



Annual Report 2011



The cover picture is from Sandefjord Airport Torp



## »»» This is Norwegian Customs and Excise

Customs and Excise is an agency under the Ministry of Finance. The agency is organised into a central directorate that is complemented by regional administration in six customs regions. Customs and Excise assesses and collects customs and excise duties, value added tax on imported goods and special taxes for the state treasury. The agency also carries out a number of enforcement tasks related to the import and export of goods. The agency is led by the Director General of Customs and Excise, Bjørn Røse. Customs and Excise had a total of 1 952 employees at year-end 2011/2012.

Customs and Excise's duties are:

- To ensure that customs duties are correctly declared, assessed and paid in a timely fashion
- To prevent the illegal importation and exportation of goods



## Over 200 billion in revenues

Norwegian Customs & Excise's contribution to the Treasury exceeded NOK 200 billion for the first time in 2011. To be precise, NOK 204.3 billion was paid to Customs & Excise in duties.

It is value added tax on imports in particular that has been behind the growth. NOK 115 billion was paid in value added tax, an increase of NOK 10.3 billion from the previous year. The main reason for the increase in VAT revenues is that the volume of imports into Norway is increasing.

This growth comes in spite of the fact that the Norwegian krone was at a record level in 2011. Seen in isolation, a strong krone should have led to lower revenue from import duties, but the growth in volume has been so strong that revenue from duties has still increased.

Revenue from other duties, such as motor vehicle taxes, special taxes and customs, is also increasing.

Also part of the total picture is the fact that Customs & Excise's financial checks revealed attempted evasion of customs and excise duties amounting to NOK 1 billion in 2011.

In September, ELSÆR opened for all enterprises that are liable to pay special taxes. ELSÆR is an electronic system for submitting special tax returns, which means that organisations can now submit their returns electronically. Experiences during the first period of operation have been good and a steadily increasing number of enterprises are starting to use the system. The system also helps to streamline Customs & Excise's own routines for processing tax returns, making it positive in many ways.

The agency has faced new challenges in 2011 in border controls. The growth in the use of new, synthetic narcotic substances is a concern. Many of these substances do not appear of the health authorities' list of narcotics, which makes it difficult for Customs & Excise and the police to stop them. It is therefore important to get new regulations in place as soon as possible that will make it easier to stop these new types of narcotics.

Bjørn Røse  
Director General of Customs and Excise

# The Directorate of Customs and Excise

Norwegian Customs and Excise's administrative body is the Directorate of Customs and Excise, which has 287 employees. The Directorate develops regulations, provides support to the Customs Regions and acts as an appeal body. The Directorate of Customs and Excise is responsible for reporting to the Ministry of Finance and is in contact with other agencies we collaborate with.

## Key figures

### Customs duties and other taxes (NOK million)

	2011	2010
Customs duties	2 537	2 416
Value added tax on imports	115 374	105 086
Motor vehicle taxes	48 029	46 948
Special taxes	38 316	37 396
Total	204 256	191 846

### Assessments – number of declarations

	2011	2010
No. of import declarations in TVINN	5 028 580	4 774 306
No. of export declarations in TVINN	1 249 633	1 234 808
Total import and export declarations	6 278 213	6 009 114

TVINN: Norwegian Customs and Excise's business information system

### Collection and arrears (NOK million)

Amounts assessed	205 524	193 092
New arrears (year's)	201	215
Accumulated arrears	397	419

### Company audits

Number of companies audited	1 561	1 538
Amounts calculated in arrears (NOK million)	467	465
of which duties/special taxes (NOK million)	221	253
Number of serious contraventions	192	159

### Seizure statistics for 2011

Seized goods	As per 31.12.11		As per 31.12.10	
	Seizures	Quantity	Seizures	Quantity
<b>Alcoholic beverages (litres)</b>				
Distilled spirits (litres)	7 336	41 973	6 990	52 230
Distilled spirits > 60% (litres)	35	437	58	14 250
Beer (litres)	5 245	414 844	4 930	388 938
Wine (litres)	5 588	71 729	5 521	54 863
<b>Other goods</b>				
Meat (kg)	408	42 237	303	27 967
Smuggled currency (NOK)	869	56 113 359	967	58 049 557
Goods, other (approximate value) (NOK)	428	15 101 643	364	14 236 876
<b>Pharmaceutical products, not narcotics</b>				
Doping units	603	130 034	605	106 752
<b>Fauna</b>				
CITES species (units)	122	15 353	135	29 026
<b>Narcotics</b>				
Amphetamines (g)	98	54 187	110	123 268
Cannabis (g)	1 180	1 636 266	999	449 039
Heroin (g)	32	11 303	63	83 000
Cocaine (g)	73	47 398	101	74 404
<b>Tobacco products</b>				
Cigarettes (units)	7 147	9 061 907	6 738	7 227 188
Tobacco products, other (kg)	2 148	2 161	1 984	1 491
<b>Weapons</b>				
Arms	8	22	11	17
Weapons, other	43	102	42	99

