



Department of  
**Enterprise, Trade  
and Investment**  
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Economy

**Statistics Bulletin**

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# Northern Ireland Ports Traffic 2008

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16 December 2009

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Department of Enterprise,  
Trade and Investment

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**16 December 2009**

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## **NORTHERN IRELAND PORTS TRAFFIC 2008**

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This report provides statistics on passenger and freight traffic through Northern Ireland ports in 2008. The information shows that:

- The total tonnage through Northern Ireland ports in 2008 was 23.497 million tonnes, compared to 23.868 million tonnes the previous year.
- The total tonnage comprised 15.860 million tonnes of inward traffic and 7.638 million tonnes of outward traffic.
- The majority of total traffic came through the Belfast Port (55%), while 22% of total traffic came through the port of Larne.
- 516,794 tourist vehicles passed through Northern Ireland ports in 2008. This compared with a figure of 567,140 in 2007 – a decrease of almost 9%.



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# 1

## INTRODUCTION

This publication provides statistics on passenger and freight traffic through Northern Ireland ports.

The current system for collecting detailed port freight traffic statistics was introduced in 2000 to meet the requirements of an EU Maritime Statistics Directive.

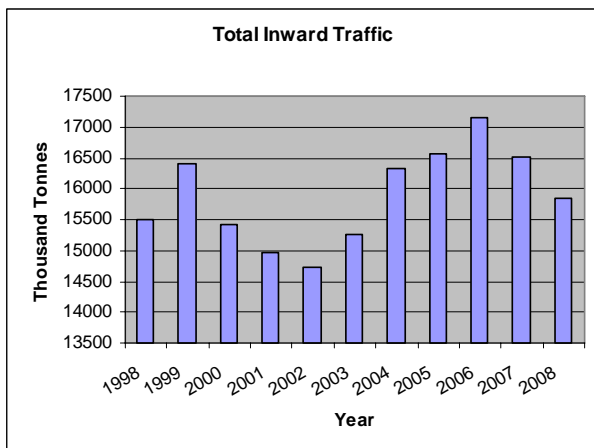
# 2

## GOODS THROUGH PRINCIPAL PORTS

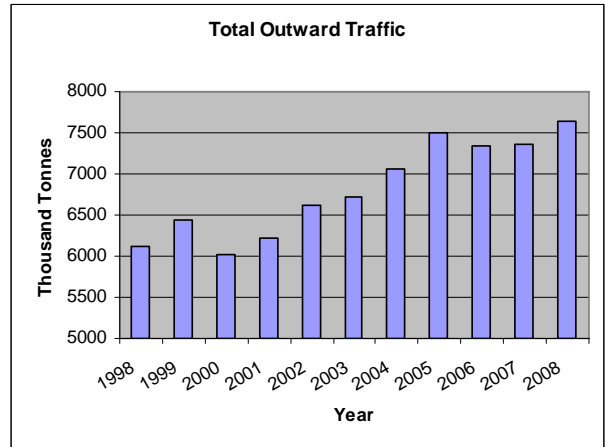
The total tonnage through Northern Ireland ports in 2008 was 23.497 million tonnes. This comprised 15.860 million tonnes of inward traffic and 7.638 million tonnes of outward traffic. This represents a decrease on the figure of 23.868 million tonnes for 2007, which comprised 16.512 million tonnes of inward traffic and 7.356 million tonnes of outward traffic.

In 2008, almost 58% of inward traffic in goods came in through the Belfast Port, with over 17% through Larne Port, 11% through Londonderry and the remainder through Warrenpoint and other ports.

## Total inward traffic Figure 1



## Total outward traffic Figure 2



Over half of all outward traffic in 2008 was through the Belfast Port, while almost a third went through the port of Larne. The remainder left NI through the ports of Londonderry, Warrenpoint and other ports.

# 3

## TOURIST VEHICLES

516,794 tourist vehicles passed through Northern Ireland ports in 2008. Of this, 264,051 vehicles were inward traffic and 252,743 left NI.

The majority of tourist vehicles passed through the Belfast Port (almost 57%), while the remainder passed through Larne Port, although Warrenpoint did account for negligible tourist traffic in 2008.

# 4

## DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM

In January 2000, an EC Maritime Statistics Directive (Council Directive 95/64/EC on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of goods and passengers by sea) was implemented in the UK. This required a complete overhaul of data collection methods. The information in this report has been shown as far as possible on the same or similar basis as previously published, but it should be noted that the different collection system for freight traffic has resulted in some discontinuities in data series between 2000-2008 and previous years.

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## ADDITIONAL TABLES

The following tables containing Northern Ireland Ports Traffic data for 1998-2008 can be found on the website:

- Table 1. Tonnage of Goods Through the Principal Ports in Northern Ireland
- Table 2. Unit Load Carrier Cross Channel Traffic
- Table 3. Unit Load Carrier Foreign Traffic
- Table 4. Unit Load Carrier Total Traffic
- Table 5. Other Traffic (Cross Channel, Foreign and Total)
- Table 6. Unit Load Carrier Traffic Tourist Vehicles

### Notes

1. The tables give tonnage of goods through the ports and exclude weights of containers and weights of materials shipped for dumping at sea.
2. Inward Traffic refers to all goods taken into Northern Ireland from Great Britain and elsewhere through the Northern Ireland ports. Northern Ireland is not necessarily the ultimate destination for these goods. Similarly, Outward Traffic covers all goods taken out through Northern Ireland ports, destined for Great Britain or for foreign countries. The origin of the goods is not necessarily in Northern Ireland.

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## FURTHER INFORMATION

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This publication is also available from the Statistics Research Branch website at:

<http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/stats-surveys/stats-ports-traffic.htm>

UK data is available from the Department for Transport website at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/maritime/ports/>