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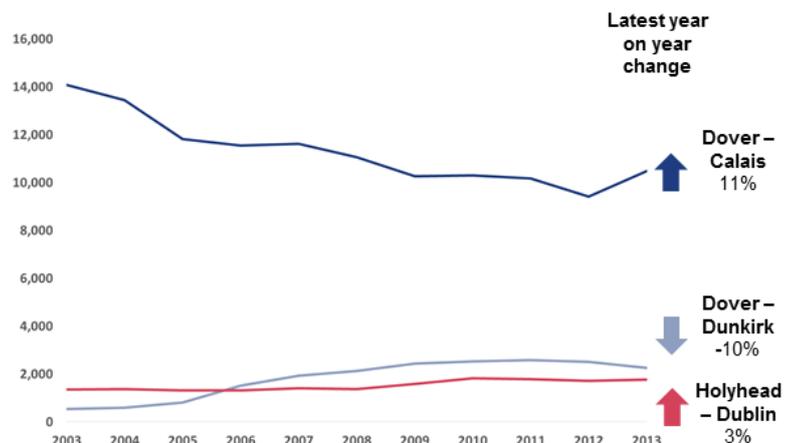
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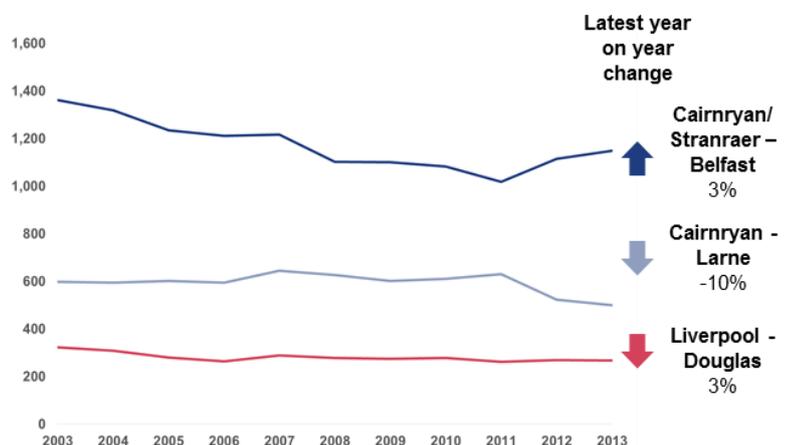
Main Findings in 2013

- The number of **short sea international ferry journeys increased** by 4 per cent to 20.5 million following two years of decline.
- **Dover** remained the **busiest UK sea port**, carrying 12.7 million short sea international ferry passengers. This was a **7 per cent annual increase** but remained 20 per cent lower than in 10 years previously.
- In 2012 more passengers travelled internationally via the Channel Tunnel than ferries for the first time. However, in 2013, **ferries accounted for 1.7 million (9 per cent) more** international journeys than the **Channel Tunnel**.
- Passenger traffic on domestic sea crossings has steadily declined over the last decade. The number of passengers travelling by ferry from Great Britain to **Northern Ireland** and the **Channel Islands increased** to 2.1 and 0.4 million respectively.

UK's top 3 busiest international ferry routes, 2003 - 2013



UK's top 3 busiest domestic sea crossing routes, 2003 - 2013



About this release

This statistical release presents the provisional statistics on sea passenger movements to and from the UK in 2013. The release provides statistics for passengers on international short sea (ferry) routes and passengers on domestic sea crossings. These statistics include all vehicle drivers, their passengers and foot passengers on ferries.

Final sea passenger statistics will be published in autumn 2014, including data for passengers on international cruises, long sea journeys, domestic river crossings and inter-island domestic routes, which are currently not available for 2013.

