

Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe: Q2 2012



This Statistical Release summarises results from the survey on road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe from Great Britain. It includes all the main ferry routes between Great Britain and mainland Europe. Ferry routes between Great Britain and Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland are not included. These results are published quarterly eight weeks after the end of the quarter.

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Key results

Four quarters ending Quarter 2 2012

- 2.42 million goods vehicles travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe in the year ending Q2 2012, nearly 4 per cent lower than the year ending Q2 2011, and 47 per cent higher than in 1996, but 17 per cent lower than the peak in 2007.
- 1.80 million of these goods vehicles were powered vehicles, down 2 per cent on the year ending Q2 2011. 627 thousand were unaccompanied trailers, down 7 per cent on the year ending Q2 2011.

Quarter 2 2012

- 607 thousand goods vehicles travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe during Q2 2012, down 4 per cent on Q2 2011.
- 452 thousand of these goods vehicles were powered vehicles and 154 thousand were unaccompanied trailers, down 2 per cent and 9 per cent respectively on Q2 2011.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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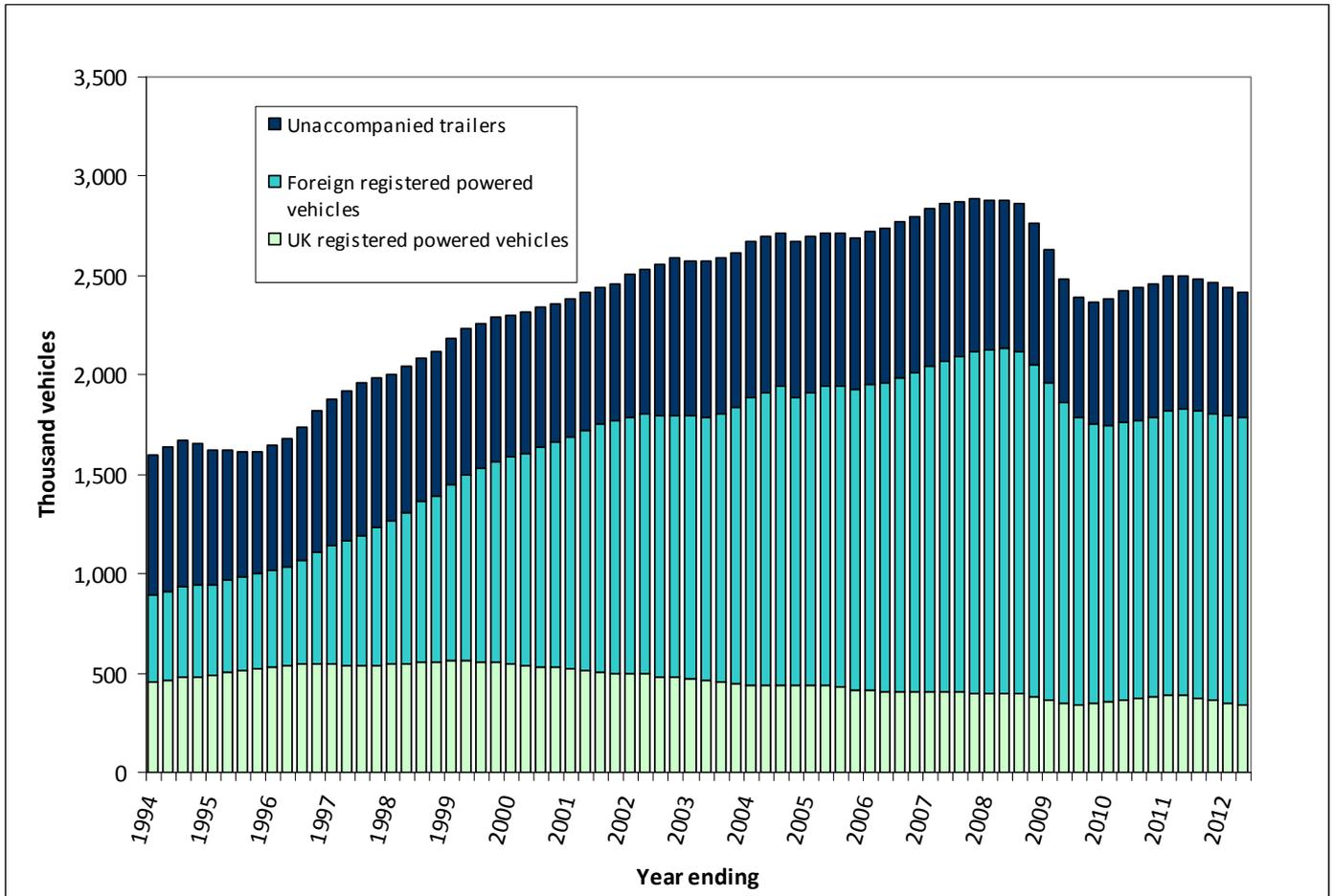
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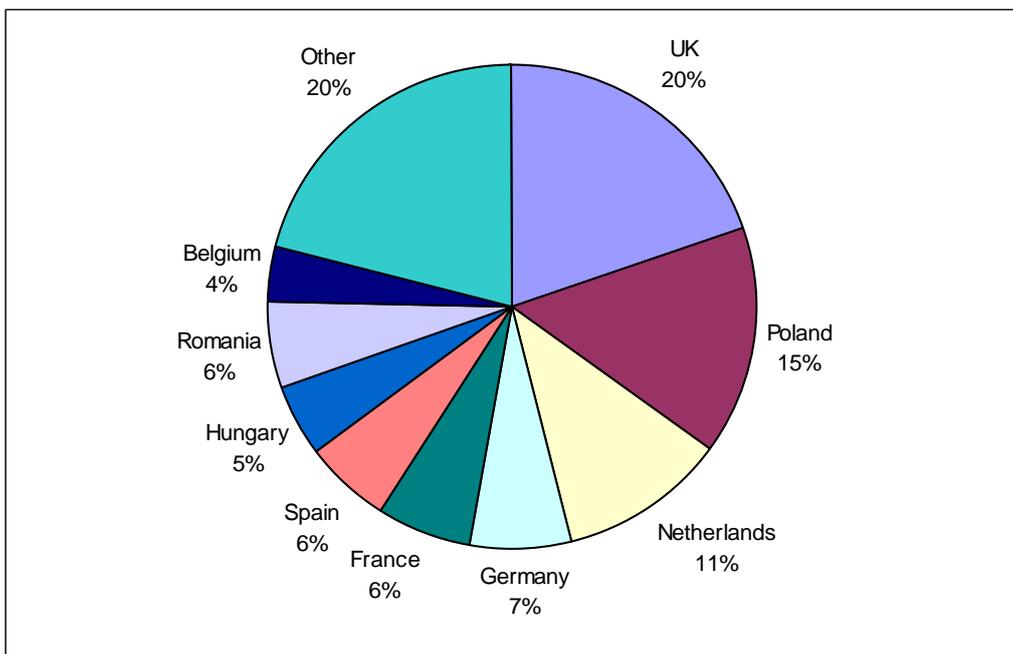
1. Results in detail

