Guide to Maritime Statistics

Click on the icons to access the latest release.

Ports Freight
- Freight (units and weight) handled by UK ports.
- Based on returns from ports and shipping agents.
- Around 500 million tonnes are handled by UK every year.
- Latest tables.
- Released annually and quarterly (provisional).

Other sources
- HMRC produces overseas trade statistics. They include more detailed information on commodity types and the value of trade.
- The ONS publishes its Trade Statistical releases, which include trade services.

Domestic Waterborne Freight
- Domestic side of Port Freight Statistics.
- Based on a survey of inland waterway operators and port freight statistics.
- Although inland waters traffic accounts for the majority of goods lifted (i.e. tonnage), the majority of tonne-kilometres moved are on coastwise routes.
- Latest tables.
- Released annually.

Roll On-Roll Off (Ro-Ro) International Freight
- Goods travelling to Europe.
- Based on returns from HGV operators.
- Overall tonnage for Ro-Ro traffic has been growing since 2012.
- Latest tables.
- Released quarterly.
- You can find the additional International Road Freight Statistics figures in this release, including information on HGVs' nationality of registration.
- You can also find Ro-Ro figures in the port freight statistics.

Sea Passengers
- Domestic and international services.
- Based on returns from ferry and cruise operators.
- There are around 20 million international short sea passengers a year.
- Latest tables.
- Released annually, together with monthly summary tables. These do not include passenger vehicles, these can be found in the port freight statistics above.

Other sources
- ONS collects information about passengers in the UK in the International Passenger Survey.

Seafarers
- UK nationals and those working on UK vessels.
- Based on administrative and survey data.
- There are around 25,000 UK seafarers active at sea, mainly certificated officers and ratings.
- Latest tables.
- Released annually.

Other sources
- The Ministry of Defence gathers statistics on their trained personnel.
- The Marine Management Organisation compiles statistics on fishermen.

Shipping Fleet
- UK and World fleet statistics.
- Based on commercially sourced data.
- The UK is among the top 20 countries with the largest shipping fleet, with currently over 15 million gross tonnes.
- Latest tables.
- Released annually.
- The 2015 Maritime Growth Study report provides further analysis of the UK and world fleet data.

Other sources
- The UNCTAD provides a Review of Maritime Transport, giving an in-depth analysis on global fleets and their trends.
Who are our users?

National Government
- Forecasting
- Environmental impact of transport
- Emergency preparation
- Support for policy-making
- Further statistics

International Organisations
- Mandatory or voluntary requests of information for international reports.

Maritime Sector
- General background
- Inform policy
- Both businesses and representative bodies

Business
- Market analysis

Universities and Researchers
- Research on the sector
- Background information
- Public data

General Public
- Access to information
- General background

Feedback and User experience

Thanks to the feedback provided by users, DfT is trying to make its information and data as user-friendly and accessible as possible, by adding more interactive content or releasing technical notes. Here you can find information on the National Statistics status of the Maritime Statistics.

We are always looking for ways to improve further, you can provide feedback through this feedback form.

Thank you for your time!

Contact details
- maritime.stats@dft.gov.uk
- 020 7944 4847

Where to find more related statistics

- Transport Statistics Great Britain (released annually)
- Survey of Port Employment and Accident Rates
- Eurostat (EU Statistical Portal)
- Digest of UK Energy Statistics (BEIS)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- Office for National Statistics Trade Series
- HMRC Trade Statistics
- OECD Transport Data