

Port Freight Statistics: 2010 final figures

This Statistical Release summarises the final 2010 figures on freight handled by UK sea ports, updating provisional figures which were published in June.



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The key findings:

- In 2010, total freight traffic through UK ports was 512 million tonnes (Mt), an increase of 2 per cent on 2009, but still 12 per cent below the 2005 level.
- Compared with 2009 inwards traffic increased by 3 per cent to 312 Mt, whilst outwards traffic increased by 1 per cent to 199 Mt.
- Grimsby and Immingham remained the UK's leading port in 2010, handling 54 Mt (11 per cent of UK traffic). It was followed by London with 48 Mt (9 per cent), Milford Haven with 43 Mt (8 per cent) and Southampton with 39 Mt (8 per cent).
- In 2010, UK major ports handled 15.4 million freight units, an increase of 6 per cent on 2009. They also handled 6.3 million passenger vehicles, an increase of 1 per cent on 2009.
- Dover, the top UK port for roll-on roll-off (ro-ro) freight, handled 2.1 million ro-ro main freight units (road goods vehicles, unaccompanied trailers and shipborne port-to-port trailers). Felixstowe was the UK's largest container port handling 2.1 million containers.

1. Port Statistics: 2010 final figures

This annual release presents final statistics for freight traffic handled at UK ports in 2010. It includes both international and domestic traffic.

All freight traffic

The figures show that in 2010:

- Total freight traffic through UK ports was 512 million tonnes (Mt), an increase of 2 per cent on 2009, but still 12 per cent below the 2005 level. 97 per cent of this traffic (498 Mt) was through the 52 major ports.
- Compared with 2009, inwards traffic increased by 3 per cent to 312 Mt, whilst outwards traffic increased by 1 per cent to 199 Mt.
- The breakdown of major port traffic by cargo type (tonnage) in 2010 was: liquid bulk 46 per cent, dry bulk 20 per cent, other general cargo 3 per cent; lift-on lift-off (lo-lo) containers 11 per cent; and roll-on/roll-off (ro-ro) cargo 19 per cent (see figure 2).
- Liquid bulk traffic through the major ports was 2 per cent higher than in 2009, and 20 per cent down on 2000. Dry bulk traffic was 2 per cent down on 2009, and 6 per cent down on 2000. Container and ro-ro freight traffic was 5 per cent up on 2009, and 11 per cent up on 2000.
- Grimsby and Immingham maintained its position as the UK's busiest port in terms of tonnage in 2010 with 54.0 Mt (down 0.7 Mt on 2009), followed by London with 48.1 Mt (up 2.6 Mt). The top ten ports in 2010 in terms of tonnage were as follows:

Top ten busiest ports in 2010 compared with 2009

Port	million tonnes	
	2010	2009
Grimsby & Immingham	54.0	54.7
London	48.1	45.4
Milford Haven	42.8	39.3
Southampton	39.4	37.2
Tees and Hartlepool	35.7	39.2
Forth	34.3	36.7
Liverpool	30.0	29.9
Felixstowe	25.8	24.3
Dover	24.1	25.1
Medway	14.0	13.1

