

1st Half 2010 Passenger Traffic

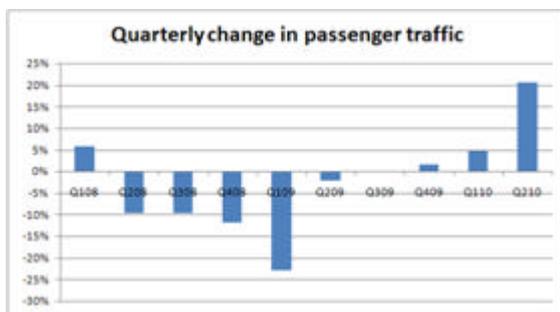
Ferry Passenger Traffic

1st Half 2010

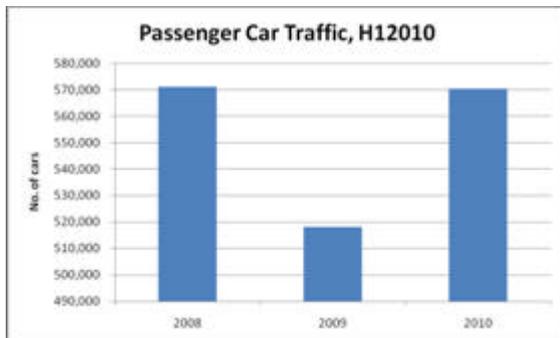
Ferry passenger numbers up 16% for 1st half 2010



Source: IMDO, 2010



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Ferry passenger numbers through ports in the Republic of Ireland rose by 16% in the first 6 months of 2010, compared to the same period in 2009, to 1,436,207 passengers. The number of cars carried in this period also increased, by 13% compared to a 4% drop for H1 2009, this is according to latest analysis published by the Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO)

The closure and significant disruption to European air traffic in April as a result of the volcanic ash cloud from Iceland's Eyjafjallajokull contributed to a large surge in passenger numbers. In the week of the main closure of air space most operators noted a three fold increase in demand for foot passenger traffic on all main corridors. We estimate that an extra 106,000 passengers travelled during this period compared to same time in 2009.

During the months March – May, passengers travelling by sea increased by 14% year-on-year. On the cross channel routes to the UK, which accounts for 90% of the traffic, passenger numbers grew by 13% in Q22010 compared to Q22009. On the continental routes to France, volumes increased 25% in the second quarter 2010. Over 30% of all passengers travel during Q22010, the beginning of the tourist season, therefore any increase in passengers during this time is likely to have a positive impact on the full year volumes.

Dublin Port recorded the largest percentage increase in traffic during the first 6 months with a 25% increase in passenger volumes. At the end of March Fastnet Line reopened the Cork - Swansea route which ceased in 2006. The new passenger and freight service is providing 6 scheduled sailings per week which are likely to

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have resulted in a boost to passenger and tourist numbers to the south west region

On an all-Ireland basis there are 5 operators operating between Ireland and the UK, and 2 operators between Ireland and France providing 60 daily sailings.

Statement issued by

Glenn Murphy

Director.

IMDO

	PASSENGERS			CARS	
	TTL	Cross Channel	Cont'l	Cross Channel	Cont'l
	Ttl	Ttl	Ttl	Ttl	Ttl
H12009	-4%	-9%	4%	-4%	-4%
H12010	8%	6%	25%	13%	12%

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Ferry passenger numbers through Irish ports grew in the 6 months of 2010, by 8%, compared to the same period in 2009, to 2,127,805. The number of cars carried in this period also increased, by 13% compared to a 4% drop for H1 2009, this is according to latest analysis published by the Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO)

During the months March – April, passengers travelling by sea increased by 14% year-on-year. On the cross channel routes to the UK, which accounts for 90% of the traffic, passenger numbers grew by 13% in Q22010 compared to Q22009. On the continental routes to France, volumes increased 25% in the second quarter 2010.

Over 30% of all passengers travel during Q22010, the beginning of the tourist season therefore any increase in passenger traffic is significant. The strong performance of the passenger ferry sector was boosted during Q22010 by a combination of a new entrant to the market and the closing of European airspace. At the end of March Fastnet Line re-launched the ro-ro service between Cork and Swansea, which ceased in 2006, providing 6 sailings per week. Then in mid April there was a surge in foot passenger numbers on all routes due to the eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajokull volcano which affected European airspace for almost 3 weeks. During this period, on cross channel routes, volumes in April increased 20% month-on-month compared to 2009. On the continental routes, between Ireland and France, passenger traffic increased 25% in April.

In the all-Ireland market there are 5 operators operating between Ireland and the UK, and 2 operators providing sailings between Ireland and France. Overall there are 60 daily sailings with a capacity for 20,669 passengers.

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