



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

**Statistics Bulletin**

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# Northern Ireland Ports Traffic 2009

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27 October 2010

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Department of Enterprise,  
Trade and Investment

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**27 October 2010**

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## **NORTHERN IRELAND PORTS TRAFFIC 2009**

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This report provides statistics on passenger and freight traffic through Northern Ireland ports in 2009. The information shows that:

- The total tonnage through Northern Ireland ports in 2009 was 20.786 million tonnes, compared to 23.497 million tonnes the previous year.
- The total tonnage comprised 13.743 million tonnes of inward traffic and 7.043 million tonnes of outward traffic.
- The majority of total traffic came through the Belfast Port (58%), while almost 21% of total traffic came through the port of Larne.
- 525,808 tourist vehicles passed through Northern Ireland ports in 2009. This compared with a figure of 516,794 in 2008 – an increase of over 1.7%.



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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

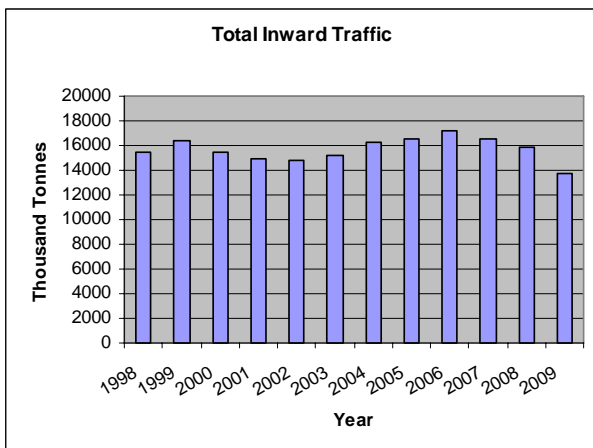
## GOODS THROUGH PRINCIPAL PORTS

The total tonnage through Northern Ireland ports in 2009 was 20.786 million tonnes, comprising 13.743 million tonnes of inward traffic and 7.043 million tonnes of outward traffic. This represents a decrease of 11.5% on the figure of 23.497 million tonnes for 2008, which comprised 15.860 million tonnes of inward traffic and 7.638 million tonnes of outward traffic.

In 2009, over 61% of inward traffic in goods came in through the Belfast Port, with almost 17% through Larne Port, 11% through Londonderry and the remainder through Warrenpoint and other ports.

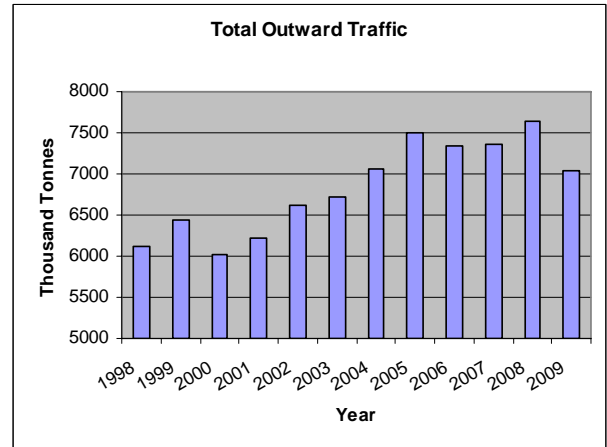
## Total inward traffic

Figure 1



## Total outward traffic

Figure 2



Over half of all outward traffic in 2009 was through the Belfast Port, while over 28% went through the port of Larne. The remainder left NI through the ports of Londonderry, Warrenpoint and other ports.

# 3

## TOURIST VEHICLES

525,808 tourist vehicles passed through Northern Ireland ports in 2009. Of this, 259,515 vehicles were inward traffic and 266,293 left NI.

The majority of tourist vehicles passed through the Belfast Port (over 57%), while the remainder passed through Larne Port, although Warrenpoint did account for negligible tourist traffic in 2009.

# 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 2000-2009 and previous years.

# 5

## ADDITIONAL TABLES

The following tables containing Northern Ireland Ports Traffic data for 1998-2009 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/>