



Introduction

Following a user feedback exercise completed in 2018, DfT are trialling publishing estimates of passenger vehicles alongside the quarterly Port Freight Statistics.

The changes outlined below will be implemented on the fourth quarter port freight statistics published in March 2020. These will be presented as Experimental Statistics until the annual validation of the quarterly data.

Methodology

Since the second quarter of 2019, ports have been asked to answer new questions in addition to their quarterly submission. Their answers include data regarding the number of Passenger Vehicles in both directions, inwards and outwards.

Where ports have not provided the data, we have used information provided by the shipping agents. Our analysis shows that agents' data matches ports' with an average difference of under 1% and hence, it can be used as a strong and accurate estimator. However, in order to reduce the burden on ports this question is optional, and therefore, we have used agents data where ports are unable to provide the data.

Changes

New data will be published which includes a time series of the Passenger Vehicles handled by ports, starting from the second quarter of 2019. There are a number of formats in which we can provide these figures and we are seeking feedback on what users would find the most useful.

The considered options are the following:

- As a separate table that includes only information about Passenger Vehicles by ports.
- As another filter within Tonnage and Units statistics by ports (included in PORT0502), which currently looks like this:

s¹, by port, quarterly from

Metric	Tonnage
Direct	Tonnage
	Units

- Similar to above proposal for PORT0502, but the filter options are “Tonnage”, “Units excluding Passenger Vehicles” and “Passenger Vehicles”.
- Other options that our users might suggest.

This new data will enable users to more easily find the data they need and sets the initial steps towards publishing other cargo categories' statistics if this is possible in the future.

Feedback and Response

This new data is regarded as Experimental Statistics, awaiting user feedback and validation with ports, in order to provide a robust time series. You can provide feedback about this change by filling in [this form](#). We continue to welcome any feedback on any aspect of the Port Freight Statistics, you can contact us by email to maritime.stats@dft.gov.uk or phone 020 7944 4847.

Maritime Statistics

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