



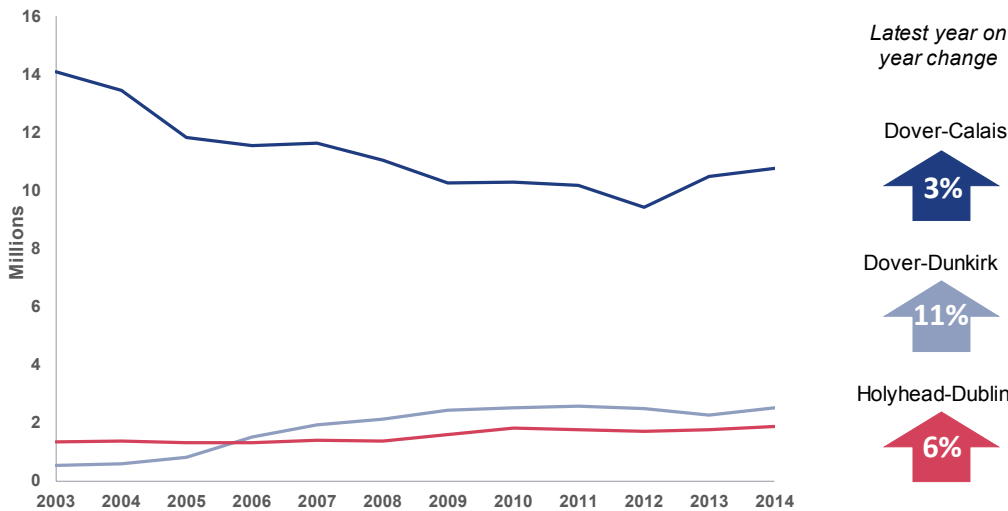
# Provisional Sea Passenger Statistics: 2014

**International short sea passengers rose in 2014 to 21.3 million, the second annual increase following 10 years of general decline.**

## International Short Sea Passengers

- **International Short Sea passenger numbers have increased by 4 per cent** on the previous year. Numbers increased across all port groups; Thames & Kent, East, West and South.
- **Dover - Calais remained the busiest route** carrying 10.8 million passengers in 2014, this was an **increase of 3 per cent** compared to the previous year. This route accounted for 51 per cent of all short sea journeys.

UK's top 3 busiest international ferry routes, 2003 - 2014



## About this release

This statistical release presents provisional statistics for sea passengers movements to and from the UK in 2014. This includes:

**International short sea (ferry) routes:** These include all routes within Europe.

**Domestic sea crossings:** All routes between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

Final sea passenger statistics will be published in November 2015, including data on international cruises, long sea journeys and domestic river crossings and inter-island routes.

## Domestic Sea Crossings

- Passenger traffic on **domestic sea crossings** has steadily declined over the last decade, with a slight increase in 2013.

Routes between Great Britain and:	Thousand passengers			Percentage change
	2013	2014		
Northern Ireland	2,086	2,075	⬇️	-1%
Isle of Man	523	523	↔️	0%
Channel Islands	360	348	⬇️	-3%

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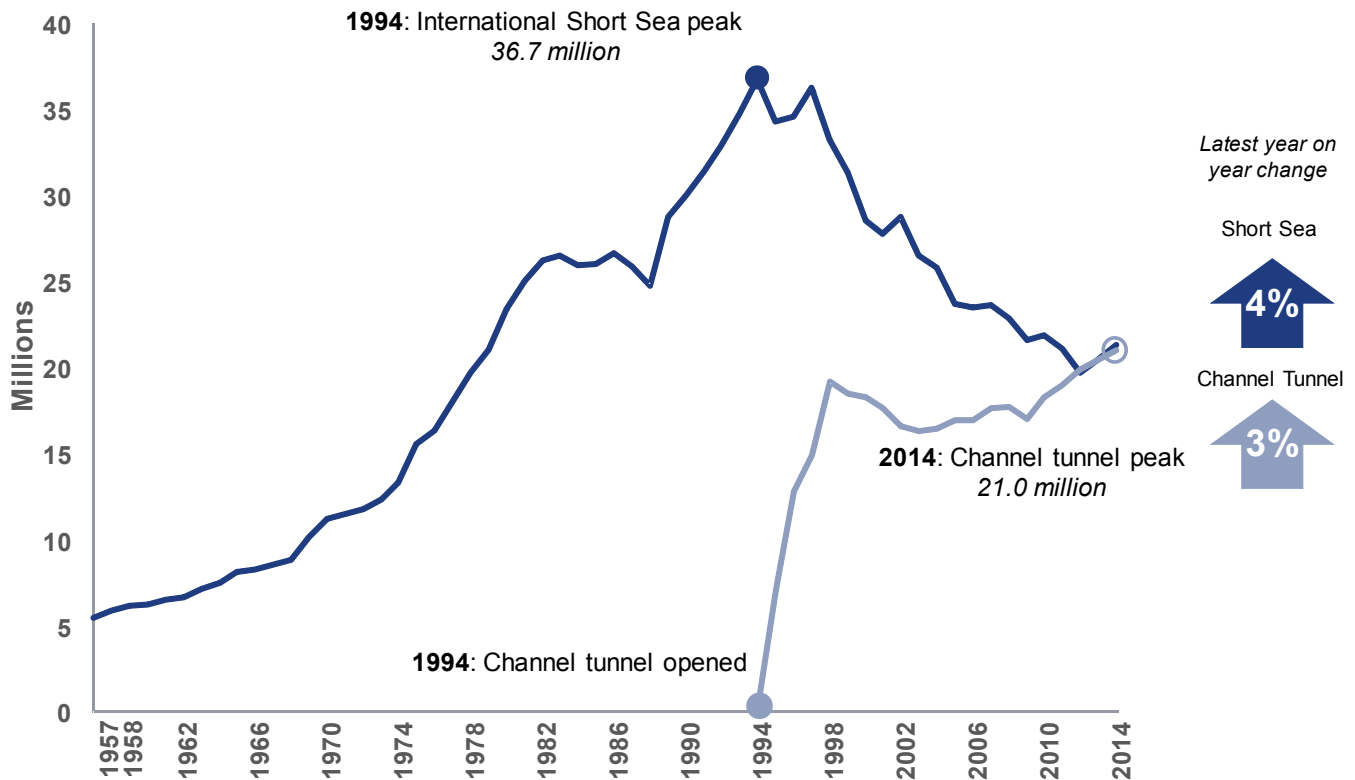
### Summary

