

Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe: October to December 2014 (quarter 4)

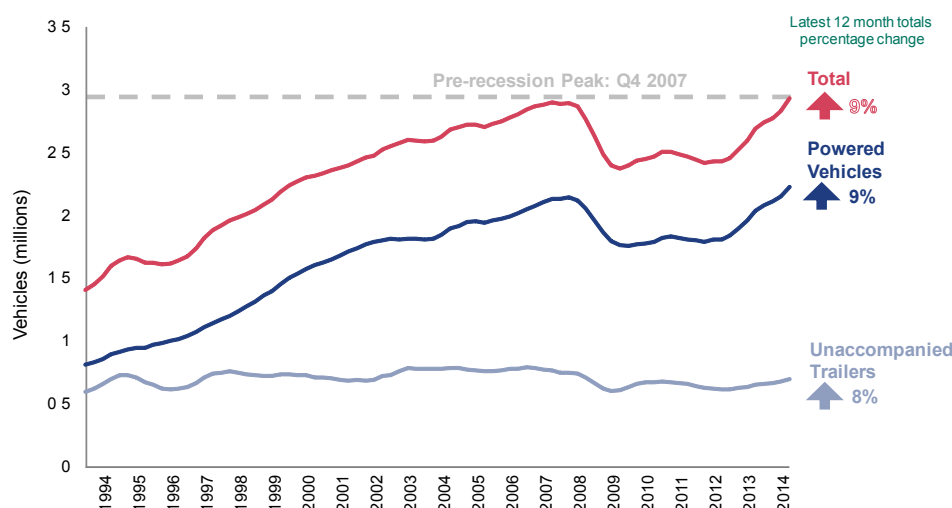


Department
for Transport

There was a 9 per cent increase in the number of road goods vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe in 2014

- Road goods vehicles increased by 242 thousand to **2.9 million**, taking the total to 1 per cent higher than in 2007 – the pre-recession peak.
- Of the total road goods vehicles, 2.2 million were **powered vehicles** and 702 thousand were **unaccompanied trailers**. Since 2013, powered vehicles increased by 9 per cent and unaccompanied trailers increased by 8 per cent.

Road goods vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe, 2014



In quarter 4 (October – December) 2014, 792 thousand goods vehicles travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe (599 thousand **powered vehicles** and 193 thousand **unaccompanied trailers**). This was the highest quarter 4 total since the series began over 30 years ago.

About this release

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.

These statistics are used within the UK, the Department for Transport, regional bodies, academics and transport consultants to obtain a better understanding of the complexities of freight transport and of trends, in order to advise on policy options. The haulage industry itself has a particular interest in data on the activity of overseas registered vehicles within the UK.

These statistics are updated on a quarterly basis.

Next Update: 21 May 2015

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Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe

2014 total

There were 2.9 million goods vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe during 2014 (2.2 million **powered vehicles** and 702 thousand **unaccompanied trailers**), 9 per cent higher than the 2013 total. The increase was largely driven by the number of operators using the Dover to Calais route, part of the Dover Straits port group. Compared with 2013, an additional 183 thousand goods vehicles travelled via the Dover Straits port group in 2014.

Since the 12 month period ending June 2012, the number of road goods vehicles has been consistently increasing and 2014 saw figures exceed the pre-recession peak during 2007 (2.9 million) for the first time.

More long term, the number of goods vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe has increased by 83 per cent in the last 20 years.

What are powered vehicles and unaccompanied trailers?

