



Annual report 2012

The Customs and Excise Authorities

Good results for 2012

High figures

The contribution from Norwegian Customs and Excise to the public treasury increased to NOK 210 billion in 2012. This increase is primarily the result of a larger volume of imports. Income from one-off levies on motor vehicles also increased, as did customs and excise income, albeit to a lesser extent. The sales figures show that the market is continually demanding more cars with lower CO₂ emissions.

Financial controls

Financial controls contributed significantly to Norwegian Customs and Excise's results. In 2012, Norwegian Customs and Excise uncovered evasion and errors amounting to NOK 1.3 billion. This figure is higher than for previous years, and highlights the importance of prioritising financial controls.

Narcotics seizure

Norwegian Customs and Excise's border controls were involved in 2,960 cases of narcotics seizure in 2012. The number of seizures has increased since last year, although the quantity of narcotics in each seizure is gradually falling. The number of seizures of hash, cocaine and amphetamines increased, while there were fewer seizures of heroin. The figures for cannabis, khat and narcotics tablets remain consistently high. Seized quantities are on the increase for cannabis, heroin, amphetamines and narcotic tables, although they have decreased for cocaine, hash and khat.



Director General of Customs and Excise, Bjørn Røse

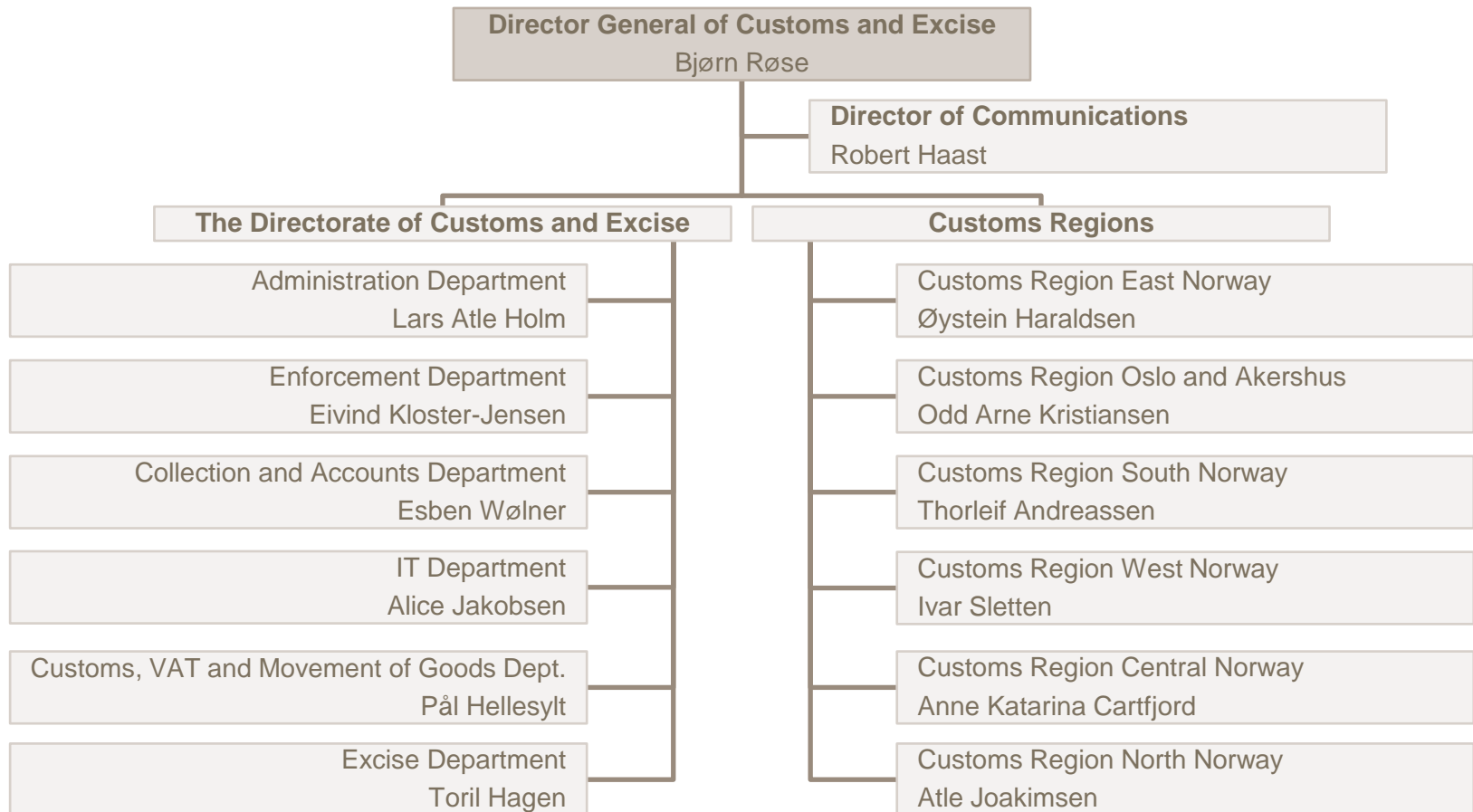
This is Norwegian Customs and Excise

- Norwegian Customs and Excise is an agency under the Ministry of Finance.
- Norwegian Customs and Excise's administrative body is the Norwegian Directorate of Customs and Excise, which has 292 employees. The Directorate develops regulations, provides support to the Customs Regions and acts as an appeal body for industry and the general public.
- Norwegian Customs and Excise's local administration is organised into six customs regions.
- Norwegian Customs and Excise assesses and collects customs and excise duties, value added tax on imported goods and special taxes for the state treasury. The Authority 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. Norwegian Customs and Excise had a total of 1,946 employees at year-end 2012.

Customs and Excise's main social 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

The management of Norwegian Customs and Excise as at 1 January 2013



