



Department for Transport

Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe: April to June 2015 (quarter 2)

About this release

This statistical release summarises results from the survey of 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 statistics are used within the UK, the Department for Transport, regional bodies, academics and transport consultants to obtain a better understanding of the complexities of freight transport and of trends, in order to advise on policy options. The haulage industry itself has a particular interest in data on the activity of overseas registered vehicles within the UK.

These statistics are updated on a quarterly basis.

Next Update: 19 November 2015

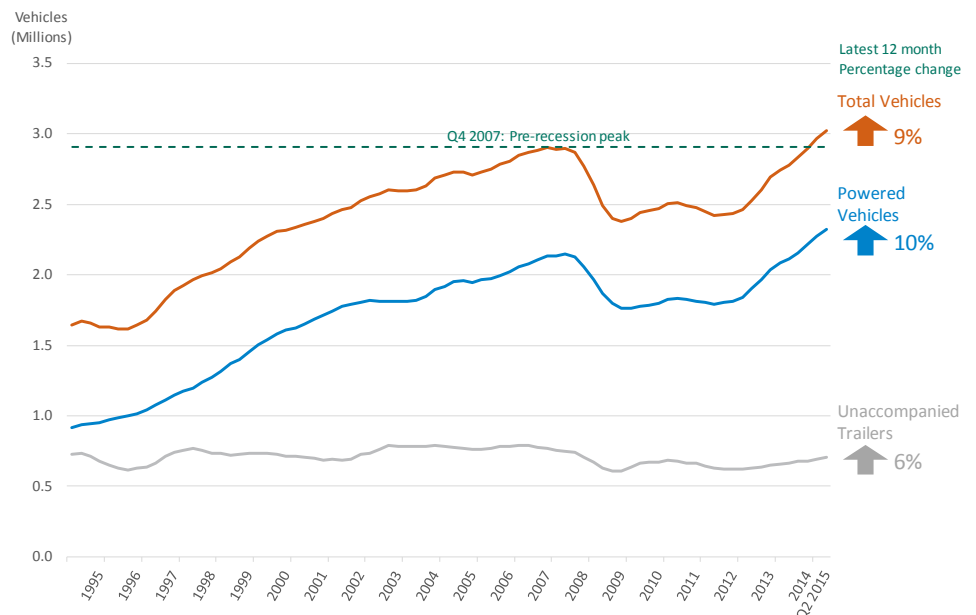
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There was a 9 per cent increase in the number of road goods vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe in the 12 month period ending June 2015

- Road goods vehicles increased by 246 thousand to **3 million**, taking the total to 4 per cent higher than in 2007 – the pre-recession peak.
- Of the total road goods vehicles, 2.3 million were **powered vehicles** and 705 thousand were **unaccompanied trailers**. In the last 12 months, powered vehicles increased by 10 per cent and unaccompanied trailers increased by 6 per cent.

Road goods vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe, rolling 12 month period totals to June 2015



In quarter 2 (April – June) 2015, 772 thousand goods vehicles travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe; 591 thousand **powered vehicles** and 181 thousand **unaccompanied trailers**).

Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe

Rolling 12 month period (July 2014 - June 2015)

There were just over 3 million goods vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe during the last 12 months (2.3 million **powered vehicles** and 705 thousand **unaccompanied trailers**), 9 per cent higher than the previous 12 months total. The increase was largely driven by the number of operators using the Dover to Calais route, part of the Dover Straits port group. Compared with the last 12 months, an additional 190 thousand goods vehicles travelled via the Dover Straits port group this period.

Since the 12 month period ending June 2012, the number of road goods vehicles has been consistently increasing and the latest 12 month period saw figures exceed the pre-recession peak during 2007 (2.9 million).

More long term, the number of goods vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe has increased by 81 per cent in the last 20 years.

What are powered vehicles and unaccompanied trailers?

