

Summary

Transport volumes in Norway 1946–2015

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Domestic travel in Norway increased by 2.6 per cent in 2015. The growth in passenger transport volume was highest for sea transport, with 5.5 per cent. Road traffic rose by 2.0 per cent. Domestic freight transport rose by 6.6 per cent in total in 2015. The amount of tonne-kilometres transported by sea showed the strongest relative growth, with an increase of 11.3 per cent, while rail freight transport increased by 3.6 per cent.

General Trends

For 2015 the growth in the passenger transport volume in Norway is estimated to be 2.6 per cent, compared to 2.3 per cent the previous year. The number of person-kilometres by passenger car increased by 2.6 per cent in 2015, while the number of passenger-kilometres in public transport showed a 1.9 per cent increase. The growth in passenger transport volume was highest for sea transport, with 5.5 per cent, but sea transport has still a marginal share of the passenger transport volume. Around 88 per cent of all motorized travel undertaken in Norway is by road. Air transport accounted for six per cent of the transport volume and rail transport (railroads and tramways) accounted for about five per cent, and sea transport around one percent. These market shares have been quite stable since 2000.

The growth in freight transport in 2015 including cabotage is estimated at 6.6 per cent, compared to 1.9 in 2014. The growth in freight transport volume was relatively highest for sea transport, with 11.3 per cent, while rail transport showed a 3.9 per cent growth in 2015.

Figures from the Norwegian national accounts show that the gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 1.6 per cent in 2015, while consumption in private households rose by 2.0 per cent. Consumption in the transport sector rose by 2.3 percent compared. Annual population growth was about 1.1 per cent in 2015, indicating a higher growth in transport sector consumption than in population.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 2.1 per cent in 2015, compared to a 2.0 percent increase in 2014. The partial index for transport rose by 1.3 per cent.

Private Transport

By the end of 2015, the stock of vehicles that are mainly used for private transport was over 3.2 million, of which 2.6 million were private passenger cars. About 175,000 private passenger cars were registered for the first time in 2015.

The road traffic volume increased by 2.0 per cent, compared to 1.8 per cent the year before.

The number of road accidents with personal injury was 4,563 in 2015. The number decreased by 409 in 2015 compared to the previous year. The number of fatalities in Norway has been decreasing gradually. It decreased again in 2015, and only 117 persons

were killed in traffic accidents in Norway in 2015, down from 147 traffic deaths in 2014. The number of persons with serious injury fell by 604 in 2015.

Public Transport

The number of journeys by bus increased from the previous year, from 344 million in 2014 to 356 million in 2015. The estimates are adjusted, with charter bus transport no longer included.

Ruter AS (the public transport authority for Oslo and Akershus counties) reported 149 million trips made on tramways and metro in 2015, compared to 139 million trips in 2014. Altogether there were 160 million trips made by tram and metro in Norway, up from 149 million in 2014.

The Norwegian State Railway (NSB) reported 65 million passenger trips. Together with amongst other 6.6 million trips by the Airport Express Train and 781,000 trips by the tourist railway Flåmsbana, this amounted 74 million passenger trips by rail in 2015. That was four million more trips than in 2014, a 5.0 per cent increase.

10.4 million domestic air flights were undertaken in 2015, which is about 590,000 or 5.3 per cent less than in 2014.

Trips Abroad

In 2015 about 22.6 million trips to and from Norway by airplane were registered, which was up 0.1 million trips or 0.3 per cent from 2014. Around 6.1 million ferry trips were taken between Norway and abroad in 2015. The number of private car, train, and bus trips across the border was not calculated for 2015, due to lack of data on these modes after 2012.

Freight Transport

Domestic freight transport continued to grow in 2015. The number of tonne-kilometres transported by sea including cabotage increased by 11.3 per cent, while road transport showed an increase of 2.9 per cent in 2015. As aggregated over all transport modes, the increase in the number of tonne-kilometres including cabotage was 6.6 percent, compared to a 2.7 per cent increase in 2014.

As of 2015, 46 per cent of all freight tonne-kilometres occur at sea, road transport accounts for 48 per cent, while rail and air transport takes the remaining six per cent.

Ships dominate the scene with respect to shipments to and from abroad, as 83 per cent of the volume of freight to and from the mainland is carried by ship. The volume of goods imported was 35.0 million tonnes, compared to an export volume of 55.2 million tonnes in 2015.

166 million tonnes of oil and gas were exported directly from the Norwegian continental shelf in 2015, compared to 159 million tonnes in 2014. Total exports of oil and gas by pipeline was 93 million tonnes in 2015, while ships carried 74 million tonnes. Oil and gas constitute 65 per cent of the total export (in tonnes) from Norway, about the same share as in 2014 and 2013.