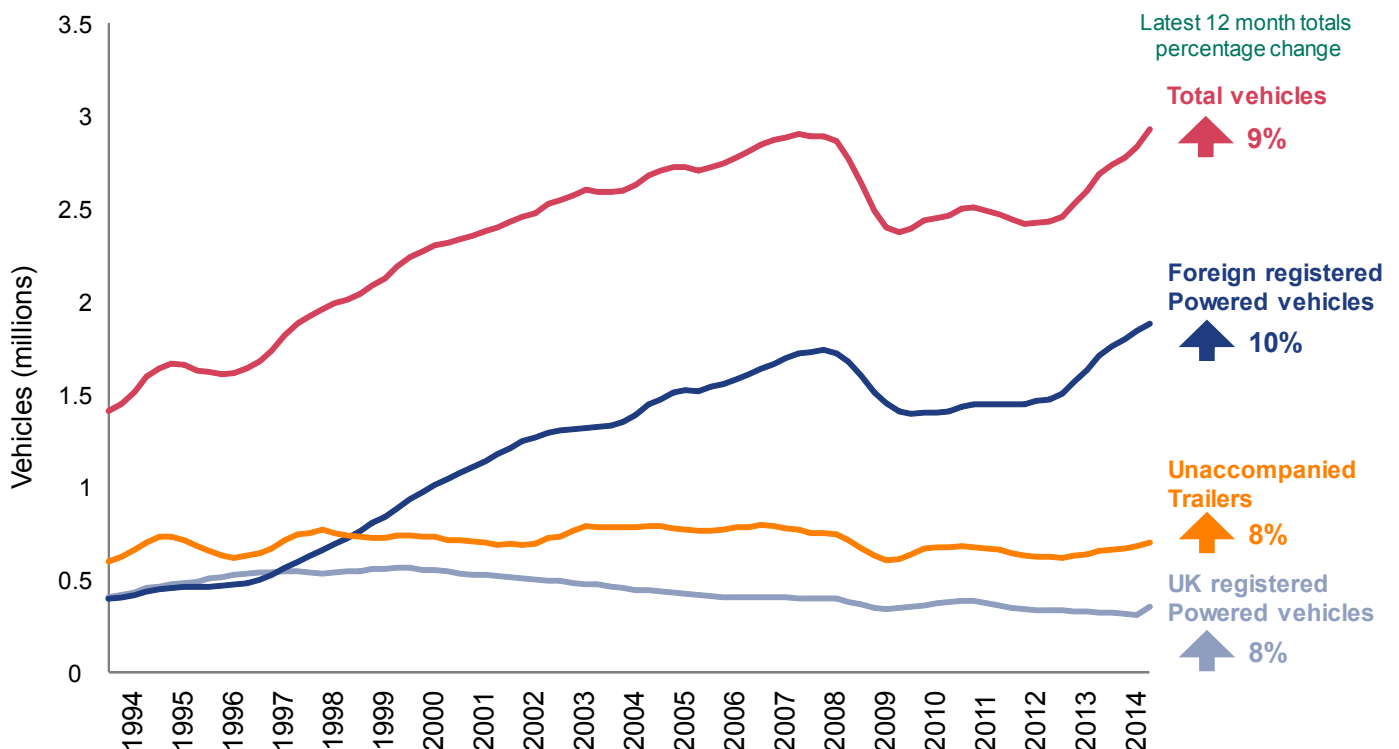


Powered vehicles comprise rigid vehicles, lorries with semi-trailers (articulated units) and lorries with drawbar trailers (some vehicles under 3.5 tonnes gross weight are also included).



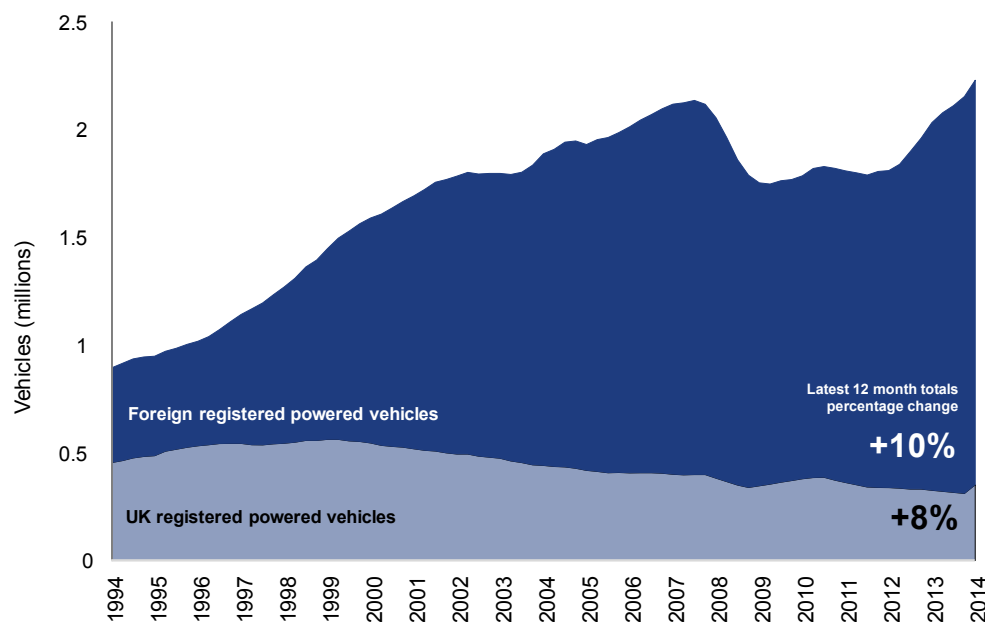
Unaccompanied trailers comprise trailers and semi-trailers not accompanied on the ferry by a powered unit.

Road goods vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe, rolling 12 month totals to December 2014



Powered vehicles rose by 9 per cent to 2.2 million, this was largely due to an increase in the number of **foreign registered** powered vehicles which rose by 10 per cent to 1.9 million continuing the gradual upward trend seen since 2009. **UK registered** powered vehicles were up 8 per cent to 352 thousand, ending 2 consecutive years of decline.

