



Department
for Transport

Port Freight Statistical Tables: User consultation

Introduction

The department is currently reviewing the data tables available on port freight statistics and seeking to make improvements based on previous feedback. This document sets out the proposed changes. Subject to feedback, the changes outlined below will impact the next annual port freight statistics in August 2018.

These statistics are a branded National Statistics product and as such are subject to the [UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Statistics](#). In line with the code, we will take account of users' views on the presentation of statistics, and associated commentary, datasets and metadata. The results of this consultation will be published in June prior to any changes being made in August 2018.

What are the proposed changes?

The new proposed table structure includes fewer tables, but most of the new tables include filters to enable users to more easily find the data they need. Therefore, no data that is currently available will be lost. The current table structure mapped to the proposed new structure is shown in the spreadsheet "[Port freight table structure proposal](#)". When finalised this key will be available online to make it easier for users of a specific table to identify the new table that contains the data they require. The proposed new structure alongside the tables that each new table replaces is also available in the same spreadsheet.

Alongside this note we have published an example of what the changes would look like for the quarterly port freight statistics. The usual quarterly tables have been published alongside [one filterable table](#), which would replace 6 of the quarterly tables in future. This example gives an idea of what the new annual tables will look like.

Why change?

Following a review of the statistics and user feedback we have identified that the current tables and structure:

- make it difficult for users to identify the correct table,
- do not contain certain splits of the data that users often request e.g. EU/Non-EU split,
- do not make the distinction between major and minor ports clear,
- would benefit from more tables like PORT0499 where the user can filter the data.

To address this, we plan to:

- create a clearer naming structure and publish a lookup that details which breakdowns are available in each table to help users identify the correct table,
- publish fewer tables, but many tables will contain filters that allow users to select the data that they are interested in,

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- maintain all of the information that is currently available but add more breakdowns (for example an EU/non-EU split will now be available in table PORT0499).

To review the proposed new structure please go to the quarterly port freight release page where spreadsheet containing the proposed table structure and lookup, alongside a map showing which current tables correspond to the new proposed tables is available.

How to respond

We welcome any comments to these proposed tables changes by **6th April 2018**. You can contact us by email to maritime.stats@dft.gsi.gov.uk or phone 07970 313964 or fill out our [short survey](#).

We are particularly interested in comments on:

- Whether the proposed approach would work for you.
- How useful you find the long time series currently available (pre 1999).
- How important it is for you to maintain current table numbers.
- Whether there is anything else we could do to improve the statistics?

Maritime Statistics

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