



Domestic Waterborne Freight, 2013

The total amount of goods moved for all domestic waterborne freight fell by 19 per cent to 28.5 billion tonne-kilometres.

Domestic waterborne freight goods moved, 2013

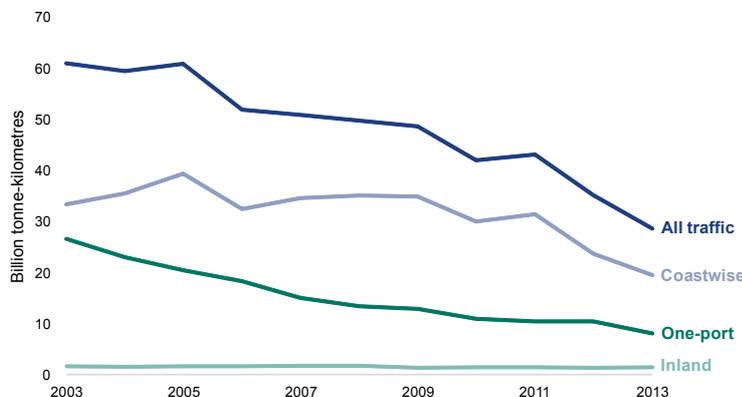
	2012	2013	Percentage change
Inland waters 	1.4	1.4	↑ +1%
Coastwise 	23.6	19.4	↓ -18%
One-port 	10.4	8.0	↓ -23%
Total*	35.0	28.5	↓ -19%

*The sum of the individual components will not equal the total due to double counting between the inland & coastwise/one-port figures

Billion tonne-kilometres

Goods moved is now less than half the level of 2003. The last two years in particular have seen a sharp fall that can be largely attributed to the amount of goods moved around the coast. Since 2011, **coastwise traffic** has decreased by **38 per cent** from 31.3 to 19.4 billion tonne-kilometres moved.

Domestic waterborne freight goods moved, 2003 - 2013



For more detailed statistics on the figures above (including goods lifted) refer to the web table [DWF0101](#)

About this release

This publication provides information on freight traffic moved within the United Kingdom by water transport, known as 'domestic waterborne freight'. The statistics are based on re-analysis of the domestic element of the port freight statistics combined with a survey of inland waterway operators.

Unlike the port freight statistics, traffic for this publication is measured in terms of "goods moved" (the tonnage of goods lifted multiplied by the distance travelled and expressed as tonnes-kilometres). However, most of the tables supporting this release contain statistics on goods lifted in addition to goods moved.

Next Update: December 2015

Definitions

Inland waters

Traffic carried by barge or sea going vessels on the inland waterways network (rivers and canals).

Coastwise

Traffic carried around the coast from one UK port to another.

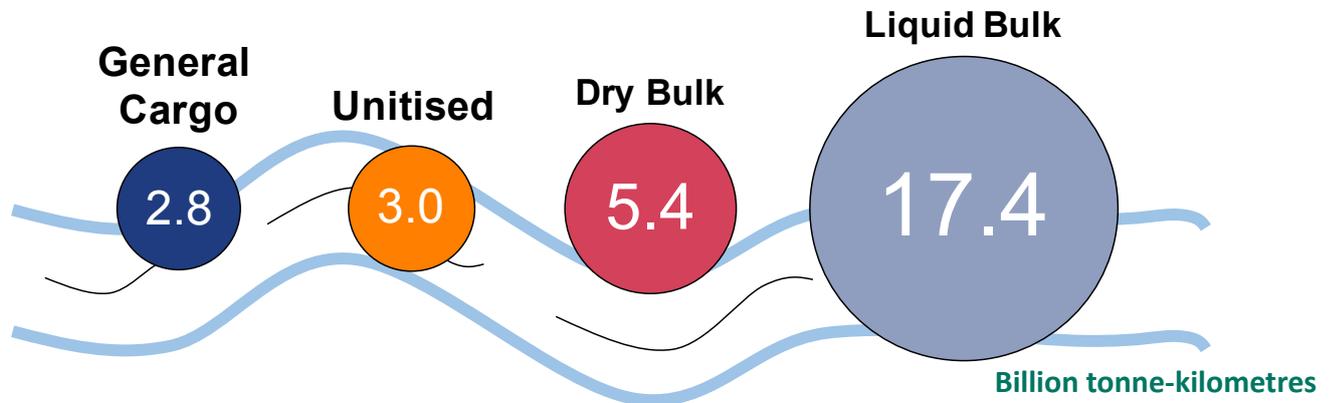
One-port

Traffic to and from offshore locations - such as oil rigs and sea dredging.

Goods moved by commodity

Of the total goods moved (28.5 billion tonne-kilometres), 61 per cent was **liquid bulk**. The remainder of the traffic was made up by **dry bulk** (19 per cent), **unitised traffic** (10 per cent) and **general cargo** (10 per cent). Similar proportions have been seen in recent years.

