

Summary:

Transport Volumes in Norway 1946-2004

General Trends

For 2004 the growth in the passenger transport volume in Norway is estimated to be 1.6 per cent, a slightly higher figure than the previous year. The number of person-kilometres by passenger car increased by 1.0 per cent in 2004, while the number of passenger-kilometres in public transportation showed a considerable increase, 5.2 per cent. 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 increase in freight transport in 2004 is estimated at six per cent. There was a marked upward trend for all modes; sea, road and especially rail.

Preliminary figures from the national accounts show that the gross domestic product (GDP) and consumption in private households rose by 2.9 and 4.2 per cent, respectively in 2004. This implies a higher growth in GDP in 2004 than the average over the last five years. Growth in private consumption in 2004 is also above average for the last five year period. 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 0.4 per cent in 2004 compared to 2003. Petrol prices increased on average by about six per cent in 2004. Rail and bus fares also went up in 2004, while air transport fares diminished by about 15 per cent.

Private Transport

At the end of 2004, the stock of vehicles that are mainly used for private transport was about 2 133 000. The increase in traffic for this category of vehicles was 2.0 per cent. The average annual mileage per car is estimated at 13,600 kilometres for 2004, the same figure as for 2003.

About 143,000 private cars were registered for the first time in 2004, a substantial increase from 120,000 in the previous year. Roughly 115,000 of these private cars were brand new, while the remaining 28 000 were imported second hand cars. The average age of private cars was 10.2 years at the close of last year.

The number of road accidents with injury increased in 2004 compared with the previous year. The number of traffic fatalities varies considerably from year to year. In 2004 257 persons were killed and 11 864 persons were injured in traffic accidents.

Public Transportation

The number of journeys by bus has increased somewhat the last five to six years. In 2004, the number of journeys increased by 2.5 per cent. The average length of journeys has increased, as well, so that the increase in passenger kilometres was nearly 6 per cent.

Oslo Municipal Transport Company (Oslo Sporveier) reported a decrease in rail traffic in 2004, when a total of 30 million trips were made on tramways and 59 million trips were made on suburban railways.

The Norwegian State Railway (NSB) reported 46.5 million trips in 2004. Together with four million trips by the Airport Express Train and half a million trips by the tourist railway Flåmsbana, this means altogether 51 million trips by rail, compared to nearby 50 million trips in 2003.

After several years of declining domestic air traffic, it looks as if a new period of growth has started. 9.3 million domestic flights were undertaken in 2004 and this is 500 000 more than in 2003.

Trips Abroad

Based on statistics from the Public Roads Administration, the Institute of Transport Economics has estimated that about 20.5 million people travelled out of or into Norway by road in 2004. About 10 million air trips and a little over six million ferry trips were taken between Norway and foreign countries in 2004, while the number of train and bus trips across the border was modest, about 0.6 million trips.

Freight Transport

The number of tonne-kilometres and the volume of goods transported by sea has increased substantially in the last years. In 2004 the growth in freight transport was nearly 6 per cent. Freight transport by rail also increased considerably in 2004 after some years of decline. The number of tonne-kilometres and the volume transported on road also increased considerably in 2004. As aggregated over all transport modes, both volume transported and the number of tonne-kilometres increased by 6 per cent in 2004.

Almost one half of all tonne-kilometres (48 percent) 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, as 85 per cent of the volume of freight to and from the mainland is carried by ship. The volume of goods imported was nearly 33 million tonnes in 2004, compared to an export volume of about 42 million tonnes the same year.

196 million tons of oil and gas were exported directly from the Norwegian continental shelf in 2004, slightly less than in 2003. 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 slight decrease in oil and gas exports by ship. Yet, about 60 per cent of the export of oil and gas in 2004 went by ship, while the rest was piped.