

2023 – a record year for the Øresund Bridge

The Øresund Bridge set daily, weekly and monthly traffic records in 2023 – and Danish leisure customers travelled across the bridge at an unprecedented level.

With an average of 19,971 crossings per day in 2023, Øresund Bridge traffic almost reached the level of 2019, the most recent, completely pandemic-free comparison year.

Road traffic increased by 8.3 per cent compared to 2022 but was 2.2 per cent lower than in 2019. Øresundsbros Konsortiet's profit before value adjustment was DKK 1,481 million – a rise of DKK 398 million compared to 2022.

"With many new discount agreement customers, strong revenue development and record high leisure traffic we have exceeded our projected result for 2023," says Linus Eriksson, CEO, Øresund Bridge.

"Danish leisure traffic remained at a record level for most of the year. In contrast to previous years, it is now the Danes who travel the most. Strong interest in holidays in the local area and a weak Swedish krona have probably contributed to this development," added Linus Eriksson.

While leisure traffic among Danish ØresundGO customers rose by around 23% in 2023 compared with the same period in 2022, Swedish leisure traffic fell by 5%. In total, leisure traffic among ØresundGO customers rose by 0.3 per cent compared to the most recent peak in 2019.

The changed post-pandemic travel patterns among commuters and business customers, with more working from home and digital meetings, also affected travel across the bridge in 2023. Commuter traffic in 2023 was at a stable level, around 10-15 per cent lower than the same period in 2019. Business traffic, however, rose slightly compared to 2022, which is thought to be due to the normalisation of taxi and air traffic to and from Kastrup Airport.

"Some taxi and car rental companies doubled their traffic compared to 2022. Commuting is more stable at a lower level as a result of new meeting habits and working from home. We want to make it even easier to commute to work, which is why we welcome the fact that around 1500 customers regularly use our recently launched commuter card with unlimited crossings at a fixed price," says Linus Eriksson.

The proportion of 'green crossings' – road traffic running on electricity or hydrogen – reached 11 per cent in December. This should be compared with 7 per cent in January 2023, a rise of around 55 per cent.

“The figure increased every month and the trend shows that many of our customers are switching, in the main, to electric vehicles. During rush hour, the proportion of green crossings is even higher, which shows that our commuter customers, who do the most driving, are also the greenest drivers across the bridge,” Linus Eriksson says.

Facts: Revenue and costs

- Road traffic revenue rose by DKK 163 million to DKK 1,701 million compared to 2022.
- Rail revenue of DKK 582 million is indexed and is therefore not affected by traffic volumes.
- Øresundsbro Konsortiet's operating expenses rose by DKK 17 million – from DKK 265 to DKK 282 million – compared to the previous year. The rise is in part due to volume-related costs and in part to price increases on operations and maintenance contracts.
- Interest expenses fell by DKK 217 million to DKK 242 million due to lower inflation.

Main items in the income statement (DKK million)

	Jan-Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2022	Develop- ment
Revenue, road	1,701	1,538	163
Revenue, railway	582	541	41
Other revenue	20	16	4
Total revenue	2,303	2,095	208
Operating expenses	-282	-265	-17
Other operating expenses	-2	-7	5
Depreciation	-296	-281	-15
Operating profit	1,723	1,542	181

Financial items	-242	-459	217
Profit before value adjustment	1,481	1,083	398
Value adjustment, fair value effect, net*	-12	1,777	
Value adjustment, current effect, net*	-216	92	
Profit for the year	1,253	2,952	

*Value adjustment is an accounting process whereby financial assets and liabilities are stated at market value with ongoing accounting of the value adjustment in the income statement under financial items. The market value adjustment, however, does not affect the company's repayment ability.

Development in road traffic, 2023

	Traffic per day 2023	Traffic per day 2022	Develop- ment (%)	Develop- ment (figure)	Traffic per day 2019	Develop- ment (%)
Passenger cars*	17,992	16,379	9.8 %	1,613	18,621	-3.4 %
ØresundGO	6,732	5,912	13.9 %	820	6,713	0.3 %
ØresundBUSINESS	2,608	2,148	21.4 %	460	2,974	-12.3 %
ØresundCOMMUTER	4,875	4,641	5.0 %	234	5,496	-11.3 %
Cash	3,777	3,678	2.7 %	99	3,438	9.9 %
Freight traffic**	1,849	1,946	-5.0 %	-97	1,641	12.7 %
HGVs > 9 m	1,605	1,637	-2.0 %	-32	1,404	14.3 %
Vans 6-9 m	244	309	-21.0 %	-65	237	3.0 %
Coaches	130	109	19.3 %	21	161	-19.3 %
Total	19,971	18,434	8.3 %	1,537	20,423	-2.2 %

Development in average daily traffic in 2023. The development in train traffic is presented in the Øresund Index/Traffic Statistics at the start of 2024.

* Passenger cars include cars with trailers as well as vans and motorcycles.

** Freight traffic includes all freight transport from 6m and above.

Market share of Øresund traffic for the period October 2022 – September 2023

	Market share in per cent in 2023*
Passenger cars	86.3
Freight traffic > 6 m.	61.9
Coaches	83.8
Total	83.2

** Applies to the period 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023, the most recent period for which data is available from Statistics Denmark*