

Summary

Transport volumes in Norway 1946–2017

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Domestic passenger travel in Norway increased by 1.7 per cent in 2017. The growth in passenger transport volume was highest for air transport, with 2.0 per cent. Road transport rose by 1.9 per cent, and sea transport by 0.6 per cent. Domestic freight transport, including cabotage, increased by 2.6 per cent in total in 2017. The amount of tonne-kilometres transported by sea increased by 3.6 per cent, by road 2.0 per cent, and by air 2.1 per cent, while rail transport showed a decrease. Estimated transport work excluding cabotage freight increased by only 0.2 percent from 2016.

General Trends

For 2017 the growth in the passenger transport volume in Norway is estimated to be 1.7 per cent, compared to 0.9 per cent the previous year. The number of person-kilometres by passenger car increased by 1.9 per cent in 2017, while the number of passenger-kilometres in public transport showed a 0.2 per cent decrease. The growth in passenger transport volume was highest for air transport, with 2.0 per cent. Sea passenger transport increased with 0.6 per cent, while rail transport decreased by 0.9 per cent. However, air, rail and sea transport altogether only constitutes a relatively small share of 14 per cent of the total domestic passenger transport volume. Around 86 per cent of all motorized travel undertaken in Norway is by road. Air transport accounted for seven per cent of the transport volume, rail transport about five per cent, and sea transport around one percent. These market shares have been quite stable since 2010.

The freight transport work including cabotage is estimated to have increased 2.6 per cent in 2017, compared to a decrease of 9.6 per cent in 2016. Freight transport work by sea increased 3.6 per cent, while road and air transport showed a 2.0 and 2.1 per cent increase in 2017, respectively. Excluding cabotage, however, the transport work increased by only 0.2 percent from 2016 to 2017, mainly due to a decrease of 3.4 percent in sea transport.

Annual population growth was about 0.8 per cent in 2017, indicating higher growth in passenger transport than in the population. Figures from the Norwegian national accounts show that the gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 1.9 per cent in 2017, while consumption in private households rose by 2.5 per cent. Consumption in the transport sector rose by 2.6 percent compared to 2.4 in 2016.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 1.8 per cent in 2017. The partial index for transport rose by 2.5 per cent, the same as the previous year.

Private Transport

By the end of 2017, the stock of vehicles mainly used for private transport was over 3.3 million, of which 2.7 million were private passenger cars. About 184,000 private passenger cars were registered for the first time in 2017, around five percent more than in 2016.

The road traffic volume increased by 1.1 per cent, compared to 0.6 per cent in 2016. The number of road accidents with personal injury was 4,086 in 2017, and decreased by 288 accidents compared to the previous year. The number of traffic fatalities in Norway has

been decreasing gradually, apart from in 2016, when it rose. In total 106 persons were killed in traffic accidents in Norway in 2017, which is the lowest number of fatalities ever, down from 135 traffic deaths in 2016. The number of persons with serious injury also went down, by 277.

Public Transport

The number of journeys by bus increased by 29 million from the previous year, from 369 million in 2016 to 398 million in 2017, excluding charter bus transport.

Ruter AS (the public transport authority for Oslo and Akershus counties) reported 169 million trips made on tramways and metro in 2017, compared to 159 million trips in 2016. Altogether there were 181 million trips made by tram and metro in Norway, up from 171 million in 2016.

The Norwegian State Railway (NSB) reported 65 million passenger trips, about one million fewer than in 2016. Together with amongst other 6.6 million trips by the Airport Express Train and almost one million trips by the tourist railway Flåmsbana, this amounted to 73 million passenger trips by rail in 2017. That was about one million fewer than in 2016.

Around 56 million passengers were transported by ferries and other boats within Norway. About 13.3 million domestic air flights were undertaken in 2017 (including domestic transfer journeys to abroad) which is about 240,000 or 1.9 per cent more than in 2016.

Trips Abroad

In 2017 about 23.3 million trips to and from Norway by airplane were registered, which was up 0.5 million trips from 2016. Around 6.2 million ferry trips and 0.6 million trips by train were taken between Norway and abroad in 2017, about equal to the previous year.

Freight Transport

Domestic freight transport, measured by tonne-kilometres transported, including cabotage, increased in 2017. Transport by sea increased by 3.6 per cent, by road 2.0 per cent and by air by 2.1 per cent, while transport by rail decreased 0.5 per cent. As aggregated over all transport modes, the number of tonne-kilometres including cabotage increased by 2.6 per cent, compared to a decrease of 9.6 per cent the year before. Estimated excluding cabotage, however, domestic freight transport rose with only 0.2 per cent.

As of 2017, almost 47 per cent of all freight tonne-kilometres occur at sea, road transport accounts for 48 per cent, while rail and air transport take the remaining five per cent.

The volume of goods imported was 37.9 million tonnes, compared to an export volume of 57.2 million tonnes. 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, while 14 percent is carried by road transport.

186 million tonnes of oil and gas were exported directly from the Norwegian continental shelf in 2017, compared to 172 million tonnes in 2016. Total exports of oil and gas by pipeline was 107 million tonnes in 2017, while ships carried 79 million tonnes. Oil and gas constitute 66 per cent of the total export (measured in tonnes) from Norway, about the same share as it has been the past seven years.