

Traffic in the Port of Helsinki picked up towards the end of the year; number of passengers hits record high

The unitized cargo traffic in the Port of Helsinki decreased by 21% in 2009 from the previous year, totalling a modest 8.6 million tonnes. The amount of cargo traffic shipped in containers decreased by 19% and the amount shipped on wheels decreased by 20%. 357,200 TEUs of containers passed through the Port while the number of trucks and trailers totalled 432,000.

The number of passengers hit a record high with over 9 million passengers travelling on the scheduled routes: an increase of 1.2% compared to the previous year. The most popular was the route between Helsinki and Tallinn, with 6.4 million passengers, 71% of the total passenger count. 2.4 million passengers, equal to 26% of all the passengers, travelled from Helsinki to Stockholm. There were also routes to Travemünde, Rostock and Gdynia. The number of international cruise ship passengers totalled 360,000 on 263 cruise ship visits.

The total number of ships berthed at the port of Helsinki was 8,740; an average of 24 vessels a day.

Port of Helsinki's cargo exports revived in January 2010

The amount of unitized cargo traffic in the port of Helsinki in January came to 705,000 tonnes, which indicates an 8% growth from January in the previous year. The amount of export goods increased by 16% from the comparison period. Compared to the year before, imports also increased a little.

The number of passengers was 541,000 in January, indicating almost a 6% decrease from January in the previous year.

A new vessel launched by Navirail

The new Navirail vessel departed from Helsinki for the first time on 18 January. MS Fellow is a 138-metre ro-ro vessel. The ship replaces MS Ahtela, which previously operated on the route. Navirail operates between Helsinki and Muuga twice a day on weekdays and once a day on Sundays.

Finnlines opened a ro-ro line to Gothenburg

Finnlines opened three new ro-ro lines in January 2010 for the routes from Helsinki to Gothenburg, from Kotka to Gothenburg and from Gothenburg to Bilbao. These new routes increase the ro-ro network connections operated by Finnlines by one fifth. Two large, modern ro-ro vessels, MS Finnmill and MS Finnulp, operate on the new routes.

EU Sulphur Directive entered into force

An amendment to the EU Sulphur Directive 2005/33/EC entered into force in the beginning of 2010. The provisions stipulate that ships berthed on quays in EU ports for more than two hours are not permitted to use fuels with a sulphur content exceeding 0.1% or the ship must be connected to shore-side electricity. The ships are granted a transition period to complete the technical reforms.



The Finnish transportation agencies underwent an organisational change in the beginning of 2010, after which the Maritime Sector of the Finnish Transport Safety Agency (TraFi) became the supervisory authority in charge of the task. The agency has initiated a planning and implementation project for the supervision policies observed in Finland.

From Helsinki to the Baltic Sea on a luxury cruise ship

The travel agency Suomen Matkatoimisto offers Baltic Sea cruises from Helsinki on the Vision of the Seas luxury cruise ship of the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line for the first time in the summer of 2010. The cruise route is Helsinki - St. Petersburg - Riga - Gdansk - Visby - Stockholm. The cruise takes six nights.

Vast increase in the number of ice breaking missions at the port

This winter, the first ice breaking mission was carried out on 28 December and, by the end of January, the total number of missions had reached 164. During the winter of 2007-2008, no single ice breaking mission took place and, during 2008-2009, the number of port area ice breaking missions came to around 60. With regard to long term statistics, the ice conditions in the Gulf of Finland are not unordinary, but in comparison to the last few years, there is an exceptional amount of ice.

The Port of Helsinki and Alfons Håkans have, in cooperation, ensured uninterrupted traffic in the port areas and the Port has not been informed of any delays due to the ice conditions. The ice conditions in the Gulf of Finland have, however, caused some ship delays.

Double ramp from North Harbour to Gdynia

The double ramp for Hansa-class vessels built in 1992 at the North Harbour became useless after the inauguration of the Vuosaari Harbour. After Finnlines launched a route to Gdynia, the company sold the ramp to the Port of Gdynia.

Dismantling of the ramp will be initiated on week 6 and the work will take approximately four weeks. For the transport, the ramp must be taken to pieces and it will then be transported to Gdynia via the Vuosaari Harbour.