

**Report to the Chairman and Members of the  
Transportation and Traffic Strategic Policy Committee**

**Report on Dublin City Council's Canal Cordon Traffic Counts 2008**

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## 1. 2008 Cordon Counts

Since 1980, Dublin City Council has been conducting traffic counts at 33 locations around the cordon formed by the Royal and Grand Canals. The counts are conducted during the month of November each year. Counts are conducted at each location on two separate days and the average of the two counts is used. Since 1997 the counts have been conducted over the period 07.00 to 10.00hrs. The main results of the Cordon counts for November 2008 together with the data for each year since 1997 is set out in Table 1.

**Table 1 Summary Results Canal Cordon Counts 1997 to 2008  
Inbound 07.00 to 10.00hrs**

Year (Nov)	Cars* No.	Goods No.	Buses No.	P.Cycles No.	M.Cycles No.	Peds. No
1997	73,561	3,283	1,459	5,628	1,816	16,679
1998	71,536	3,090	1,350	4,579	1,845	15,565
1999	73,147	3,112	1,454	5,384	2,267	18,157
2000	67,935	3,000	1,521	4,464	2,558	15,808
2001	68,003	3,004	1,522	5,085	2,845	18,558
2002	65,657	2,828	1,576	4,714	2,920	16,609
2003	63,509	2,651	1,563	4,711	2,656	17,305
2004	62,475	3,057	1,537	3,941	2,249	15,241
2005	60,600	2,711	1,601	4,404	2,187	16,332
2006	62,489	2,291	1,680	4,839	2,395	17,114
2007	63,269	1,445	1,740	5,676	2,429	18,594
2008	63,976	1,223	1,814	6,143	2,375	18,360

\* includes taxis

**Table 2** outlines the changes in traffic volumes and pedestrians over a 10-year period, 5-year period and the change from 2007 to 2008 for the number of vehicles crossing the canal cordon at 33 locations between 7am and 10am

- Over the 10 year period 1998 to 2008 the volume of vehicular traffic crossing the canal cordon inbound during the morning peak period decreased by 11% with a 1% increase in the period 2003 to 2008 and also a 1% increase in the period 2007 to 2008.
- Over the 10 year period 1998 to 2008 the volume of cars crossing the canal cordon inbound during the morning peak period decreased by 11% with a slight 1% increase in the period 2003 to 2008 and a 1% increase in the period 2007 to 2008.
- The volume of goods vehicles crossing the cordon has decreased significantly over the 10-year period 1998 to 2008 with a decrease of 60% recorded. Over the 5-year period 2003 to 2008 there has been a decrease of 54% in the volume of Goods Vehicles with a decrease of 15% between 2007 and 2008. The use of Dublin Port Tunnel and the 5-axle Heavy Goods Vehicles ban, continues to have a positive impact in reducing the number of Heavy Goods vehicles within the cordon area.

**Table 2 Canal Cordon Counts (Inbound 07.00 to 10.00hrs)**  
**Change in traffic volumes over 10 years, 5 years & 1 year**

<b>Cars*</b>	<b>1998 to 2008</b>	<b>2003 to 2008</b>	<b>2007 to 2008</b>
<b>No.</b>	-7560	+467	+707
<b>%</b>	-11%	+1%	+1%
<b>Goods</b>	<b>1998 to 2008</b>	<b>2003 to 2008</b>	<b>2007 to 2008</b>
<b>No.</b>	-1867	-1428	-222
<b>%</b>	-60%	-54%	-15%
<b>Buses**</b>	<b>1998 to 2008</b>	<b>2003 to 2008</b>	<b>2007 to 2008</b>
<b>No</b>	+464	+251	+74
<b>%</b>	+34%	+16%	+4%
<b>Pedal C</b>	<b>1998 to 2008</b>	<b>2003 to 2008</b>	<b>2007 to 2008</b>
<b>No.</b>	+1564	+1432	+467
<b>%</b>	+34%	+30%	+8%
<b>Motor C</b>	<b>1998 to 2008</b>	<b>2003 to 2008</b>	<b>2007 to 2008</b>
<b>No.</b>	+530	+281	-54
<b>%</b>	+29%	+11%	-2%
<b>All Vehs</b>	<b>1998 to 2008</b>	<b>2003 to 2008</b>	<b>2007 to 2008</b>
<b>No.</b>	-8741	+441	+972
<b>%</b>	-11%	+1%	+1%
<b>Pedestrian</b>	<b>1998 to 2008</b>	<b>2003 to 2008</b>	<b>2007 to 2008</b>
<b>No.</b>	+2795	+1055	-234
<b>%</b>	+18%	+6%	-1%

\* includes taxis

\*\* includes all buses

- Over the 10 year period 1998 to 2008 the volume of pedal cyclists crossing the cordon inbound during the morning peak period increased by 34% with a 30% increase in the period 2003 to 2008 and a 8% increase in the period 2007 to 2008.
- Over the 10 year period 1998 to 2008 the volume of motor cyclists crossing the cordon inbound during the morning peak period increased by 29% with an 11% increase in the period 2003 to 2008 and a 2% decrease in the period 2007 to 2008.
- Over the 10 year period 1998 to 2008 the volume of pedestrians crossing the cordon inbound during the morning peak period increased by 18% with a 6% increase in the period 2003 to 2008 and a 1% decrease in the period 2007 to 2008.

