

Sea passengers: methods and quality

Sea passenger statistics published by the DfT cover international and domestic routes.

1. International ferry passenger statistics are collected monthly from ferry operators by DfT. They include drivers of lorries, coaches and other vehicles but exclude passengers on purely domestic routes (see below).

Routes covered by these statistics in 2011¹ are as follows:

<i>Dover</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>Boulogne</i>
Dover	to	Calais
Dover	to	Dunkirk
<i>Dover</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>Zeebrugge</i>
Felixstowe	to	Vlaardingen
Fishguard	to	Rosslare Harbour
Harwich	to	Esbjerg
Harwich	to	Europort
Harwich	to	Hook of Holland
Harwich	to	Turku
Heysham	to	Dublin
Holyhead	to	Dublin
Holyhead	to	Dun Laoghaire
Hull	to	Europort
Hull	to	Zeebrugge
Immingham	to	Brevik
Immingham	to	Cuxhaven
Immingham	to	Esbjerg
Immingham	to	Göteborg
Immingham	to	Rotterdam
Immingham	to	Vlaardingen
Ipswich	to	Rotterdam
<i>Ipswich</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>Zeebrugge</i>
Killingholme	to	Hook of Holland
Killingholme	to	Rotterdam
Killingholme	to	Zeebrugge
Liverpool	to	Dublin

Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	to	Ijmuiden
Newhaven	to	Dieppe
Pembroke	to	Rosslare Harbour
Plymouth	to	Roscoff
Plymouth	to	Santander
Plymouth	to	St Malo
Poole	to	Cherbourg
Poole	to	Santander
Poole	to	St Malo
Portsmouth	to	Bilbao
Portsmouth	to	Caen
Portsmouth	to	Cherbourg
Portsmouth	to	Le Havre
Portsmouth	to	Santander
Portsmouth	to	St Malo
Purfleet	to	Rotterdam
Purfleet	to	Zeebrugge
Ramsgate	to	Ostende
Ramsgate	to	Calais
Rosyth	to	Zeebrugge
Swansea	to	Cork
Teesport	to	Europort
Teesport	to	Zeebrugge
Tilbury	to	Zeebrugge
Tilbury	to	Göteborg
Weymouth	to	St Malo

¹ In the above table new routes for 2011 have been bolded and the ceased routes are in italic.

2. Cruise passenger figures include all passengers on international cruise journeys who start and finish their cruise journey at a UK port. Cruise passengers are counted both at the beginning and the end of their cruise. Cruise figures are compiled on an annual basis.
3. Long sea voyage passengers are those travelling on one-way scheduled voyages to and from ports outside Europe/Mediterranean. In 2009 (the latest year for which data are available) these long sea passengers travelled on the Southampton to New York route. Passengers travelling on cargo vessels (one-way) are not collected.
4. Passenger figures for domestic ferry routes from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and are published with the international ferry figures (see (1) above).

Routes covered by these statistics in 2011¹ are as follows:

Cairnryan	to	Larne
Cairnryan	to	Belfast
<i>Fleetwood</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>Douglas, Isle of Man</i>
<i>Fleetwood</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>Larne</i>
Heysham	to	Belfast
Heysham	to	Douglas, Isle of Man
Heysham	to	Larne
Heysham	to	Warrenpoint
Liverpool	to	Belfast
Liverpool	to	Douglas, Isle of Man
Poole	to	St Helier, Jersey
Poole	to	St. Peter Port, Guernsey
Portsmouth	to	St Helier, Jersey
Portsmouth	to	St. Peter Port, Guernsey
Stranraer	to	Belfast
Troon	to	Larne
Weymouth	to	St Helier, Jersey
Weymouth	to	St. Peter Port, Guernsey

¹ In the above table new routes for 2011 have been bolded and the ceased routes are in italic.

5. Domestic ferry passengers figures on sea crossings to Orkney and Shetland are provided on an annual basis by the Scottish Government. Figures for some other sea crossings are also provided annually by the operators, and figures for the sea crossings between Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man are collected monthly from the operators.

Sea crossings in 2010 (the latest year for which data are available):

Northern Ireland	to	Isle of Man
Mainland Scotland	to	Orkney
Mainland Scotland	to	Shetland
Penzance	to	Hugh Town
Waverley & Balmoral cruises	to	Various departure and arrival points throughout UK

6. Passenger numbers on Inter-island routes are collected annually from the operators or provided by the Scottish Government.

Inter-island routes in 2010 (the latest year for which data are available):

Cowes	to	East Cowes
Lymington	to	Yarmouth
Portsmouth	to	Fishbourne
Portsmouth	to	Ryde
Southampton	to	East Cowes
Southampton	to	Cowes
Southsea	to	Ryde
Ballycastle (NI)	to	Rathlin (NI)
Strangford (NI)	to	Portaferry (NI)
Ardrossan	to	Brodick
Claonaig/Tarbert	to	Lochranza
Colintraive	to	Rhubodach
Cuan	to	Luing
Fionnphort	to	Iona
Gourock	to	Dunoon
Gourock	to	Kilcreggan
Houton	to	Lyness
Islay	to	Feolin (Jura)
Kennacraig	to	Islay
Kirkwall	to	Stronsay
Kirkwall	to	Shapinsay
Largs	to	Cumbrae Slip
Laxo or Vidlin	to	Symbister, Whalsay
Lerwick	to	Bressay
Lochaline	to	Fishnish
Mallaig	to	Armadale
Oban	to	Craignure
Oban	to	Castlebay-Lochboisdale
Oban	to	Coll-Tiree
Otternish	to	Leverburgh
Sconser	to	Raasay
Seil	to	Easdale
Stromness	to	Graemesay
Tarbert	to	Portavadie
Tayinloan	to	Gigha
Tingwall	to	Rousay
Toft, Mainland	to	Ulst, Yell
Uig	to	Tarbert
Ullapool	to	Stornoway
Wemyss Bay	to	Rothesay
Other West Coast routes	to	Unspecified
Other Clyde routes	to	Unspecified
Other Shetland routes	to	Unspecified

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7. Figures for river ferries are collected annually from the operators. Routes are generally included in this statistical release when the passenger km figure is greater than 500 passenger km.

River ferry routes in 2010 (the latest year for which data are available):

Embankment Tower	to	Greenwich QE2
Tate	to	Tate
Westminster	to	Greenwich
Westminster	to	Hampton Court
Westminster	to	St Katharine's Dock
Westminster	to	Thames Barrier
Woolwich	to	London Eye (Thames Clipper)
Woolwich	to	North Woolwich
Devonport	to	Torpoint
Liverpool	to	Birkenhead
Portsmouth	to	Gosport
Sandbanks	to	Shell Bay
Southampton	to	Hythe

Strengths and weaknesses of the data

- The data for international ferry passenger routes, domestic sea crossings and inter-island routes are collected regularly from the operators or, in the case of the crossings to Orkney and Shetland and Scottish inter-island routes, supplied by the Scottish Government. These data sets are quality checked in detail either by the DfT or, before they are supplied, by the Scottish Government, and considered to be extremely robust.
- Long sea voyage data are collected from an operator who also operates cruises. Although the long sea data is usually distinguished from the cruise data this is not always the case. Despite this the cruise and long sea data are considered to be fit for purpose.
- River ferry data are collected from the operators each year where generally the total passenger km figure on the route is over 500 passenger km per year. River ferries that do not meet this criteria are not included in the published data; their passenger figures are checked every few years through direct contact with the operators. River ferry data for publication are quality checked and are considered to be fit for purpose.