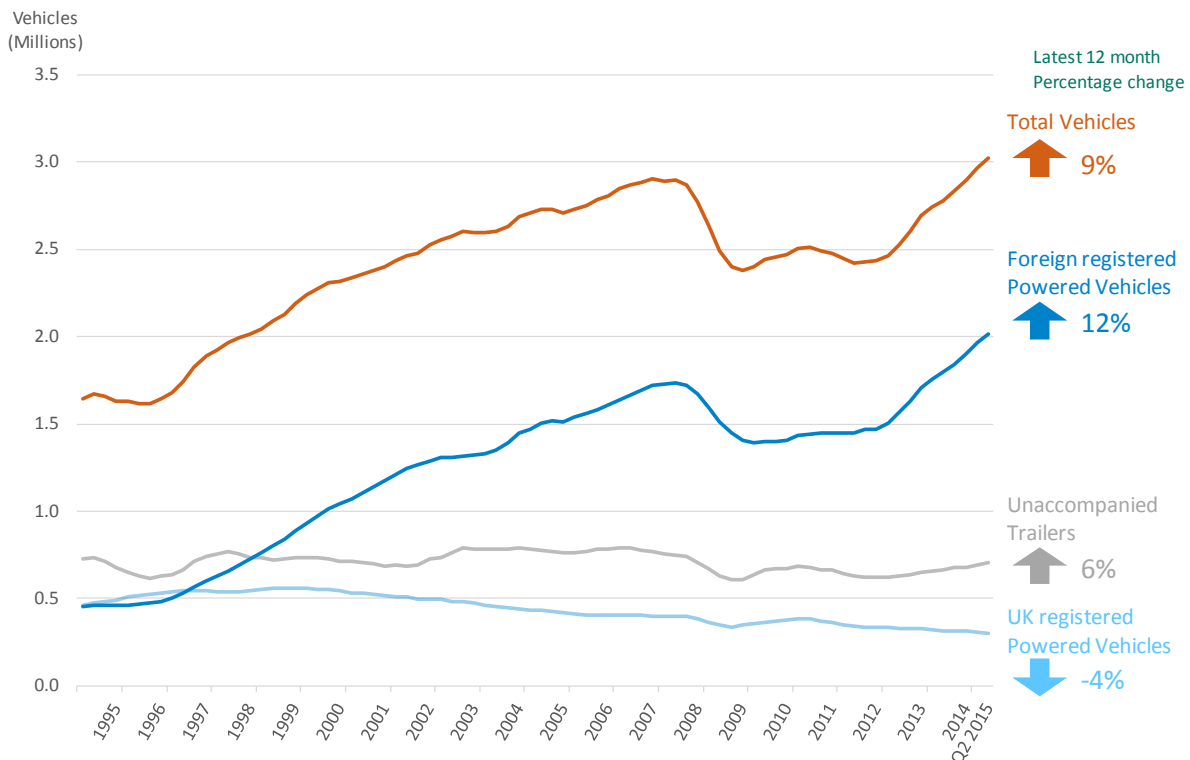


Powered vehicles comprise rigid vehicles, lorries with semi-trailers (articulated units) and lorries with drawbar trailers (some vehicles under 3.5 tonnes gross vehicles weight are also included).



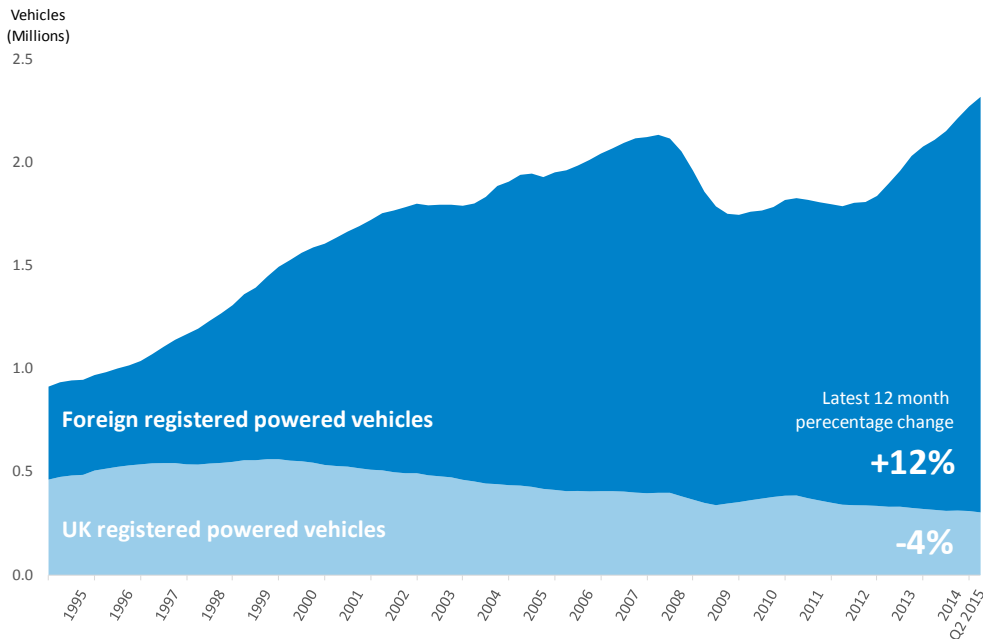
Unaccompanied trailers comprise trailers and semi-trailers not accompanied on the ferry by a powered unit.

Road goods vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe, rolling 12 month totals to June 2015



Powered vehicles rose by 10 per cent to 2.3 million, this was largely due to an increase in the number of **foreign registered** powered vehicles which rose by 12 per cent to just over 2 million, continuing the gradual upward trend seen since 2009. **UK registered** powered vehicles were down 4 per cent to 304 thousand.