- Four quarters ending Quarter 2 2012:
 - 2.42 million goods vehicles travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe in the year ending Q2 2012, nearly 4 per cent lower than the year ending Q2 2011, and 47 per cent higher than in 1996, but 17 per cent lower than the peak in 1996.
 - 1.80 million of these goods vehicles were powered vehicles, down 2 per cent on the year ending Q2 2011. 627 thousand were unaccompanied trailers, down 7 per cent on the year ending Q2 2011.
 - 87 per cent of powered vehicles travelling to mainland Europe used the Dover Straits Port Group, which includes the Channel Tunnel.
 - 93 per cent of all unaccompanied trailers travelling to mainland Europe went via the North Sea Port Group.
 - 90 per cent of powered vehicles disembarked in France, while 54 per cent of unaccompanied trailers disembarked in the Netherlands and 26 per cent in Belgium.
 - Since the early 1990s there has been a significant rise in the number of foreign registered powered vehicles, from 0.48 million in 1996 to 1.45 million in the year ending Q2 2011. Of these foreign registered vehicles 279 thousand were Polish-registered, followed by the Netherlands (196 thousand), Germany (124 thousand) and France (114 thousand).
- Quarter 2 2012:
 - 607 thousand goods vehicles travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe during Q2 2012, down 4 per cent on Q2 2011.
 - 452 thousand of these goods vehicles were powered vehicles and 154 thousand were unaccompanied trailers, down 2 per cent and 9 per cent respectively on Q2 2011.
 - 20 per cent (89 thousand) of the powered vehicles were UK registered, compared with 21 per cent in Q2 2011 (99 thousand).

Road goods vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe – rolling 4 quarter totals



Powered vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe, percentage share by country of registration: year ending Q2 2012



2. Strengths and weaknesses of the data

- The results in this bulletin are compiled from quarterly returns provided by the roll-on / roll-off ferry operators, giving the number of powered vehicles and unaccompanied trailers carried on each route from GB to mainland Europe, and from monthly information supplied by Eurotunnel. Disaggregation by country of registration of powered vehicles is supplied by most of the ferry operators and by Eurotunnel. Some operators identify this from the registration number pattern whilst others extract the nationality from the manifest or waybill. A few operators use the country of booking as a proxy for the country of registration of the powered vehicle.
- Revised estimates for 2004 to 2007 were published in May 2008 following a data quality review. This resulted in a break in the series between 2003 and 2004. For full details see the Technical Note.
- As a result of the review the survey was put on a statutory basis and since early 2008 returns have been supplied by all operators resulting in more complete reporting of country of registration. The quality of the data is therefore thought to have been substantially improved and the data are considered fit for purpose.

3. Background notes

- The web tables for RoRo statistics can be found at http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics?post_type=table&series=roll-on-roll-off-international-freight-parent-series
- Full guidance on the methods used in the publication of these releases, the quality of the data, and the revisions published in 2007 can be found in the Technical Note at <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/roll-on-roll-off-international-freight/ro-ro-technical-report.pdf>
- National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo formal statutory assessments to ensure they meet customer needs: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>
- Details of ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found at: <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/roll-on-roll-off-international-freight/ro-ro-pre-release.pdf>
- These results will be updated for Q3 2012 in November 2012.