

ROAD FREIGHT STATISTICS 2007

Department for Transport
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FOREWORD

ROAD FREIGHT STATISTICS 2007

This is the third edition of Road Freight Statistics. It brings together in one annual publication the main series on the activities of UK-registered heavy goods vehicles, both domestically and internationally, non-UK registered heavy goods vehicles in Great Britain, and summarises the activity of GB-registered vans. It supersedes the following previous publications:

The Transport of Goods by Road in Great Britain

This Statistics Bulletin reported on the results of the Continuing Survey of Road Goods Transport which provides information about the domestic activity of goods vehicles registered in Great Britain.

International Road Haulage Statistics

This appeared as an annual supplement in the first quarter edition of the quarterly Statistics Bulletin Roads Goods Bulletin Travelling to Mainland Europe. It provided statistics from the International Road Haulage Survey and, from 2004, the Survey of Road Goods Transport CSRGT (NI). These surveys cover work undertaken by UK-registered powered vehicles carrying goods on roll-on/roll-off ferries or through the Channel Tunnel.

The Bulletin *Roads Goods Vehicles Travelling to Mainland Europe* continues to be released quarterly as a web-only publication. Annual tables relating to UK-registered goods vehicles and foreign-registered goods vehicles are included in this publication (**Section 2**).

Survey of Company Van Activity

The Survey of Company-Owned Vans was introduced in order to improve the Department's knowledge about activity in this sector. Results for 2003 and 2004 were published in annual Statistics Bulletins. After consulting with users, and taking account of the need to minimise the burden on respondents, it was decided that the survey no longer needed to be carried out continuously. 2005 was therefore the last year of the survey in this form. In future data will be obtained by means of ad hoc surveys carried out at regular intervals.

The Review of Road Freight Statistics

A key component of National Statistics outputs is a programme of quality reviews carried out at least every five years to ensure that such statistics are fit for purpose and that their quality and value continue to improve. A quality review of the Department for Transport's road freight surveys was carried out in 2003. A copy of the report can be accessed at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/nsbase/methods_quality/quality_review/downloads/NSQR30FinalReport.doc

Comments

We would welcome suggestions for changes to the *Road Freight Statistics* publication that would help to improve its usefulness. Please contact Stephen Reynolds, Zone 2/29, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR. Tel. 020 7944 3093. Email stephen.reynolds@dft.gsi.gov.uk.

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Summary

The domestic activity of GB-registered goods vehicles

Freight moved by GB-registered heavy goods vehicles within Great Britain increased by 4 per cent between 2006 and 2007, from 156 billion tonne kilometres to 161 billion tonne kilometres.

The 8 per cent increase between 1997 and 2007 in total freight moved was less than the rise in Gross Domestic Product over the same period (32 per cent).

Articulated vehicles over 33 tonnes gross weight continue to account for an increasing share of all goods moved: 73 per cent of total tonne kilometres in 2007, compared with 65 per cent in 1997.

The amount of freight lifted in 2007 (1,869 million tonnes) was three per cent above 2006 (1,813 million tonnes), and was 14 per cent above that in 1997.

There has been a long term increase in overall average length of haul, from 68 kilometres in 1980 to 86 kilometres in 2007, peaking at 95 kilometres in 1999.

Just over half of all goods (52 per cent) were lifted on a trip of 50 kilometres or less in 2007.

The international activity of UK-registered goods vehicles and the activity of foreign-registered goods vehicles in Great Britain

The total number of road goods vehicles of all nationalities travelling to mainland Europe in 2007 was 2,940 thousand, five per cent more than in 2006 and 56 per cent more than in 1997. Powered vehicles accounted for 2,129 thousand of this total, an increase of five per cent since 2006 and 86 per cent since 1997. The remaining vehicles were unaccompanied trailers; 811 thousand travelled to mainland Europe in 2007, a three per cent increase over 2006 and a 10 per cent increase since 1997.

400 thousand of these powered vehicles were registered in the United Kingdom, two per cent less than in 2006 and 26 per cent fewer than in 1997. UK-registered vehicles accounted for 19 per cent of all powered vehicles in 2007, compared with 20 per cent in 2006 and 48 per cent in 1997.

The majority of powered vehicles use the Dover Straits, either by ferry or Channel Tunnel. Of UK-registered vehicles, 80 per cent used the Dover Straits in 2007 compared with 77 per cent in 1997.

In 2007, UK-registered vehicles carried 5.1 million tonnes of goods out of the UK, which is the same as in 2006, and is 33 per cent less than in 1997. 6.1 million tonnes of goods were carried into the UK, the same as in 2006, but 25 per cent less than in 1997.

In 2007, goods moved out of the UK by UK-registered vehicles (4.2 billion tonne-kms) was the same as in 2006 but 49 per cent lower than in 1997. Goods moved into the UK (4.5 billion tonne kms) were 4 per cent less than in 2006 and 46 per cent lower than in 1997.

Cabotage accounted for 1.8 billion tonne kilometres in the UK in 2006 with vehicles from the Netherlands, the Irish Republic and Belgium accounting for 68 per cent of this.

In 2006 59 per cent of outward bilateral goods lifted between the UK and EU countries was accounted for by UK-registered vehicles. For inwards goods lifted the figure was 39 per cent.

Goods vehicle licensing and operators

At the end of 2007 there were some 446 thousand goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes registered in Great Britain, with 73 per cent being rigids.

The number of goods vehicle operators has fallen over the last 10 years from 115 thousand in 1996/97 to 100 thousand in 2006/07.

In 2005/06, 45 per cent of vehicle operators had just one vehicle and only 0.3 per cent had fleets with more than 100 vehicles. However, these large operators accounted for a higher proportion of the vehicle fleet, representing some 14 per cent of the total 2005/06 HGV vehicle population.

Environment and safety

In 2007 rigid goods vehicles travelled, on average 9.4 miles per gallon (mpg), whilst articulated vehicles travelled 8.0 mpg.

Greenhouse gas emissions from road freight transport rose by 2.5 per cent between 1996 and 2006. However, this is lower than the 5.8 per cent increase in the amount of goods moved and the 11.4 per cent increase in goods lifted over the same period.

Between 1997 and 2007 there was a 42 per cent reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured in reported personal injury accidents involving at least one HGV.