

Summary:

Transport Volumes in Norway 1946-2009

General Trends

For 2009 the growth in the passenger transport volume in Norway is estimated to be 0.8 per cent, compared to 2.1 per cent the previous year. The number of person-kilometres by passenger car increased by 1.0 per cent in 2009, while the number of passenger-kilometres in public transportation showed a 0.6 per cent decline. Around 88 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 decline in freight transport in 2009 is estimated at 5.0 per cent. There was a marked downward trend for all modes; except for rail transport.

Preliminary figures from the national accounts show that the gross domestic product (GDP) declined (for the first time in 20 years) by 2.0 per cent, while consumption in private households was the same as in 2008. Annual population growth was about 1.2 per cent in 2009.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 2.1 per cent in 2009 compared to 2008. Petrol prices declined on average by 4.8 per cent in 2009.

Private Transport

At the end of 2009, the stock of vehicles that are mainly used for private transport was about 2.79 million. About 126,000 private cars were registered for the first time in 2009.

The number of road accidents with injury decreased in 2009 compared to the previous years. The number of fatalities varies considerably from year to year. 212 persons were killed and 10 056 persons were injured in traffic accidents in 2009.

Public Transportation

The number of journeys by bus has increased somewhat from last year, to 346 millions.

Oslo Municipal Transport Company (Ruter) reported a solid increase in rail traffic in 2009, from 113 million trips made on tramways and suburban railways in 2008 to 117 million trips in 2009.

The Norwegian State Railway (NSB) reported 50.3 million trips in 2009. 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 57.5 million trips by rail, compared to 58.6 million trips in 2008.

10.4 million domestic air flights were undertaken in 2009 the same amount as in 2008 which was the highest figure recorded ever.

Trips Abroad

Based on statistics from the Public Roads Administration, the Institute of Transport Economics has estimated that about 36.5 million people travelled out of or into Norway by road in 2009. About 14.7 million air trips and 5.6 million ferry trips were taken between Norway and foreign countries in 2009, while the number of train and bus trips across the border was modest, about 0.9 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 2009 the growth in freight transport by sea was down by 3.0 per cent. Freight transport by rail increased considerably in 2009. The number of tonne-kilometres and the volume transported on road showed a decline in 2009. As aggregated over all transport modes, the decline of the number of tonne-kilometres in 2009 was 5.0 per cent.

As of now 46 per cent of all tonne-kilometres occur at sea, road transport accounts for the same amount, while rail transport takes the remaining eight per cent.

Ships completely dominate the scene with respect to shipments to and from abroad, as 88 per cent of the volume of freight to and from the mainland is carried by ship. The volume of goods imported was 29.1 million tonnes in 2009, compared to an export volume of 38.9 million tonnes the same year.

178 million tons of oil and gas were exported directly from the Norwegian continental shelf in 2009, slightly less than in 2009. Half of the oil and gas export are being transported by pipe, the other half by ship. Oil and gas constitute 72 per cent of the total export (in tonnes) from Norway.