Figure 1: UK port traffic by direction: 1990-2010

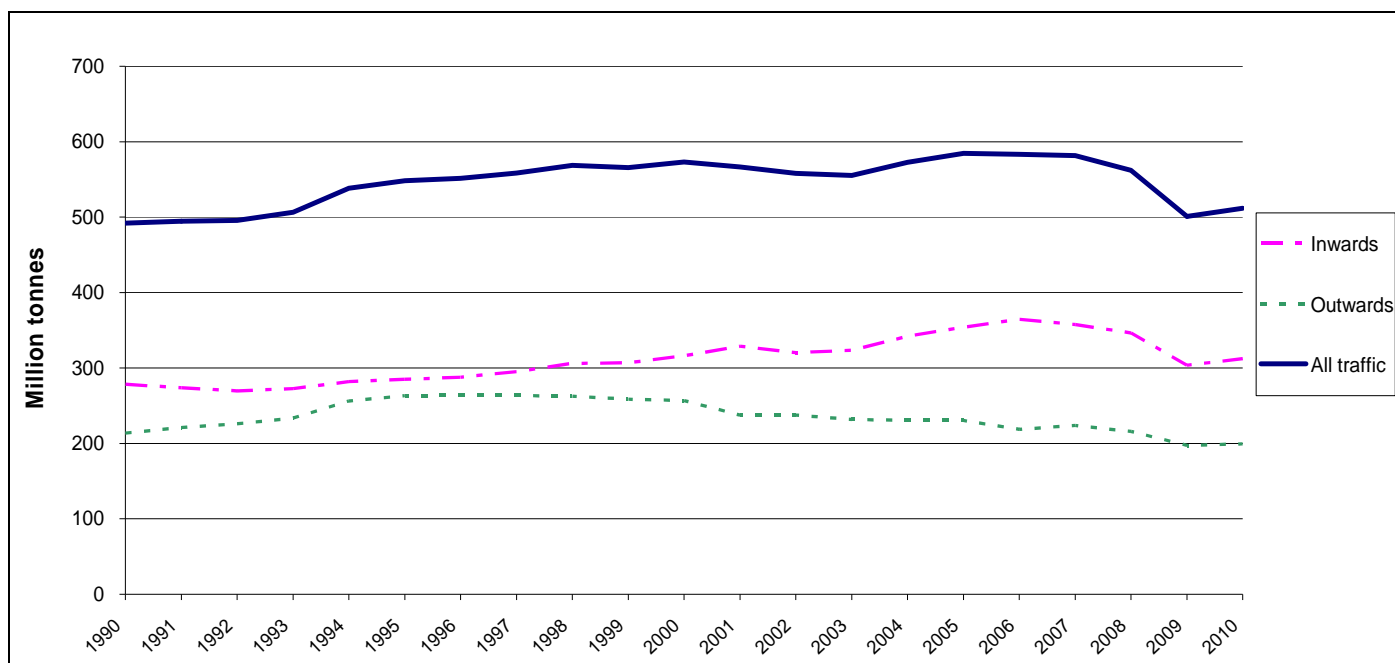
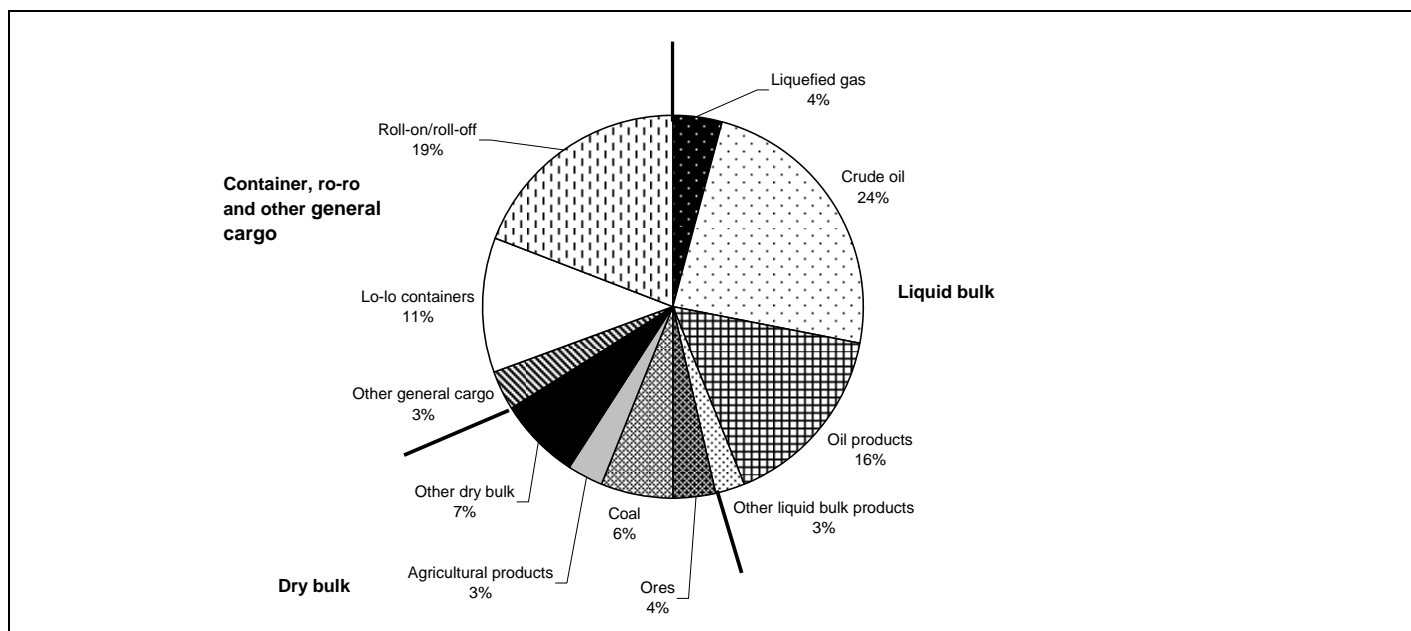


