



Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe: January to March 2013 (Quarter 1)



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 2.44 million **goods vehicles** travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe in the four quarters ending Q1 2013. Although this is broadly the same amount as the rolling annual total for Q1 2012, it is still 16 per cent lower than the peak in 2007.
- Of these goods vehicles, 1.8 million were **powered vehicles** and 0.6 million were **unaccompanied trailers**. Powered vehicles increased by 1 per cent, whereas unaccompanied trailers have fallen by 4 per cent, compared to the four quarters ending Q1 2012.

Quarter 1 2013:-

- During quarter 1 2013, 620 thousand **goods vehicles** travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe, of which 466 thousand were **powered vehicles** and 153 thousand were **unaccompanied trailers**.
- **Powered vehicles** have increased by around 2.5 per cent compared to quarter 1 2012 whereas the number of **unaccompanied trailers** has remained steady.

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1. Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe

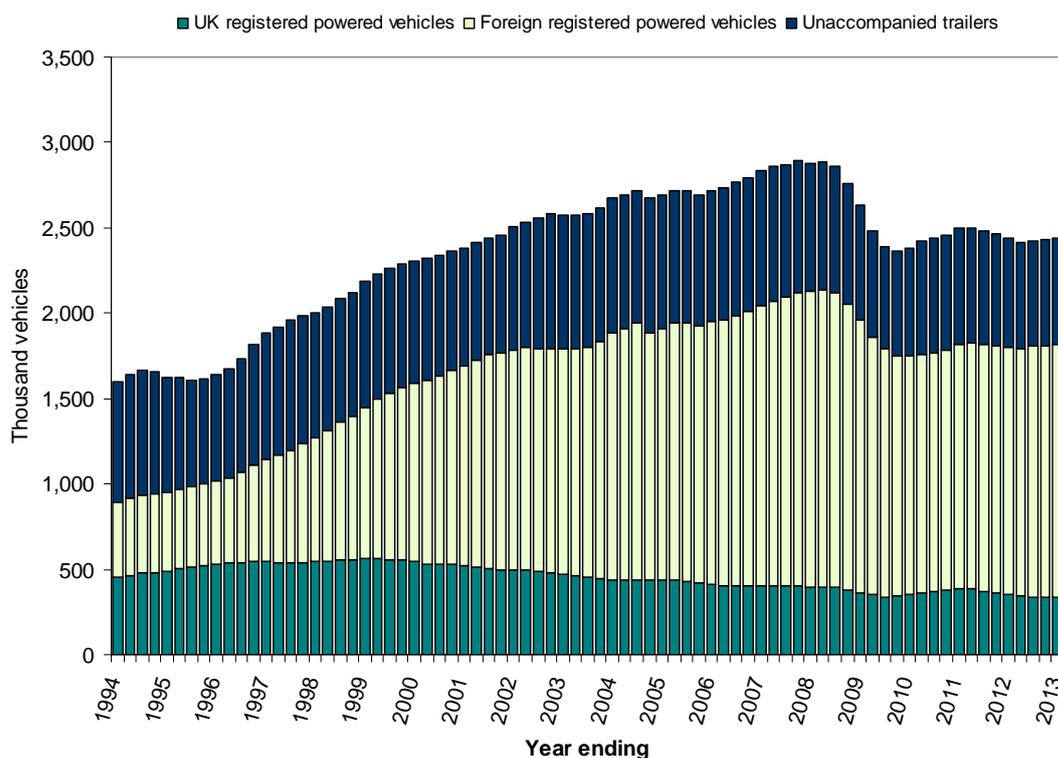
1.1 Rolling Annual Total

- There were 2.44 million **goods vehicles** travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe in the four quarters ending Q1 2013. Similar levels have been seen over the last 3 years but this is still 16 per cent lower than the peak in 2007. The number of goods vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe has increased by nearly 75 per cent in the last 20 years.
- Of these goods vehicles, 1.82 million were **powered vehicles** and 619 thousand were **unaccompanied trailers**. Powered vehicles are up 1 per cent whereas unaccompanied trailers have fallen by 4 per cent compared to the four quarters ending Q1 2012.

