

International activity of UK-registered HGVs and UK activity of foreign-registered HGVs, 2013



Department for Transport

Total amount of goods moved by road to or from the UK decreased by 5 per cent between 2012 and 2013, and the total amount of goods lifted by road increased by 1 per cent over the same period

Key results

- ▶ In 2013, the amount of **goods lifted** by UK-registered heavy goods vehicles travelling to or from the UK was 9.6 million tonnes, a 1 per cent increase on 2012.
- ▶ Over the same period, there was a 5 per cent decrease in the amount of **goods moved**, from 6.7 billion tonne kilometres to 6.4 billion tonne kilometres.
- ▶ Since 2009, apart from UK-registered vehicles, Polish vehicles have lifted the largest tonnage of goods into or out of the UK (7.7 million tonnes in 2013 which accounted for around a quarter of **goods lifted** by foreign registered vehicles).
- ▶ The overall level of cabotage **goods moved** in the UK was 1.1 billion tonne kilometres in 2013, similar to that in 2012. This represented less than one per cent of domestic HGV freight activity in the UK. The major contributors to cabotage in the UK were vehicles from Ireland, Netherlands and Poland which in total accounted for over two-thirds of cabotage in the UK.

Between 2011 and 2012, a number of changes were made to how the three DfT road freight surveys were processed. Therefore, caution should be used for statistics based on CSRGT GB, CSRGT NI and IRHS when making comparisons over time. See the [methodology note](#) for more information.

About this release

This Statistical Release summarises the latest statistics on the international activity of UK HGVs. The information is derived from two continuous surveys run by the Department for Transport: the International Road Haulage Survey (IRHS) and the Continuing Survey of Road Goods Transport Northern Ireland (CSRGT NI).

This release also includes the latest results from the Department's RoRo survey on the number of UK and foreign-registered goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe and latest data from Eurostat on the activity of foreign-registered HGVs in the UK.

This release is part of a suite of statistical releases on different aspects of the road freight industry.

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● **Chart 1** (Table [RORO0101](#)) shows that the number of goods vehicles (powered vehicles and unaccompanied trailers) travelling to mainland Europe rose by 11 per cent between 2012 and 2013 to 2.7 million. The number of UK-registered vehicles fell by 4 per cent (to 326,000) while the number of foreign-registered vehicles rose by 16 per cent (to 1.7 million).

● Since 2000, the total number of vehicles travelling to mainland Europe has increased by 16 per cent; foreign-registered vehicles have increased by 64 per cent while the number of UK-registered vehicles has decreased by 40 per cent.

● Of the foreign-registered vehicles travelling to mainland Europe in 2013, 401,000 were Polish-registered, followed by vehicles registered in the Netherlands (197,000), Romania (136,000), Germany (134,000) and France (126,000) (Table [RORO0201](#)).

Definitions

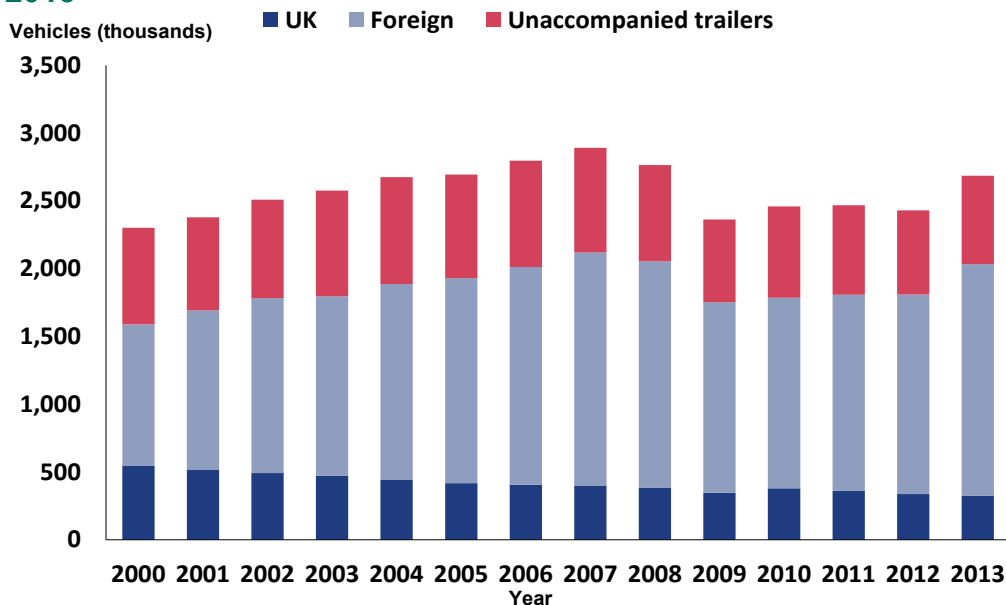
Powered vehicles: comprise rigid vehicles, lorries with semi-trailers (articulated units) and lorries with drawbar trailers (some vehicles under 3.5 tonnes gross weight are also included).