Figure 2: UK major port traffic by cargo type (tonnage): 2010



Unitised freight traffic

- In 2010, UK major ports handled 15.4 million freight units, an increase of 6 per cent on 2009. They also handled 6.3 million passenger vehicles, an increase of 1 per cent on 2009.
- The breakdown of the major port freight units by cargo type in 2010 was: lo-lo containers 32 per cent, ro-ro main freight units 46 per cent, trade vehicles 21 per cent and other ro-ro freight units 1 per cent.
- In 2010 total traffic in lo-lo containers and ro-ro main freight units was up 4 per cent on 2009.
- Felixstowe maintained its position as the UK's largest container port in 2010 with 2.07 million containers, up 12 per cent on 2009. The top ten container ports in 2010 were as follows:

Top ten busiest container ports in 2010 compared with 2009

Port	thousand containers	
	2010	2009
Felixstowe	2,074	1,857
Southampton	945	840
London	425	368
Liverpool	400	358
Medway	263	255
Tees & Hartlepool	146	102
Forth	129	139
Belfast	125	125
Hull	105	93
Grimsby & Immingham	61	76

- Dover was the top UK port for ro-ro freight with 2.1 million ro-ro main freight units (road goods vehicles, unaccompanied trailers and shipborne port-to-port trailers), down 10 per cent on 2009. Grimsby & Immingham was the next biggest port for ro-ro main freight units at 0.8 million units, up 16 per cent on 2009.

Next publication updates:

Provisional 2011 Annual Port Statistics: June 2012

2. Strengths and weaknesses of the data

- The port freight statistics relate to traffic to and from ports in United Kingdom, unless otherwise stated, and do not cover ports in the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands.
- Final detailed port freight statistics are published about 9 months after the year end. At this stage a full reconciliation of port and shipping agent data will have been carried out, and the grossing procedures described below completed and checked. The detailed results are based on this grossed data and the full range of analyses, including those by route and vessel type are then available. This stage has been reached for 2010 data with this release.
- Provisional annual results are published approximately 6 months after the end of the calendar year to which they relate. A subset of the port freight statistics tables is provisionally updated at this stage. These statistics are based on the MSD2X and MSD5 returns provided at the end of the year by each major port and minor port respectively. A split into broad cargo type is available for each major port. Some additional quality checks will have been possible, compared with the earlier quarterly data. However, full checks of MSD2/2X data from ports against MSD1 data from shipping agents, and grossing of the final data will not have been completed, so the data remain provisional at this stage. However, past experience is that the figures for the vast majority of ports do not change between the publication of provisional and final annual results.

3. Glossary

- Major ports: Ports handling over one million tonnes per year, and a small number of other key ports, together accounting for over 97% of UK port traffic.
- Tonnage: The weight of goods transported, including crates and other packaging, but excluding the unloaded weight of shipping containers, road goods vehicles, trailers and other items of transport equipment where these are used.
- Units: Includes all roll-on roll-off (ro-ro) units whether carrying freight or not (road goods vehicles, unaccompanied trailers, shipborne port-to-port trailers, passenger vehicles, trade vehicles, and other ro-ro units), as well as lift-on lift-off (lo-lo) containers. In most port statistics outputs freight carrying roll-on roll-off units are normally reported separately from others, but this detail is not available at the time of publication of the quarterly statistics, in which combined totals are given.
- Main freight units: all lo-lo containers and those ro-ro units intended mainly for carrying freight - road goods vehicles, unaccompanied trailers, rail wagons, shipborne port to port trailers and shipborne barges.
- Lo-lo (lift-on lift-off) containers: standard shipping containers that are lifted on or off ships. Containers can also be carried on ro-ro (roll-on roll-off) services, usually on port-to-port trailers, road goods vehicles or unaccompanied trailers, in which case they will be treated as ro-ro traffic.

4. Background notes

1. The web tables and charts give further detail of the key results presented in this statistical release. They are available here:
http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics?post_type=table&series=ports-parent-series
2. The Technical Note giving full guidance on the methods used to compile these statistics can be found here: <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/ports/portstattechnote.pdf>
3. 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. <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>
4. Details of Ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found here:
<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/ports/portstatsprerelease.pdf>
5. The next update in this series will be published in June 2012. It will contain provisional figures on freight through UK sea ports for 2011.
6. Provisional summary quarterly statistics on freight handled by UK major ports are also updated quarterly. The latest update can be found here:
http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics?post_type=release&topic=ports