

Transport of goods and passengers in 2021

31.05.2022 r.


12.9%

 Increase in passenger transport
compared to 2020

In 2021, compared to the previous year, there was an increase in transport of goods in most modes of transport. The number of passengers transported has increased in all modes of transport.

Transport of goods

In 2021, in relation to the previous year, the volume of goods and the transport performance increased in railway, road, maritime and air transport, where the biggest growth occurred. In pipeline and inland waterway transport, there was a decrease in both these quantities.

In 2021, 43.3% more goods was transported by air transport than a year ago

Table 1. Transport of goods by mode of transport

SPECIFICATION	2020	2021		
		in thousand tonnes	2020=100	2019=100
TOTAL	2 201 252*	2 253 377	103.6	103.0
Railway transport ^a	218 381	237 915	108.9	101.8
Road transport ^b	1 919 193*	1 952 465	101.7	101.6
of which hire or reward	1 203 395*	1 203 019	100.0	99.7
of which road transport entities ^c	928 395*	949 907	102.3	102.5
Pipeline transport	51 489	49 854	96.8	95.2
Maritime transport ^d	8 135	9 587	117.9	109.9
Inland waterway transport	3 991	3 465	86.8	74.0
Air transport ^e	63	91	143.3	117.7

* Data revised.

Tablica 1. Transport of goods by mode of transport (cont.)

SPECIFICATION	2020	2021		
		in million tonne-kilometres	2020=100	2019=100
TOTAL	474 557*	491 427	102.4	101.5
Railway transport ^a	51 096	54 387	106.4	99.6
Road transport ^b	395 625*	410 224	103.7	103.8
of which hire or reward	342 980*	354 505	103.4	103.4
of which road transport entities ^c	298 477*	310 033	103.9	104.0
Pipeline transport	20 435	18 428	90.2	95.0
Maritime transport ^d	6 658	7 554	113.5	110.6
Inland waterway transport	516	493	95.5	75.2
Air transport ^e	227	341	150.1	91.1

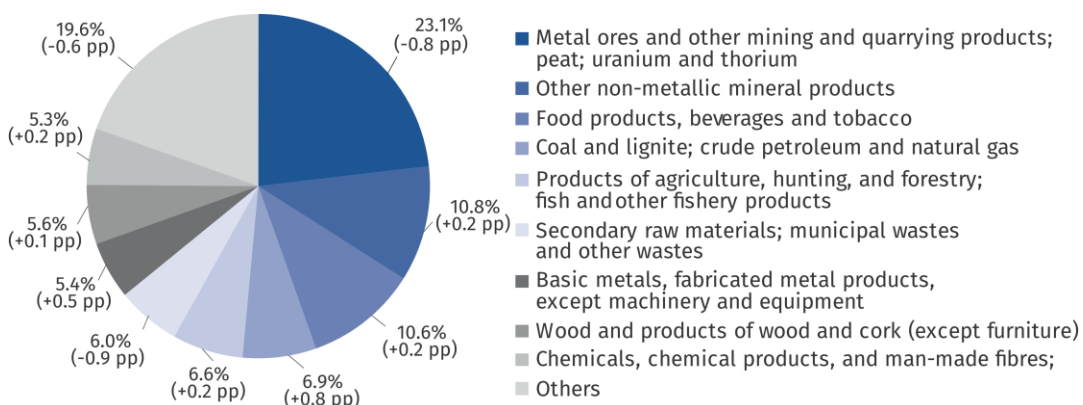
* Data revised

a Excluding shunting. b Data partially estimated. c Classified according to the Polish Classification of Activities 2007 into the section H „Transport and storage”, excluding division “Postal and Courier Activities”. d Owned and rented ships e Scheduled and non-scheduled (Polish carriers).

In 2021 goods from the group metal ores and other mining and quarrying products; peat; uranium and thorium had the largest share (23.1%). In maritime transport, the largest share was made by goods from the group of roll-on roll-off self-propelled units (61.0%).

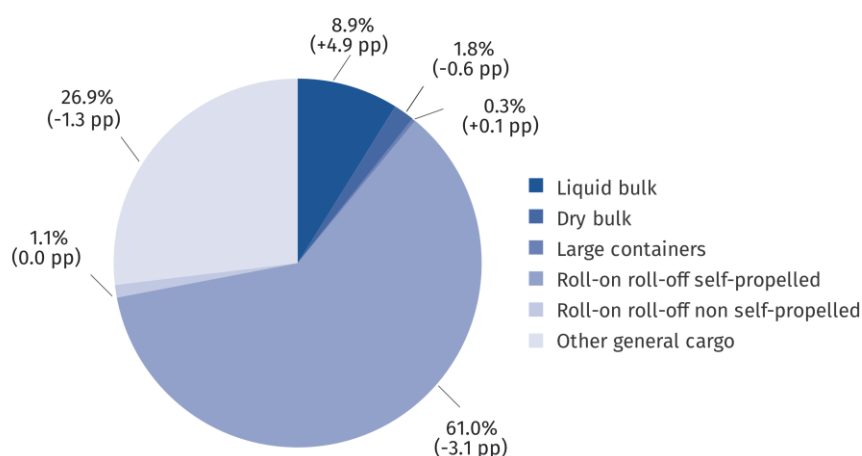
Ro-ro cargo units (with the share of 61.0%) prevailed in maritime cargo transport in 2021

Graph 1. Structure of goods transport by groups of goods in 2021 and changes compared to the previous year^a



a Applies to railway transport, road transport and inland waterway transport.

