



Department
for Transport

Domestic Waterborne Freight – Note to users

The department is currently reviewing the methods and tables used to produce the Domestic Waterborne Freight (DWF) annual statistical series and this document sets out the changes to the production of the tables. The proposed changes outlined below will impact the next statistical publication in December 2017.

The current DWF series uses a mixture of a survey from inland waterway operators as well as some re-analysis of the domestic element of the port freight statistics. Further information on the DWF statistical series can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/maritime-and-shipping-statistics-guidance.

In December 2015, we stated our intention to reduce the number of tables, subject to user needs. Users were invited to submit comments on our proposal by 31st January 2016. Since December 2016, the department have reduced the number of tables to 10, which was based on user feedback and what we thought was appropriate to publish. A full list of all the tables we currently publish can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575272/dwf-table-index.pdf.

The table below outlines the proposed changes to the data series ahead of the next publication:

Table	Proposal
DWF0101	Retain - users have shown a keen interest in this table including ONS and Eurostat.
DWF0102	Retain - users have shown a keen interest in this table including ONS and Eurostat.
DWF0204	Discontinue - users can access this information on table DWF0102.
DWF0205	Discontinue - no known user interest in Inland waters traffic.
DWF0206	Retain - some user interest received.
DWF0207	Retain - some user interest, particularly barge companies interested in movement of freight along their rivers.
DWF0208	Retain - some user interest, particularly barge companies interested in movement of freight along their rivers.
DWF0301	Discontinue - no known user interest, or any queries received by the department.
DWF0302	Discontinue - no known user interest, or any queries received by the department.
DWF0501	Discontinue - previously some user interest was expressed. However, this is the only table in the DWF series which uses only the Port Freight statistics and therefore this table could be published alongside the Port Freight statistics series in the future. Currently, the port freight statistics Port0112 breaks down freight traffic by flag of carrying vessel which can be used as an alternative source of information.

The department will continue to review these statistics annually to ensure they balance the needs of users against the resources needed to compile the statistics.

Some of the other aspects of the DWF statistics that we intend to review in the next couple of months include:

- reviewing the publication's existing methodology
- determining potential alternative data sources and methodologies
- determining the most suitable options for future dissemination of these statistics, including timing and format.

These statistics are a branded National Statistics product and as such are subject to the [UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). In line with the code, we will take account of users' views on the presentation of statistics, and associated commentary, datasets and metadata as well as consulting users before making changes.

We would be grateful for any further feedback that users have on the changes proposed on the data tables over the coming months, so that we can consider how the release can better meet user needs and how the dissemination of information can be improved.

We welcome any comments to these proposed tables changes by **31st October 2017**. You can contact us by **email** to maritime.stats@dft.gsi.gov.uk or **phone** 020 7944 2403.