Unaccompanied trailers: comprise trailers and semi-trailers not accompanied on the ferry by a powered unit.



Chart 1: Heavy goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe, 2000-2013



2012 to 2013

↑ 5 per cent increase in the number of unaccompanied trailers

↑ 16 per cent increase in the number of foreign-registered vehicles

↓ 4 per cent decrease in the number of UK-registered vehicles

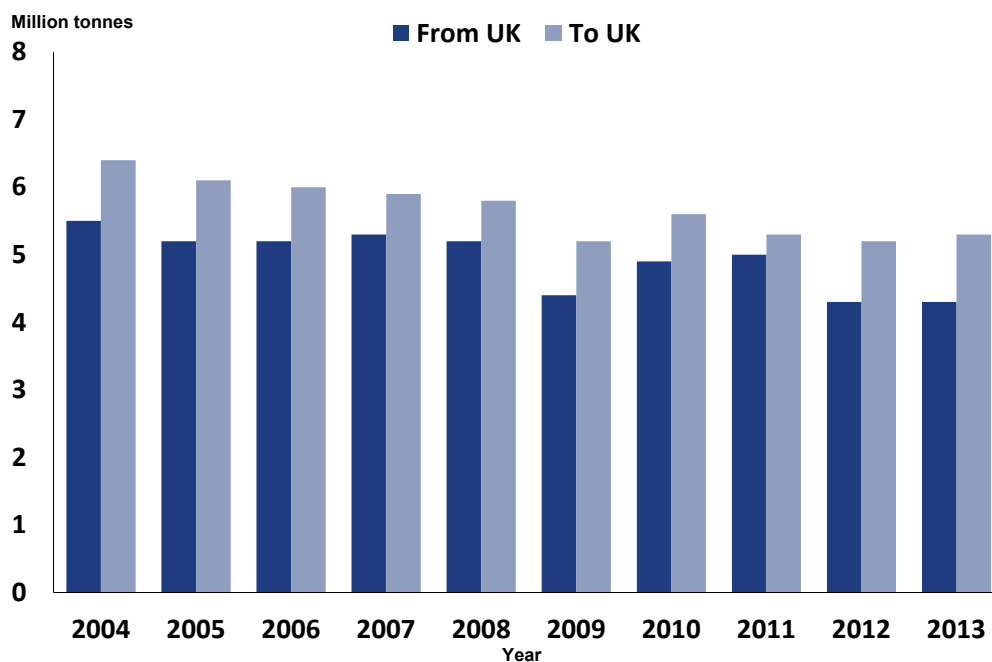
Detailed statistics

on road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe can be sourced from [roll-off, roll-on international freight statistics, Department for Transport](#)

International activity of UK-registered HGVs

- Table RFS0201 shows that in 2013, the amount of **goods lifted** by UK-registered heavy goods vehicles travelling to or from the UK (excluding vehicles travelling wholly within the island of Ireland) was 9.6 million tonnes, a 1 per cent increase on 2012.
- UK registered vehicles have consistently lifted more goods to the UK than from the UK; of the 9.6 million tonnes of **goods lifted** in 2013, 4.3 million tonnes were exported, and 5.3 million tonnes were imported (**Chart 2**).