Domestic waterborne freight goods moved by cargo category, 2013

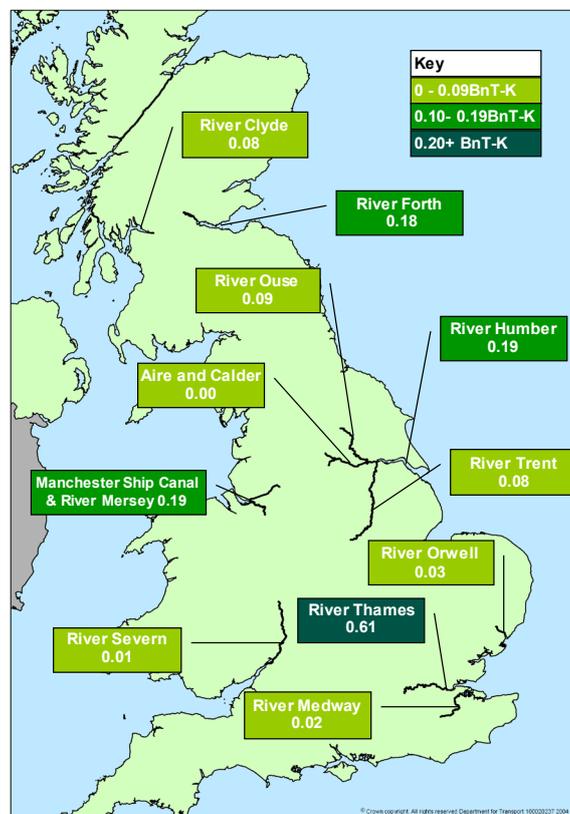


For more detailed statistics on the figures above (including goods lifted) refer to the web table [DWF0102](#)

Goods moved by route

Inland waters traffic is carried by both barges and seagoing vessels along inland waters. This accounts for a relatively small proportion of domestic waterborne freight goods moved (5 per cent). Of the navigable waterways, **Thames and Kent** is the region with the most domestic traffic in the UK. This is largely due to the **River Thames** which moved 0.6 billion tonne-kilometres, more than thrice any other inland waterway.

Major inland waterway routes, goods moved 2013



For more detailed statistics on the figures above (including goods lifted) refer to the web tables [DWF0207](#) and [DWF0208](#)

Background notes

Port freight statistics includes all traffic that either arrives at or leaves UK sea ports. Details are given by weight and number of units loaded and unloaded. The statistics are based on returns from ports and shipping agents.

The statistics in this publication cover freight moved by water in the UK. They are based on re-analysis of the domestic element of the Port Freight Statistics, combined with a survey of inland waterway operators. Both coastwise and one port traffic will contribute towards the port freight statistics as can be seen in table [PORT0108](#).

However, inland waters traffic does not appear in the port freight statistics where it takes place solely on the inland waterway network. Furthermore, international freight - carried by sea to or from the UK - will appear in the Port Freight statistics but it will only count towards these statistics if it crosses into inland waterways. Further details of these calculations are given in the technical note for this publication: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/230359/dwf-2011-technical-note.pdf.

Another significant difference is that this publication provides figures in terms of goods moved whereas the port freight statistics make no estimate of how far the freight may have travelled. However, many of the tables that support this release also contain figures on goods lifted.

The format of the publications differs too. In particular, port freight statistics gives greater detail of the cargo carried as well as data for specific ports.

Strengths and weaknesses of the data

Most of the data for this release comes from our own Port Freight Statistics. This is a robust data source, for more information see <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/port-freight-statistics-2013-final-figures>.

The port freight statistics data does not always give a specific port or wharf instead it often gives the statistical port which is actually made up of several smaller ports or wharves (e.g. Tilbury is a component of the statistical port London). In order to make the inland tonne-kilometres more accurate, the specific port is sometimes estimated using data the Department already records on ship arrivals and knowledge of the cargo type handled at certain ports. However these estimates will not have a major impact on the data, even if the port has been wrongly estimated. This is because all of the component ports are relatively close to the geographical location of the statistical port.

Some details of traffic coming from, or going to, minor ports are estimated, however, the total amount of traffic by cargo type is known for these ports. Therefore, the estimation is done in a way that is consistent with the totals and has little overall effect on the statistics.

From 2000 onwards more accurate recording of the routing of crude oil shipments has resulted in differences in one-port and coastwise traffic compared with earlier years. See the Technical notes at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/230359/dwf-2011-technical-note.pdf.

Some of the data for internal inland waters traffic comes from an additional survey of barge operators. As far as is known, this is comprehensive, and efforts have been taken to ensure that no double counting takes place between this and the data already collected from the port freight statistics. However, there is still a

possibility that such traffic is not fully reported or is being doubled counted.

This release is a summary of a larger set of data tables, charts and documentation on domestic waterborne freight statistics available from the Department for Transport web site at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/domestic-waterborne-freight-2013>

Other documents which form part of this release include a technical note describing the data sources, methods, definitions and data issues in more detail:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/maritime-and-shipping-statistics#publications-released-during-2014>

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<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

Details of Ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found here: