Department for Transport

Sea Passenger Statistics: Notes and Definitions

Publication information

Sea Passenger Statistics: Short Sea Routes (Provisional): This statistical release is published in February following the calendar year end to which the data relates, and presents statistics on short sea passengers to and from the UK, including:
• International short sea routes
• Domestic short sea major routes

Sea Passenger Statistics: All Routes (Final): This statistical release is published in November following the calender year end to which the data relates and includes the previously published data, in addition to:
• International long sea routes
• International cruises
• Domestic short sea minor routes
• Domestic river crossings
• Domestic inter-island routes

Provisional international short sea passenger figures are published six weeks after the month end to which the data relates.

All sea passenger statistics are published through the maritime and shipping series on the DfT statistics web page: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/maritime-and-shipping-statistics

Last updated: February 2019

Contents

Purpose and usage

These statistics present all sea passenger movements to and from the UK on both domestic and international routes.

The statistics support the work of the Department for Transport (DfT) Maritime Directorate, including the Security and Resilience Programme.

They also support the ONS's International Passenger Survey and fulfil Eurostat reporting requirements - short sea, long sea and cruise data are collected under the Statistical Returns (Carriage of Goods and Passengers by Sea) Regulation 1997 [SI 1997 No: 2330] which implement Council Directive 95/64/EC on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of goods and passengers by sea.

Definitions

International sea passengers are defined as passengers travelling on:

Short sea routes: all ferry routes between Great Britain or Northern Ireland and the rest of Europe.

Long sea routes: all one-way scheduled voyages to and from ports outside Europe and the Mediterranean. Passengers travelling on cargo vessels (one-way) are not included.

Cruises: includes all passengers on international cruise journeys who start or finish their cruise journey at a UK port, as well as cruises between a UK port and a European or Mediterranean port. Passengers passing through on transit calls are not included.

FURTHER INFORMATION   Telephone: 020 7944 4847
                           Email: maritime.stats@dft.gov.uk

Follow @DfTStats

Domestic sea passengers are defined as passengers travelling on:

Short sea routes: categorised into major and minor short sea routes.

» **Major routes:** routes between Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, the Channel Islands
» **Minor routes:** all other short sea routes, including routes between Great Britain and the Orkney and Shetland Islands.

Inter-island routes: routes between the mainland and UK islands, such as Isle of Skye and the Isle of Wight. Also included are internal ferry routes on lochs such as Strangford to Portaferry in Northern Ireland.

River ferries: inland waterway routes with over 500 passenger km on vessels of over 100 gross tonnes, travelling distances greater than 500 metres on a single ferry.

Collection and methodology

Short sea passengers

Data is collected from ferry operators for vessels over 100 gross tonnes, and validated on a monthly basis. Passengers counted include drivers of lorries, coaches and other vehicles and their passengers. At the end of the reference year, the annual data is validated for a final time for publication.

The monthly short sea collection is a statutory return collected under the Statistical Returns [Carriage of Goods and Passengers by Sea Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 2330)].

The proportional allocation of passengers between some routes is occasionally estimated.

International passenger numbers collected include passengers on routes beginning or ending in Great Britain or Northern Ireland. Routes with foreign countries beginning or ending in the Channel Islands or Isle of Man are not included.

Some passenger travel between Great Britain and St Malo in France by going to the Channel Islands on one vessel and then transferring to another. Prior to 2016, where these passengers could be distinguished from other traffic, they were subtracted from the domestic route with the Channel Islands and added to the direct international route between Great Britain and France. From 2016 onward these passenger numbers are attributed to the domestic route with the Channel Islands rather than the direct international route. The main routes affected are Poole - St Malo and Weymouth - St Malo. In recent years these routes accounted for less than 0.1% of the total international short sea traffic.

Inter-island ferry passengers

Data for crossings between the Channel Islands is collected and validated as part of the monthly short sea passenger collection, described above.

Data for crossings to Orkney and Shetland and Scottish inter-island routes is annually supplied by the Scottish Government. These data sets are checked in detail by Department for Transport statisticians and considered to be very robust. Occasionally, data is revised in response to further information being submitted later in the year. Please see the **Published Tables: Revisions** section of this document.

Some of the routes provided by the Scottish Government are not included in the final database as they do not meet the set criteria. For example, information relating to the Appin - Lismore and Camusnagaul - Fort William is not included as the vessels used are under 100 gross tonnes.

International cruise and long sea passengers

Data is supplied by operators, typically on an annual basis and is regularly reviewed.

Occasionally, a small amount of data is imputed where operators do not provide returns. The data are considered to be fit for purpose - comparison with industry figures show similar trends although the annual totals can differ.

Long sea passenger numbers can fluctuate greatly over time, in part because operators can use these trips to reposition vessels around the world as needed. Data supplied by operators are compared against ship schedules to ensure long sea voyages are not incorrectly entered as cruise voyages, and vice versa.

River ferry passengers

Data is collected annually from operators and council government sources.

Data is only collected on inland waterway routes with over 500 passenger km on vessels over 100 gross tonnes, travelling distances greater than 500 metres

Although there have been occasional changes in operator reporting methods, the data are considered to be fit for purpose.

These routes are not covered by the legal requirement to provide data on passengers on sea crossing routes. Operators are not legally required to provide us with this data.

Every five years, the 'non-survey' routes are updated; these are only used to calculate passenger km and are not part of the normal collection or outputs.

Published tables

Changes to tables

The department conducted a user feedback survey in December 2018 to understand if the sea passengers statistics continue to meet user needs, and if the statistics are of sufficient quality for their purposes. This followed a note to users published by the department as part of the 2017 final annual publication, with proposals and changes made to the data tables. A summary of the feedback has been published detailing user responses to the survey and the department's resulting course of action.

We welcome any feedback on the changes to the tables, by email to maritime.stats@dft.gov.uk.

Revisions

2016 cruise passenger figures have been revised to reflect additional information provided by operators during 2018, which led to identification of a number of duplicate returns in the originally published figures.

Inter island ferry passenger figures for 'GB to Orkney & Shetland' (2013 to 2016) and 'all Scottish routes' (2015 to 2016) have been revised due to improvements in data processing, though the overall impact of these changes on the total passenger numbers is minimal.

Route coverage

Routes collected and included in our current statistics are as follows:

International short sea routes[1]

Dover	*to*	*Boulogne*
Dover	to	Calais
Dover	to	Dunkirk
Felixstowe	to	Vlaardingen
Fishguard	to	Rosslare Harbour
Harwich	*to*	*Esbjerg*
Harwich	to	Europoort
Harwich	to	Hook of Holland
Harwich	to	Turku
Heysham	to	Dublin
Holyhead	to	Dublin
Holyhead	*to*	*Dun Laoghaire*
Hull	to	Europoort
Hull	to	Zeebrugge
Immingham	*to*	*Antwerp*
Immingham	to	Brevik
Immingham	to	Cuxhaven
Immingham	to	Esbjerg
Immingham	*to*	*Göte*
Immingham	to	Gothenburg

Immingham	*to*	*Hamburg*
Immingham	*to*	*Moss*
Immingham	*to*	*Oslo*
Immingham	*to*	*Rotterdam*
Immingham	to	Vlaardingen
Immingham	*to*	*Zeebrugge*
Ipswich	*to*	*Rotterdam*
Killingholme	to	Hook of Holland
Killingholme	to	Rotterdam
Killingholme	to	Zeebrugge
Liverpool	to	Dublin
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	to	Ijmuiden
Newhaven	to	Dieppe
Pembroke	to	Rosslare Harbour
Plymouth	*to*	*Bilbao*
Plymouth	to	Roscoff
Plymouth	to	Santander
Plymouth	*to*	*St Malo*
Poole	to	Cherbourg
Poole	*to*	*Santander*