Some highlights 2012

January

The traffic statistics show that the number of people travelling to and from Norway is increasing on an annual basis. 8.7 travellers are now arriving on international flights. 7.5 million vehicles are crossing the border, and 33.2 million tonnes of goods are imported to the country annually.

February

A Lithuanian registered trailer was stopped at Ørje on the afternoon of 26 February. The 32-year old driver showed the customs receipt for furniture, but the customs officers decided to scan the vehicle, and the scanner operator discovered both bottles and several trays of beer among the legal furniture cargo. The total find was of 3,456 litres of beer, 1,008 litres of spirits and 39,600 cigarettes.

March

A female air passenger was caught with approx. 400 g of opium and 2,200 tablets at Gardermoen airport on 1 March. The woman was pulled over for a customs check when she arrived at the airport, and the customs officers quickly discovered a small clump of opium in her handbag. An additional 400 g of opium was found in her baggage, hidden in the trolley handle on a wheeled suitcase, as well as various different tablets in other pieces of luggage.

April

A Libyan man was caught by the customs at Fredrikstad. Customs checked travellers on the train to Gothenburg on the afternoon of 26 April, and found Euro currency totalling NOK 177,500 on the man.

Some highlights 2012

May

In May, 45 officers from Customs and Excise, Tax Fraud in Customs Region South East and Oslo Police carried out a coordinated campaign against seven second-hand dealers and shops in Oslo which were trading in gold. There has been a strong increase in gold prices, and the number of permits for trading in used gold and other precious metals has increased significantly. Customs and Excise investigates whether the gold products were declared when they entered the country and ensures that no declarations are below fair value when used gold is transported into and out of Norway.

June

A mobile scanner was delivered to Customs Region Oslo and Akershus in June 2012. 18 new scanner operators underwent training in connection with this.

July

Customs officers from Fredrikstad found a suitcase containing 25,000 Rivotril tablets. Customs checked travellers on the train from Gothenburg to Oslo on the afternoon of 18 July. A black wheeled suitcase aroused suspicion, although none of the passengers would admit to owning the suitcase.