Chart 2: Goods lifted by UK-registered vehicles, 2004-2013



- There was a 5 per cent decrease in the amount of **goods moved** from 6.7 billion tonne kilometres in 2012 to 6.4 billion tonne kilometres in 2013.
- In 2013, around 90 per cent of the tonnage leaving the UK in UK-registered vehicles was unloaded in one of five countries: France (27 per cent), Belgium (22 per cent), Germany (15 per cent), Republic of Ireland (14 per cent) and the Netherlands (11 per cent). The same five countries represented the origin of around 90 per cent of inward goods (**Chart 3** and Tables RFS0202 and RFS0203).

Definitions

Goods lifted: the weight of goods carried measured in tonnes

Goods moved: a measure of activity taking into account the weight of the load and distance through which it is hauled. It is equal to the weight of goods multiplied by distance in tonne kilometres and is measured in tonne kilometres

2012 to 2013

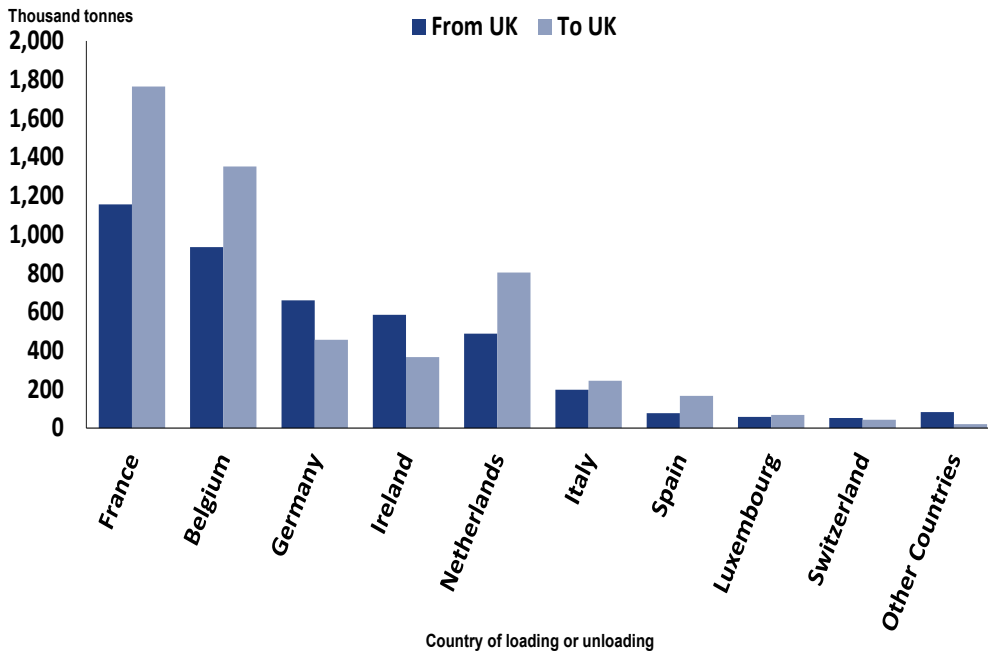
➔ no change in the amount of **goods lifted from the UK**

⬆ 1 per cent increase in the amount of **goods lifted to the UK**

Detailed statistics ...

on goods lifted to and from the UK by UK-registered vehicles can be sourced from [Table RFS0201](#)

Chart 3: Goods lifted by UK-registered vehicles by country of loading or unloading, 2013



In 2013 ...

around 90 per cent of the tonnage from the UK was unloaded in one of five countries: France, Belgium, Germany, Republic of Ireland and the Netherlands. The same five countries represented the origin of around 90 per cent of tonnage to the UK.