Sea Passengers on International Routes

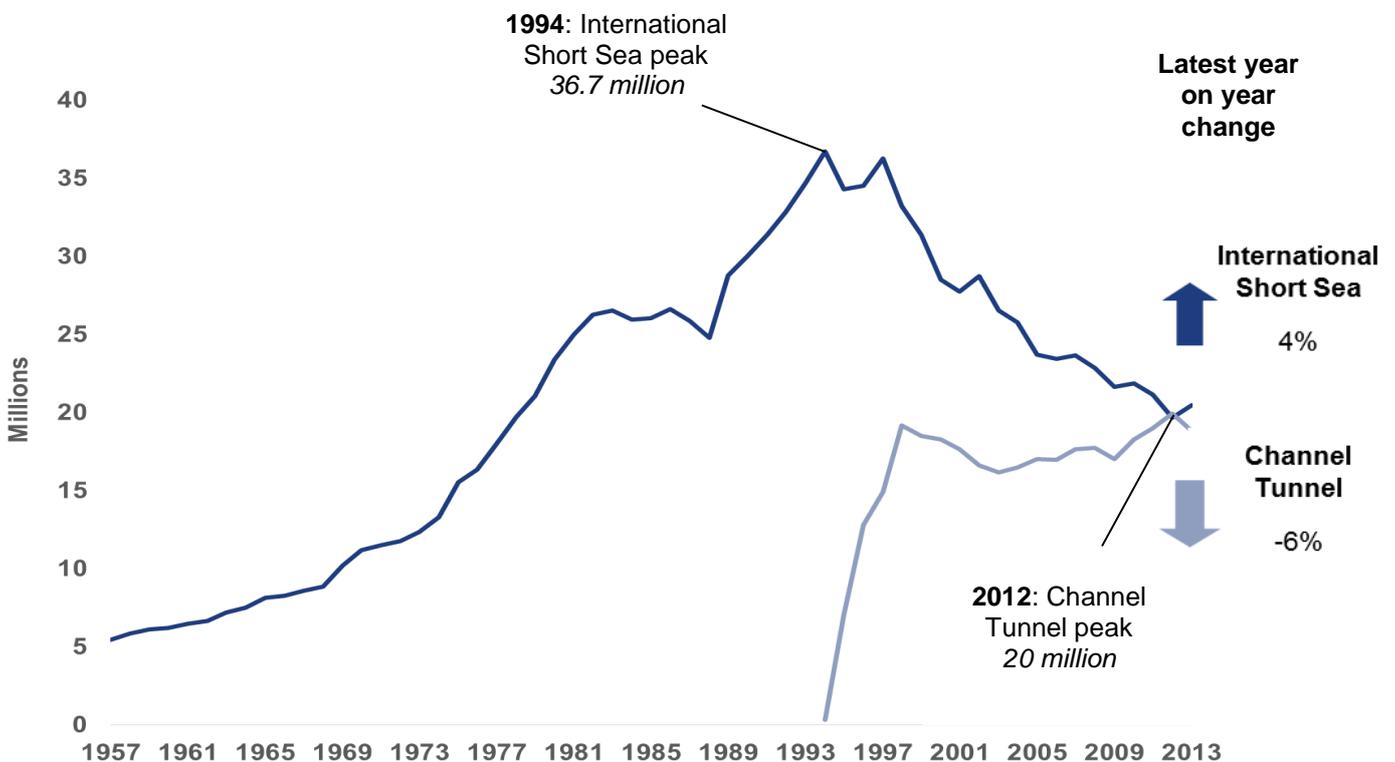
Summary

- The **total** number of sea passengers on international routes is composed of statistics on **international short sea** (ferry) routes and those on **cruses** and **long sea** journeys. Statistics for cruises and long sea journeys will not be available until autumn 2014.
- This statistical publication provides data for **international short sea** (ferry) routes in 2013.
- **In 2012** (the latest year available) there were **21.5 million of sea passengers on international routes** to and from the UK, 6 per cent lower than in 2011. Data for 2013 will be published in autumn 2014.

International Short Sea Journeys

- In 2013 the number of **ferry passengers** travelling internationally **increased to 20.5 million**, a 4 per cent rise from 2012. This was the first year on year increase since 2010.
- International short sea passenger numbers grew steadily, from 3.9 million movements in 1950 (the start of the series) up until **1994 when journeys peaked at 36.7 million**. Since 1997 international short sea numbers **have steadily declined**, with only a few exceptions. The increase in 2010 was in part linked to the eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull, which disrupted air travel and resulted in passengers using other modes of transport.
- The **Channel Tunnel** opened in 1994. *Chart 1* shows passengers on international short sea routes compared to Channel Tunnel passenger traffic (including both Eurostar and Eurotunnel Shuttle services).
- In 2013 the number of passengers travelling via the **Channel Tunnel decreased** by 6 per cent to 18.8 million, **1.7 million fewer than those travelling internationally by ferry**. In 2012, more passengers travelled internationally via the Channel Tunnel than by ferry for the first time since the Channel Tunnel opened in 1994.

Chart 1: International short sea passengers and Channel Tunnel passengers, 1957-2013

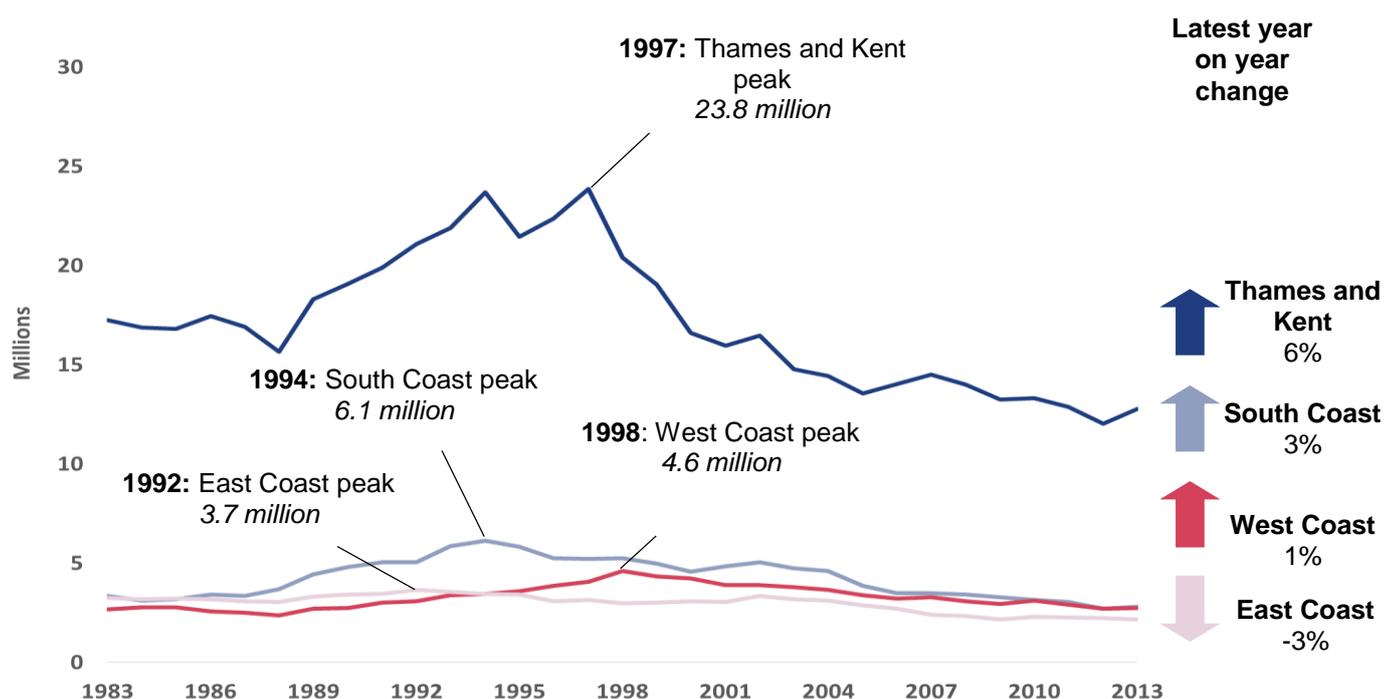


Detailed statistics on Channel Tunnel and International Short Sea Passengers can be found in web table [SPAS0301](#)

International Short Sea Journeys by Port Group

- In 2013 international short sea passenger **movements increased** for all port groups **except the East Coast**. The number of passengers travelling through the **East Coast fell for the third consecutive year** to 2.2 million passengers, a 3 per cent annual decline.
- **Thames and Kent** remained the **busiest port group** in 2013, accounting for 62 per cent of all international ferry passenger movements. Passenger traffic in Thames and Kent **increased by 6 per cent to 12.8 million**, ending the continual decline seen since 2010. This was mainly caused by the **7 per cent increase seen at Dover**, which handled 12.7 million passengers.
- Although overall Thames and Kent increased in 2013, the amount of passengers travelling from **Ramsgate fell to 18 thousand**, a fifth of the amount in 2012. This was due to the ferry provider from Ramsgate going into administration in April 2013.
- The number of international short sea passengers travelling through the **West Coast ports remained stable** in 2013 at 2.7 million. Passengers travelling from the **South Coast increased by 3 per cent to 2.8 million, following 10 years of decline**.