August

In August, the government approved a three-year test project for using emergency vehicles in Customs Region East Norway. The preparations for driver training, acquisition of technical equipment and drawing up of instructions was started in 2012. Practical start-up of the project will take place in the second half of 2013.

Some highlights 2012

September

Norway was one of the first countries to reopen duty-free exports from Burma. A delegation from the Norwegian Directorate of Customs and Excise visited the country to inform the authorities and export companies of the opportunities this would provide.

October

Parliament proposed a 2013 state budget of NOK 26.1 million for reinforcement of border controls. The measures include the establishment of a border control at Langesund in Telemark, due to the new ferry route to Denmark. In addition, the border control at Storskog in Finnmark was strengthened with nine full-time employees. At Bjørnfjell in Nordland, opening hours were extended from January to April.

November

Norwegian Customs and Excise published the results of the Athena III campaign, a combined customs and police operation targeting currency smuggling. 35 countries took part in the campaign. In Norway, attempts to smuggle currency were discovered in all six customs regions. The campaign led to 107 seizures, and a total amount in excess of NOK 6 million was seized. Nine smuggling attempts were reported to the police. The largest single seizure was a suitcase at Bergen's Flesland airport containing NOK 692,000.

December

Anti-doping Norway and the Norwegian Directorate of Customs and Excise signed a cooperation agreement on 19 December, as part of the fight against doping. Norwegian Customs and Excise seize drugs on a daily basis, and have seen an increase in the number of performance-enhancing drugs over recent years.

Norwegian Customs and Excise, Financial results

Enforcement of	2012	2011	2010
Declarations*	518	433	523
Accountancy controls*	745	467	465
Special tax returns*	11	3	5
Currency*	46	56	58
Pirated goods*	18	50	39
Total*	1,338	1,009	1,090

* All figures in NOK millions

The greatest increase in uncovered amounts came from accountancy controls, which resulted in NOK 745 million, an increase of close to NOK 300 million compared with 2011. The declaration controls injected an additional NOK 518 million into the public treasury in 2012, an increase of NOK 85 million from 2011.

The increase can be explained by intensified enforcement efforts by Norwegian Customs and Excise in relation to companies subject to customs and duties, and is also a result of the customs auditor's risk assessments, analyses and intelligence work.

Seizure statistics for 2012

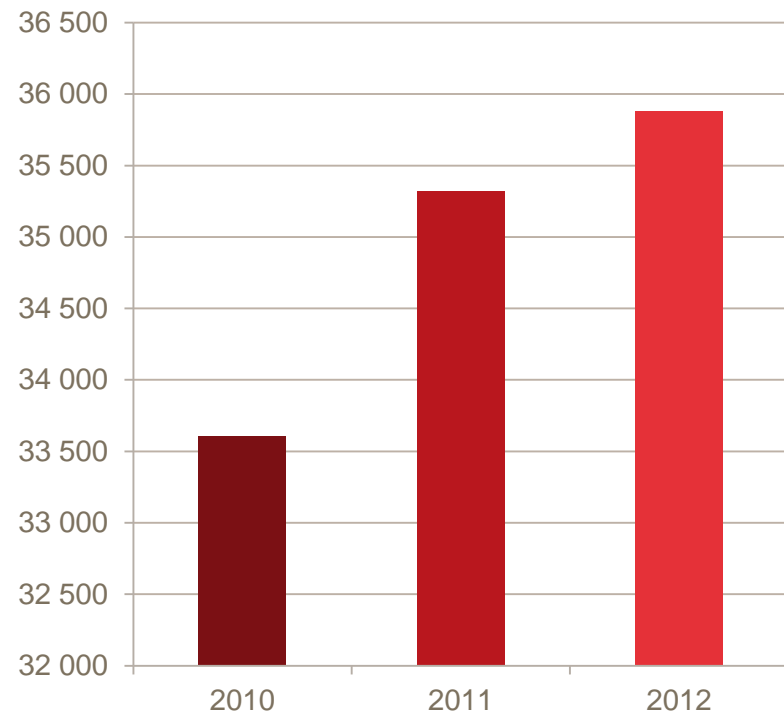
35,879 seizures were made at border controls in 2012, compared with 35,319 in 2011 and 33,607 in 2010.

