

Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe.

Statistical Release

22 November 2012



Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe: July to September 2012 (Quarter 3)

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.

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Key findings include:

Rolling Annual total:

- There were 2.43 million goods vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe in the four quarters ending Q3 2012. This is a 2.4 per cent decline compared to the four quarters ending Q3 2011 and 16 per cent lower than the peak in 2007. However the number of good vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe has increased by over 70 percent in the last 20 years.
- Of these goods vehicles, 1.81 million were powered vehicles and 622 thousand were unaccompanied trailers. Both powered vehicles and unaccompanied trailers have fallen compared to the four quarters ending Q3 2011 by 0.9 per cent and 6.7 per cent respectively.

Quarter 3 2012:-

- During quarter 3 2012, 611 thousand goods vehicles travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe, of which 452 thousand were powered vehicles (an increase of 3.5 per cent on Q3 2011) and 158 thousand were unaccompanied trailers (down 3.1 per cent on Q3 2011).

RESPONSIBLE STATISTICIAN

William Spry

FURTHER INFORMATION

Media Enquiries:

020 7944 3066

Public Enquiries:

William Spry

020 7944 2021

maritime.statistics@dft.gsi.gov.uk

1. Roads good vehicles travelling to mainland Europe

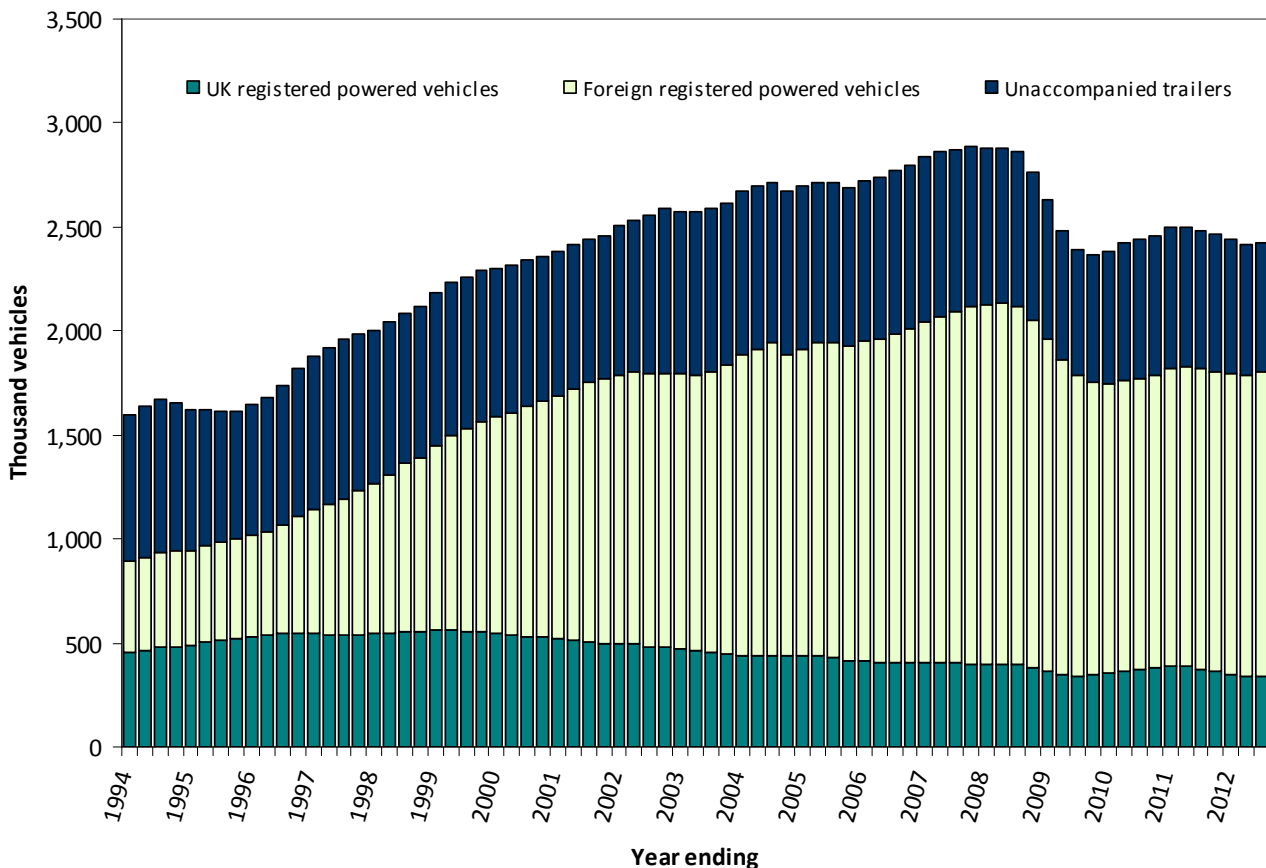
Rolling Annual total:-

- In the four quarters ending Q3 2012 there were 2.43 million goods vehicles travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe. This is over 2 per cent lower than the four quarters ending Q3 2011 and 16 per cent lower than the peak in 2007. However the number of good vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe has increased by over 70 per cent in the last 20 years.
- Of these 2.43 million good vehicles, 1.81 million were powered vehicles and 622 thousand were unaccompanied trailers. Both powered vehicles and unaccompanied trailers have fallen compared to the four quarters ending Q3 2011 by 0.9 per cent and 6.7 per cent respectively.