Chart 2: International short sea passengers by port group, 1983 - 2013

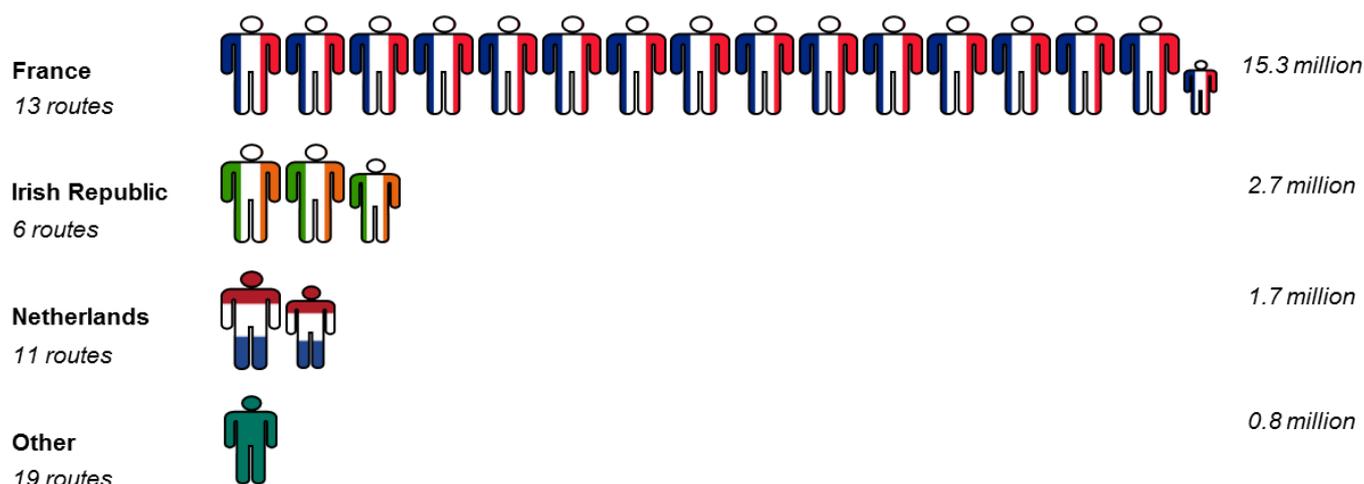


Detailed statistics on International Short Sea Passengers by port group can be found in [SPAS0101](#)

International Short Sea Journeys by Route

- **France remained the most popular destination** for international short sea routes, a trend which has been seen since the series began. In 2013, 75 per cent (15.3 million) of international short sea journeys occurred between the UK and France. This partly reflects the **high number of routes** between the **UK and France** (13 routes).
- However, the country with the second highest number of routes (11 routes) - the **Netherlands** - only accounted for **8 per cent** of all international short sea passengers (1.7 million).

Chart 3: UK international short sea passengers by country destination, 2013



- Despite the **year on year increase** in passenger traffic to and from **France** in 2013, numbers have been **steadily falling over the last decade** and in 2013 there were 20 per cent fewer journeys made than in 2003. This is mirrored in the **23 per cent decline** of all **international short sea passengers** over the last decade.
- **Dover to Calais** remained the **most popular route** in 2013, carrying 10.5 million passengers. This was an **11 per cent increase** compared with 2012. Despite this increase the number of passengers remains 26 per cent lower than in 2003.
- The **Irish Republic** remained the **second most popular destination** for international short sea passengers in 2013. The number of passengers travelling to the Irish Republic remained **stable at 2.7 million** in 2013, 13 per cent of all passenger traffic.

