

index (1995=100)



Source: FODMV, NIS, NMBS, NV De Scheepvaart, PBV, VMM, W&Z

Transport by inland navigation stabilised after a period of strong growth

Since 1995, the transport of freight by road has continued to grow. In 2007 it amounted to 37.47 billion tonne kilometres, a growth of 53 % compared to 1995. Freight transport by rail decreased in 2007 to 3.50 billion tonne kilometres, a decrease of 14 % compared to 2006. This can be partially attributed to a decrease in the transportation of iron ore, coke and coal. In 2007, the number of tonne kilometres by inland navigation amounted to 6.56 billion. Compared to 1995, freight transport by water increased by 57 %. Since 1998, inland navigation has been stimulated by the Flemish government's embankment programme, a financial incentive for the construction of loading and unloading facilities. That has resulted in a continuous increase in activity. In the last three years there has however been a stabilization.

No modal shift in freight transport

In 2007 the total number of tonne kilometres was 47.53 billion, which means a 49 % increase compared to 1995. Road transport made up 79 % of the total, railway transport 7 % and inland navigation 14 %. In 1995, this was 77 %, 10 % and 13 %. The target values for 2010 (Flanders Mobility Plan Policy Resolutions, sustainable scenario) are 69 %, 14 % and 17 % respectively. To reach those objectives and to realise a modal shift, rail in particular but also inland navigation must be stimulated further.

freight transport (billion tonne km)	1995	2000	2005	2007
rail	3.24	3.62	3.94	3.50
inland navigation	4.19	5.85	6.62	6.56
road	24.54	27.95	33.90	37.47
<i>total</i>	<i>31.97</i>	<i>37.42</i>	<i>44.46</i>	<i>47.53</i>