Quarter 3 2012:-

- During quarter 3 2012, 611 thousand goods vehicles travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe. Of this 452 thousand were powered vehicles and 158 thousand were unaccompanied trailers. Compared to quarter 3 2011, the total number of good vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe increased by 1.7 per cent. The number of powered vehicle increased by 3.5 per cent over the same period, whereas the number of unaccompanied trailers fell by 3.1 per cent.

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



Detailed statistics (tables) on 'Road goods travelling to mainland Europe' can be found in the web tables, [RORO01](#).

2. Country of vehicle registration

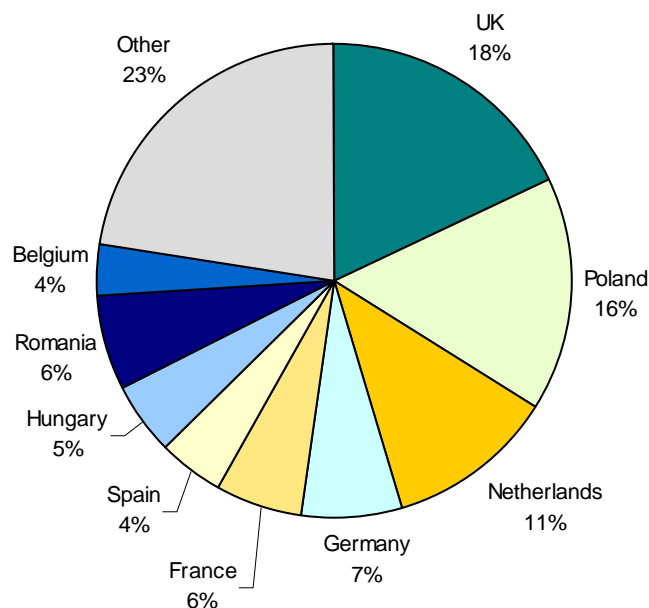
Rolling Annual total:-

- Over the last twenty years there has been a steady increase in the number of foreign registered powered vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe. The number of foreign registered powered vehicles has increased from 0.39 million in the four quarters ending Q3 1992 compared to 1.47 million in the four quarters ending Q3 2012.
- In the four quarters ending Q3 2012, 282 thousand vehicles were Polish-registered (16%), followed by the Netherlands (198 thousand or 11%), Germany (121 thousand or 7%) and France (113 thousand or 6%).

Quarter 3 2012:-

- In Q3 2012, 82 thousand power vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe were UK registered compared to 370 thousand foreign registered vehicles. In Q3 2012, UK registered vehicles accounted for 18 per cent of all powered vehicles travelling to mainland Europe, a one percentage point decline compared to proportions in Q3 2011.

Powered vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe, percentage share by country of registration: four quarters ending Q3 2012



Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on Powered goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe by country of registration can be found in the web tables, [RORO02](#)

3. Country of disembarkation and port group

Rolling Annual total:-

- For the four quarters ending Q3 2012, 66 per cent of all good vehicles travelling to mainland Europe used the Dover Straits Port Group, which includes the Channel Tunnel. A total of 29 per cent used the North Sea Port Group and 5 per cent used the English Channel port group.
- The majority (87%) of powered vehicles travelling to mainland Europe used the Dover Straits Port Group, which includes the Channel Tunnel. However the majority (93%) of all unaccompanied trailers travelling to mainland Europe went via the North Sea Port Group.
- For channel tunnel traffic, France is the only country of disembarkation. As would be expected from the port group used, 90 per cent of powered vehicles disembarked in France.
- Around half of unaccompanied trailers disembarked in the Netherlands (53%), with a further 26 per cent disembarking in Belgium.

Quarter 3 2012:-

- In Q3 2012, the number of all good vehicles disembarking in Belgium has slightly increased (8%) compared to Q3 2011, whereas disembarkations for France, Netherlands and Denmark and Germany have all fallen.

Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on Goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe by country of disembarkation can be found in the web tables, [RORO03](#), [RORO04](#), [RORO05](#), [RORO06](#), and [RORO07](#)

4. 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.

5. Background notes

- The web tables for RoRo statistics can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/roll-on-roll-off-international-freight-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/technical-guidance-for-transport-stats#roll-on-roll-off-international-freight-statistics>
- 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/technical-guidance-for-transport-stats#roll-on-roll-off-international-freight-statistics>
- These results will be updated for Q4 2012 in February 2013.