- The **total** number of sea passengers on international routes are comprised of passengers on **international short sea** (ferry) routes, **cruises** and **long sea** journeys. Statistics for cruises and long sea journeys will not be available until autumn 2015.
- This statistical publication provides data for **international short sea** (ferry) routes in 2014.
- **In 2013** (the latest year available) there were **22.4 million sea passengers on all international routes** to and from the UK, 5 per cent more than in 2012.

### International Short Sea Journeys

- In 2014 the number of **international short sea passengers** travelling **increased to 21.3 million**, a 4 per cent rise from 2013. This is the first time there have been two consecutive years of growth since the years 1996-1997.
- International short sea passenger numbers grew steadily, from **3.9 million movements in 1950** (the start of the series) up **until 1994 when journeys peaked at 36.7 million**. Since 1997 international short sea numbers **have steadily declined**, with only a few exceptions. The increase in 2010 was in part linked to the eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull, which disrupted air travel and resulted in passengers using other modes of transport.
- In 2014 the number of passengers travelling via the **Channel Tunnel rose** by 3 per cent to 21.0 million, **less than half a million fewer than those travelling internationally by short sea ferry**.
- Since opening in 1994, the trends in the **number of passengers** travelling via the **Channel Tunnel and by sea** have **steadily converged**. Channel Tunnel passengers exceeded those on international short sea journeys for the first time in 2012. However, since then, short sea passengers have increased at a faster rate than those travelling via the Channel tunnel.

## International short sea passengers and Channel Tunnel passengers, 1957-2014



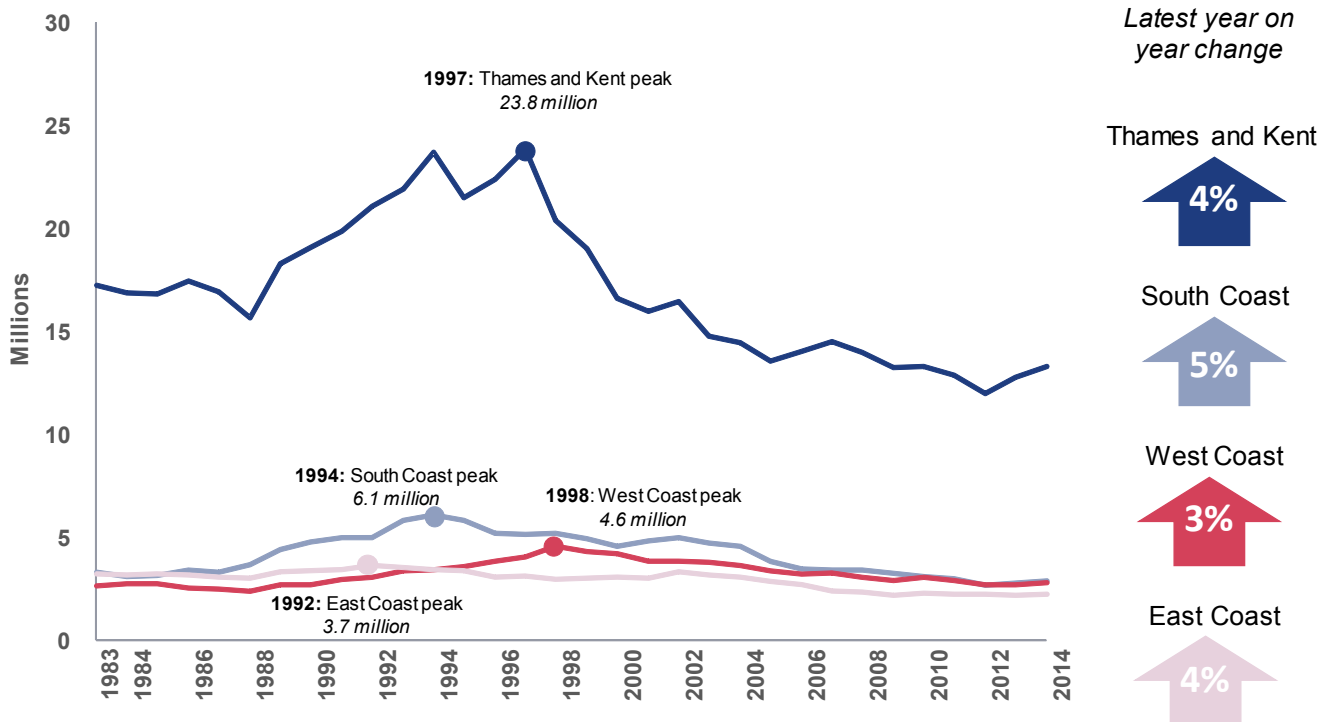
Detailed statistics on Channel Tunnel and International Short Sea Passengers can be found in web table [SPAS0301](#)

