

Summary:

Transport Volumes in Norway 1946-2005

General Trends

For 2005 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 1.4 per cent in 2005, while the number of passenger-kilometres in public transportation showed a considerable increase, about three 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 2005 is estimated at 3.4 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 2.3 and 3.2 per cent, respectively in 2005. This implies a growth in both GDP and private consumption in 2005 that is similar to the average over the last five years. Annual population growth varies little from year to year and has been about 0.7 per cent in 2005.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 1.6 per cent in 2005 compared to 2004. Petrol prices increased on average by about nine per cent in 2005. Rail and air fares also went up in 2005.

Private Transport

At the end of 2005, the stock of vehicles that are mainly used for private transport was about 2.25 million. The average annual mileage per car is estimated at 13,600 kilometres for 2005, the same figure as for 2004.

About 145,000 private cars were registered for the first time in 2005. Roughly 110,000 of these private cars were brand new, while the remaining 35 000 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 decreased in 2005 compared with the previous year. The number of traffic fatalities varies considerably from year to year. In 2005 224 persons were killed and 11 214 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 decreased a little. The average length of journeys has increased, however, so that the increase in passenger kilometres was nearly 3.5 per cent.

Oslo Municipal Transport Company (Oslo Sporveier) reported a solid increase in rail traffic in 2005, when a total of 33 million trips were made on tramways and 64 million trips were made on suburban railways.

The Norwegian State Railway (NSB) reported 47.3 million trips in 2005. Together with four million trips by the Airport Express Train and half a million trips by the tourist railway Flåmsbana, this means altogether 52 million trips by rail, compared to nearby 51 million trips in 2004.

After several years of declining domestic air traffic, it looks as if a new period of growth has started. 9.5 million domestic flights were undertaken in 2005 and this is 200 000 more than in 2004.

Trips Abroad

Based on statistics from the Public Roads Administration, the Institute of Transport Economics has estimated that about 32 million people travelled out of or into Norway by road in 2005. About 12 million air trips and a little over six million ferry trips were taken between Norway and foreign countries in 2005, while the number of train and bus trips across the border was modest, about 0.5 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 2005 the growth in freight transport was more modest, about two per cent. Freight transport by rail also increased considerably in 2004 and 2005 after some years of decline. The number of tonne-kilometres and the volume transported on road also increased in 2005. As aggregated over all transport modes, the number of tonne-kilometres increased by four per cent in 2005.

Almost one half of all tonne-kilometres (46 percent) now occurs at sea, road transport accounts for 48 per cent, while rail transport takes the remaining six per cent.

Ships completely dominate the scene with respect to shipments to and from abroad, as 84 per cent of the volume of freight to and from the mainland is carried by ship. The volume of goods imported was nearly 35 million tonnes in 2005, compared to an export volume of about 41 million tonnes the same year.

192 million tons of oil and gas were exported directly from the Norwegian continental shelf in 2005, slightly less than in 2004. 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 56 per cent of the export of oil and gas in 2005 went by ship, while the rest was piped.