## The strategy of the Norwegian Customs and Excise

Norwegian Customs and Excise has developed the following strategies:

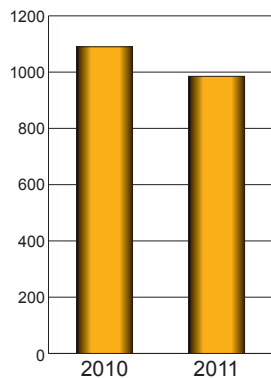
- Efficient movements of goods and uncomplicated border crossing
- Correct and efficient assessment
- Simple payment and efficient collection
- Prevent the evasion of customs and excise duties and combat economic crime
- A visible protector of society and border authority
- Contribute to ensuring that customs duties and regulations strike the correct balance between fiscal, environmental and user considerations
- Targeted intelligence and systematic risk analysis
- An active collaborator nationally and internationally
- Good service and communication
- Use of modern technology
- An attractive workplace with highly capable employees
- Good management and internal control



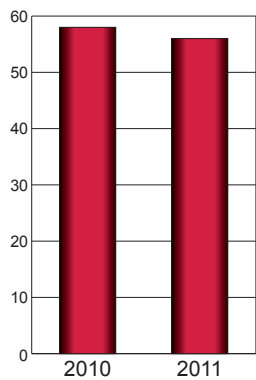


## UNCOVERED IN 2011

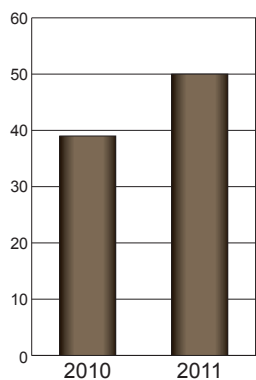
Evadion of customs and excise duties (NOK million)



Currency inspection (NOK million)



Pirated goods (NOK million)



### ELSÆR

In April 2011, Customs & Excise started a pilot project for electronic submission of special tax returns in a system called ELSÆR. The system was first tested at six selected enterprises and then went into full operation on 1 September. The special taxes regulations were amended at the same time, so that in future all enterprises that are liable to pay special taxes can be required to use the system. By year end, 687 of the 1,657 registered enterprises submitted their special tax returns via ELSÆR.

### Tax on NOx emissions

In 2011, Customs & Excise investigated how NOx emissions could be a tax component in calculating the nonrecurring import duty on motor vehicles. Customs & Excise obtains data from the Norwegian Public Roads Administration's system, Autosys, to calculate this duty. However not all vehicles have NOx emissions recorded in Autosys. These vehicles pay a stipulated rate that is based on the car's age, among other things. From 2012, greater emphasis will be placed on CO2 emissions, while

the power output component will be reduced. This change is part of the process of strengthening the environmental profile in the import duty.

### Easier to lay up your boat in Norway

In 2011, the rules on laying up a boat for the winter for foreign tourists were changed. Now it is easier for boat owners who visit Norway to leave their boats over the winter without having to pay Norwegian duties. Previously, foreign boat owners could not leave their boat in Norway for more than six weeks.

Boats could only be stored in a formally approved customs warehouse. The new arrangement is that boat owners can apply for permission to have the boat laid up for the winter outside customs warehouses. An application form has been prepared that can be downloaded from [www.toll.no](http://www.toll.no). If needed, a further year's storage can be applied for. Since boat owners have to seek prior permission from Norwegian Customs and Excise to lay up a boat, the new system still satisfies Customs and Excise's need for overview and collection of any taxes and customs duties.

*New rules have been introduced for laying up boats, making it easier for tourists to lay up their boats for the winter and continue their journey the next summer.*



## The Directorate has six departments:

Department of Customs, VAT and Movement of Goods; Excise Department; Enforcement Department; Collection and Accounts Department; IT Department and the Administration Department. The Director General's staff additionally includes the Internal Audit Unit, the Communications Department, the Security Manager, International Advisers and the Secretariat.