## International Short Sea Journeys by Port Group

- In 2014 international short sea passenger **movements increased** for all port groups.
- The number of passengers travelling to or from the **East Coast increased for the first time in three years** to 2.3 million passengers, a 4 per cent annual increase. This was mainly driven by increases in passengers at Hull, which accounted for 41 per cent of all East Coast passengers.
- **Thames and Kent** remained the **busiest port group** in 2014, accounting for 62 per cent of all international short sea passenger movements. Passenger numbers in Thames and Kent increased by **4 per cent to 13.3 million**. This was mainly caused by the **4 per cent increase at Dover**, which handled all but 13 thousand passengers who instead travelled through London or Ramsgate.
- Although overall passenger numbers in Thames and Kent increased in 2014, the volume of passengers travelling from **Ramsgate fell from 18 thousand to 61 passengers**. This was due to the ferry provider who ran the Ramsgate - Ostende route going into administration in April 2013. No operators are currently covering this route.

- There were 2.8 million international short sea passengers travelling through the **West Coast** ports in 2014, an **increase of 3 per cent**. This was mainly due to the 6 per cent increase seen on the Holyhead- Dublin route, which dealt with 1.9 million passengers. This route accounted for 67 per cent of all West Coast passengers.
- Passengers travelling from the **South Coast** increased by 5 per cent to 2.9 million. Last year saw the first year on year increase following **10 years of decline**.

