

Summary:

Transport Performance in Norway 1946-2001

General Comments

The growth in passenger transport work in 2001 is calculated at 1.2 per cent, exact the same figure as in the previous year. The transport work for the public transportation sector remained at the same level as in the previous year, while the transport work for passenger car increased by 2.3 per cent. Around 87 per cent of all passenger transport in Norway is by road. Air transport accounted for 6.5 per cent of the transport work and rail transport (railroads and tramways) accounted for about 5 per cent.

The growth in freight transport work in 2001 is calculated at 4.5 per cent. There was a marked upward trend for sea and rail transport, while road transport experienced a more modest increase the same year.

Preliminary figures from the national accounts show that the gross domestic product (GDP) and consumption in private households rose by 1.4 and 2.6 per cent respectively in 2001. This entails a lower growth in GDP in 2000 than in the average over the last five years. The growth in private consumption is also lower in 2001 than the 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 3.0 per cent in 2001 compared to 2000. The Petrol prices decreased in average about eight per cent in 2001, while on the other hand it was registered higher prices in the sector of passenger public transportation in 2001 than the year before.

Private Transport

About 120,000 private cars were registered for the first time in 2001, a decrease from 126,000 in the previous year. Roughly 92,000 of these private cars were new, while the remaining 28,000 were imported used. The average age of private cars was 10 years at the close of last year.

In 2001 the stock of vehicles that are used for private transport has increased by 1.4 per cent, whereas the increase in traffic for this category of vehicles was 2.3 per cent. The average annual mileage per car is calculated at 13,600 kilometres in 2001 compared to 13,500 kilometres in 2000.

Both the number of traffic accidents and the number of injuries in traffic decreased slightly in 2001 compared with the previous year. The number of traffic fatalities varies considerably from year to year. In 2001 275 persons were killed in

traffic accidents; the corresponding figures in the three previous years were 352 in 1998, 304 in 1999 and 341 in 2000.

Public Transportation

Outside of the Oslo area, buses handle most of the local public transportation. In the 1990s, however, the increase in passenger transport by bus was relatively modest. Oslo Municipal Transport Company (Oslo Sporveier) reported a tiny increase in rail traffic in 2001, when a total of 34 million trips were taken on tramways and 70 million trips were taken on suburban railways that year.

The Norwegian State Railway (NSB) report 50 million trips in 2001. Together with four million trips by Airport Express Train, this means altogether 54 million trips by rail, compared to 55 million trips in 2000.

Domestic air traffic experienced a seven per cent decrease in transport work in 2001. The decrease is primarily caused by a considerable reduction in capacity, higher prices and fewer low-fare tickets.

Trips abroad

In 2001 there has been a considerable growth in the number of trips abroad by road. Short shopping trips by Norwegians account for most of this increase. Based on statistics from the Public Roads Administration, the Institute of Transport Economics has calculated that about 19.1 million people travelled out of or into Norway by road in 2001. About eight million air trips and a little over six million ferry trips were taken between Norway and foreign countries in 2001, while the number of train trips across the border was modest.

Freight Transport

There was an 4,5 per cent increase in transport work on Norwegian territory in 2001. The growth was considerably higher for rail and sea transport than for transport on roads. Almost half of the transport work (49 %) now occurs at sea, road transport accounts for 45 per cent, while rail transport takes the remaining six 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 and exported decreased from 80 million tons in 2000 to 70 million tonnes in 2001.

In 2001 almost 200 million tonnes of oil and gas were exported directly from the Norwegian continental shelf. Oil export transported by ship increased by ten per cent in 2001, while there have been a growth of ten per cent in oil and gas exports (measured by weight) by pipe the last year. About two-third of the export of oil and gas now goes by ship while the rest is piped.