

Transport volumes in Norway 1946–2021

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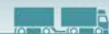
Domestic passenger travels in Norway increased by 4.7 per cent from 2020 to 2021. Compared to 2019, domestic passenger travels were 10 per cent lower in 2021. The increase in passenger transport volumes from 2020 to 2021 was highest for public transport, with 9.4 per cent, but was still 41.6 per cent lower compared to 2019. Road transport by passenger cars increased by 3.6 per cent from 2020 to 2021 and was only 3.7 per cent lower in 2021 compared to 2019. Domestic freight transport, including cabotage, increased by 6.4 per cent from 2020 to 2021. Compared to 2019 the growth was 1.4 per cent. The amount of tonne kilometres transported by road increased by 7.3 per cent, and freight transported by sea increased by 6.1 per cent, while freight transport by air was almost halved from 2020 to 2021. Estimated freight transport, excluding cabotage, increased by 6.9 per cent from 2020 to 2021.

General Trends

Figures from the Norwegian national accounts show that the gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 3.9 per cent in 2021 compared to a decline of 0.7 per cent in 2020. Consumption in private households increased by 4.8 per cent, and private consumption for transport increased by 10.6 per cent in 2021. This means that there was a stronger growth in consumption for transport than private consumption otherwise in 2021. This must be seen as a result of increasing fuel prices along with easing of the Covid-19 pandemic measures with extensive use of private home offices and travel restrictions.

The Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions and measures have affected the development of both freight and passenger transport during the past two years. Restrictions and measures were gradually lifted the summer of 2021, but it was not until the spring of 2022 that social contact restrictions were finally ended. The measures affected passenger transport far more than freight transport, which was less impacted and reduced than passenger transport during the period.

Domestic passenger transport volume in Norway increased by 4.7 per cent from 2020 to 2021, compared to a 14.1 per cent decrease the previous year. Compared to the last year before the Covid-19 outbreak (2019), passenger transport volume was still 10 per



cent lower in 2021 than in 2019. The number of passenger kilometres in public transport increased more than in private transport, with a 9.4 per cent growth, following a steep decline of 46.4 per cent from 2019 to 2020. The number of person kilometres by passenger car increased by just 3.6 per cent from 2020 to 2021, while this transport mode had the lowest decline from 2019 to 2020, by 7.1 per cent. Passenger car transport volume was only 3.9 per cent lower in 2021 compared to 2019. The passenger transport volume by air, rail, bus and sea all went up from 2020 to 2021. Passenger transport by sea increased the most, with 37.6 per cent, whereas airplane transport increased with 18.3 per cent, while the transport volumes by both these modes were more than halved the year before. However, air, rail and sea transport altogether only constitute a relatively small share of about 8 per cent of the total domestic passenger transport volume. Around 92 per cent of all motorized travel undertaken in Norway was by road, and the share of road passenger transport has grown after the onset of the pandemic. Air transport accounted for four per cent of the transport volume, rail transport for about three per cent, and sea transport for less than one per cent in 2021.

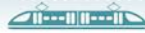
The freight transport work for all transport modes, including cabotage, is estimated to have increased 6.4 per cent from 2020 to 2021, compared to a decrease of 4.7 per cent the year before. From 2019 to 2021 the freight transport work grew by 1.4 per cent. Freight transport work by road increased the most from 2020 to 2021, by 7.3 per cent, and compared to 2019 road freight transport increased by 5.4. Sea freight grew by 6.1 per cent but compared to 2019 freight volumes were down 3.9 per cent. Rail transport had only a marginal increase of 0.3 per cent but was still 3.9 percent above the 2019 level. Freight by air decreased by 47.2 per cent in 2021 and was more than halved compared to in 2019. Excluding cabotage, total freight transport work increased by 6.9 percent from 2020 to 2021, after a reduction of 0.9 percent the year before. Excluding cabotage, the freight transport work is estimated to have increased by 5.9 per cent from 2019 to 2021.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 3.5 per cent in 2021, up from 1.3 percent increase the year before. The partial index for transport increased by 2.1 per cent, somewhat higher than the growth the year before, with 1.6 per cent. In private transport, fuel and lubricant prices went up by 11.9 per cent, while prices of spare parts and accessories, and maintenance and repair services increased by 3.8 and 3.1 percent, respectively. Among the public transport modes there were price increases only within rail transport, 2.6 per cent, while air transport prices fell by 10.6 per cent and sea transport prices with 7.4 per cent.

Private Transport

By the end of 2021, the stock of vehicles mainly used for private transport was nearly 3.5 million, of which 2.88 million were private passenger cars, including 461,000 electric vehicles. About 194,500 private passenger cars were registered for the first time in 2021 which is approximately 40 000 more than in 2020, and the highest growth in many years.

