

Summary:

Transport Performance in Norway 1946-2000

General Comments

The growth in passenger transport work in 2000 is calculated at 1.1 per cent, whereas the corresponding figure in the previous year was 1.5 per cent. 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 1.4 per cent. Around 86.5 per cent of all passenger transport in Norway is by road. Air transport accounted for seven 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 2000 is calculated at 1.2 per cent. The upward trend for transport on roads continued, while sea and rail transport experienced a modest decrease the same year.

Preliminary figures from the national accounts show that the gross domestic product (GDP) and consumption in private households rose by 2.3 and 2.5 per cent respectively in 2000. 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 2000 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.

Private Transport

About 126,000 private cars were registered for the first time in 2000, a minor increase from the previous year. Roughly 97,000 of these private cars were new, while the remaining 29,000 were imported used. The average age of private cars was 10 years at the close of last year.

In 2000 the stock of vehicles that are used for private transport has increased by 2.0 per cent, whereas the increase in traffic for this category of vehicles was 1.4 per cent. The average annual mileage per car is calculated at 13,300 kilometres in 2000 compared to 13,600 kilometres in 1999.

Both the number of traffic accidents and the number of injuries in traffic increased slightly in 2000 compared with the previous year. The number of traffic fatalities varies considerably from year to year. In 2000 341 persons were killed in traffic accidents; the corresponding figures in the three previous years were 303 in 1997, 352 in 1998 and 304 in 1999.

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 decrease in rail traffic in 2000, when a total of 35 million trips were taken on tramways and 67.5 million trips were taken on suburban railways that year.

The Norwegian State Railway (NSB) report 51 million trips in 2000. Together with four million trips by Airport Express Train, this means altogether 55 million trips by rail, compared to 53 million trips in 1999. Most of this growth occurred in local traffic and Inter-city trains, while traffic on long-distance trains decreased.

The growth in domestic air traffic, measured in transport work, amounted to 1.3 per cent in 2000. This is a far more moderate growth compared with the average growth in the 1990s, which has been about six per cent.

Trips abroad

In 2000 there has been a rapid growth in the number of trips abroad from Norway. This is especially true of road traffic, which has increased by nine per cent in 2000 over the previous year. 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 18.1 million people travelled out of or into Norway by road in 2000. Four out of five vehicles that crossed the border were registered in Norway.

About eight million air trips and a little over six million ferry trips were taken between Norway and foreign countries in 2000, while the number of train trips across the border was modest.

Freight Transport

There was also an increase in transport work on Norwegian territory in 2000, but the growth was much lower than in the previous years. There was an increase in transport on roads, but a decline in freight transport by rail and sea transport. Almost half of the transport work (48 %) now occurs on roads, sea transport accounts for 45 per cent, while rail transport takes the remaining seven per cent.

Ships completely dominate the scene with respect to shipments to and from abroad, 88 per cent of the quantity of freight to and from the mainland is carried by ship. The figures in the last three years show only small changes in the quantity of freight compared with the level in 1997.

In 2000 177 million tonnes of oil and gas were exported directly from the Norwegian continental shelf. Oil export transported by ship increased by 10 per cent in 2000, while there have been small changes in oil and gas exports (measured by weight) by pipe the

last three years. About two-third of the export of oil and gas now goes by ship while the rest is piped.