Smuggled currency is often from criminal activities or unpaid tax

## Currency smuggling

Currency smuggling is a focus area for Customs & Excise, which has specially trained currency sniffer dogs for the purpose. In 2011, Customs and Excise uncovered smuggling of NOK 56 million in various currencies. This amount is about the same as in 2010. An innovation in 2011 was that Customs & Excise could impose a violation charge of 20 per cent if amounts over NOK 25,000 are not declared. If it is suspected that the money comes from a criminal act, the entire amount can be withheld. Violation charges were imposed on about 55 per cent of the total amount uncovered.

## Seizure of pirate copies increased by 40 per cent

In 2011, 533 seizures of pirate copy goods were made.

This is an increase of 40 per cent compared to 2010. The seized goods had an estimated value of NOK 49.2 million, almost NOK 10 million more than the previous year. It is still clothes and shoes that top the statistics of seized goods. This is in line with international trends. There is also a slight increase in seized fake medicines, but there is reason to believe that there are much larger hidden amounts in this area. In many ways, uncovering pirate copies is pioneering work and a great deal of effort goes into every single seizure.

## Lowest unpaid duties ever

In 2011, Customs and Excise collected over NOK 204 million. 99.9 per cent of the amount demanded during the year was actually collected. This leaves only 0.1 per cent unpaid, which is the lowest ever.

## No ceiling on credit cards

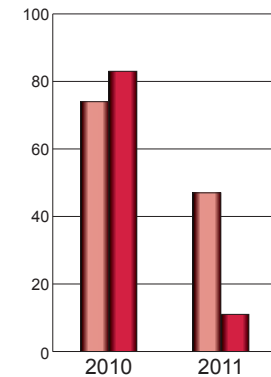
With effect from 1 September 2011, the NOK 25,000 ceiling on payment with credit cards was abandoned. When paying amounts over NOK 2,000, the customer will be charged the credit card company's commission charge. The change applies to all taxes and duties that can be paid through Customs & Excise's payment terminals. This means that it is now possible to pay the vehicle import duty and other large amounts to Customs & Excise by credit card.

## Electronic invoicing

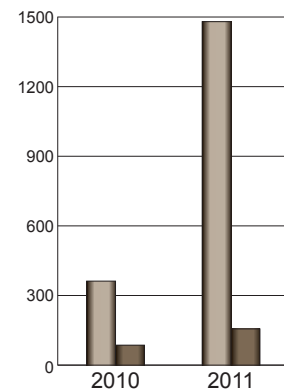
The solution for electronic invoicing of customs credit via Altinn came into full operation in February 2011. With this system, account statements can be handled electronically in the customers' systems, facilitating the electronic reconciliation of declaration information. At the end of 2011, approximately 1,200 customs credit customers were registered for electronic invoicing. This represents about seven per cent of customs credit demands.

## SEIZURES IN 2011

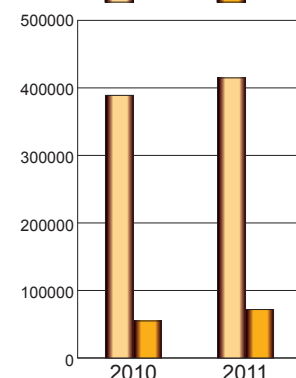
kilos Cocaine Heroin



kilos Hash Marihuana



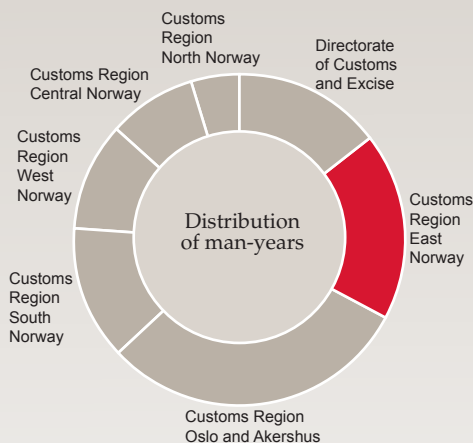
litres Beer Wine





Customs Region East Norway includes the counties of Østfold, Hedmark and Oppland. It's main office is at Kråkerøy near Fredrikstad. The region has a long Swedish border, and three of the country's most heavily used land-based border crossings (Svinesund, Ørje and Magnor) are in the region. Additionally, the region is responsible for the supervision of about 60 unstaffed border crossings. A large share of imports to Norway enter at Svinesund by truck. The Customs Region East Norway has offices in Fredrikstad, Hamar, Kongsvinger, Svinesund, Ørje, Østby and Åsnes.