**Table 3** shows information that was collected for the first time in 2002 on the number of taxis and on the breakdown between Bus Atha Cliath (BAC) and other buses.

<b>Table 3 Canal Cordon Counts 2007 (Inbound 07.00 to 10.00hrs) Data on Taxis &amp; Buses Crossing the Cordon</b>						
	<b>Cars</b>	<b>Taxis</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>BAC</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2002</b>						
<b>No</b>	63,097	2,560	65,657	1,262	314	1,576
<b>%</b>	96.1%	3.9%	100%	80.1%	19.9%	100%
<b>2003</b>						
<b>No</b>	60,644	2,865	63,509	1,262	301	1,563
<b>%</b>	95.5%	4.5%	100%	80.7%	19.3%	100%
<b>2004</b>						
<b>No</b>	59,966	2,509	62,475	1,278	259	1,466
<b>%</b>	96.0%	4.0%	100%	83.1%	16.9%	100%
<b>2005</b>						
<b>No</b>	57,537	3,063	60,600	1,337	264	1,601
<b>%</b>	94.9%	5.1%	100%	83.5%	16.5%	100%
<b>2006</b>						
<b>No</b>	58,664	3,825	62,489	1,338	342	1,680
<b>%</b>	93.9%	6.1%	100%	79.6%	20.4%	100%
<b>2007</b>						
<b>No</b>	58,686	4,583	63,269	1,330	410	1,740
<b>%</b>	92.8%	7.2%	100%	76.4%	23.6%	100%
<b>2008</b>						
<b>No</b>	58,897	5,079	63,976	1,474	340	1,817
<b>%</b>	92%	8%	100%	81%	19%	100%

**Table 4** outlines the changes in traffic volumes for private cars, taxis and buses between 2003 and 2008 and from 2007 to 2008 for the number of vehicles crossing the canal cordon between 7am and 10am.

From tables 3 and 4, we can see that of the cars that crossed the cordon during the morning peak period between 2003 and 2008, taxis accounted for 4.5% per year rising to over 8% in 2008. In the same period, the number of taxis crossing the cordon in the morning peak increased by 77%, with a gradual increase each year apart from 2004

**Table 4 Canal Cordon Counts (Inbound 07.00 to 10.00hrs)  
Change in traffic volumes over 5 years & 1 year**

<b>Cars**</b>	<b>2003 to 2008</b>	<b>2007 to 2008</b>
<b>No.</b>	-1747	+221
<b>%</b>	-3%	+0.4%
<b>Taxi</b>	<b>2003 to 2008</b>	<b>2007 to 2008</b>
<b>No.</b>	2214	+496
<b>%</b>	+77%	+11%
<b>BAC</b>	<b>2003 to 2008</b>	<b>2007 to 2008</b>
<b>No.</b>	+212	+144
<b>%</b>	+17%	+11%
<b>Other bus</b>	<b>2003 to 2008</b>	<b>2007 to 2008</b>
<b>No.</b>	+39	-70
<b>%</b>	+13%	-17%

**\*\*Private cars only**

Of the buses that crossed the cordon during the morning peak period between 2003 and 2008, Bus Atha Cliath accounted for 80% on average per year. In the same period, the number of Bus Atha Cliath buses crossing the cordon in the morning peak increased by 17%, while the number of Bus Atha Cliath buses crossing in 2007 to 2008 increased by 11%. The number of privately operated buses crossing the cordon increased in the period 2003 to 2008 by 13% but showed a significant decrease of 17% during the period 2007 to 2008.

Detailed count results for 2007 and 2008 for all cars, taxis and buses at each of the 33 count locations are presented in **Table 5** with main bus routes separated from non-bus routes. It is worth noting that there was an increase in the number of cars crossing the canal cordon on QBC/Bus routes between 2003 and 2008 between 7am and 10am by over 1.6% (820) with the number of Dublin Bus vehicles increasing by over 12% (160) and a decrease in other buses by less than 1%. On non-QBC/Bus routes, the amount of cars crossing the cordon between 2003 and 2008 has declined by almost 3% (319).

