

••• The Port of Belfast



The Port of Belfast is one of the principal maritime gateways on the island of Ireland, linking importers and exporters with Great Britain, Europe and onward to worldwide markets.

The 400 year-old history of the Port of Belfast is inextricably linked with the development and progress of the City of Belfast.

Throughout the centuries, the history of the Port has recognised the importance of the foresight and bold vision of previous generations of Trustees, Operators and Commissioners in creating the basis of the modern Port. This bold and visionary approach carried on by successive generations of Harbour Commissioners has ensured the continued growth of the Port's capabilities and underpinned the development of regional trade.

The modern port

The Port handles over 60% of Northern Ireland's sea-borne trade and 20% for the Republic of Ireland, with cross border trade accounting for over 40% of Belfast's roll-on/roll-off traffic. The Port is also Northern Ireland's leading logistics and distribution hub and is home to many well-known local businesses such as the George Best City Airport, Harland & Wolff, Bombardier, Odyssey, the NI Science Park and the Titanic Quarter development.

The Port of Belfast's activities cover three distinct areas:

- Services to shipping.
- Warehousing and distribution services.
- Management and development of the Harbour Estate, including co-promotion with Titanic Quarter Ltd of the 185-acre Titanic Quarter development.

The many benefits offered by the Port of Belfast – its location at the hub of Northern Ireland's motorway network; location at the centre of population, industry and commerce; modern port facilities; competitive port charges and efficient working practices – have enabled it to attract a wide range of shipping services to the Port and provide flexible transport options for Ireland's importers and exporters and for the travelling public. Regular shipping services operating at the Port provide nearly 80 freight and passenger sailings each week to Great Britain. Additionally, ten direct container sailings each week to Continental European Ports provide an essential link to worldwide markets.

Roll-on/Roll-off

On 7th May 2008, the Port and Stenaline opened a new £35m Stena Line ferry terminal on a 32 acre site at the mouth of the existing port, which will facilitate the reduction of crossing times to Loch Ryan, Scotland. The Port of Belfast is one of the busiest passenger Port in Ireland handling a record 1.3m passengers in 2007.



The steel coil facility at York Dock