## Customs Region East Norway



Customs Region Director Øystein Haraldsen

### Internet auctions

The East Norway Customs Region held three auctions of seized goods during the course of 2011. A total of 121 bids brought in NOK 893,615 to the Treasury. One of the advantages of internet auctions is that the Treasury can benefit from good prices. There is a great variety of material sold, everything from building goods to car parts, watches and jewellery. Alcohol and tobacco are destroyed.

### Night smuggling in Hedmark

Customs and Excise officers from the Østby and Åsnes offices in Hedmark have made several large seizures on quiet minor roads during 2011. One night, a group of as many as eleven smugglers in three vehicles were stopped near Drevsjø. The customs control revealed 1,080 litres of beer, 115 litres of spirits and 16,000 cigarettes in one of the vehicles. That represented NOK 147,000 in unpaid duty. The second of the vehicles the officers stopped contained 1,320 litres of beer, 114 litres of spirits and 24,000 cigarettes. That represented NOK 173,000 in unpaid duty. The third vehicle contained no smuggled goods.

### Magnormoen opened

After a long period of planning and building, Magnormoen inspection station was officially opened by Minister of Finance Sigbjørn Johnsen on 20 June. Officials at Kongsvinger have provided a great deal of good input for the design of facilities. The inspection hall is a modern building with many technical aids that



A huge 9,630 litres of wine were seized in this truck, which was stopped at Magnormoen in September 2011.

make it easier to take in several vehicles for thorough checks at the same time. The border crossing at Magnor is the second busiest in the country after Svinesund, measured in number of vehicles.

### Biggest wine seizure ever

In September, customs officials from Kongsvinger stopped an articulated lorry carrying 9,630 litres of wine when it crossed the Swedish border at Magnor. This is the biggest ever seizure of wine in Norway.

In addition to the wine, the vehicle contained 17,962 litres of beer, 858 litres of spirits and 37.5 kilos of tobacco. This seizure represented an attempted evasion of duty amounting to NOK 2.3 million.

### Customs payment machines

The turnover of the automatic customs declaration machines at Rygge and Svinesund has seen a marked increase in 2011. At Rygge, goods amounting to almost NOK 69,000 were declared, while goods amounting to NOK 1,732,714 were declared at Svinesund. ■

The new inspection hall at Magnormoen provides better facilities for travellers and officers.

*This Customs Region encompasses the Oslo and Akershus counties, and the main office is in Oslo. The Region is responsible for the ferries arriving in Oslo, the airport traffic at Gardermoen, the goods arriving in the Oslo port and the postal terminal at Alnabru. The Region is also responsible for collecting the annual motor vehicle fee for the entire country. Customs Region Oslo and Akershus has offices at Gardermoen as well as in several locations in Oslo.*

### 330 kg of hash

In February, Customs and Excise officers in Oslo uncovered a very unusual smuggling attempt. Narcotics, money, courier and recipients were all taken in the same action. After observation, the officers went into action against a warehouse and a Czech-registered truck. The control revealed cardboard cartons in the warehouse containing 330 kg of hash and 60 kg of marihuana. Both the driver and the recipients were immediately arrested. A closer check on the truck, including with a mobile scanner, revealed hidden spaces. Many bundles of Norwegian banknotes were found in these, amounting to NOK 3,100,000. It is believed that this record cash seizure was put into the vehicle shortly before the action in settlement of this or earlier narcotics deliveries. It is very unusual to discover narcotics, payment for the delivery, the courier and the recipients in the same action.



*330 kg of hash and over NOK 3 million in cash were seized in Akershus in February.*

### The currency team at Gardermoen

The control office at Gardermoen has set up its own currency team. The team consists of three officers who are mainly working on checks on the illegal import and export of currency.

A key member of the team is the Labrador Ben, who is one of Customs & Excise's three currency sniffer dogs. Ben has been a very useful contributor to many currency cases. In 2011, he uncovered more than NOK 10 million in undeclared currency. The Customs & Excise currency dogs are also used by collaborating agencies such as the police, and Customs & Excise gives assistance whenever the service permits. The jobs vary enormously, from searching a murder scene where money was the murder motive to searching a 1,000 square metre house whose owner was charged in a major embezzlement case.

