



Department for Transport

UK Port Freight Statistics: Final 2013 Revised

About this release

This statistical release present statistics on freight handled by UK sea ports in 2013. These statistics have been revised to correct for a small error found in the figures published on 27th August 2014. The original statistics included some underreporting due to a data supply issue identified through ongoing quality assurance processes. This release presents selected key facts from the revised data set.

Definitions:

Unitised traffic-

This includes containers and all Ro-Ro (trade, passenger, import/export motor vehicles). These figures include both loaded and empty units.

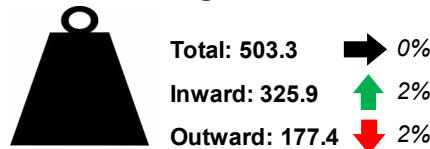
Main Freight:

Includes containers, trade vehicles, unaccompanied trade vehicles and shipborne trailers. For more definitions please see [Technical note](#).

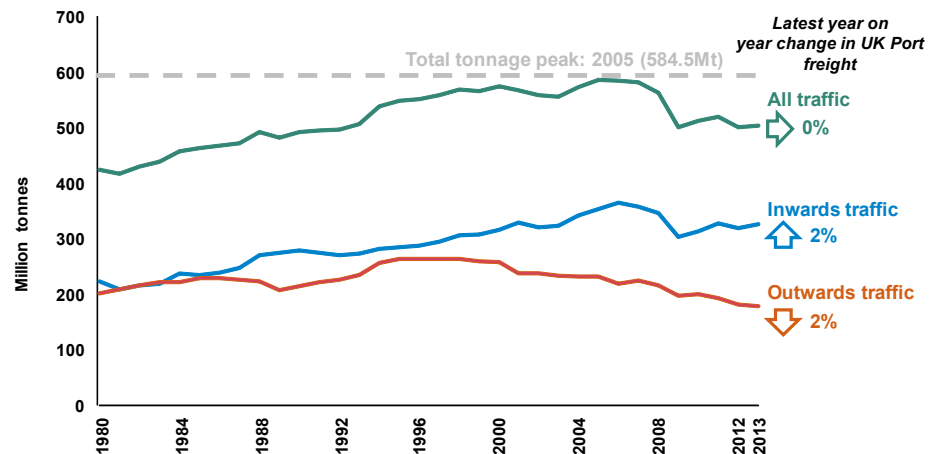
Key results: 2013

- **Total traffic** for all UK ports was broadly stable in 2013 at **503.3 million tonnes**, following a year on year decline in 2012 of 4 per cent.

UK Port Tonnage (million tonnes)



- **Major ports** tonnage was steady with **491.8 million tonnes** being handled, accounting for 98 per cent of total traffic.
- **Minor ports** tonnage increased by 1 per cent when compared to 2012, up to **11.6 million tonnes** following two years of decline.



- **Unitised traffic** handled at UK major ports rose by 3 per cent, with **21.4 million units** coming in and out of the UK. This increase follows two years of decline.
- The number of **main freight units** handled by UK major ports rose for the first time since 2010 to **11.9 million units**.

Long term trends

Between 1980 and 2000 **freight traffic increased steadily** by an average growth rate of 1.5 per cent per year or 35 per cent in total. The **2008 recession** preceded the **largest year on year decline** in the last 30 years of 11 per cent, to 500.9 million tonnes. In 2013, port freight remained similar to the 2009 result - two per cent higher than in the early 90s.

