millions. The average length of journeys increased somewhat in 2008, however, and so did the passenger kilometres.

Oslo Municipal Transport Company (Oslo Sporveier) reported a solid increase in rail traffic in 2008, with an increase of 7.4 per cent on trips made on tramways and 9.5 per cent on trips made on suburban railways.

The Norwegian State Railway (NSB) reported 51.2 million trips in 2008. Together with more than five million trips by the Airport Express Train and half a million trips by the tourist railway Flåmsbana, this means altogether 58.6 million trips by rail, compared to 56.5 million trips in 2007.

10.4 million domestic air flights were undertaken in 2008 and this is the highest figure recorded ever. The growth is mainly caused by an increase in leisure trips, but the number of business passengers also shows a slight increase.

Trips Abroad

Based on statistics from the Public Roads Administration, the Institute of Transport Economics has estimated that about 34.2 million people travelled out of or into Norway by road in 2008. About 15.5 million air trips and a little over six million ferry trips were taken between Norway and foreign countries in 2008, while the number of train and bus trips across the border was modest, about 0.8 million trips.

Freight Transport

The number of tonne-kilometres and the volume of goods transported by sea has increased substantially in the last years, but in 2008 the growth in freight transport by sea was only 0.5 per cent. Freight transport by rail increased considerably in 2008. The number of tonne-kilometres and the volume transported on road also increased in 2008. As aggregated over all transport modes, the growth of the number of tonne-kilometres in 2008 was 4.6 per cent.

As of now 45 per cent of all tonne-kilometres occurs at sea, road transport accounts for 48 per cent, while rail transport takes the remaining seven per cent.

Ships completely dominate the scene with respect to shipments to and from abroad, as 89 per cent of the volume of freight to and from the mainland is carried by ship. The volume of goods imported was 34.5 million tonnes in 2008, compared to an export volume of about 46 million tonnes the same year.

181 million tons of oil and gas were exported directly from the Norwegian continental shelf in 2008, slightly more than in 2007. There has been a trend over the last few years towards more oil and gas export being transported by pipe, while there has been a decrease in oil and gas exports by ship. Oil and gas constitute 69 per cent of the total export (in tonnes) from Norway.