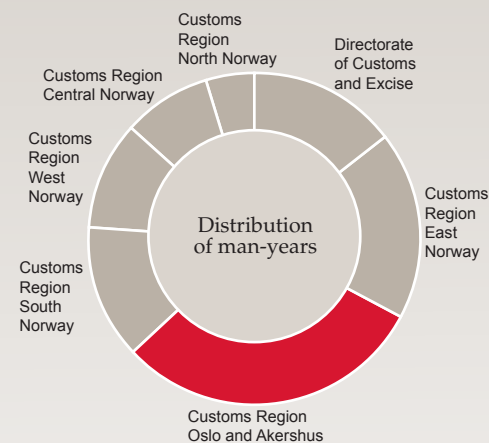
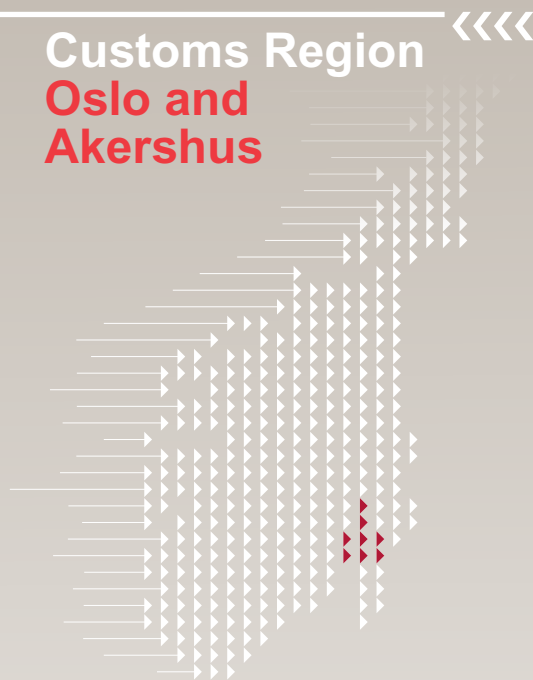


*Customs officers in Oslo and Akershus receive training in dismantling the most popular car models on the market.*

### Updating knowledge of cars

Modern cars contain a great deal of electronics and safety equipment, making manual checks of them more difficult than ever. Officers at the control office in Oslo have received thorough training in dismantling and revealing potential hiding places in some of the most popular car models on the market. Ford Motor Norway and the Møller group provided technical personnel, a workshop and vehicles that the officers could practice on. These officers are well equipped to find hiding places. They have also acquired a great deal of knowledge in how to proceed without damaging electronics and airbags in modern cars.

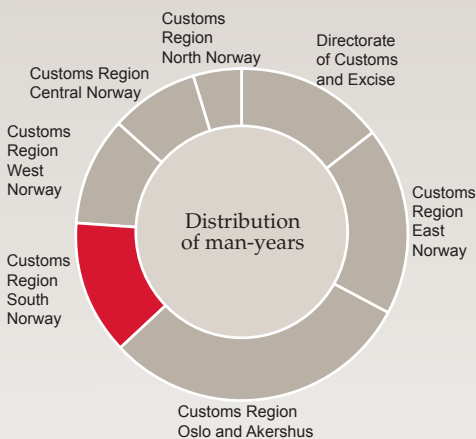
## Customs Region Oslo and Akershus



*Customs Region Director Odd Arne Kristiansen*

This Customs Region includes the counties of Buskerud, Vestfold, Telemark, Aust-Agder and Vest-Agder. The main office is in Kristiansand. Customs Region South Norway is responsible for a large share of ferry traffic to Norway through the ports of Sandefjord, Larvik and Kristiansand. The airports in Kristiansand and Torp have many international departures. Customs Region South Norway has offices in Kristiansand, Grenland, Sandefjord and Drammen.

## Customs Region South Norway



Customs Region Director Thorleif Andreassen

### Undeclared locomotives and rolling stock

In 2011, Customs Region South Norway discovered that four locomotives and 76 rail cars had been imported and used in Norway over a period of several years without being declared to customs. This happened after the customs region analysed information from TVINN and compared this with the currency register. A Norwegian company that operates diesel locomotives had also failed to register for the NOx duty. Unpaid value added tax, including supplements and interest, amounted to about NOK 25 million, while the demand for NOx duty was about NOK 1.5 million.