### International short sea passengers by port group, 1983 - 2014

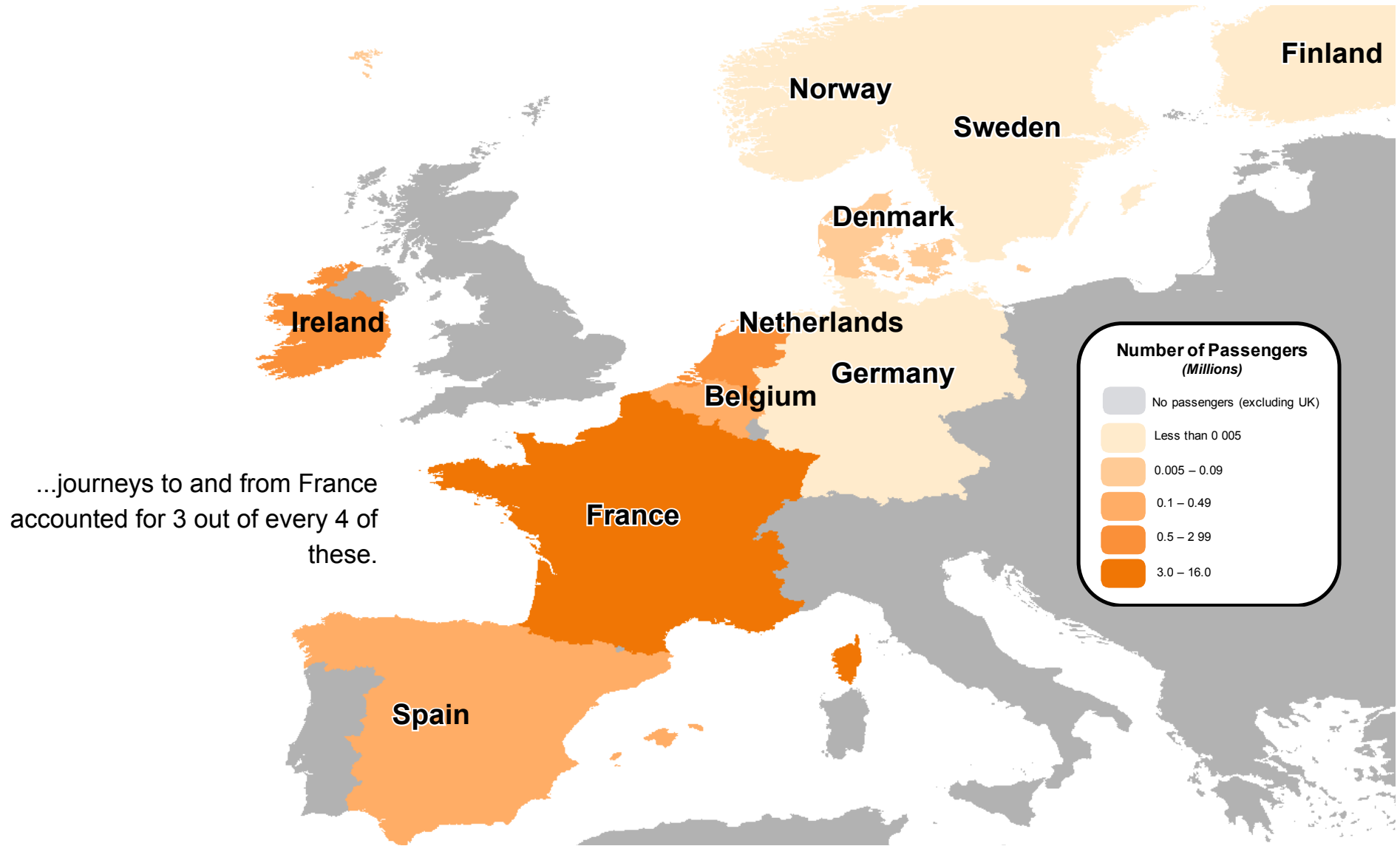


Detailed statistics on International Short Sea Passengers by port group can be found in web table [SPAS0101](#).

### International Short Sea Journeys by Route

- **France remained the most popular destination** for international short sea routes, a trend which has been seen since the series began in 1950. In 2014, 74 per cent (15.8 million) of international short sea journeys occurred between the UK and France. This partly reflects the **high number of routes** between the **UK and France** (13 routes).
- However, **the Netherlands**, the country with the second highest number of routes (11 routes) only accounted for **9 per cent** of all international short sea passengers (1.8 million).

In 2014, there were 21.3 million **international short sea passenger journeys** to and from the UK...

