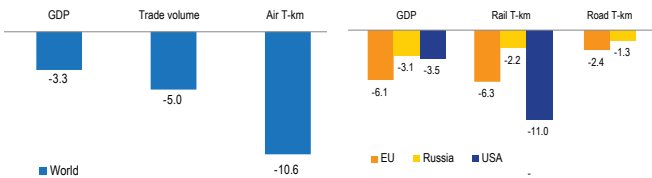


Decrease in freight transport in 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in unprecedented challenges. Economies around the world saw negative growth in 2020. The global GDP decreased by 3.3% between 2019 and 2020, the biggest contraction since 1980. The GDP decreased by 2.2% in emerging and developing economies and by 4.7% in the most advanced economies in comparison to the previous year. In comparison, the financial crisis of 2008 caused a decrease of only 0.7% between 2008 and 2009.

World trade volume decreased by 5% and air freight tonne-kilometres by 10.6% in 2020 compared to 2019. This highlights the impact of Covid-19 specifically on the air freight sector. Surface freight transport was hit less than air transport. Preliminary estimates for rail freight in 2020 show a moderate decrease in Russia (-2.2%), while in the European Union and in the United States rail freight decreased by 6.3% and 11% respectively, according to data from the International Transport Forum. Road freight tonne-kilometres also fell by 2.4% in the European Union and by 1.3% in Russia, according to preliminary estimates.

GDP, trade and freight transport in 2020 (% change from the previous year)



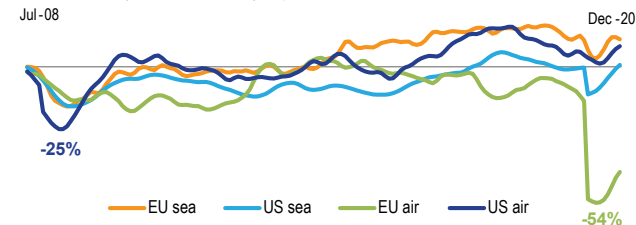
Sources: International Transport Forum, except world GDP (IMF), trade volume (WTO), air T-km (IATA). Note: EU rail T-km coverage (BEL and MLT not included). EU road T-km coverage (MLT not included). AUT, BEL, DEN, DEU, GRC, IRL, ITA, LUX, ROU 3 quarters). Road T-km in Russia includes only national.

Covid-19's unprecedented impact on air freight volumes in 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic had a major impact on air and sea trade in 2020, according to preliminary seasonally adjusted data. Air freight volumes (measured in tonnes of goods moved), a lead indicator for economic growth, decreased by 54% in the EU27 in May 2020 compared to June 2008. In the EU27, signs of recovery have been visible since August 2020 but in December 2020, the level was still 42% lower than before the economic crisis of 2008. In the United States, air freight volumes did not decrease to the level of June 2008 and in December 2020 they were 8% higher than during the economic crisis of 2008. However, sea trade volumes (measured in tonnes of goods moved) decreased more in the US than in the EU27. In the US, sea trade volumes decreased by 11% in April 2020 compared to June 2008, while in the EU27 they increased by 7%. The recovery in sea trade volumes started in July 2020 in the US. By December 2020, sea trade volumes had bounced back to June 2008 levels.

External trade by sea and air, percentage change from June 2008

(Tonnes, monthly trend, seasonally adjusted)

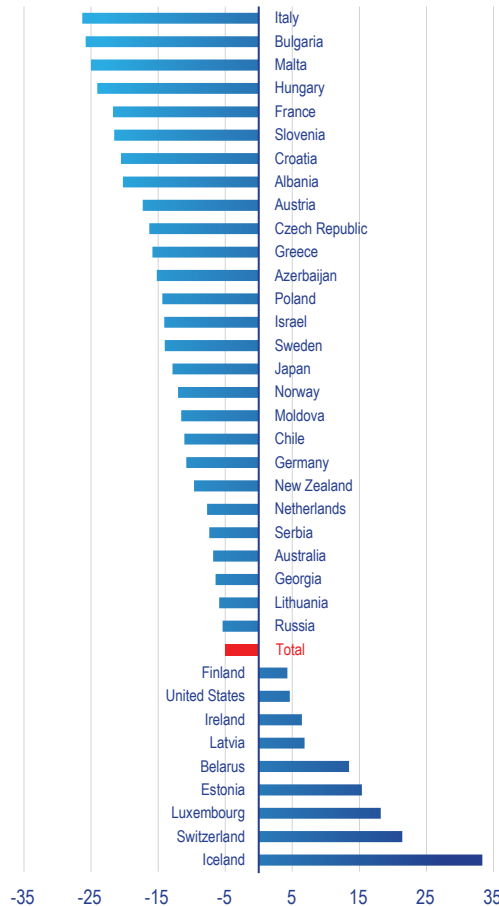


Source: International Transport Forum. Note: trade by air for EU does not include Estonia, Germany and the Netherlands.

Road fatalities in ITF countries continued to fall in 2020

The 21st century has experienced the lowest levels of road deaths since 1970s, when systematic reporting began in most member countries of the International Transport Forum. In 2020, the total number of road deaths decreased in the 36 countries for which preliminary data are available, continuing the downward trend of the last three years (-4.9%). Fatalities increased in nine countries, while they decreased in the others with respect to 2019. In order to better understand 2020 data, it should be taken into account that most countries experienced some periods of lockdown which reduced people's mobility and thus, crash risk.

Number of fatalities in 2020 (% change from the previous year)



Source: International Transport Forum. CHL, ITA and USA data for three quarters.

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Key Transport Statistics 2020 Data

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