

Press release

January 17, 2011

2010 a stable year for Viking Line

The number of passengers who travelled on Viking Line during calendar 2010 was at about the same level as the year before: 6,392,990 (2009: 6,399,924). Passenger figures would have been larger, but were adversely affected by the problems related to the tough ice situation on the northern Baltic Sea late last winter. The number of passengers increased the most on the Helsinki (Finland) – Tallinn (Estonia) route, but there was also growth on the Helsinki – Stockholm (Sweden) route. The number of cars transported was 613,214 or 0.2 per cent more than the year before. Cargo volume continued to increase strongly, rising nearly 7 per cent in a recovering market.

Services on Viking Line routes

During the calendar year 2010, the number of passengers continued to grow on the Helsinki – Tallinn route, with 1,719,931 riding the Viking XPRS. This was 132,998 (+8.4 per cent) more than the year before. The number of cars rose by 8.1 per cent.

Passenger volume on the Turku (Finland) – Åland Islands (Finland) – Stockholm route fell by 5.1 per cent to 1,841,474. One contributing factor behind the decline was the troublesome ice situation in early March 2010, which caused problems for both vessels on this route. The resulting shortfall is estimated at more than 20,000 passengers. The M/S Amorella and the M/S Isabella also had extra servicing days during the autumn.

On the Helsinki – Stockholm route, the number of passengers was 1,154,750 (1,141,766). This was an increase of 1.1 per cent or 13,000 passengers compared to the year before.

On the short route across the Sea of Åland, that is between Mariehamn (Åland) and Kapellskär (Sweden), passenger volume on the M/S Rosella fell by 6.6 per cent to 684,470. Incidents related to the ice situation as well as a lengthy dry-docking adversely affected the vessel's passenger figures. The Rosella will undergo a major dry-docking early in 2011, including extensive renovation work in passenger areas.

Passenger volume on cruises from Stockholm aboard the M/S Cinderella was 992,365 (996,861). The M/S Cinderella made four cruises to Riga (Latvia) in the summer of 2010.

“Despite continued tough competition in our service area, Viking Line is maintaining its passenger volume. Without the incidents related to the ice situation during the schools' winter sport weeks, the figures would even have improved. Our vessel order from the STX shipyard in Turku in December has had a positive impact on public interest in our company, which is encouraging,” says Mikael Backman, President and CEO of Viking Line.

Viking Line passengers by route	2010	2009	% change
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Helsinki-Mariehamn-Stockholm	1,154,750	1,141,766	1.1
Turku-Åland-Stockholm	1,841,474	1,941,243	-5.1
Helsinki-Tallinn	1,719,931	1,586,933	8.4
Cinderella cruises to Mariehamn or Riga	992,365	996,861	-0.4
Mariehamn-Kapellskär	684,470	733,121	-6.6
Total passenger volume	6,392,990	6,399,924	-0.1
Total cargo units	111,094	103,971	6.9

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