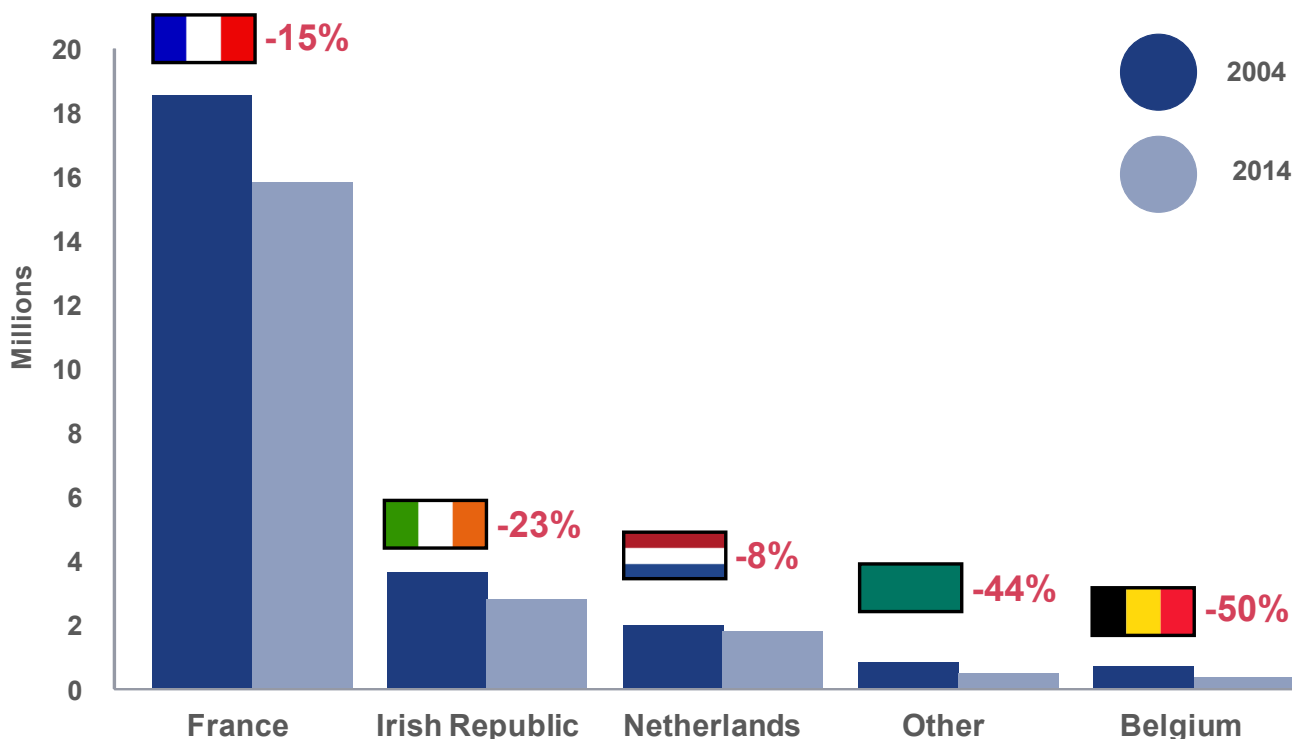


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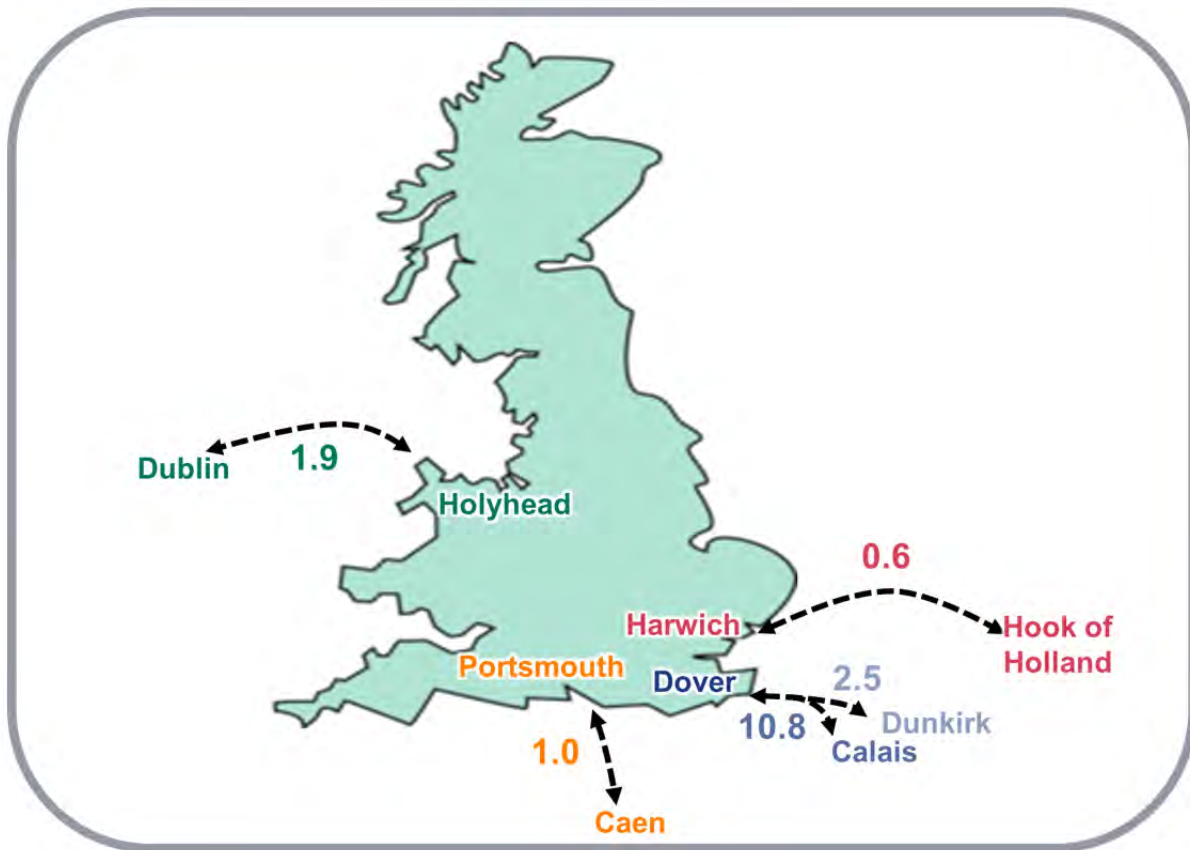
- Despite the **year on year** increase in passenger traffic to and from France seen in both 2013 and 2014, numbers have been **steadily falling prior to this over the last decade**. In 2014 there were 15 per cent fewer journeys made than in 2004. This is mirrored in the **17 per cent decline** of all **international short sea passengers** over the last decade.
- Countries such as **Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden** have seen **rapid decline over the last decade**. This is mainly due to closure of routes which could be a result of competition from low-cost airlines and Eurostar growth. For instance passengers travelling to and from Belgium have halved in the last decade, with 369 thousand passengers travelling in 2014 compared to 739 thousand in 2004 .
- The **Irish Republic** remained the **second most popular destination** for international short sea passengers in 2014. The number of passengers travelling to the Irish Republic rose to **2.8 million** in 2014, 13 per cent of all passenger traffic.

