

Summary

Transport volumes in Norway 1946–2016

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Author: Eivind Farstad

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Domestic passenger travel in Norway increased by 0.9 per cent in 2016. The growth in passenger transport volume was highest for rail transport, with 4.8 per cent. Road traffic rose by 0.6 per cent. Domestic freight transport, including cabotage, decreased by 0.3 per cent in total in 2016. The amount of tonne-kilometres transported by rail increased by 7.8 per cent, while other freight transport modes showed a decrease. Estimated excluding cabotage freight, the freight transport work increased by 0.9 percent from 2015.

General Trends

For 2016 the growth in the passenger transport volume in Norway is estimated to be 0.9 per cent, compared to 2.6 per cent the previous year. The number of person-kilometres by passenger car increased by 0.5 per cent in 2016, while the number of passenger-kilometres in public transport showed a 1.7 per cent increase. The growth in passenger transport volume was highest for rail transport (railroads and tramways), with 4.8 per cent, and sea transport with 2.7 per cent. However, rail and sea transport still have only a small share of seven percent of the total passenger transport volume. Around 88 per cent of all motorized travel undertaken in Norway is by road. Air transport accounted for five per cent of the transport volume, rail transport accounted for about six per cent, and sea transport around one percent. These market shares have been quite stable since 2000.

The freight transport work including cabotage is estimated to have decreased 0.7 per cent in 2016, compared to increase of 3.8 per cent in 2015. Freight transport work by rail increased 7.8 per cent, while road and sea transport showed a 0.3 and 1.8 per cent decrease and in 2016, respectively. Estimated excluding cabotage freight, however, the transport work increased by 0.9 percent from 2015 to 2016, mainly due to an increase of 3.0 percent in sea transport.

Figures from the Norwegian national accounts show that the gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 1.1 per cent in 2016, while consumption in private households rose by 1.5 per cent. Consumption in the transport sector rose by 2.4 percent compared to 2.7 in 2015. Annual population growth was about 0.9 per cent in 2016, indicating an about equal growth in passenger transport as in the population.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 3.6 per cent in 2016. The partial index for transport rose by 2.5 per cent.

Private Transport

By the end of 2016, the stock of vehicles mainly used for private transport was over 3.2 million, of which 2.7 million were private passenger cars. About 174,500 private passenger cars were registered for the first time in 2016.

The road traffic volume increased by 0.6 per cent, compared to 2.0 per cent in 2015. The number of road accidents with personal injury was 4,374 in 2016, and decreased by 189 in 2016 compared to the previous year. The number of fatalities in Norway has been

decreasing gradually, but in 2016 it rose. In total 135 persons were killed in traffic accidents in Norway, up from 117 traffic deaths in 2015. The number of persons with serious injury went down, however, by 148 in 2016.

Public Transport

The number of journeys by bus increased from the previous year, from 356 million in 2015 to 369 million in 2016, excluding charter bus transport.

Ruter AS (the public transport authority for Oslo and Akershus counties) reported 159 million trips made on tramways and metro in 2016, compared to 149 million trips in 2015. Altogether there were 171 million trips made by tram and metro in Norway, up from 160 million in 2015.

The Norwegian State Railway (NSB) reported 66 million passenger trips. Together with amongst other 6.5 million trips by the Airport Express Train and almost one million trips by the tourist railway Flåmsbana, this amounted to 74 million passenger trips by rail in 2016. That was about equal the number from 2015.

Around 53 million passengers were transported by ferries and other boats within Norway. About 9.8 million domestic air flights were undertaken in 2016, which is about 220,000 or 4.9 per cent less than in 2015.

Trips Abroad

In 2016 about 22.8 million trips to and from Norway by airplane were registered, which was up 0.2 million trips from 2015. Around 6.1 million ferry trips and 0.5 million trips by train were taken between Norway and abroad in 2016. The number of private car and bus trips across the border was not calculated for 2016, due to lack of data after 2012.

Freight Transport

Domestic freight transport, measured by tonne-kilometres transported including cabotage, decreased in 2016. Transport by rail increased by 4.8 per cent, while transport with other freight modes decreased. As aggregated over all transport modes, the number of tonne-kilometres including cabotage decreased by 0.7 per cent, compared to a 3.8 per cent increase in 2015. Estimated excluding cabotage, however, domestic freight transport rose with 0.9 per cent.

As of 2016, almost 48 per cent of all freight tonne-kilometres occur at sea, road transport also accounts for 48 per cent, while rail and air transport takes the remaining five 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 34.8 million tonnes, compared to an export volume of 59.4 million tonnes. 172 million tonnes of oil and gas were exported directly from the Norwegian continental shelf in 2016, compared to 166 million tonnes in 2015. Total exports of oil and gas by pipeline was 94 million tonnes in 2016, while ships carried 78 million tonnes. Oil and gas constitute 65 per cent of the total export (in tonnes) from Norway, about the same share as it has been the past five years.