Detailed statistics ...

on goods lifted by UK-registered vehicles by country of loading or unloading can be sourced from [Tables RFS0202 and RFS0203](#)

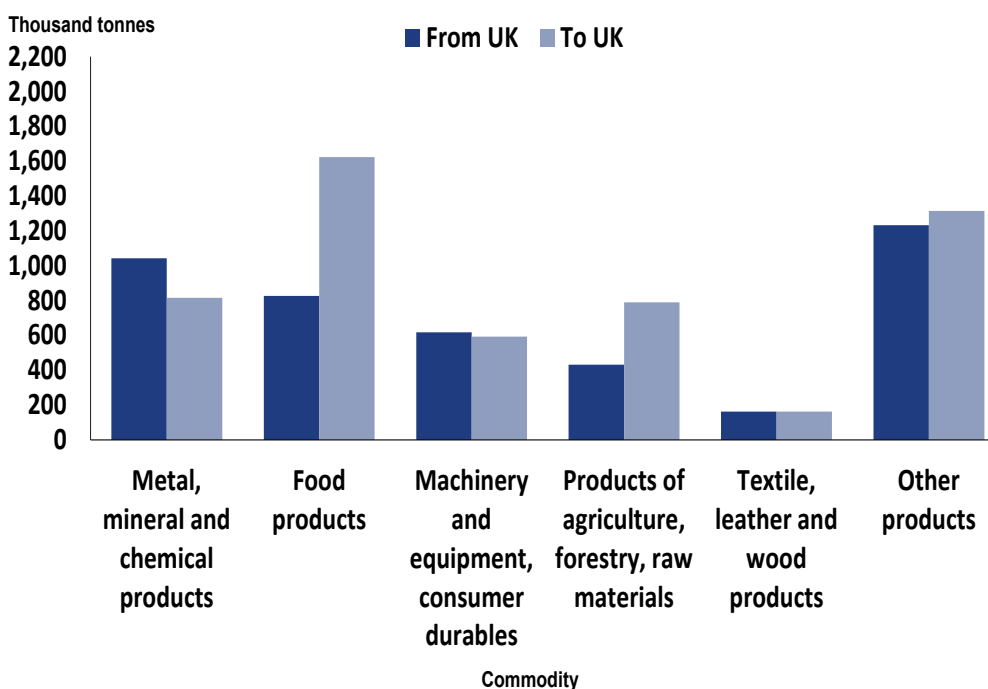
Definitions

Grouped goods (groupage): the consolidation of several different types of goods into a full load

Commodities carried by UK-registered vehicles

- The most common category of commodity exported by UK vehicles in 2013 was Other products (29 per cent of all **goods lifted**) which includes grouped goods. The second most common was Metal, mineral and chemical products (24 per cent) followed by Food products (19 per cent). The main commodities imported were Food products (31 per cent) and Other products (25 per cent) (**Chart 4** and Table RFS0206).

Chart 4: Goods lifted by UK-registered vehicles by commodity type, 2013



In 2013 ...

the main categories of commodity exported by UK vehicles in 2013 were Other products, Metal, mineral and chemical products and Food products. The main commodities imported were Food products and Other products

Detailed statistics ...

on goods lifted by UK-registered vehicles by commodity type can be sourced from [Table RFS0206](#)

