



Climate Action in Figures: The Transport Sector

With 160 million tonnes CO₂ equivalents the transport sector is the third-largest cause of emissions in Germany in 2015 (share of 18 per cent). Most emissions are a result of road traffic (see pie chart). In 2016, over 54 million vehicles were on German roads, including over 45 million passenger cars. The overall emissions in the transport sector have been growing to about 166 million tonnes CO₂ in 2016 according to first estimates, a value above the level of 1990.

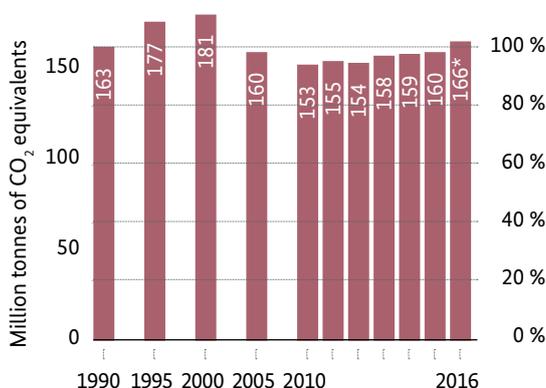
In January 2017, 98.4 per cent of registered cars in Germany were powered by internal combustion engines. Increasing road freight transport with low efficiency improvements and low fuel prices have led to an estimated increase in greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector in 2016. An even higher increase was limited by European regulations on CO₂ targets for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles.

Electric drives fuelled by renewable energy sources is aimed to reduce CO₂ emissions in passenger and freight transport. Rail transport and public transportation shall be further expanded. More cycling and walking could also contribute to emission reduction.

Electric vehicles driven by electricity from renewable energy sources are expected to reduce pollutants from fossil fuels.

In aviation and maritime transport, fuels generated from electricity should be used in the long term. Examples are Power-to-Gas and Power-to-Liquid: generation of methane or liquid fuel by using electricity. Since 2012, internal European aviation has been part of European emissions trading. Decisions about the future structure will also be based on the negotiations of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

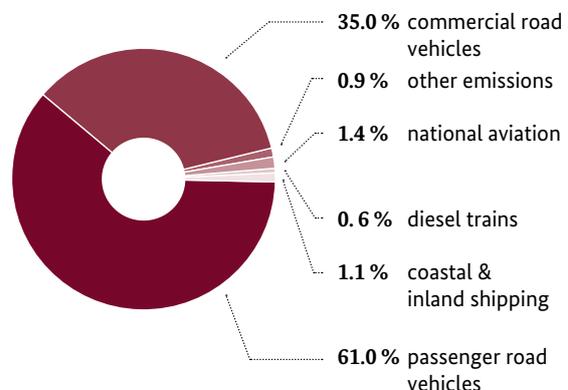
Emission developments in the transport sector



* Estimate

Source: UBA (2017a); estimate 2016 based on press release 09/2017

Emission sources in the transport sector in 2015 (excluding CO₂ from biofuels)



Source: UBA (20176a, as of: March 2017)