UK registered and Foreign registered powered vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe, 2014



Over the last 20 years large increases in the number of foreign registered vehicles travelling to Europe have seen the UK's percentage share drop to 16 per cent of the total, from a peak of 52 per cent in 1996.

Quarter 4 total (October - December 2014)

During quarter 4 2014, 792 thousand goods vehicles travelled from Great Britain to mainland Europe (599 thousand **powered vehicles** and 193 thousand **unaccompanied trailers**). This was 14 per cent higher compared to quarter 4 2013.

Though not directly comparable, quarter 4 2014 also saw the highest number of goods vehicles travelling in any single quarter since the series began over 30 years ago.

Country of vehicle registration

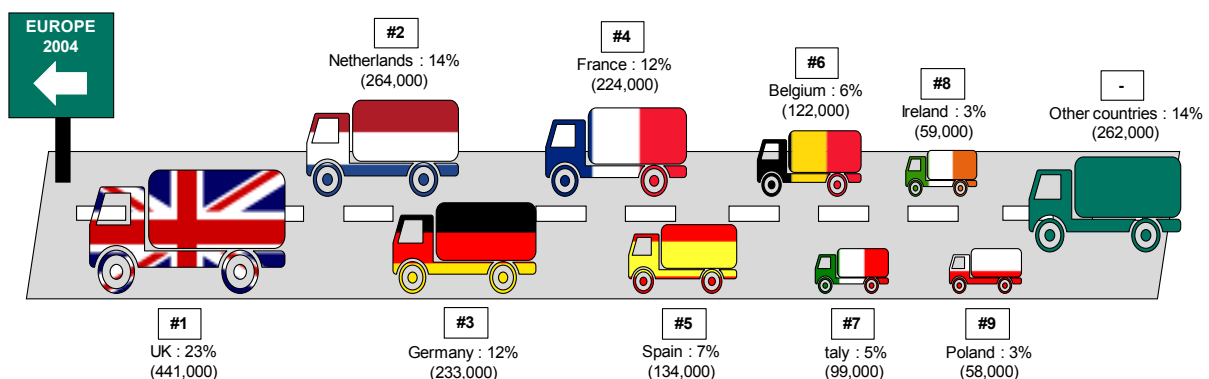
2014 total

Over the last twenty years there has been a four fold increase in the number of **foreign registered** powered vehicles travelling from Great Britain to mainland Europe (from 439 thousand in 1994 to 1.9 million in 2014).

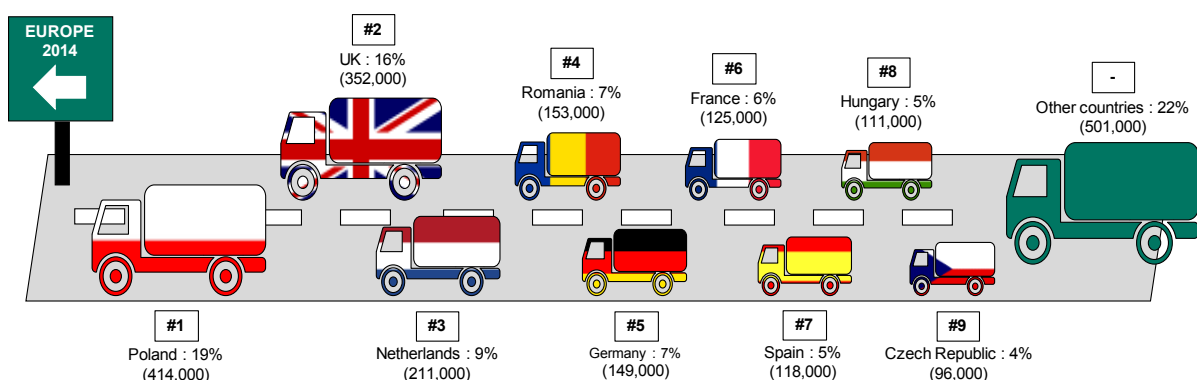
Vehicles registered to countries such as the **UK, Netherlands, Germany** and **France** have seen their share of powered goods vehicles fall as a number of countries have increased their share since joining the EU. When **Poland** joined the EU in 2004, they accounted for 3 per cent of the total number of powered vehicles. By 2014 this had risen to 19 per cent, a larger share than any other country. **Hungary** and **Czech Republic** joined the EU in 2004 and have seen their shares of total powered vehicles rise from less than 1 per cent each to 5 per cent and 4 per cent respectively. **Romania**, which joined the EU in 2007 accounted for 7 per cent compared to less than 1 per cent in 2004.

