

Transport volumes in Norway 1946–2023

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Domestic passenger travels in Norway increased by 2.5 percent from 2022 to 2023. Compared to 2019, domestic passenger travels were only 0.3 percent lower in 2023. The increase in passenger transport volumes from 2022 to 2023 was highest for public transport, with an 10.1 per cent increase. Road transport by passenger cars increased by 1.6 percent. Domestic freight transport, including cabotage, increased by 0.6 percent from 2022 to 2023. Freight transported by sea increased by 2.9 percent, while freight transported by train decreased by 9.4 percent. Freight transported on the roads decreased by 0.2 percent. Estimated freight transport, excluding cabotage, increased by 0.4 percent from 2022 to 2023

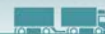
General Trends

Figures from the Norwegian national accounts show that the gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 0.5 percent in 2023, compared to an increase by 3.0 percent in 2022. Consumption in private households decreased by 0.9 percent, and private consumption for transport decreased by 9.0 percent in 2023. This means that there was a stronger reduction in consumption for transport than private consumption otherwise in 2023.

Domestic passenger transport volume in Norway increased by 2.5 percent from 2022 to 2023, compared to a 9.5 percent increase the previous year. Compared to the last year before the Covid-19 outbreak (2019), passenger transport volume was only 0.3 percent lower in 2023 than in 2019. The number of passenger kilometres in public transport increased more than in private transport from 2022 to 2023, with a 10.1 percent growth, but compared to 2019 it was still 8.2 percent less.

The number of person kilometres by passenger car increased by 1.2 percent from 2022 to 2023. The passenger transport volume by air, rail, bus, and sea all went up from 2022 to 2023. Passenger transport by rail increased the most, with 13.8 percent, transport by sea with 11.4, and airplane transport increased with 3.7 percent. However, air, rail and sea transport altogether only constitute a relatively small share of the total domestic passenger transport volume. Around 85 percent of all motorized travel undertaken in Norway was by road, air transport accounted for 7 percent of the transport volume, rail transport for about 6 percent, and sea transport for less than 2 percent in 2023.

Domestic freight transport work for all transport modes, including cabotage, is estimated to have increased 0.6 percent from 2022 to 2023, compared to an increase of 7.2 percent the year before. After several years of high growth in rail freight, rail transport decreased by 9.4



percent from 2022 to 2023. However, sea transport increased by around 3 percent. Road freight remained in 2023 almost the same as the previous year, with a marginal decrease of 0.2 percent. Air freight fluctuates year-to-year, rising by 80 percent from 2022 to 2023, but in terms of volume, air freight remains a small portion. Freight transport work, excluding cabotage, increased by 0.4 percent from 2022 to 2023, compared to a 4.6 percent increase the previous year.

According to Statistics Norway's Consumer Price Index (CPI), the average price increase was 5.5 percent in 2023, while the price increase for transport sector was 7.1 per cent. This is slightly lower than the price increase in 2022, but apart from 2022, both the general price increase and the price increase in the transport sector are higher than any other year since the late 1980s. In 2023, a strong rise in the prices of spare parts and accessories, vehicles, and maintenance drove prices up, while prices for fuel and lubricants decreased slightly after a significant increase in these prices the previous year.

Among the public transport modes, there was a strong price increase for air travel, possibly due to reduced competition in the airline market, in addition to the expensive euro and post-pandemic scaling issues. For rail, trams, and trains, prices increased in 2023, but by less than the consumer price index. Prices for boat traffic were reduced, but the decrease was smaller than in previous years, as most of the price reduction in ferry traffic, following the government's policy of significantly reduced ferry fares on certain routes, seems to have been offset.

Private Transport

At the end of 2023, the stock of vehicles mainly used for private transport was nearly 3.5 million, of which 2.88 million were private passenger cars, including 689,200 electric vehicles. About 126,900 private passenger cars were registered for the first time in 2023 which is approximately 47,000 less than in 2022.

The road traffic volume increased by 0.8 percent from 2022 to 2023. The number of road accidents with personal injuries was 3,359 in 2023, a decrease of nearly 5 percent compared to the previous year. In total 110 persons were killed in traffic accidents in Norway in 2023, which is higher than in 2020 and 2021 but roughly on par with the three years preceding the covid-19 pandemic.


Public Transport

The number of journeys by bus increased by 52 million from the previous year, to 439 million in 2023, a 13 percent increase. Bus transport work grew by 518 million person kilometres from 2022 to 2023, representing a 16 percent increase.

Tram traffic around Oslo reached 48 million trips in 2023, an increase of 14 percent from the previous year. Traffic on the suburban metro (T-banen) in Oslo increased by 10 million trips, reaching 111 million in 2023. Altogether, with trams and suburban railways in Bergen and Trondheim also included, there were 185 million trips made by tram and suburban metro in Norway in 2023, an increase of 14 percent compared to the year before.

In 2023, there were 78 million domestic passenger trips by train in Norway, an increase of 12 million from the previous year, representing an 12 percent increase in the number of trips.

Around 49 million passengers were transported by ferries and other boats in 2023, an increase by almost 5 percent from 2022. Passenger transport work at sea increased from 1,148 to 1,279 million passenger kilometres from 2022 to 2023, which is an increase of 11 percent. About 12.3 million domestic air flights were undertaken (including domestic transfer journeys to



abroad) in 2023, which was 3 percent more trips compared to the previous year. The domestic air traffic, excluding domestic transfer journeys to abroad, was slightly less than the previous year, with an 1 percent decrease in the number of trips.

Trips Abroad

In 2023 about 21.1 million trips to and from Norway by airplane were registered, an increase in number of trips by 5.5 million from the year before. Almost 5.5 million ferry trips and 461 thousand trips by train were taken between Norway and abroad in 2023.

Freight Transport

From 2022 to 2023, domestic freight transport increased slightly in terms of tonne kilometres. The overall increase for all modes of transport, including cabotage, was 0.6 percent, following a 7.2 percent rise the previous year. After several years of strong growth in rail freight transport, rail transport decreased by more than 9 percent from 2022 to 2023. However, sea transport increased by around 3 percent. Road freight transport remained roughly at the same level as the previous year, with a marginal decrease of 0.2 percent from 2022 to 2023. Air freight transport fluctuates significantly from year to year and increased by 80 percent from 2022 to 2023, although this mode of transport still accounts for only a marginal share of total freight transport activity.

Market shares for freight transport by mode have been relatively stable, but sea transport is increasing slightly at the expense of the other transport modes. In 2023, the share of sea transport was 42.2 percent, rail transport 4.6 percent, and road transport 53.2 percent of the total transport activity.

The total freight transport by road within Norwegian territory decreased by almost 3 billion tonne-kilometres from 2022 to 2023. This also includes the share of freight transport work carried out in relation to Norwegian trade with international markets.

The volume of goods imported was 37.1 million tonnes in 2022, a decrease of 2.1 million tonnes, or 5.2 percent, from 2022. The exported volume of goods from the mainland was 57.5 million tons in 2023, representing a decrease of 3.1 million tons from 2022, equivalent to a 5.1 percent reduction. Ships remain the dominant mode of transport in foreign trade. In 2023, 84 percent of this freight volume was transported by sea, while 13 percent was transported by road and 3 percent by rail.