Detailed statistics on International Short Sea Passengers by port group can be found in [SPAS0102](#)

Seasonal trends in International Short Sea Journeys

- **Over a third** (7.7 million) of all international short sea journeys took place in **quarter three** (July – September), the **busiest quarter** for international ferry journeys, in 2013. This was more than double the 3.4 million journeys **quarter one** (January – March) 2013, the **quietest quarter**. This seasonal trend has been seen over a number of years.
- **Quarter two** (April – June) was the second busiest quarter, with a total of **5.6 million** international short sea passengers, followed by **quarter four** (October – December) with **3.8 million** passenger movements.

Long Sea Journeys and Cruise Passengers

- Statistics for passengers on **cruiases and long sea journeys** will be published in **autumn 2014**.

Detailed statistics on International Short Sea Passengers by port group can be found in [SPAS0102](#)

Sea Passengers on Domestic Routes

Summary

- The **total** number of sea passengers on **domestic** routes is composed of statistics on **domestic sea crossings**, **inter-island** domestic routes and **river ferries**. Statistics for inter-island domestic routes, river ferries and Scottish domestic sea crossings will not be available until autumn 2013.
- This statistical publication provides data for passengers on **domestic sea crossings** to Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands in 2013.
- In **2012** (the latest year available) the total number of **domestic sea passengers** remained **stable at 42.1 million**. Data for 2013 will be published in autumn 2014.

Domestic Sea Crossing by Route

- The **total** number of sea passengers on **domestic sea crossings** will not be available until autumn 2014. Data for Scottish domestic routes are currently not available.

Figure 1: Domestic sea crossings by country of destination, 2012 to 2013

	Thousand passengers		
	2012	2013	Percentage change
Northern Ireland	2,033	2,086	↑ 3%
Isle of Man	527	523	↓ -1%
Channel Islands	346	360	↑ 4%

- In 2013 there were **2.1 million journeys** between the **UK and Northern Ireland**, the most popular domestic sea crossing. **Cairnryan to Belfast** was the most **popular route** between the UK and Northern Ireland, carrying 1.2 million passengers in 2013, a 3 per cent annual increase. The **route opened in 2011** and has taken on passenger traffic previously seen between **Stranraer and Belfast**.
- In **February 2012** the port of **Weymouth closed** due to safety concerns over the structure of the port. Weymouth **reopened in July 2013** and in the last five months of 2013, 95 thousand passengers travelled from Weymouth to Jersey/Guernsey. During this closure passengers travelled from Poole.

Seasonal trends in Domestic Sea Crossing Journeys

- **Quarter three** (July-September) was the busiest season for all reporting domestic routes (Great Britain to Northern Ireland, GB to Isle of Man, GB to Channel Islands).

Passengers on inter-island Domestic Routes

- Statistics for passengers on **Inter-island domestic routes**, such as Hampshire to the Isle of Wight, will be published in **autumn 2014**.

Passengers on River Ferries

- Statistics for passengers on **river ferries**, such as routes along the River Thames, will be published in **autumn 2014**.

Detailed statistics on passengers on domestic routes can be found in the web tables, [SPAS0201](#) & [SPAS0202](#)

Strengths and weaknesses of the data

- The data for international ferry passenger routes, domestic sea crossings and inter-island routes are collected regularly from the operators or, in the case of the crossings to Orkney and Shetland and Scottish inter-island routes, supplied by the Scottish Government. These data sets are checked in detail and considered to be very robust.
- Passenger numbers on river ferries are collected from the operators and cover major routes, which are reviewed periodically. Data are considered to be fit for purpose.
- The cruise and long sea data are also supplied by the operators and are regularly reviewed. The data are considered to be fit for purpose.

Background Notes

1. The web tables for sea passenger statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/maritime-and-shipping-statistics#data-tables-associated-with-this-series>

2. Full guidance on the methods used in the publication of these releases, and the quality of the data, can be found in the Technical Note at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/maritime-and-shipping-statistics-guidance>

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.

4. Details of ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/maritime-and-shipping-statistics-guidance>

5. Provisional summary totals for international sea passenger traffic are released monthly via the DfT website at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/spas01-uk-international-sea-passengers#table-spas0107>

6. The 2011 figures for passengers on other domestic sea crossings, inter-island routes, river ferries and international long sea crossings and cruises will be updated in autumn 2013.