1.2 Quarterly (Quarter 1 2013)

- During quarter 1 2013, 620 thousand **goods vehicles** travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe, of which 466 thousand were **powered vehicles** and 153 thousand were **unaccompanied trailers**.
- The total number of **goods vehicles** travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe has increased by nearly 2 per cent on quarter 1 2012. This is the third consecutive quarter where the number of vehicles has increased on the same quarter in the previous year. The number of **Powered vehicles** have increased by around 2.5 per cent compared to quarter 1 2012 whereas the number of **unaccompanied trailers** has remained steady.

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

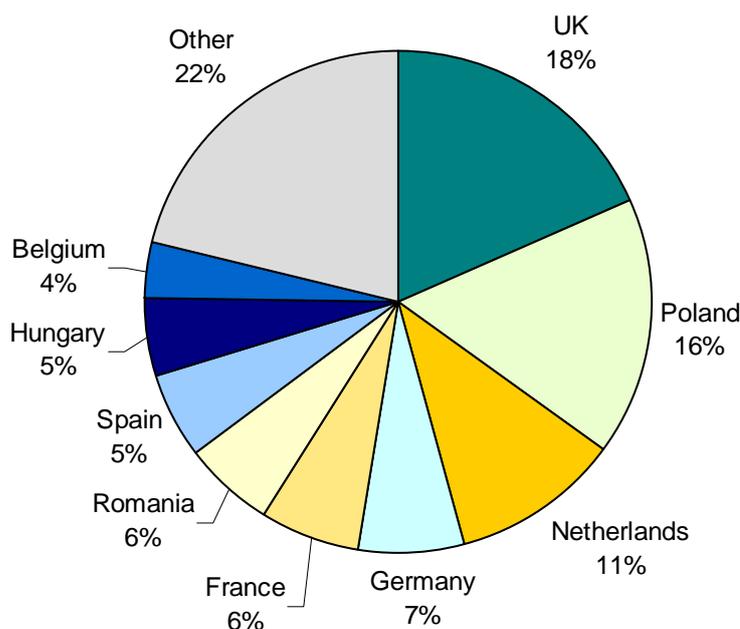
2.1 Rolling Annual Total

- 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 392 thousand in 1993 to 1.49 million in the last four quarters.
- In the four quarters ending Q1 2013, 335 thousand powered goods vehicles were **UK registered** (18% of all powered vehicles). The **foreign countries** with the most registered powered goods vehicles were Poland (300 thousand or 16%), followed by the Netherlands (199 thousand or 11%), Germany (125 thousand or 7%) and France (116 thousand or 6%).

2.2 Quarterly (Quarter 1 2013)

- In quarter 1 2013, 82 thousand **powered vehicles** travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe were **UK registered** compared to 384 thousand **foreign registered** vehicles.
- In quarter 1 2012, **UK registered** vehicles accounted for 17.5 per cent of all powered vehicles travelling to mainland Europe, a decline compared to 18.6 per cent in quarter 1 2012.

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

3.1 Rolling Annual Total

- In the four quarters ending 2013, 66 per cent of all **goods 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 4 per cent used the **English Channel port group**.
- The majority (88%) of **powered vehicles** travelling to mainland Europe used the Dover Straits Port Group. However the majority (93%) of all **unaccompanied trailers** travelling to mainland Europe went via the North Sea Port Group.
- 90 per cent of **powered vehicles** disembark in **France**. This could be expected from the high number using the Dover Straits Port Group, France is the only country of disembarkation for the Channel Tunnel.
- Around half of **unaccompanied trailers** disembarked in the **Netherlands** (55%), with a further 26 per cent disembarking in Belgium.

3.2 Quarterly (Quarter 1 2013)

Quarter 1 2013:-

- In quarter 1 2013, the proportion of powered goods vehicles disembarking in France (91%), Netherlands (6%), Belgium (2%) and Denmark and Germany (0.2%) have all stayed roughly the same compared to quarter 1 2012.

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.
- All but one of the ferry operators returned their survey in time for their results to be included in this publication. Figures for the remaining company have been estimated based on

trends of their previous returns. Their data accounts for around 24 per cent of the final totals. The figures in future publications may be revised if the actual data becomes available.

- 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: <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/roll-on-roll-off-international-freight/ro-ro-pre-release.pdf>
- These results will be updated for Q2 2013 in August 2013.