



Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe: July to September 2013 (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 2.6 million **goods vehicles** travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe in the four quarters ending Q3 2013. This was 7 per cent higher than in the four quarters ending Q3 2012, but still 10 per cent lower than the 2007 peak.
- Of these goods vehicles, 2 million were **powered vehicles** and 0.6 million were **unaccompanied trailers**. Powered vehicles increased by 9 per cent, whereas unaccompanied trailers increased by only 2 per cent, compared to the four quarters ending Q3 2012.
- Of the powered vehicles, 1.63 million were **foreign registered**, compared to 332 thousand **UK registered**.

Quarter 3 2013:-

- During quarter 3 2013, 683 thousand **goods vehicles** travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe, 12 per cent higher than in Q3 2012 and the highest total since Q3 2008.
- Of these goods vehicles, 517 thousand were **powered vehicles** and 166 thousand were **unaccompanied trailers**. **Powered vehicles** increased by 14 per cent and the number of **unaccompanied trailers** increased by 5 per cent, compared to quarter 3 2012.

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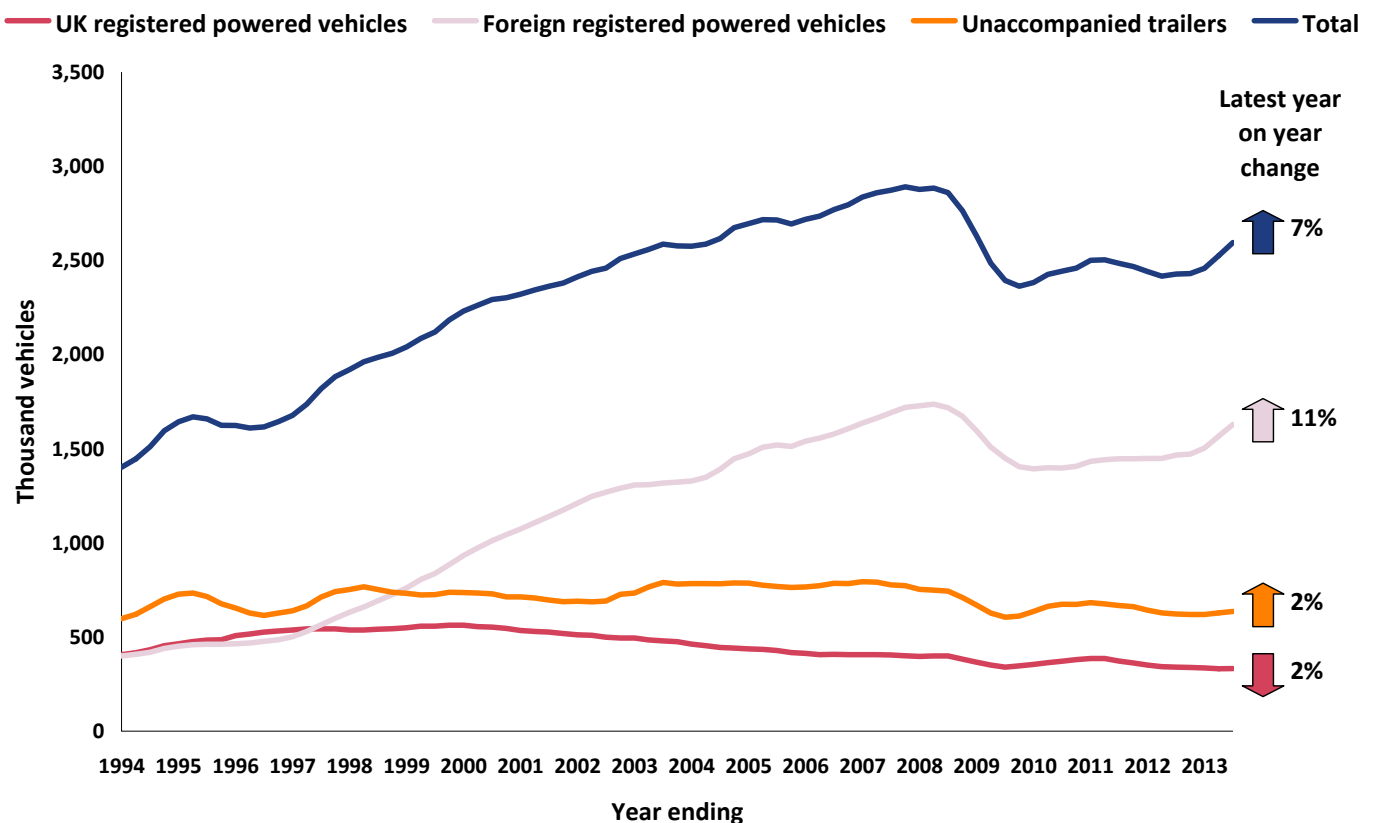
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1. Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe

1.1 Rolling Annual Total

- There were 2.6 million **goods vehicles** travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe in the four quarters ending Q3 2013, 7 per cent higher than in the four quarters ending Q3 2012. This was the highest rolling annual total since the four quarters ending Q1 2009, but still 10 per cent lower than the peak in 2007 (*chart 1*). 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, 2 million were **powered vehicles** and 635 thousand were **unaccompanied trailers**. Powered vehicles were 9 per cent higher compared to the four quarters ending Q3 2012 (with foreign registered up 11% and UK registered down 2%) whereas unaccompanied trailers were only 2 per cent higher (*chart 1*).

Chart 1: Road goods vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe, rolling 4 quarter totals to Q3 2013



1.2 Quarterly (Quarter 3 2013)

- During quarter 3 2013, 683 thousand **goods vehicles** travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe, of which 517 thousand were **powered vehicles** and 166 thousand were **unaccompanied trailers**.

- The total number of **goods vehicles** travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe increased by approximately 12 per cent on quarter 3 2012 and was the highest quarterly total since quarter 3 2008. This was the fifth consecutive quarter where the number of vehicles increased on the same quarter in the previous year. The number of **powered vehicles** increased by around 14 per cent compared to quarter 3 2012 whilst the number of **unaccompanied trailers** increased by 5 per cent.

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 1.63 million in the four quarters ending Q3 2013.
- In the four quarters ending Q3 2013, there were more **Polish registered powered vehicles** than any other country of vehicle registration (371 thousand or 19%). This was over six times higher than when Poland first joined the EU in 2004 (58 thousand or 3%).
- In the four quarters ending Q3 2013, 332 thousand powered goods vehicles were **UK registered** (17% of all powered vehicles). Other **foreign countries** with a large number of powered goods vehicles were the Netherlands (199 thousand or 10%), Germany (132 thousand or 7%) and Romania (121 thousand or 6%) - *chart 2*.

Chart 2: Powered vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe, percentage share by country of registration, 2004 versus year ending Q3 2013



Key: Flag size represents the proportion of total powered vehicles

2.2 Quarterly (Quarter 3 2013)

- In quarter 3 2013, 83 thousand **powered vehicles** travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe were **UK registered** compared to 431 thousand **foreign registered** vehicles.
- In quarter 3 2013, **UK registered** vehicles accounted for 16 per cent of all powered vehicles travelling to mainland Europe, a decline compared to 18.2 per cent in quarter 3 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 Q3 2013, 68 per cent of all **goods vehicles** travelling to mainland Europe used the **Dover Straits Port Group**, which includes the Channel Tunnel. A total of 28 per cent used the **North Sea Port Group** and 4 per cent used the **English Channel port group**.
- The majority (89%) of **powered vehicles** travelling to mainland Europe used the Dover Straits Port Group. However, the majority (94%) of **unaccompanied trailers** travelling to mainland Europe went via the North Sea Port Group.
- 92 per cent of **powered vehicles** disembarked 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.
- Just over a half of **unaccompanied trailers** disembarked in the **Netherlands** (55%), with a further quarter disembarking in Belgium.

3.2 Quarterly (Quarter 3 2013)

- In quarter 3 2013, the proportion of powered goods vehicles disembarking in France (92%), Netherlands (6%), Belgium (1%) and Denmark and Germany (0.2%) were roughly the same as in quarter 3 2012.

Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on Goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe by country of disembarkation and port group 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/transport-statistics-notes-and-guidance-roll-on-roll-off-international-freight>
- 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/transport-statistics-notes-and-guidance-roll-on-roll-off-international-freight>
- These results will be updated for Q4 2013 in February 2014.