### 560 kg hash seizure

In October 2011, customs officers from Sandefjord seized 560 kg of hash in a foreign-registered truck when it arrived at Larvik from Hirtshals on the ferry Super Speed 2. The hash was on two pallets furthest into the vehicle, concealed behind 24 pallets of legal goods. This is the second largest seizure ever and the largest seizure of hash from a truck in Norway. The seized hash would have had a street value of NOK 75 million.

### Smuggled half a million in a loaf of bread

In December, customs officers on the quayside at Larvik were checking

*560 kg of hash with a street value of as much as NOK 75 million was seized on the quayside at Larvik when a truck rolled off the boat from Denmark.*



*Currency smuggling is a priority for Customs and Excise. In Larvik, a couple was stopped carrying over 100,000 Euros. Part of the money was hidden in a loaf of bread.*

passengers about to board the boat to Denmark. With the assistance of currency sniffer dog Dan, a couple were found to have 62,000 Euro concealed in a hollowed-out loaf of bread and a further 38,000 Euro in a thermos flask. The couple also had money about their persons. A total of 100,320 Euro was found, money that is believed to have come from the sale of a house. Currency of more than NOK 25,000 being taken in or out of the country must be declared to customs.

### Collaboration brings results

Customs Region South Norway collaborates extensively with other agencies. During the course of 2011, Customs and Excise has taken part in several actions along the E18 in the Agder counties together with the Norwegian Public Roads Administration and the police, among others. The main aim of these controls has been to reveal the illegal use of foreign-registered vehicles and the use of coloured diesel in vehicles that are not entitled to use it. These controls have also led to a number of large seizures of goods that carry high levels of duty, such as beer, cigarettes and spirits. Some of the vehicles stopped were so heavily loaded that they represented a danger to other road users.



This Customs and Excise region includes the counties of Rogaland, Hordaland, Sogn og Fjordane and Møre og Romsdal. The main office is in Bergen. Customs Region West Norway is responsible for a long coast line, and many ports with international traffic. There are also several airports with international departures in Customs Region West Norway, such as Flesland, Haugesund, Sola and Vigrå. Customs Region West Norway has offices in Bergen, Stavanger, Haugesund, Måløy and Ålesund.

### More seizures of synthetic cannabis

In 2011, customs officers at Stavanger Airport Sola have seized many postal packages containing synthetic cannabis. The packages were sent from various European countries and contained zip bags containing white powder and labelled "AM-2201". This is a chemically produced material with active ingredients that resemble the main active ingredient in cannabis. In December 2011, eight new types of synthetic cannabis came onto the Norwegian Medicines Agency's narcotics list. This gives Customs & Excise and the police a better opportunity to stop these substances and to prosecute those who import them.

### Seized a tonne of meat

In December, Customs and Excise seized 1,100 kg of meat in Møre & Romsdal. The seizure was made when Customs and Excise, the Norwegian Food Safety Authority and the police checked a catering establishment. Inside the building, there were eleven freezers, most of which contained unlabelled meat. When this was weighed it was found to consist of well over a tonne of various kinds of meat. The owner of the establishment admitted having smuggled the meat in from Sweden.

*Smuggled meat can be a hazard to health, as well as representing evasion of duty.*



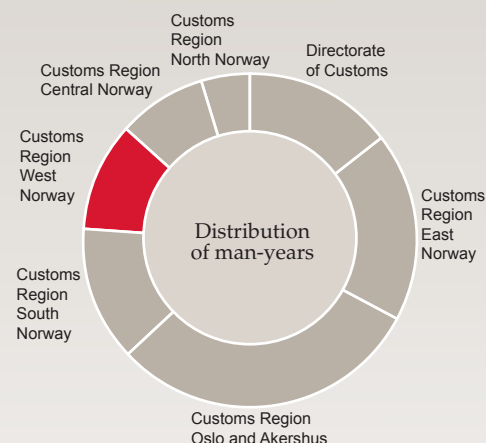
### Customs officers working with the police

In Bergen and Stavanger, customs liaison officers have been appointed who will spend part of their working hours with the police. The purpose is to strengthen each other's work against crime by means of better and more systematic coordination and exchange of enquiry information. This is a result of a collaboration agreement between Customs Region West Norway and the police, signed in 2011. The two agencies have enjoyed close collaboration for many years, and this has now been formalised.

