IRU

Intelligence
Briefing.

EU road
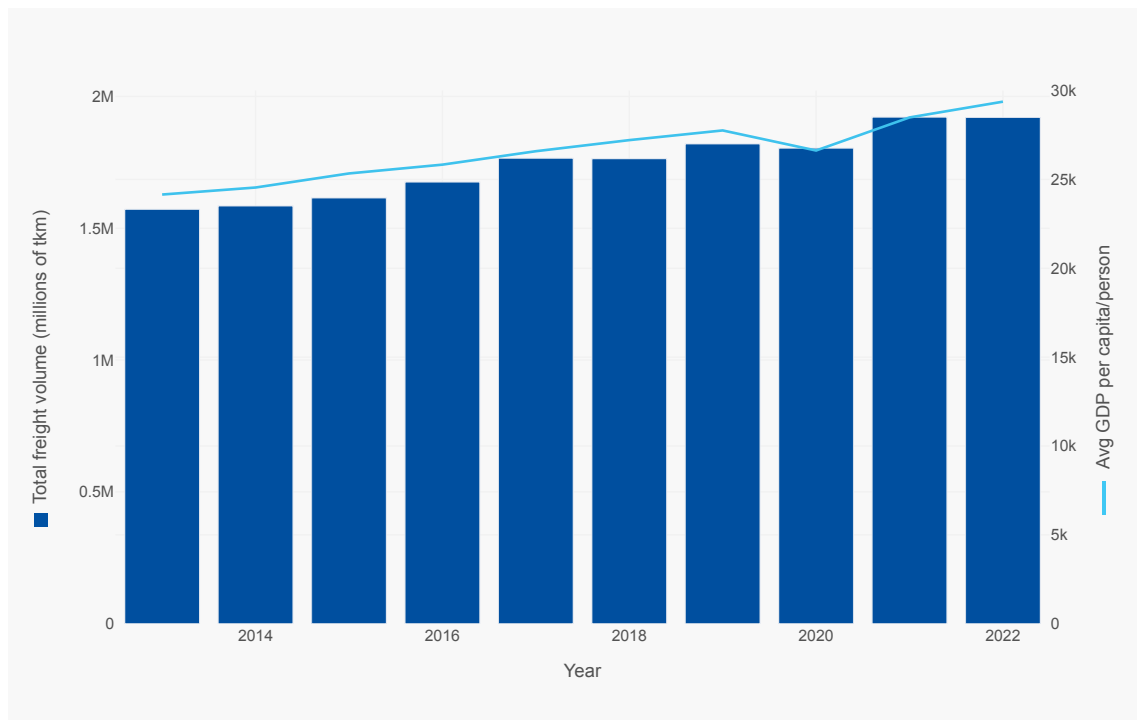## freight trends
Who is driving what,
and where?

Contents

Chapter 2

Road freight volumes

Road freight volumes are expressed in tonne-kilometres (tkm). A truck transports goods (or payload), expressed in tonnes, between two geographical points (or distances), expressed in kilometres. The industry uses the "tkm unit" to consider all possible combinations of cargo and distances. The higher this number, the more intense the trucking operation.
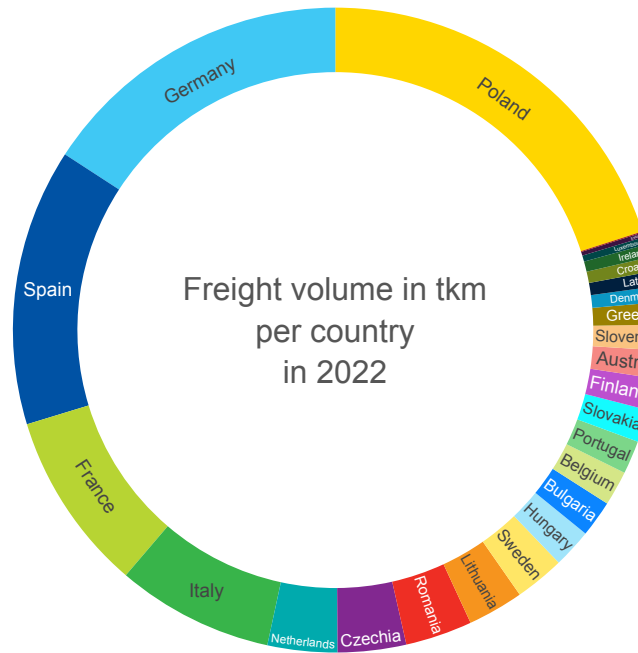
As shown in the charts below, the EU's consolidated freight volume grew by 22% from 2013 to 2022. This evolution is linked to the economic performance of Member States, as indicated by the light blue trend line illustrating the EU's gross domestic product (real GDP) per capita.
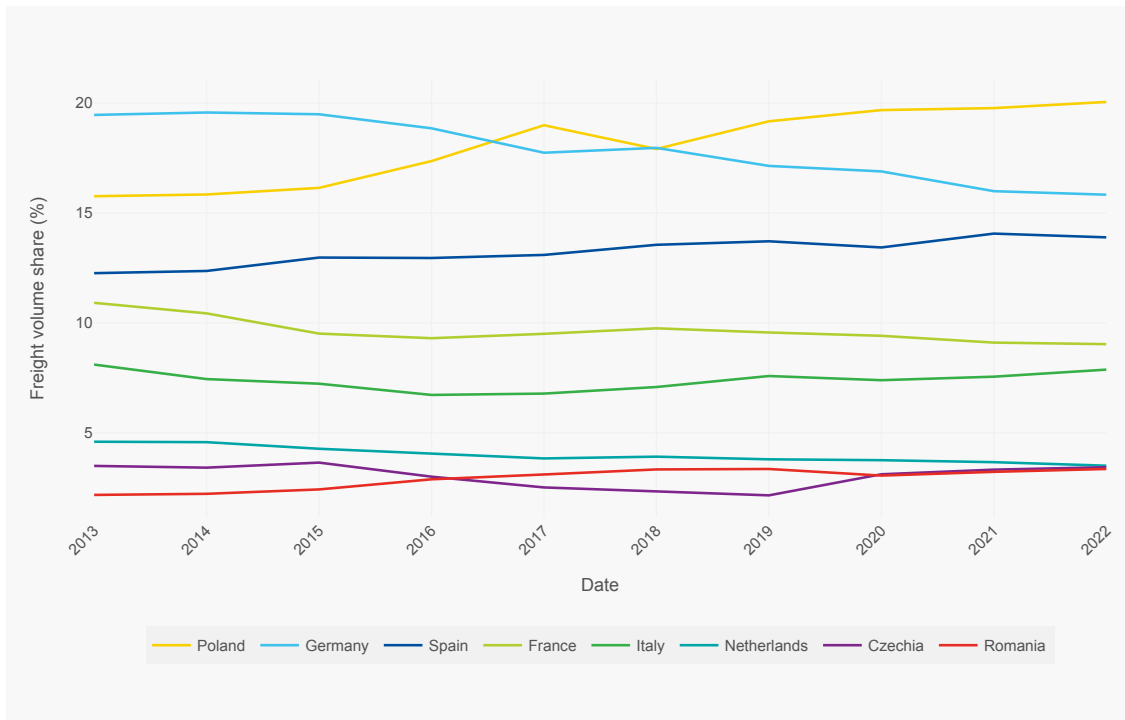
Freight volumes EU27