<b>Table 5 Canal Cordon Counts 2008 (Inbound 07.00 to 10.00hrs) – 33 locations</b>										
<b>Main bus Routes</b>		<b>Cars and taxis</b>			<b>BAC (Dublin Bus)</b>			<b>Other Bus</b>		
<b>Location on Canal Cordon</b>		<b>2003</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>03 - 08</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>03- 08</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>03 - 08</b>
1	Ringsend Rd (McMahon Bridge)	1949	1867	-4.3%	40	63	+58.0	9	1	-88.9%
3	Mount Street Bridge	2141	1860	-13%	33	62	+46.0	7	9	+28.6%
5	Baggot Street Bridge	2300	2083	-9.4%	23	34	+47.0	4	2	-50.0%
6	Lesson Street Bridge	3522	3786	+7.5%	136	164	+21.0	36	43	+19.4%
7	Charlemont Street Bridge	1486	1447	-2.6%	21	13	-38.0	0	2	+200.0%
8	Rathmines Road (Portobello Br.)	2366	1954	-18.8%	92	104	+13.0	5	4	-20.0%
9	Harold's Cross Bridge	2836	2976	+5.0%	59	59	0	3	3	0%
10	Sally's Bridge	2132	1895	-11.0%	12	12	0	2	4	+100%.
11	Dolphins Barn Bridge	2525	2942	+16.5%	98	101	+3.0	13	11	-15.3%
13	SCR at St Patrick's Home	2202	1899	-13.8%	36	31	-13.8	3	1	-66.7%
14	Old Kilmmainham	1458	2107	+30.8%	42	37	-11.9	7	2	-71.4%
16	St. John's Road West	3473	2767	-20.3%	57	71	+24.5	64	70	+9.4%
17	Conyngham Road	2142	2683	+25.0%	67	62	-7.5	8	3	-62.5%
20	Blackhorse Avenue	2526	2306	-8.7%	20	20	0	4	5	+25.0%
21	Old Cabra Road	1690	1660	-1.7%	51	42	-17.6	6	7	+16.7%
24	New Cabra Road	1564	1386	-11.3%	70	75	+7.1	40	40	0%
25	Phibsborough Road	3054	2741	-10.2%	55	80	+27.3	14	6	-57.1%
27	Drumcondra Road (Binn's Br.)	5306	5442	+2.6%	203	165	-18.7	51	56	+9.8%
29	Clarke's Bridge	3793	4260	+12.3%	24	22	-8.0	3	2	-33.3%
30	Newcomen Bridge	1938	3315	+71.0%	123	205	+66.7	11	17	+54.6%
2	Grand Canal Street Bridge	1768	1615	-8.6%	0	0	0	0	1	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>52171</b>	<b>52991</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>1262</b>	<b>1422</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
	<b>Difference</b>		<b>+820</b>			<b>+160</b>			<b>-1</b>	
	<b>Non bus Routes</b>									
4	Huband Bridge	415	437	+5.5%						
12	Herbeton Bridge	2654	2320	-12.6%				3	4	+33%
15	Kilmainham Lane	299	669	+124%					1	
18	Phoenix Park (Main Road)	1574	993	-39.9%				1		-100%
19	Phoenix Park (Back Road)	1491	1416	-5.0%						
22	Annamoe Road	540	619	+14.6%				2	1	-50%
23	Charleville Road	707	660	-6.5%						
26	Royal Canal Bank	212	38	-82.0%						
28	Russell Street Bridge	1246	1162	-6.7%					5	
31	Ossory Road	210	205	-2.4%					3	
32	Sheriff Street Lower	1647	1521	-7.6%				4	15	+275%
33	North Wall Quay	346	979	+182%						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11341</b>	<b>11019</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>				<b>10</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>+190%</b>
	<b>Difference</b>		<b>-319</b>							

**Table 6** outlines the occupancy rates and percentage differences between the 2003 and 2008 data. As can be seen, the number of persons coming into the city during the morning peak by car has decreased by 6% between 2003 and 2008. The number of persons coming into the city during morning peak by taxi has increased by 41% over the 5-year period, despite a fall in the occupancy of 21%. The number of pedestrians crossing the cordon during morning peak has continued to increase in recent years with a 6% increase between 2003 and 2008

<b>Table 6 Occupancy Rates crossing the Canal Cordon (Inbound 07.00 to 10.00 hrs)</b>								
	<b>Year</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>% 03-08</b>
<b>Number</b>	Cars	60,644	59,966	57,537	58,664	58,686	58,897	-3%
	Taxi's	2,865	2,509	3,063	3,825	4,583	5,079	77%
	Pedestrians	17,305	15,241	16,332	17,114	18,594	18,360	6%
<b>Occupancy</b>	Cars	1.19	1.30	1.32	1.31	1.22	1.15	-3%
	Taxi's	1.74	1.44	1.34	1.38	1.47	1.38	-21%
<b>Persons</b>	Cars	72,166	77,956	75,949	76,850	71,597	67,732	--6%
	Taxi's	4,985	3,613	4,104	5,278	6,737	7,009	41%
	Pedestrians	17,305	15,241	16,332	17,114	18,594	18,360	6%
	Total	94,456	96,810	96,385	99,242	96,928	93,101	-1%