A Guide to DfT Maritime Statistics

The Department for Transport produces a range of statistics relating to the maritime sector, which are all published on the DfT Statistics web site (www.dft.gov.uk/statistics).

They are published in a number of separate statistical series or topics, as follows:

Series	Description	Release titles
Ports	Deals mainly with freight handled at UK ports, by weight and number of units loaded and unloaded. Based on returns from ports and shipping agents. Also includes some tables on numbers of vessel calls.	*Port Freight Statistics* (annual final, and quarterly provisional)
Sea Passengers	Numbers of passengers handled at UK ports, on both international and domestic services. Based on returns from ferry and cruise operators.	*Sea Passenger Statistics* (annual, provisional annual and monthly summary table *spas0107*)
Shipping Fleets	Statistics on UK registered, owned or managed vessels, with some summary statistics of the world fleet. Based on commercially sourced data and therefore not National Statistics.	*Shipping Fleet Statistics* (annual)
Seafarers	Deals mainly with UK nationals who are working at sea, with some statistics also on other nationals qualified to work on UK vessels. Based on a mixture of administrative and survey data.	*Seafarer Statistics* (annual)
Domestic Waterborne Freight	Statistics on freight moved by water in the UK. Based on re-analysis of the domestic element of our *Port Freight Statistics*, combined with a survey of inland waterway operators.	*Waterborne Freight in the UK* (annual)
Roll-On Roll-Off International Freight	Numbers of goods vehicles on roll-on roll-off services travelling to continental Europe. Includes both ferry and Channel Tunnel services. Based on returns from roll-on roll-off service operators.	*Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe* (quarterly)

Within each series, statistics are published through one or more regular releases. Each series also has an accompanying **Technical Note**, which provides information on methods, data quality and uses of the data.

A small number of additional Maritime tables (e.g. income & expenditure, accidents) not falling within the scope of any of the above series are published in the **Transport Statistics Great Britain** series annually.

In addition, results of a Survey of Port Employment and Accident Rates carried out in 2009-10 are available from the **Ports** series web page.

National Statistics

The majority of DfT Maritime Statistics are classified as National Statistics. These statistics are currently being assessed by the United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) to determine their compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. An assessment report was published in June 2012 (Report 221).

The main exceptions are the Fleet Statistics series and some tables on shipping movements within the Ports series, which are based on commercially obtained data. Non-National Statistics are labelled within the individual tables. The Department's view is that all statistics which are not designated as National Statistics are robust and have been produced to a suitable standard.

Users and Uses of these Statistics

Within government, DfT maritime statistics are used:

- As general background to sector trends, to inform policy development and in assessing the impact of proposed legislation changes, and for briefing purposes, for example in responding to Parliamentary Questions and Parliamentary Select Committees

- To provide baseline information and/or calibration data for forecasts and transport models, and environmental emissions inventories

- To provide essential information for the production of other statistics (e.g sea passenger data for the International Passenger Survey and ro-ro data for the International Road Haulage Survey)

- To provide reference information on maritime transport patterns for use in preparing for and responding to emergencies impacting on the transport network

- In assessments of the impact of proposed new legislation, and in related national and international negotiations

- To respond to requests (mandatory and voluntary) for information from international organisations, including an EU Directive on maritime statistics, and a Regulation on inland waterway statistics

External uses are known to include:

- Use by maritime industry representative bodies and individual businesses as general background, to inform policy and to make their case to Government and internationally

- Market analysis by transport consultants and businesses. Common examples are users wanting data on traffic on particular routes when investigating the potential market for new freight services

In recent years a number of changes have been made as a result of user feedback, and of analysing requests for information. These include:

- introduction of the quarterly port freight estimates and release,

- introduction of the monthly summary spreadsheet for sea passengers

- introduction of 'pivotable tables' of port freight statistics (port0498 & port0499) allowing users to access more data for carrying out their own analyses, as well as a general expansion of the detail and back series in tables on the web site

- introduction of an enlarged printable version of the Port Freight Statistics annual release incorporating many of the web tables

- re-editing of the *Seafarer* and *Waterborne Freight in the UK* releases

- creation or expansion of the Technical Notes supporting every release.

In future sections on uses of the data and user experiences will be included in the Technical Notes for each series, as these are updated, and as information becomes available.

Request for feedback

We continuously review the content of these statistics to ensure that they provide the most useful information whilst minimising burdens on data providers. We continue to welcome any feedback on these statistics via our user feedback form or by email to maritime.stats@dft.gsi.gov.uk. We can also be contacted on 020 7944 3052.