Inwards/Outwards

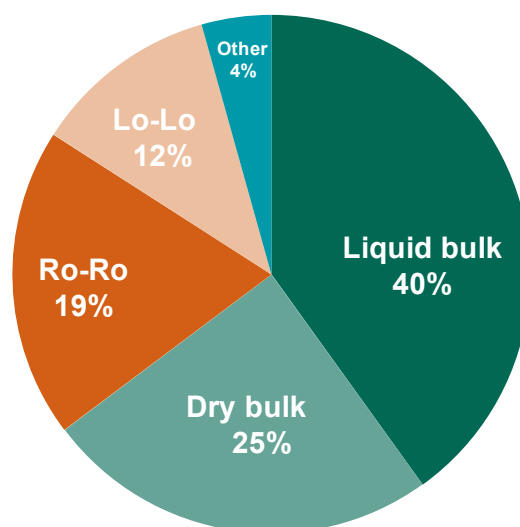
In 2013 **inward traffic** increased by 2 per cent to **325.9 million tonnes**, and accounted for 65 per cent of all traffic. **Outwards traffic** decreased by 2 per cent to 177.4 million tonnes, a record low which continues the slow state of decline that emerged in the late 90s.

Tonnage by cargo type (million tonnes)

Major port tonnage for 2013 was unchanged compared to 2012, with **491.8 million tonnes** being handled.

Liquid bulk accounted for a majority of all traffic (40%) with its largest contributing subgroup being **crude oil**.

Dry bulk was the second largest cargo category with **121.4 million tonnes** being handled at UK ports.



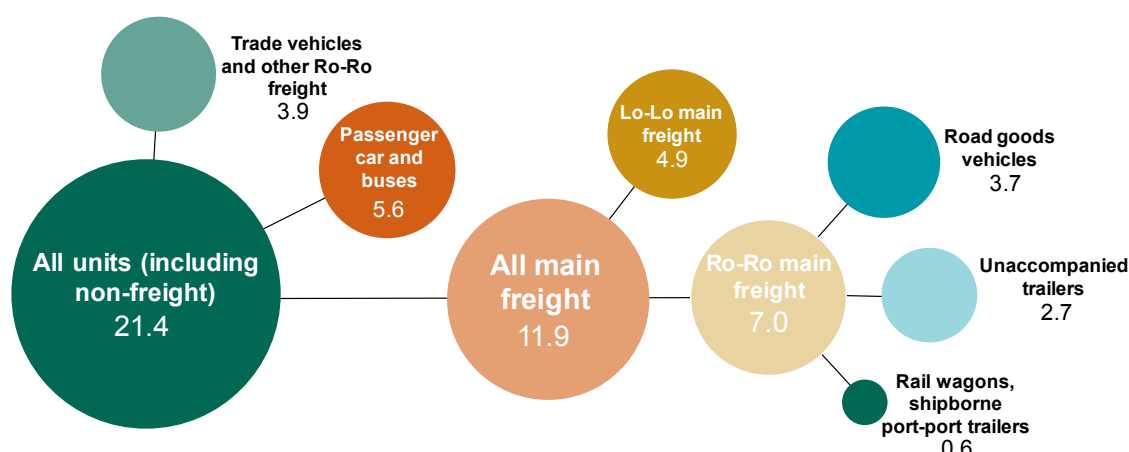
UK Major Port Domestic traffic

The **proportion of traffic** travelling **domestically** has **decreased over the last decade**, from 27 per cent in 2003 to 19 per cent (91.8 million tonnes) in 2013. Of this, 74.7 million tonnes (81 per cent) was transported coastwise and the remainder was one-port traffic moved from the sea bed or between offshore installations such as rigs or wind farms.

UK Major Port Unitised Traffic

Main freight accounted for **56 per cent of all unitised traffic**. Of the 11.9 million main freight units, 41 per cent were lo-lo containers and the remainder were ro-ro containers.

Some **5.6 million units** (26 per cent) of the 21.4 million units handled by UK major ports in 2013 were non-freight in the form of **passenger cars and buses**.



Overall, 60 per cent of main freight units were loaded. That is, 67 per cent of inwards main freight units were loaded, as were 37 per cent of outwards main freight units.

The revised tables and links to the full pre-revision statistical release and tables may be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/port-freight-statistics-2013-final-figures-revised>.