The road traffic volume increased by 3.6 per cent from 2020 to 2021, following a reduction of 6.1 per cent the year before. Compared to 2019, road traffic was 2.7



lower in 2021. The number of road accidents with personal injury was 3,719 in 2021, which was 129 more than the year before. In total 80 persons were killed in traffic accidents in Norway in 2021, which is an all-time low.

Public Transport

The number of journeys by bus increased by 17 million from the previous year, to 307 million in 2021, a 6 per cent increase, but that was still 29 million fewer bus journeys than in 2019. Bus transport work grew by 55 million person kilometres, after a substantive drop of 1709 million person kilometres the year before. Bus transport work carried out in 2021 was then 36.4 per cent lower than in 2019.

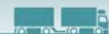
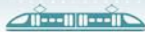
The traffic with tramway around Oslo amounted to 28 million journeys, an increase by 6 million, or 24.5 per cent, from the previous year, which was still 25 million fewer than in 2019. The traffic with metro around Oslo decreased by 1 million, to 73 million in 2021, or 2.4 per cent. Relative to 2019, the number of tramway journeys in Oslo was 47 million lower in 2021. Altogether, with trams in Bergen and Trondheim also included, there were 115 million trips made by tram and metro in Norway in 2021, an increase of 4 per cent, but still 40 percent below the 2019 level.

There were 41 million domestic passenger trips by rail in Norway in 2021, a decrease by 2 million from 2020 to 2021, or 4.9 per cent, and 48.3 per cent fewer than in 2019. The Airport Express Train reported 2.4 million passenger trips by rail to and from Oslo Airport in 2021. That was about 170,000 more than the year before, but still 83 per cent fewer than in 2019. Around 157,000 passenger trips were made by the tourist railway Flåmsbana, a growth of 7 per cent compared to 2020.

Around 41 million passengers were transported by ferries and other boats, an increase by 15 per cent from 2020, compared to a decrease of 36 per cent the year before. Passenger transport work at sea increased from 533 to 733 million passenger kilometres from 2020 to 2021, which is an increase of 38 per cent. However, the year before the sea passenger transport work was more than halved, so compared to 2019 the level was 36 percent lower in 2021. About 7.8 million domestic air flights were undertaken (including domestic transfer journeys to abroad) in 2021, which was 22 per cent more trips compared to the previous year, when the number of flights was down by 44 per cent.

Trips Abroad

In 2021 about 5.1 million trips to and from Norway by airplane were registered, which was a reduction in number of trips by 6.5 per cent compared to 2020. Compared to the pre-pandemic year of 2019, the amount of flights to and from Norway decreased by 79 percent. Around 1.7 million ferry trips and 22 thousand trips by train were taken between Norway and abroad in 2021, a reduction of 12 and 70 per cent respectively. This means that there was a decline in the number of cross-border journeys by all transport modes from 2020 to 2021.



Freight Transport

Domestic freight transport, as aggregated over all transport modes and measured by tonne-kilometres transported and including cabotage, increased by 6.4 from 2020 to 2021, following a decrease of 4.7 per cent the year before. This translates to a growth of 1.9 percent since 2019. Freight transport by road increased the most, by 7.3 per cent, following a decrease of 1.4 percent the year before. Freight transport volume by road was therefore 5.4 higher in 2021 than in 2019. Transport work by sea increased by 6.1 per cent, after a reduction of 9.5 per cent the year before. Market shares for freight transport by mode have been relatively stable, while road transport is still gaining market share on the expense of the other transport modes. Estimated domestic freight transport, excluding cabotage, increased 6.9 per cent from 2020 to 2021, after a reduction by 0.9 per cent from 2019 to 2020.

Total freight transport in Norwegian territory increased by nearly 1.5 billion tonne-kilometres, which was 1.2 billion more than in 2019. This also includes the share of freight transport work carried out in relation to Norwegian trade with international markets.

Freight transport by rail constituted 2.9 billion tonne-kilometres, equalling 0.2 percent more than in 2020, while still 0.3 per cent lower than in 2019. Sea transport work increased by 4.6 per cent, to 65 billion tonne-kilometres, and was even 3.4 percent higher than the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

About 42 per cent of all freight tonne-kilometres occur at sea, road transport accounts for 53 per cent, and rail transport constitute for 5 per cent. Less than one per cent of the freight transport occur by air.

The volume of goods imported was 39.8 million tonnes, about the same level as in 2019. Export volume was 60.7 million tonnes in 2021, compared to 59.4 million tonnes in 2020, a 2.2 per cent increase. Compared to 2019, the growth in export volume was even higher, at 6.8 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, while 14 percent is carried by road transport, and 3 per cent by rail.