

Summary

Transport volumes in Norway 1946–2018

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Domestic passenger travel in Norway increased by 1.0 per cent in 2018. The growth in passenger transport volume was highest for rail and buses, with 4.3 and 3.1 per cent. Road transport rose by 0.8 percent. Domestic freight transport, including cabotage, decreased by 0.4 per cent in total in 2018. The amount of tonne kilometres transported by rail increased 5.4 per cent, while freight transport by sea decreased with 1.3 per cent, by road 0.2 per cent, and by air 27.5 per cent. Estimated freight transport, excluding cabotage, increased by 2.4 per cent from 2017 to 2018.

General Trends

For 2018 the growth in the passenger transport volume in Norway is estimated to be 1.0 per cent, compared to 1.7 per cent the previous year. The number of person-kilometres by passenger car increased by 0.3 per cent in 2018, while the number of passenger-kilometres in public transport showed a 2.7 per cent increase. The growth in passenger transport volume was highest for rail transport, with 4.3 per cent. Air transport increased by 1,8 per cent, while sea passenger transport decreased with 0.4 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 decreased 0.4 per cent in 2018, compared to an increase of 5.0 per cent in 2017. Freight transport work by sea decreased 1.3 per cent, by road 0.2 per cent, and by air by 27.5 per cent, while transport work by rail increased 5,4 per cent. Excluding cabotage, however, the transport work increased by 2.4 percent from 2017 to 2018, mainly due to an increase of 12.9 percent in sea transport.

Annual population growth was about 0.6 per cent in 2018, 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 1.3 per cent in 2018, while consumption in private households rose by 1.8 per cent. Consumption in the transport sector rose by 0.2 percent in 2018, compared to 3.5 in 2017.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 2.7 per cent in 2018. The partial index for transport rose by 3.5 per cent.

Private Transport

By the end of 2018, the stock of vehicles mainly used for private transport was over 3.3 million, of which 2.75 million were private passenger cars, including 195,000 electric vehicles. About 174,000 private passenger cars were registered for the first time in 2018, around five percent less than in 2017.

The road traffic volume increased by 0.2 per cent, compared to 1.1 per cent in 2017. The number of road accidents with personal injury was 3,898 in 2018, and decreased by 188 accidents compared to the previous year. In total 108 persons were killed in traffic accidents in Norway in 2018, which is two more than all-time low with 106 killed in traffic in 2017. The number of persons with serious injury also went down, by 321.

Public Transport

The number of journeys by bus increased by four million from the previous year, from 398 million in 2017 to 402 million in 2018, excluding charter bus transport.

Ruter AS (the public transport authority for Oslo and Akershus counties) reported 173 million trips made on tramways and metro in 2018, compared to 169 million trips in 2017. Altogether there were 189 million trips made by tram and metro in Norway, up from 182 million in 2017.

The Norwegian State Railway (NSB) reported 68,9 million passenger trips, about four million more than in 2017. Together with amongst other 6.8 million trips by the Airport Express Train, and almost one million trips by the tourist railway Flåmsbana. This amounted to 76,7 million passenger trips by rail in 2018.

Around 56 million passengers were transported by ferries and other boats within Norway. About 13.5 million domestic air flights were undertaken in 2018 (including domestic transfer journeys to abroad) which is about 270,000 or 2.0 per cent more than in 2017.

Trips Abroad

In 2018 about 24.2 million trips to and from Norway by airplane were registered, which was up 0.95 million trips from 2017. Around 6.2 million ferry trips and 0.4 million trips by train were taken between Norway and abroad in 2018.

Freight Transport

Domestic freight transport, measured by tonne-kilometres transported, including cabotage, decreased in 2018. Transport by air decreased by 27.5 per cent, by sea 1.3 per cent and by road 0.2 per cent, while transport by rail increased by 5.4 per cent. As aggregated over all transport modes, the number of tonne-kilometres including cabotage decreased by 0.4 per cent, compared to an increase of 5.0 per cent the year before. Estimated excluding cabotage, however, domestic freight transport rose with 2.4 per cent.

About 46 per cent of all freight tonne-kilometres occur at sea, road transport accounts for 49 per cent, while rail and air transport constitute the remaining five per cent.

The volume of goods imported was 39.7 million tonnes, compared to an export volume of 57.7 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.

170 million tonnes of oil and gas were exported directly from the Norwegian continental shelf in 2018, compared to 186 million tonnes in 2017. Total exports of oil and gas by pipeline was 95 million tonnes in 2018, while ships carried 75 million tonnes. Oil and gas constitute 64 per cent of the total export (measured in tonnes) from Norway.