This confirms that smuggling pressure on Norway's borders is high, and increasing. There has also been a significant increase in the number of narcotics seizures, and this type of seizure is always reported to the police.

For a detailed overview, see

- [Seizure trends 2007-2012 \(Norwegian\)](#)

Number of seizures 2010–2012

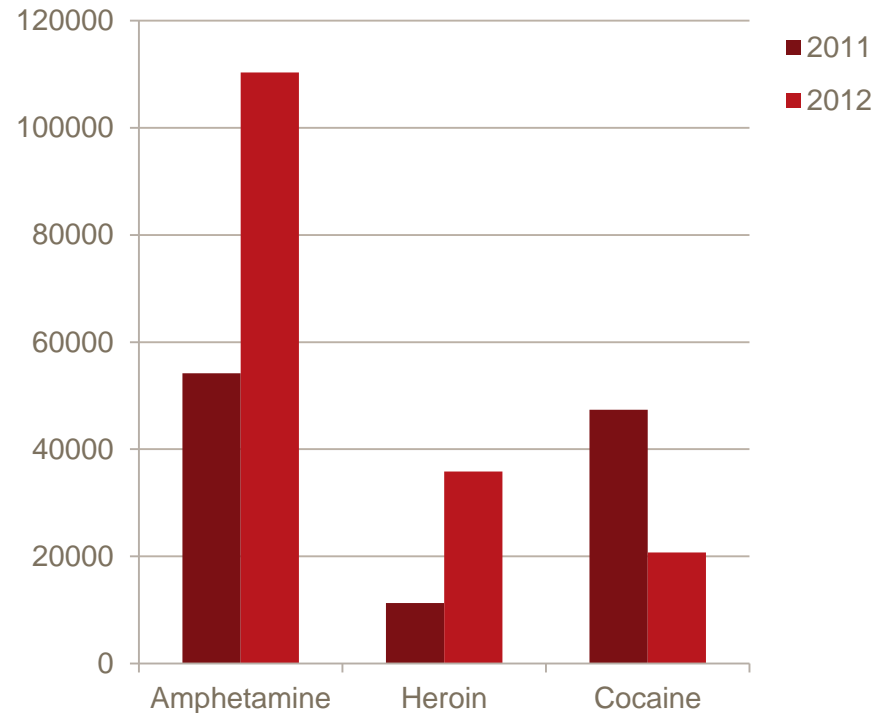


Seizure statistics for 2012

2,959 seizures were made of narcotics, an increase of 17.8% from 2011, when the total was 2,511. The seizures include all types of narcotic. Synthetic narcotic substances, which are primarily purchased online, constituted 200 of the seizures, an increase of 100% from 2011.

A total of 205,842 units of performance-enhancing drugs were seized over a total of 714 seizures, an increase of 58% compared with 2011. Doping is spreading to new user groups, affecting ages as low as 14 years.

Seized quantities of narcotic substances (in grams)



Seizure statistics for 2012

Alcoholic drinks	2012		2011	
	Seizures	Quantity	Seizures	Quantity
Spirits	7,446	50,027 litres	7,336	41,973 litres
Spirits above 60 %	45	5,869 litres	35	437 litres
Beer	5,258	401,288 litres	5,245	414,844 litres
Wine	5,246	49,435 litres	5,588	71,729 litres

Tobacco products	2012		2011	
	Seizures	Quantity	Seizures	Quantity
Cigarettes (cigarettes)	7,453	10,149,568	7,147	9,061,907
Tobacco products, other (kg)	1,820	2,005	2,148	2,161

The number of seizures of alcoholic drinks is relatively stable, although the quantity of spirits and liquor seized in 2012 increased compared with 2011. For beer and wine, the number of seizures remains stable, but the total quantity has reduced slightly. The number of cigarettes seized increased from just over 9 million cigarettes in 2011 to over 10 million cigarettes in 2012.