UK registered and foreign registered powered vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe, rolling 12 month totals to June 2015



Over the last 20 years large increases in the number of foreign registered vehicles travelling to Europe have seen the UK's percentage share drop to 13 per cent of the total from a peak of 52 per cent in 1996.

Quarter 2 total (April - June 2015)

During quarter 2 2015, 772 thousand goods vehicles travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe (591 thousand **powered vehicles** and 181 thousand **unaccompanied trailers**). This was 8 per cent higher compared to quarter 2 2014. This was the highest quarter 2 total since the series began over 30 years ago.

Country of vehicle registration

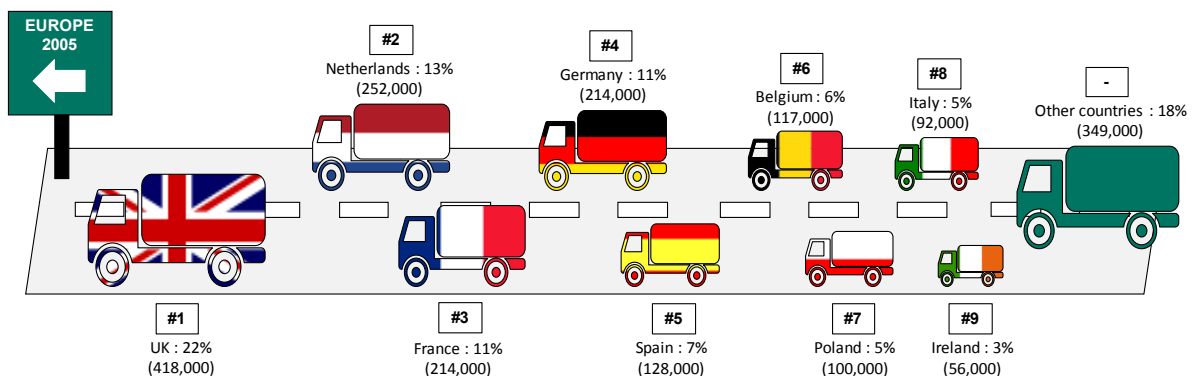
Rolling 12 month period (July 2014 - June 2015)

Over the last twenty years there has been over a four fold increase in the number of **foreign registered** powered vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe (from 461 thousand in 1995 to 2 million in the latest 12 month period).

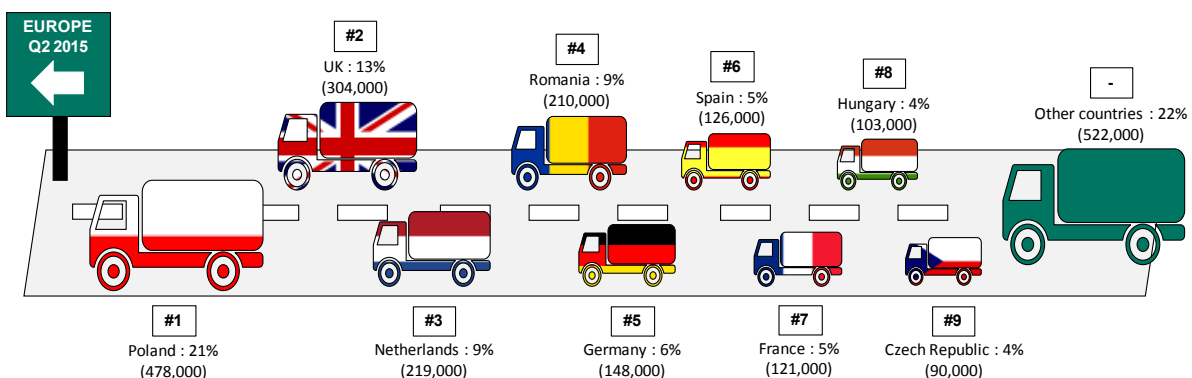
Vehicles registered to countries such as the **UK, Netherlands, Germany and France** have seen their share of powered goods vehicles fall as a number of countries have increased their share since joining the EU. When **Poland** joined the EU in 2004, they accounted for 3 per cent of the total number of powered vehicles. By the 12 month period ending June 2015 this had risen to 21 per cent, a larger share than any other country. **Hungary** and **Czech Republic** joined the EU in 2004 and have seen their shares of total powered vehicles rise from less than 1 per cent each to 5 per cent and 4 per cent respectively. **Romania**, which joined the EU in 2007 accounted for 8 per cent compared to less than 1 per cent in 2004.

