



Department
for Transport

Port Freight Statistical Tables: User feedback response

Introduction

The Department has reviewed the data tables available on port freight statistics seeking to make improvements based on previous feedback. The Department put out a [user feedback](#) in March 2018 outlining the proposed changes and inviting feedback from users. This document sets out the proposed changes alongside the feedback that was received. The changes outlined below will be implemented for the next annual port freight statistics scheduled for publication in August 2018.

These statistics have been assessed as a National Statistics product and as such are subject to the [UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Statistics](#). In line with the Code, we will take account of users' views on the presentation of statistics, and associated commentary, datasets and metadata.

What are the proposed changes?

The current table structure makes it difficult for users to identify the figures they need. The new proposed table structure includes a clearer naming structure and fewer tables, but most of the new tables include filters to enable users to more easily find the data they need. Therefore, no data that is currently available will be lost.

Feedback and response

We put out a [note to users](#) alongside a [map from the old table structure to the new proposed tables](#)¹ and an [example](#) of what the new tables will look like in March 2018. We invited users to comment via a survey, email or telephone.

A limited number of responses to the survey were received, together with engagement with key internal and external stakeholders. The team received a clear consensus of support for the proposal from all 10 responses. Of the 5 survey responses, 100% were “completely happy” with the proposal to reduce the number of tables and include filters to help users find the data they want. One user said “any means of formatting which allows me to filter more quickly is welcome”. Therefore the Department plan to implement the proposed changes to the tables for the next annual publication planned in August 2018.

¹ The exact layout of the final tables may vary slightly from those proposed in March following testing.

As part of this process we received helpful feedback. This feedback alongside how the maritime statistics team plan to integrate it in the next couple of months is set out in the table below:

Users said	Response
More than one user fed back that splitting freight carrying units from non-freight carrying units in the tables, and ideally in the quarterly port freight publication, would be more useful.	This is consistent with feedback the team received in 2016/17, whilst this is not currently possible with the data collected, the maritime statistics team are planning a review of the additional burden collecting this information would put on data suppliers to assess if this is possible.
One user said they find TEUs more helpful than units.	As part of the table update, the team will identify anywhere that it is possible to provide TEUs alongside units.
One user noted an EU filter would be extremely useful.	An EU filter is already proposed for PORT0499 , the team will review whether it is possible to include in other tables.

The Department will continue to review these statistics annually to ensure they balance the needs of users against the resources needed to compile the statistics.

Contact us

We continue to welcome any feedback on any aspect of the port freight statistics, you can contact us by email to maritime.stats@dft.gsi.gov.uk or phone 07970 313 964.

Maritime Statistics
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