Poole	*to*	*Santander*
Poole	to	St Malo
Portsmouth	to	Bilbao
Portsmouth	to	Caen
Portsmouth	to	Cherbourg
Portsmouth	to	Le Havre
Portsmouth	*to*	*Roscoff*
Portsmouth	to	Santander
Portsmouth	to	St Malo
Purfleet	*to*	*Leixões*
Purfleet	to	Rotterdam
Purfleet	to	Zeebrugge
Ramsgate	to	Calais
Ramsgate	*to*	*Ostend*
Rosyth	to	Zeebrugge
Swansea	*to*	*Cork*
Teesport	to	Europoort
Teesport	to	Zeebrugge
Tilbury	*to*	*Gothenburg*
Tilbury	to	Zeebrugge
Weymouth	*to*	*St Malo*

Domestic short sea routes[1]

Birkenhead	to	Douglas, Isle of Man
Cairnryan	to	Belfast
Cairnryan	to	Larne
Heysham	to	Belfast
Heysham	to	Douglas, Isle of Man
Heysham	to	Warrenpoint
Liverpool	to	Belfast
Liverpool	to	Douglas, Isle of Man
Northern Ireland	to	Isle of Man
Mainland Scotland	to	Orkney
Mainland Scotland	to	Shetland

Penzance	to	Hugh Town
Poole	to	St Helier, Jersey
Poole	to	St. Peter Port, Guernsey
Portsmouth	to	St Helier, Jersey
Portsmouth	to	St. Peter Port, Guernsey
Troon	*to*	*Larne*
Waverley cruises	to	Various departure and arrival points throughout the UK
Weymouth	to	St Helier, Jersey
Weymouth	to	St. Peter Port, Guernsey

1 routes in italic did not operate in 2017 but operated in previous years, and therefore included in the published tables.

Inter-island routes[1]

Ardrossan	to	Brodick		Oban	to	Coll-Tiree
Ballycastle (NI)	to	Rathlin (NI)		Otternish	to	Leverburgh
Claonaig/Tarbert	to	Lochranza		Portsmouth	to	Fishbourne
Colintraive	to	Rhubodach		Portsmouth	to	Ryde
Cowes	to	East Cowes		Sconser	to	Raasay
Cuan	to	Luing		Seil	to	Easdale
Fionnphort	to	Iona		Southampton	to	East Cowes
Gourock	to	Dunoon		Southampton	to	Cowes
Gourock	*to*	*Kilcreggan*		Southsea	to	Ryde
Gutcher	to	Yell-Oddsta, Fetlar		Strangford (NI)	to	Portaferry (NI)
Houton	to	Lyness		Stromness	to	Graemesay
Islay	to	Feolin (Jura)		Tarbert	to	Portavadie
Kennacraig	to	Islay		Tayinloan	to	Gigha
Kirkwall	to	Stronsay		Tingwall	to	Rousay
Kirkwall	to	Shapinsay		Toft, Mainland	to	Ulsta, Yell
Largs	to	Cumbrae Slip		Uig	to	Tarbert
Laxo or Vidlin	to	Symbister, Whalsay		Ullapool	to	Stornoway
Lerwick	to	Bressay		Wemyss Bay	to	Rothesay
Lochaline	to	Fishnish		Other Scottish west coast routes[2]	to	Unspecified
Lymington	to	Yarmouth				
Mallaig	to	Armadale		Other Shetland routes[3]	to	Unspecified
Nether Lochaber	to	Ardgour				
Oban	to	Craignure				
Oban	to	Castlebay-Lochboisdale				

River ferry routes[1]

Devonport	to	Torpoint
Embankment Tower	to	Greenwich QE2
Hilton Docklands	to	Canary Wharf
Liverpool	to	Birkenhead
Portsmouth	to	Gosport
Putney	to	Blackfriars
Sandbanks	to	Shell Bay
Southampton	to	Hythe
Tate	to	Tate
Westminster	to	Greenwich
Westminster	to	Hampton Court
Westminster	to	St Katharine's Dock
Westminster	to	Thames Barrier
Woolwich	to	London Eye (Thames Clipper)
Woolwich	to	North Woolwich

1 Routes in italic did not operate in 2017 but operated in previous years, and therefore included in the published tables.

2 Including Oban to Kennacraig/Colansay/Lismore, Barra to Eriskey, Mallaig to Eigg/ Muck/ Rum/ Canna, Tobermory to Kilchoan

3 Including routes to and from Skerries and Papa Stour