### 335 tonnes of krill meal stopped at declaration control

In April, 15 containers of krill meal were seized at Ålesund harbour. The shipment had come directly from Uruguay and it was seized by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority due to the lack of notification and documentation. Shipments of animal products from so-called third countries could represent a possible health risk. This shipment had not been reported in the correct way and was not accompanied by a health certificate from the country of origin. Neither had the shipment been presented for veterinary border control, as it should have been according to the regulations.

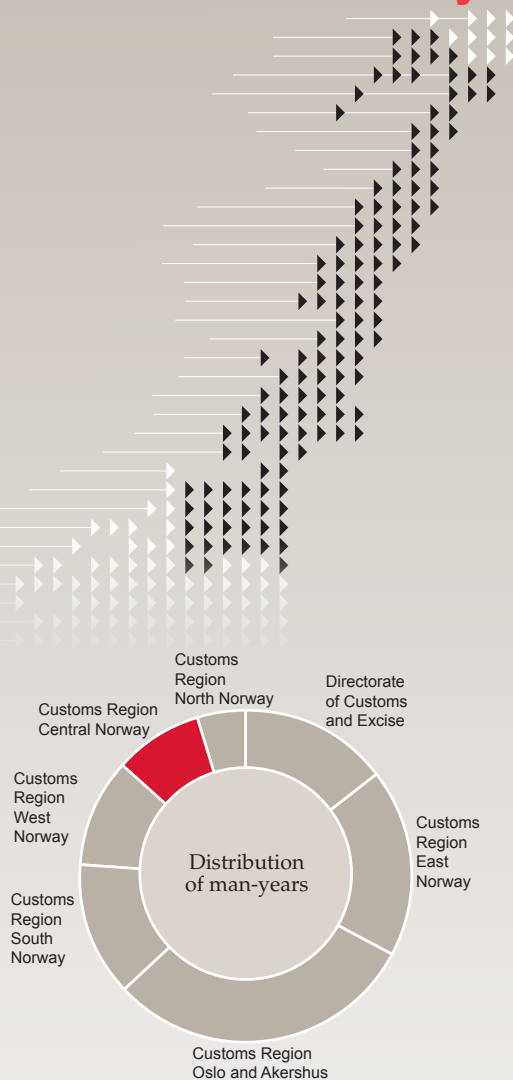
## Customs Region West Norway



Customs Region Director Ivar Sletten

This Customs Region includes the counties of Sør-Trøndelag, Nord-Trøndelag and Nordland. The main office is in Trondheim. Customs Region Central Norway is responsible for a long coast line as well as a long border with Sweden. The Customs Region also has the national responsibility for the motor vehicle tax and the scrap car deposit scheme. Customs Region Central Norway has offices in Trondheim, Værnes, Bodø, Junkerdal, Mo, Narvik/ Bjørnffjell, and Vauldalen.

## Customs Region Central Norway



Customs Region Director Anne Katarina Cartfjord

### Butter seizure

The much publicised “butter crisis” in Norway created an unusual smuggling episode before Christmas. Two Swedes were stopped at Bangsund in Nord-Trøndelag with 250 kg of butter, which they were trying to sell for NOK 500 a kilo. That they were attempting to sell the butter outside the Prix supermarket in Beistad indicates a real lack of market analysis. Supermarket customers notified the police, who in turn notified Customs and Excise. The two smugglers admitted having brought the butter in via Storlien the night before. If their sales had been better, the smugglers would have pocketed NOK 125,000 for the whole consignment. Sales had been slow however, and 250 kg of butter ended its days at Tranamarka refuse site.

### Controlling the market

During the annual Martnaen market in Trondheim, Customs and Excise carried out an inspection together with the Climate and Pollution Agency. They were specifically looking for dangerous toys. Customs Region Central Norway provided several officers and the Climate and Pollution Agency provided technical aids to reveal content of heavy metals and other hazardous additives. After a day at the market, seizures had been made of plastic balls, plastic monkeys, teddy bears, toy cigarettes and other items from eight different stalls. The sale of all of these toys is prohibited in Norway, since they give off hazardous substances. Some contained heavy metals, while others were of unknown content since they had no labels. Joint controls are useful for both Customs & Excise and its collaboration partners. The main aim is to remove dangerous toys from sale to children.