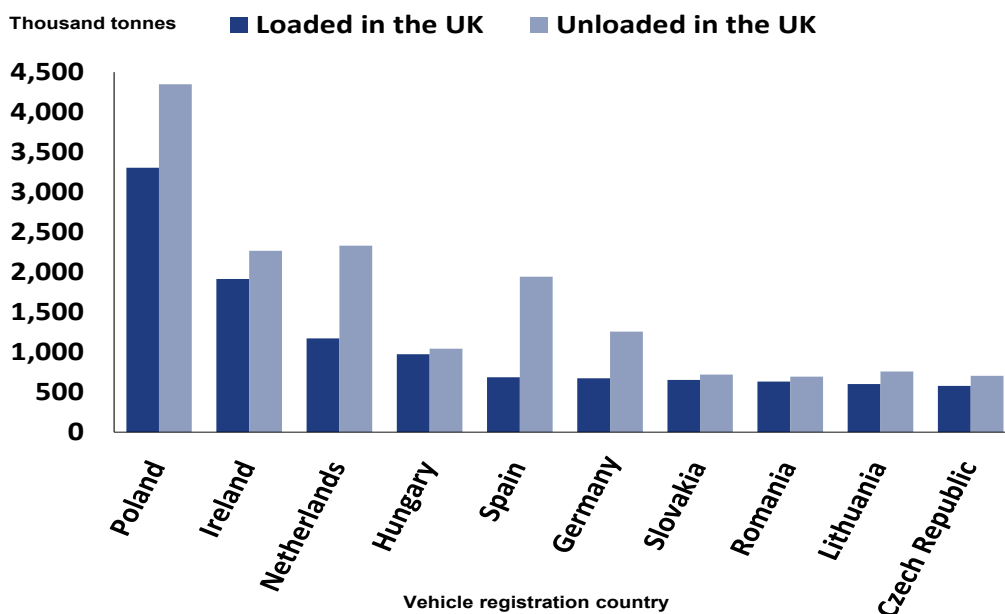
Road haulage by foreign HGVs in the UK

• The data in Tables RFS0208 to RFS0215 are produced by Eurostat and show the latest available data on the [Eurostat Transport Statistics Database](#).

• Tables RFS0208 to RFS0211 show goods lifted and moved to and from the UK by foreign HGVs. These tables are disaggregated by country of registration of the vehicle. The vehicle registration countries are primarily those of the EU28, although data for some non-EU countries, such as Norway and Switzerland, are also available.

• Since 2009, Polish HGVs lifted the largest tonnage of goods in total (7.7 million tonnes in 2013). Between 2002 and 2008, Irish HGVs carried the largest total weight of goods into or out of the UK, mostly across the Irish Land Boundary between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Irish vehicles continued to carry significant quantities in 2013, as did Dutch, Hungarian, Spanish and German HGVs (**Chart 5**).

Chart 5: Goods lifted to and from the UK by foreign-registered vehicles: by vehicle registration country, 2013



In 2013 ...

Poland registered HGVs lifted the largest tonnage of goods to/from the UK at 7.7 million tonnes in total

Detailed statistics ...

on goods lifted and moved to and from the UK by foreign HGVs can be sourced from [Tables RFS0208 to RFS0211](#)

Cabotage within the UK

• Table RFS0212 shows **goods moved** (tonne kilometres) within the UK undertaken by HGVs registered in other countries between 2004 and 2013.

• In 2013, the overall level of cabotage **goods moved** in the UK was 1.1 billion tonne kilometres, which represented less than one per cent of all domestic HGV freight activity within the UK. This was a similar level to that in 2012, and 44 per cent lower than the peak in 2005.