Source: Eurostat (road_go_ta_tott & sdg_08_10) extracted on 2024-02-23

The EU's freight volume is unevenly distributed among Member States. The infographic on the right illustrates the distribution of the EU's freight volume. The graph below shows shows the evolution in freight volumes over time for the top eight biggest transporters of goods by road. For each Member State, its freight value is the sum of the cargo transported by vehicles registered in the country, even if the vehicle is operating in another country.

Freight volume in tkm per country in 2022

Top 8 countries' share of EU freight

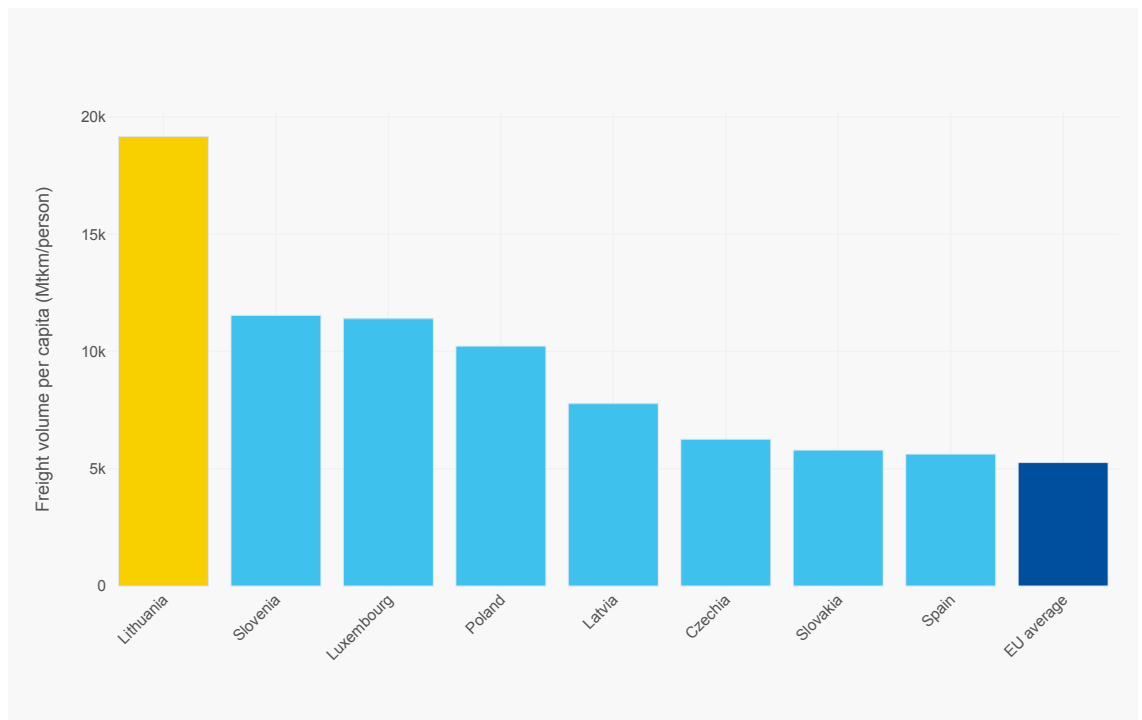Source: Eurostat (road_go_ta_tott) extracted on 2024-02-23

Chapter 3

Freight volumes per capita

The previous infographics showed that population size is not necessarily linked to freight volume. Looking at freight volumes per capita will help to deepen the analysis. This indicator illustrates the importance of a country's road freight transport sector: the higher this indicator, the more people work in the sector. The next chart includes the top eight countries with the biggest share of freight per capita.

Lithuania had by far the highest freight volume per capita over the past decade. EU countries with a population between two and three million, such as Lithuania, Slovenia and Latvia, have a high share of freight volumes per capita. It appears that there is a threshold of around five million, as Bulgaria and Denmark do not make it into the top eight. Poland and Spain are the only big

Top 8 countries by freight volume per capita in 2022

Source: Eurostat (road_go_ta_tott & demo_pjan) extracted on 2024-02-23