Powered vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe, percentage share by country of registration, 2005 compared to the 12 month period ending June 2015

2005 Total: 1.9 Million



July 2014 - June 2015 Total: 2.3 Million

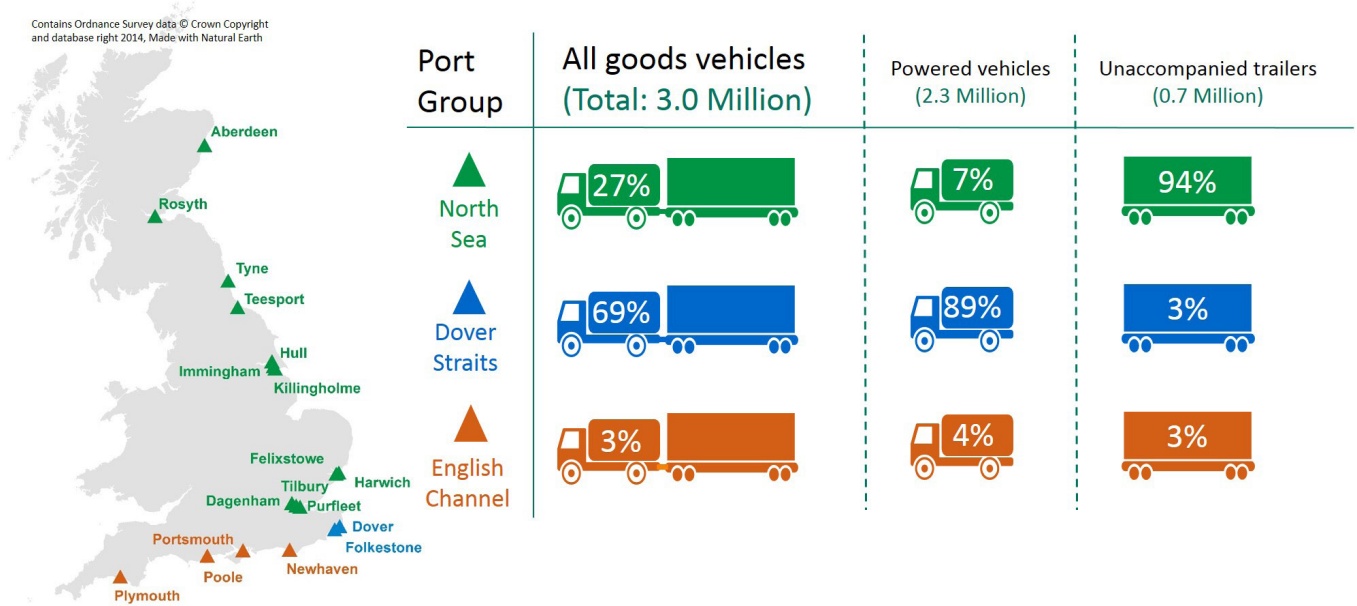


Quarter 2 total (April - June 2015)

During quarter 2 2015, 74 thousand powered vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe were **UK registered** (12 per cent of the total). This was a 32 per cent decrease compared to quarter 2 2005 (109 thousand). **Foreign Registered** vehicles saw a total 517 thousand powered vehicles in quarter 2 2015, the highest quarter 2 total seen in the last 30 years.

Country of disembarkation and port group

Goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe by port group, rolling 12 month period totals to June 2015



Rolling 12 month period total (July 2014 - June 2015)

- The proportions by port group of goods vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe has remained similar over the past decade.
- Of the total powered vehicles, 93 per cent disembarked in **France** (2.2 million). This explains the high number using the **Dover Straits Port Group** (France is the only country of disembarkation for the Channel Tunnel).
- Of the total unaccompanied trailers, 56 per cent disembarked in the **Netherlands** (395 thousand) and 22 per cent in **Belgium** (158 thousand).
- Over half of the routes from the **North Sea Port Group** disembarked in the **Netherlands** or **Belgium**.
- Of the small number of goods vehicles using the **English Channel Port Group**, 90 per cent disembarked in **France** and 10 per cent in **Spain**.

Quarter 2 total (April - June 2015)

In quarter 2 2015, 546 thousand powered vehicles disembarked in **France** (92 per cent of the total, unchanged compared to quarter 2 2014), 38 thousand in **Netherlands** (6 per cent, unchanged compared to quarter 2 2014) and the remaining 7 thousand in other countries (most notably **Denmark**, **Germany** and **Belgium**).

Background notes

- The web tables for RoRo statistics can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-freight-domestic-and-international-statistics>
- 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:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/road-freight-domestic-and-international-statistics-guidance>
- 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:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/roll-on-roll-off-international-freight-statistics-pre-release-access-list>

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.
- Estimates of the number of powered vehicles and unaccompanied trailers for Quarter 4 2014 and Quarter 1 2015 have been revised as part of this release. The revision follows ongoing quality assurance with data suppliers.