

# **Statistics on Rail Transport**

## **Methodological note**

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# 1. Objectives

To provide information about the amount of merchandises and passengers that are transported by railway, as well as of the accident that have happened, the statistics on rail transport began to be collected in 2004, according to the Regulation (EC) No 91/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2002 on rail transport statistics.

The goal of this statistics is to have the necessary information for the Commission to monitor and develop the common transport policy, as well as the chapter on regional policies on transport and of Trans-European networks. The Commission also needs statistics on rail safety to be able to prepare and monitor Community actions in the field of transport safety.

The community statistics on all transport modes must be collected according to concepts and common regulations, in order to obtain the most complete comparability between transport modes.

To obtain the quarterly and annual data for this statistics, the INE sends a questionnaire to all the rail transport companies that operate in the national territory and are engaged in the transport of goods or passengers.

## 2. Scope

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### 2.1 Population scope

The population scope is made up of all the railway companies, public or private, that transport goods or passengers by rail.

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### 2.2 Time scope

The reference period of the survey is the quarter and the calendar year.

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### 2.3 Geographical scope

All statistical units located in the Spanish territory are the object of the research. If any rail transport company operates in more than one State, the data will be those that correspond only to those of its activity within the national territory.

### 3. Statistical unit

The *statistical unit* can be defined as the element or component of the population under observation and investigation to which the tabulated and aggregated data refer to, obtained as a result of the survey.

The railway company used as statistical unit, is the public or private company, that transport goods and passengers within the national territory.

The companies whose sole activity is the provision of services for transportation of passengers by subway, streetcar system and/or light rail transit are excluded.

## 4. Definition of variables

- **Railway company:** Any public or private company that operated railway transport services of good or passengers. The companies whose sole activity is the provision of services for transportation of passengers by subway, streetcar system and/or light rail transit are excluded..
- **Transport of goods by rail:** movement of goods using railway vehicles between the place of loading and the place of unloading.
- **Transport of passengers by rail:** movement of passengers using railway vehicles between the place of boarding and disembarkation. The transportation of passengers by subway, streetcar system and/or light rail transit are excluded.
- **Passenger:** Any person that travels on a railway vehicle, except for the railway service personnel.

## 5. Information collection

A questionnaire is sent to the railway companies on a quarterly and annual basis requesting information on goods and passengers transported, with different breakdowns.

There will be two types of annual questionnaires, a simplified and an annual one. This last one will be the one that the railway companies that transport more than 500 million tons-km or 200 million passengers-km will have to fill. These units will also have to provide quarterly information.

## 6. Diffusion

The information will be diffused exclusively at the national level. For both, the transport of goods and of passengers, the transport will be disaggregated as national and international.

Also, for the data of the companies that fill out the detailed questionnaire, the transport of goods will be disaggregated by type of product and by category of dangerous merchandise.

The quarterly data published will be of the companies that submit the detailed questionnaire.

NOTE: There is more detailed information about this statistical operation in the Standardised Methodological Report.