Definitions

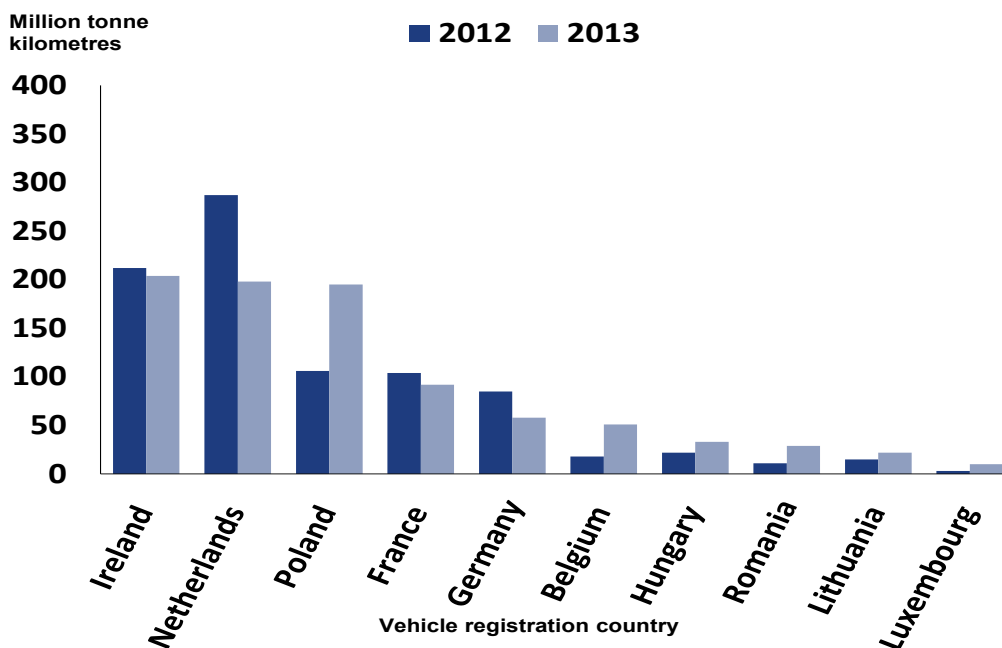
Cabotage: refers to road haulage solely within one country by a vehicle registered in another country

- In terms of **goods moved**, the major contributors to cabotage in the UK were vehicles from Ireland, Netherlands and Poland. These three countries accounted for around 70 per cent of cabotage in the UK. France, Germany and Belgium together accounted for most of the remaining cabotage in 2013 (**Chart 6**).

- The amount of cabotage by Polish vehicles in UK more than tripled between 2004 and 2013 from 52 million tonne kilometres to 195 million tonne kilometres. Over the same period, cabotage tonne kilometres by vehicles from the Netherlands dropped by 71 per cent.

- UK vehicles did approximately 287 million tonne kilometres of cabotage in foreign countries in 2013, up from 233 million tonne kilometres in 2012 ([Table RFS0144](#)).

Chart 6: Cabotage in the UK by vehicle registration country, 2012 and 2013



In both 2012 and 2013 ...

the major contributors to cabotage in the UK were vehicles from Ireland, Netherlands and Poland which in total accounted for over two-thirds of cabotage in the UK

Detailed statistics ...

on cabotage in the UK by vehicle registration country can be sourced from [Table RFS0212](#)

Background Notes

1. The web tables give further detail on the key results presented in this statistical release and statistics on other road freight topics, including the domestic activity of GB-registered HGVs. They are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-freight-domestic-and-international-statistics>

2. The statistics on vehicles travelling to mainland Europe are available on the 'Roll on Roll off International Freight' webpages via <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-freight-domestic-and-international-statistics>

3. The statistics on road freight undertaken by foreign-registered vehicles have been taken from the Eurostat Transport Database at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/transport/data/database>

4. In 2009, the Department for Transport also undertook a survey of foreign vehicle activity in the UK. The results from this survey are available here: <http://tna.europarchive.org/20110503185748/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/freight/foreignvehicle/>

5. Guidance on the methods used to compile these statistics and further background information can be found in the Road Freight Statistics [Notes and Definitions](#).

6. Between 2011 and 2012, a number of changes were made to how the three DfT road freight surveys were processed. Caution should therefore be used for statistics based on CSRGT GB, CSRGT NI and IRHS when making comparisons over time. See the [methodology note](#) for more information.

7. Details of ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/road-freight-statistics-pre-release-access-list>

8. The next annual Road Freight Statistics release will be published in the summer of 2015. It will contain statistics for 2014.

Detailed statistics ...

on the international activity of UK registered HGVs and the activity of foreign-registered HGVs in the UK can be found on the [Road Freight Statistics](#) web page, table numbers RFS0201 to RFS0215

Acknowledgements

Thanks go to all the respondents who completed the survey and to those who have contributed towards this release both through production and checking of the content.