### UK international short sea passengers by country of origin/destination, 2014

*Percentage change from 2004 to 2014*



## Top 5 busiest short-sea routes by number of passengers (millions), 2014

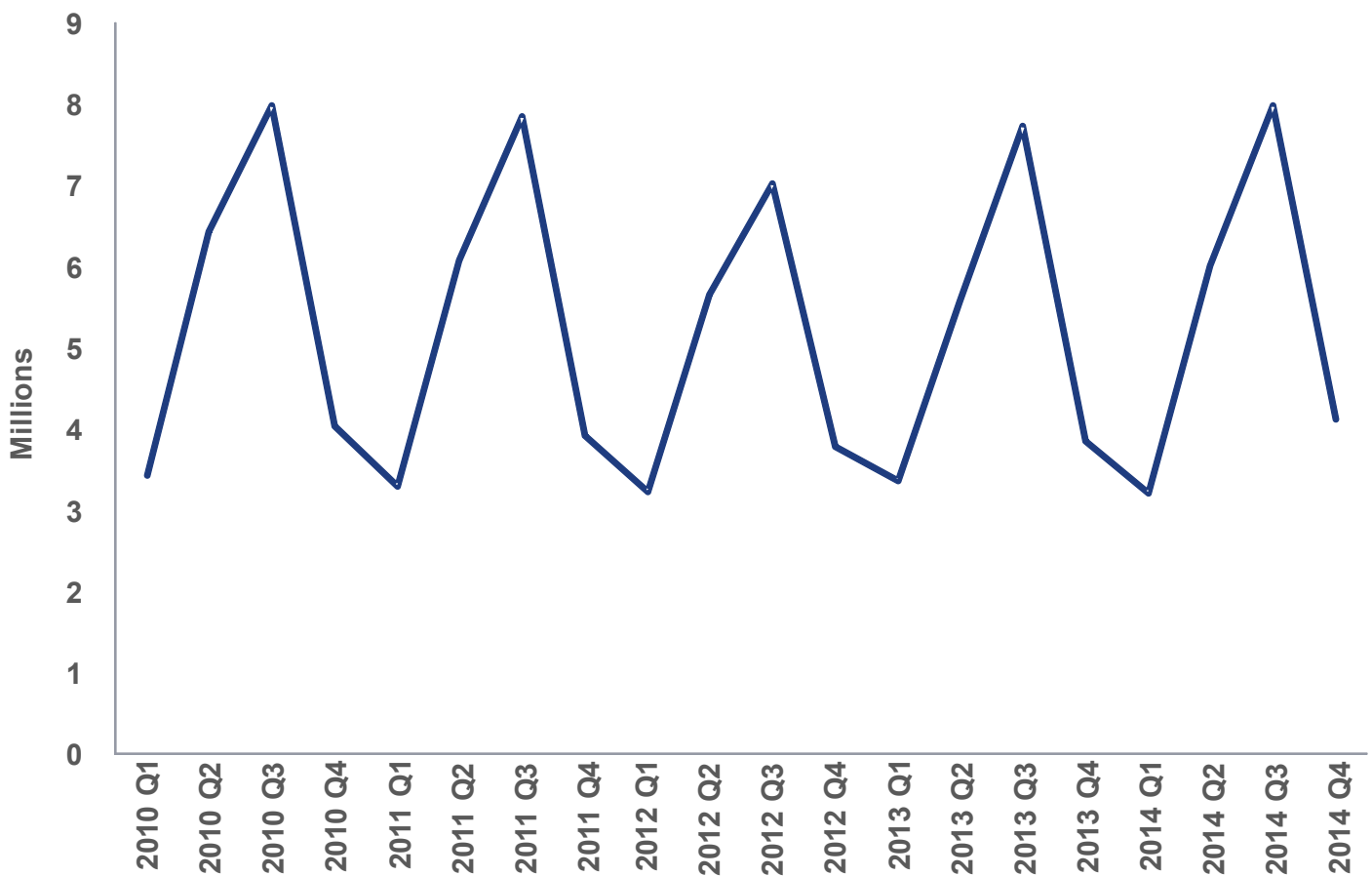


- Over the past decade **Dover-Calais** has consistently handled the **largest amount of passengers** of all international short sea ferry routes.
- Ten years ago **Dover-Dunkirk** was the tenth most popular route. Since then it has been steadily increasing and in **2014** approximately **four times as many** passengers were using the route **than in 2004**.

## Seasonal trends in International Short Sea Journeys

- **One out of every three** (8.0 million) international short sea journeys took place in the summer, quarter three (July – September), making this the **busiest quarter** of the year for international ferry journeys in 2014. This was more than double the 3.2 million journeys in **quarter one** (January – March) 2014, the **least busy quarter**.
- **Quarter two** (April – June) was the second busiest quarter, with a total of **6.0 million** international short sea passengers, followed by quarter four (October – December) with **4.1 million** passenger movements.
- The graph below shows this seasonal trend.

### International short sea passengers by quarter, 2010 - 2014



## Long Sea Journeys and Cruise Passengers

- Statistics for passengers on **cruises and long sea journeys** will be published in **autumn 2015**.

Detailed statistics on International Short Sea Passengers by route can be found in web tables [SPAS0102](#) and [SPAS0103](#).