Powered vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe, percentage share by country of registration, 2004 compared to 2014

2004 Total: 1.9 Million



2014 Total: 2.2 Million

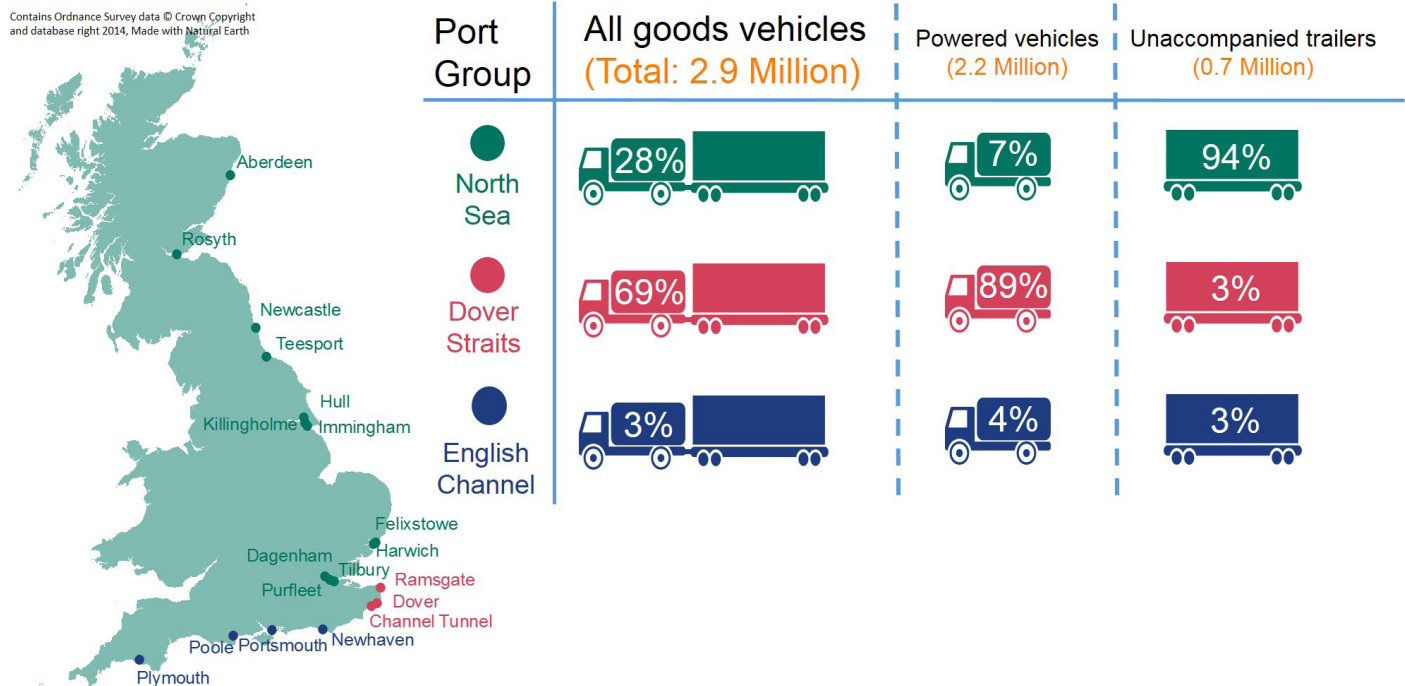


Quarter 4 total (October - December 2014)

During quarter 4 2014, 116 thousand powered vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe were **UK registered** (19% of the total). This was a 4 per cent increase compared to quarter 4 2004 (112 thousand). **Foreign Registered** vehicles accounted for 482 thousand powered vehicles in quarter 4 2014, the highest quarter 4 total seen in the last 30 years.

Country of disembarkation and port group

Goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe by port group, 2014



Rolling annual total, 2014

- The proportions by port group of goods vehicles travelling from GB to mainland Europe has remained similar over the past decade.
- Of the total powered vehicles, 93 per cent disembarked in **France** (2.1 million). This explains the high number using the **Dover Straits Port Group** (France is the only country of disembarkation for the Channel Tunnel).
- Of the total unaccompanied trailers, 54 per cent disembarked in the **Netherlands** (382 thousand) and 25 per cent in **Belgium** (178 thousand).
- Over half of the routes from the **North Sea Port Group** disembarked in the **Netherlands** or **Belgium**.
- Of the small number of goods vehicles using the **English Channel Port Group**, 88 per cent disembarked in **France** and 12 per cent in **Spain**.

Quarter 4 total (October - December 2014)

In quarter 4 2014, 558 thousand powered vehicles disembarked in **France** (93 per cent of the total, unchanged compared to quarter 4 2013), 34 thousand in **Netherlands** (6 per cent, unchanged compared to quarter 4 2013) and the remaining 7 thousand in other countries (most notably **Denmark**, **Germany** and **Belgium**).

Background notes

- The web tables for RoRo statistics can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-freight-domestic-and-international-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/government/publications/road-freight-domestic-and-international-statistics-guidance>
- 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/government/publications/roll-on-roll-off-international-freight-statistics-pre-release-access-list>

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.