Graph 2. Structure of maritime transport of cargo by cargo categories in 2021 and changes compared to the previous year



Considering individual modes of transport, in 2021 national transport was dominated by goods transport carried out in road transport (81.8%), rail (65.3%) and inland waterway (49.5%), while in other modes of transport international transport prevailed.

Table 2. Transport of goods by direction of transport

SPECIFICATION a – 2020 b – 2021	Total in thou- sand tonnes	National transport	International transport				
			export	import	transit	between foreign countries	
			in percent				
Railway transport ^a	a	218 381	66.3	11.2	19.2	3.3	.
	b	237 915	65.3	12.6	19.1	3.0	.
Road transport ^b	a	1 436 264	81.7	6.1	5.2	0.3	6.8
	b	1 511 733	81.8	6.1	5.1	0.2	6.7
Maritime transport ^c	a	8 178	3.3	45.9	42.7	0.5	7.6
	b	9 648	8.2	43.0	41.8	0.6	6.4
Inland waterway transport	a	3 991	52.7	7.0	3.3	0.0	36.9
	b	3 465	49.5	7.9	2.4	0.0	40.1
Air transport ^d	a	63	0.3	99.7			
	b	91	0.2	99.8			

Table 2. Transport of goods by direction of transport (cont.)

SPECIFICATION a – 2020 b – 2021		Total in million tonne- kilome- tres	National transport	International transport			
				export	import	transit	between foreign countries
				in percent			
Railway transport ^a	a	51 096	55.3	14.6	21.8	8.3	.
	b	54 387	55.2	15.4	21.6	7.8	.
Road transport ^b	a	337 797	36.7	21.0	18.8	1.8	21.8
	b	360 471	37.4	21.4	19.1	1.5	20.6
Inland waterway transport	a	517	11.7	12.2	4.8	0.0	71.3
	b	493	7.9	14.1	3.5	0.1	74.4
Air transport ^d	a	227	0.0	99.9			
	b	341	0.0	99.9			

a Excluding shunting b Data on the basis of results a sample survey. c Owned and rented ships. d Scheduled and non-scheduled (Polish carriers).

Taking into account national transport by distance classes, it can be noted that in 2021 the most goods were transported for a distance of up to 50 km, the least – for a distance of more than 500 km.

Table 3. National transport of goods by distance classes

SPECIFICATION a – 2020 b – 2021		Total in thousand tonnes	Distance classes				
			49 km and less	50-149	150-299	300-499	500 km and more
			in percent				
Railway transport ^{ab}	a	143 556	30.5	22.8	26.9	11.2	8.6
	b	153 764	30.3	22.4	28.8	10.5	8.0
Road transport ^c	a	1 172 964	47.1	27.7	23.1		2.1
	b	1 237 253	45.4	28.5	24.0		2.1
Inland waterway transport	a	2 103	60.2	39.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
	b	1 717	69.2	30.8	0.0	0.0	0.0

Table 3. National transport of goods by distance classes (cont.)

SPECIFICATION a – 2020 b – 2021		Total in million tonne- kilometres	Distance classes				
			49 km and less	50-149	150-299	300-499	500 km and more
			in percent				
Railway transport ^{ab}	a	28 207	2.1	11.9	36.2	23.5	26.3
	b	29 973	1.9	11.6	38.8	22.6	25.1
Road transport ^c	a	123 819	8.4	22.5	57.0		12.1
	b	134 730	8.5	22.3	57.7		11.5
Inland waterway transport	a	60	11.0	88.2	0.1	0.6	0.1
	b	39	14.1	85.2	0.1	0.2	0.4

a Excluding shunting. b Excluding official consignments. c Data on the basis of results a sample survey.

Transport of passengers

In 2021, there was an increase in passenger transport by all modes of transport. In total, 12.9% more passengers were transported than in the previous year. The largest increase in transport was recorded in air transport (by 92.7%), as well as in inland waterway transport (by 44.6%), maritime transport (by 29.5%), railway transport (by 17.3%) and road transport (by 5.0%).

Such a significant increase in the number of passengers transported was caused by lifting travel restrictions on persons, introduced in connection with the state of the pandemic related to the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

In 2021, over 90% more people was transported by air transport than a year ago

Table 4. Transport of passengers

SPECIFICATION	2020	2021	
		in thousand passengers	2020=100
TOTAL	373 810	421 908	112.9
Railway transport	208 651	244 723	117.3
Road transport ^a	159 700	167 716	105.0
Maritime transport ^{bcd}	1 148	1 487	129.5
Inland waterway transport	682	986	144.6
Air transport ^e	3 629	6 996	192.7

In 2021, 58.0% of all passengers were carried by railway transport

Table 4. Transport of passengers (cont.)

SPECIFICATION	2020	2021	
		in million passengers-kilometres	2020=100
TOTAL	27 602	36 765	133.2
Railway transport	12 557	15 878	126.4
Road transport ^a	7 176	7 601	105.9
Maritime transport ^{bcd}	139	160	115.7
Inland waterway transport	10	13	133.5
Air transport ^e	7 720	13 113	169.9

a Excluding urban transport and provided by entities employing more than 9 persons. b Owned and rented ships. c Excluding truck drivers on board ferries. d Including coastal shipping. e Scheduled and non-scheduled (Polish carriers).

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Data available in databases

[SWAID Transport and Communications](#)

Terms used in official statistics

[Transport of goods](#)

[Transport of passengers](#)

[Tonne-kilometres](#)

[Passenger-kilometres](#)