## Sea Passengers on Domestic Routes

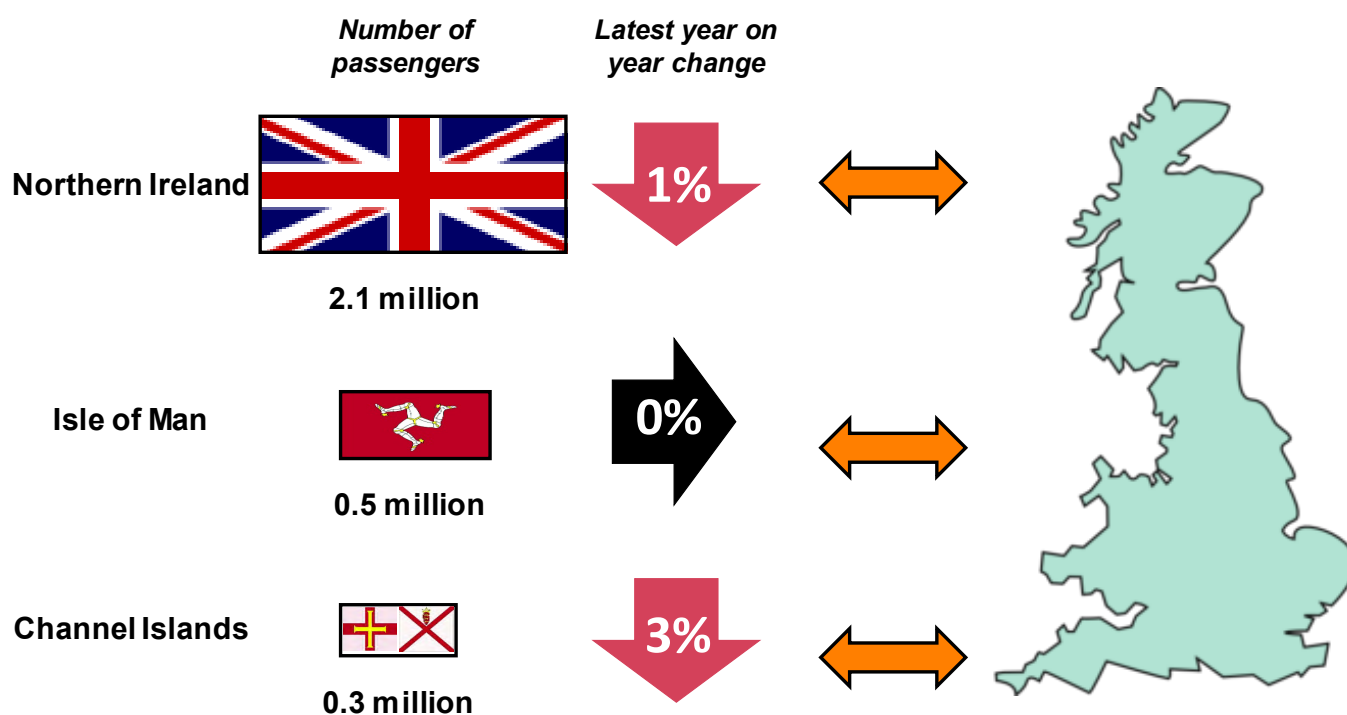
### Summary

- The **total** number of sea passengers on **domestic** routes are comprising of passengers on **domestic sea crossings, inter-island domestic routes and river ferries**. Statistics for inter-island domestic routes, river ferries and Scottish domestic sea crossings will not be available until autumn 2015.
- This statistical publication provides data for passengers on **domestic sea crossings** to Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands in 2014.
- **In 2013** (the latest year available) there were **43.3 million passengers** travelling on **domestic routes**, a 3 per cent increase compared to 2012. Data for 2014 will be published in autumn 2015.