Customs & Excise officers found many dangerous toys at the market in Trondheim.

### Project Swedish border

Customs Region Central Norway has noted that a steadily increasing number of commercial transports do not report to Customs & Excise when entering Norway. The region has had a project in which they have reviewed and created common routines for handling breaches of the obligation to report the commercial import of goods. Early in the project, a questionnaire was sent to the largest declarers and border customs posts in the region, in order to obtain an overview of how the situation is perceived in the industry and by Customs & Excise. It appears that the main reason for the breach of the regulations is the increasing number of foreign drivers who do not know the procedures and rules for crossing the border. The project pointed out several ways of addressing these issues. A delivery certificate has been created for goods that are directly declared at the border. Routine descriptions have also been prepared for direct customs procedures at border customs posts, and also for cases where the importer notifies after the time of import. As a result of the project, a form has also been devised for the subsequent declaration of goods that have not been imported in the correct way.



Customs Region North Norway consists of the counties of Troms and Finnmark. The main office is in Tromsø. The region have staff in Hammerfest, Harstad, Helligskogen, Kirkenes, Neiden, Polmak, Storskog and Vadsø. Customs Region North Norway is responsible for Svalbard and Jan Mayen, which for the purposes of Customs and Excise are foreign and that also are not part of the EEA or Schengen areas.

## First multi-use sniffer dog approved

In December 2011, Customs Region North Norway's first multi-use sniffer dog team was approved. Dog handler and first customs inspector June Rognmo has been working with labrador Diesel since summer 2011. Diesel is four and a half years old and originally comes from England. Diesel is a multi-use sniffer dog, which means that he can search for both cigarettes and narcotics. Since cigarettes are essentially legal products, the dog has been trained to only react to large quantities of cigarettes. This dog "family" clearly has a good sense of smell, because brother Ben spends his days as a currency dog at Gardermoen.



Labrador Diesel has a nose for both cigarettes and narcotics.

## Collaboration between authorities

Since summer 2011, Customs Region North Norway has been working with the Norwegian Food Safety Authority and the National Administration for Reindeer Herding on issues related to the different periods for legal grazing in the border areas between Sweden and Norway. The grazing period for Swedish reindeer in Troms is from 1 May to 14 September. As result of legislation, grazing is only permitted in certain areas. In April 2011, there were 10 movements of live reindeer from Sweden to Norway via Finland, totalling 1,423 animals. The herds crossed the border at Helligskogen customs post 10 to 12 days before the grazing period started. In order to avoid such occurrences in future, a working group was set up in autumn 2011 with participants from the Norwegian Food Safety Authority, the National Administration for Reindeer Herding and Customs Region North Norway. The aim of the collaboration was to clarify each country's regulations and how the agencies can best communicate with each

other to maintain the regulations. Before the next grazing season, letters will be sent to the relevant persons in Sweden with information about the regulations on the Norwegian side of the border.

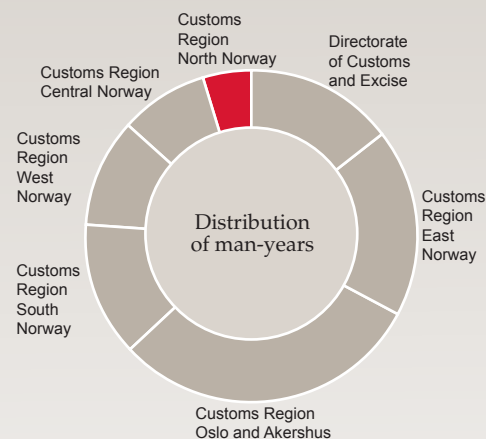
## Bad weather and closed roads

Closed roads in the winter lead to changes in traffic patterns. When an important traffic artery like the E6 across Kvænangsfjellet closes, the alternative is to drive through Finland. This leads in turn to increased traffic for the customs posts at Kivilompolo and Helligskogen. Travelling times also increase, both because of the extra distance and also because of the extra border crossing.

## Increasing traffic to Russia

Norway's only border crossing to Russia continued to see increasing traffic in 2011. 195,000 travellers crossed the border at Storskog, which is 54,000 more than the year before. Cross-border shopping in the north is different from other parts of the country, because here it is mainly Russian citizens who come to shop in Norway. The border is physically closed from 21.00 to 07.00 every night ■

## Customs Region North Norway



Customs Region Director Atle Joakimsen



Customs Region East Norway  
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