### Domestic Sea Crossing by Route

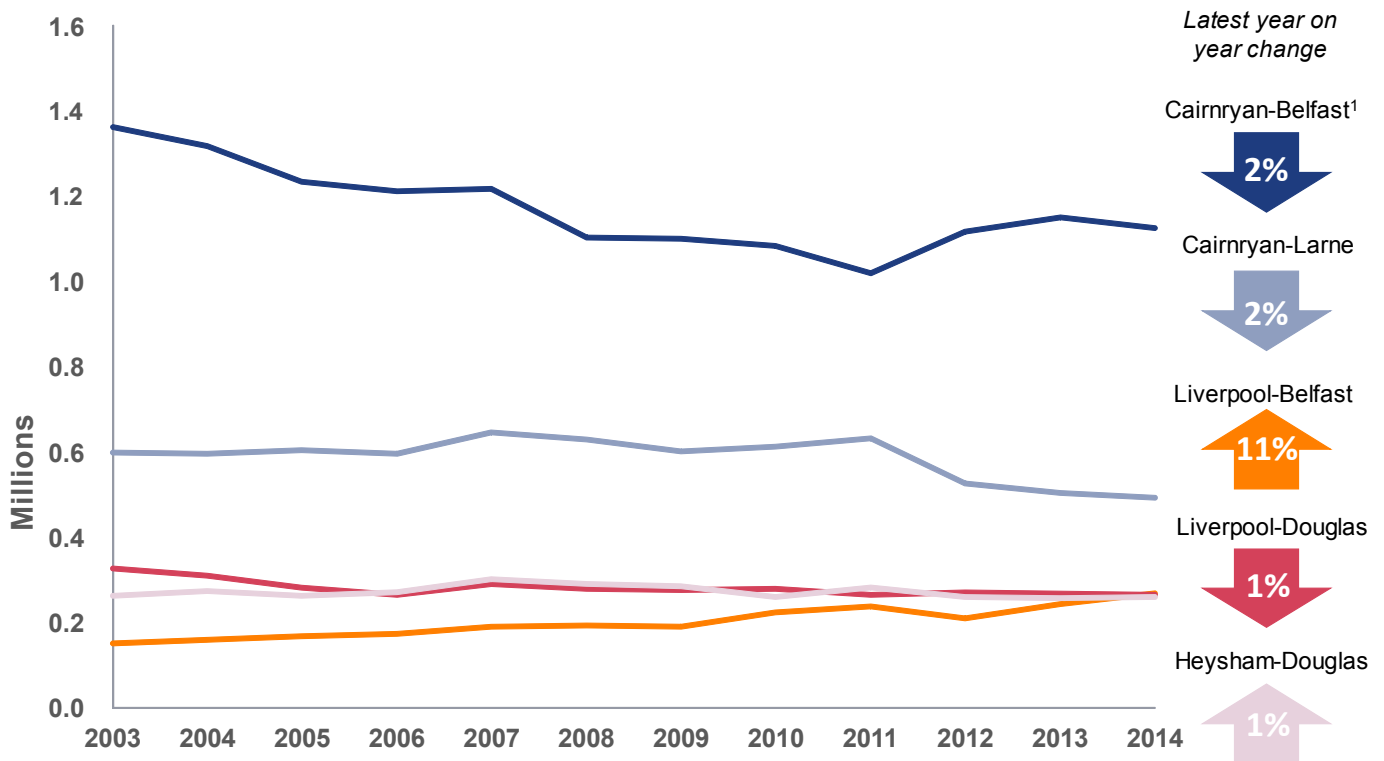
- The **total** number of sea passengers on **domestic sea crossings** will not be available until autumn 2015. Data for Scottish domestic routes are currently not available.

### Domestic sea passengers travelling between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands, 2014



- In 2014 there were **2.1 million journeys** between the **UK and Northern Ireland**, the most popular domestic sea crossing. **Cairnryan to Belfast** was the most **popular route** between the UK and Northern Ireland, carrying 1.1 million passengers, a 2 per cent decline compared to the previous year. The **route opened in November 2011** and has taken passengers who previously travelled between **Stranraer and Belfast (route closed in November 2011)**.

### UK's top 5 busiest domestic sea crossing routes, 2003 - 2014



1. Passengers on the route Cairnryan to Belfast travelled from Stranraer to Belfast before 2012.

- Journeys to and from the **Isle of Man** remained similar to the previous year, with **0.5 million passengers** using routes between Liverpool or Heysham and Douglas. Passenger numbers on this route have been falling since 2008, with a slight increase in 2011.
- In 2014, domestic sea passengers crossing between the **Channel Islands** and Great Britain **declined by 3 per cent** with **0.3 million passengers** travelling. Passengers using these routes have decreased by 25 per cent over the past decade.

## Seasonal trends in Domestic Sea Crossing Journeys

- **Quarter three** (July-September) was the **busiest season** for all reporting domestic routes (Great Britain to Northern Ireland, GB to Isle of Man, GB to Channel Islands). In contrast Quarter one (January-March) was the quietest.
- Many ferry operators work to a winter timetable during quarter one due to the small number of passengers travelling.

## Passengers on inter-island Domestic Routes

- Statistics for passengers on **Inter-island domestic routes**, such as Hampshire to the Isle of Wight, will be published in **autumn 2015**.

## Passengers on River Ferries

- Statistics for passengers on **river ferries**, such as routes along the River Thames, will be published in **autumn 2015**.

## Strengths and weaknesses of the data

- ▶ The data for international ferry passenger routes, domestic sea crossings and inter-island routes are collected regularly from the operators or, in the case of the crossings to Orkney and Shetland and Scottish inter-island routes, supplied by the Scottish Government. These data sets are checked in detail and considered to be very robust.
- ▶ The data for International Short-Sea passengers is collected from 14 ferry operators and validated on a monthly basis. The response rate for 2014 is 100% for all months. At the end of the reference year the annual data is then validated for a final time for this publication.
- ▶ Passenger numbers on river ferries are collected from the operators and cover major routes, which are reviewed periodically. Data are considered to be fit for purpose.
- ▶ The cruise and long sea data are also supplied by the operators and are regularly reviewed. The data are considered to be fit for purpose.

Detailed statistics on Domestic Sea Passengers can be found in web tables [SPAS0201](#) and [SPAS0202](#).

## Background notes

- ▶ The web tables for sea passenger statistics can be found at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/maritime-and-shipping-statistics#data-tables-associated-with-this-series>
- ▶ Full guidance on the methods used in the publication of these releases, and the quality of the data, can be found in the Technical Note at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/maritime-and-shipping-statistics-guidance>
- ▶ National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs.
- ▶ 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/pre-release-access-lists-for-maritime-and-shipping-series>
- ▶ Provisional summary totals for international sea passenger traffic are released monthly via the DfT website at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/spas01-uk-international-sea-passengers#table-spas0107>