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Good results for 2013

Narcotics seizure

Norwegian Customs and Excise's border controls were involved in 3,905 cases of narcotics seizure in 2013. This is almost 1,000 more narcotics seizures than in 2012. A fair amount of the increase is due to new synthetic narcotic substances. The quantity of narcotics in each individual seizure is becoming increasingly smaller. When it comes to quantities seized, there has been a doubling in amphetamine, and a significant increase in cocaine and khat. The quantity of heroin seized is stable, while the quantity of cannabis has declined.

High figures

The contribution from Norwegian Customs and Excise to the public treasury increased to NOK 212 billion in 2013. This increase is primarily the result of a larger volume of imports. Revenues from the one-off registration tax on motor vehicles declined for the first time in many years. This is due to increased sales of electric cars which are exempt from the registration tax.

Financial controls

Financial controls contributed significantly to Norwegian Customs and Excise's results. In 2013, Norwegian Customs and Excise uncovered evasion and errors amounting to almost NOK 1.2 billion. 185 cases were assessed as being gross negligence, and 28 cases were reported to the police.



Director General of Customs and Excise, Bjørn Røse.

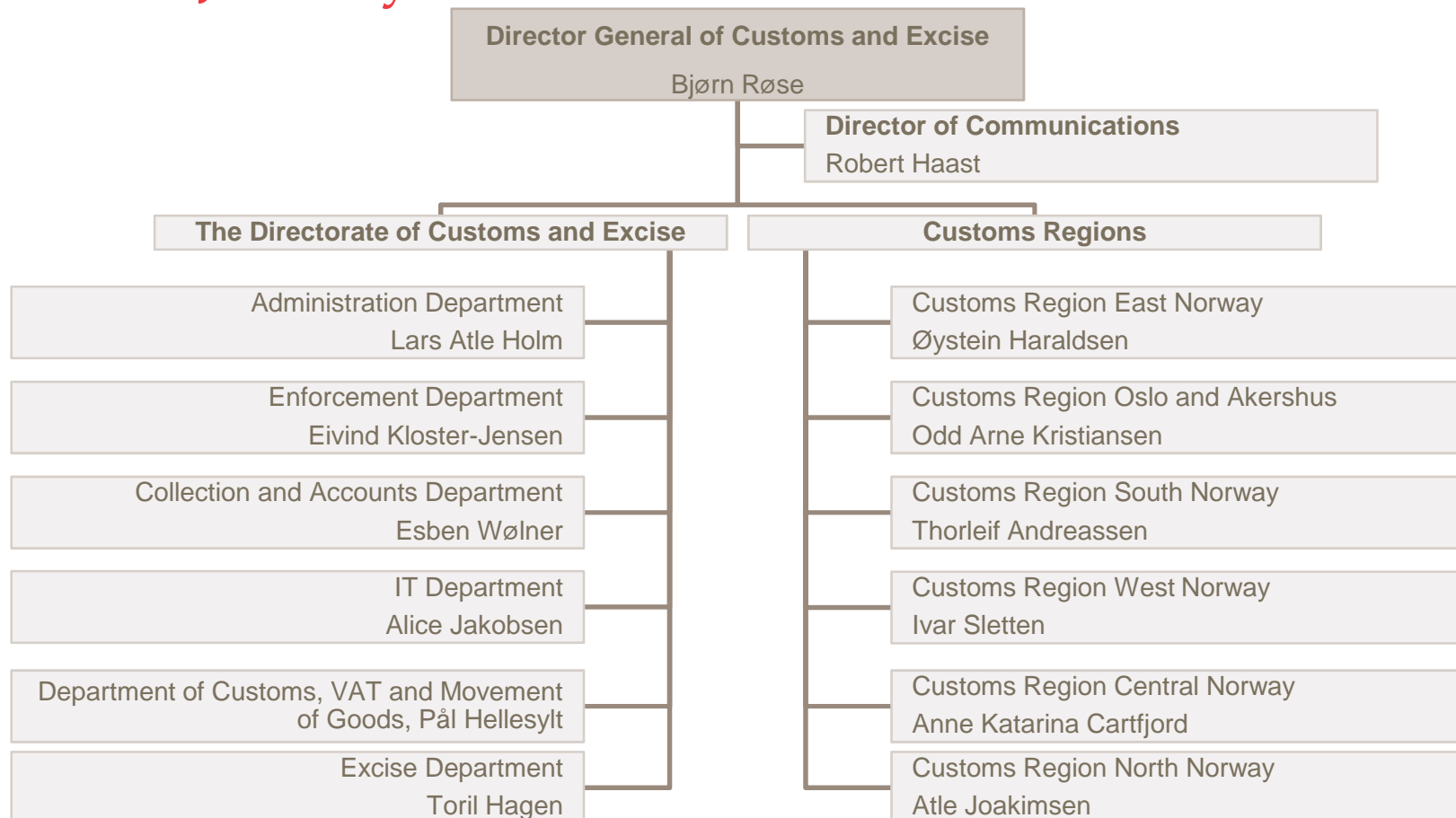
This is Norwegian Customs and Excise

- 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 290 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 carries out a number of enforcement tasks related to the import and export of goods. Norwegian Customs and Excise administers its own regulations, but also other agencies' regulations at the border. The agency assesses and collects duties and value added tax on the importation of goods, and is also responsible for assessing and collecting special taxes.
- The agency is led by the Director General of Customs and Excise, Bjørn Røse. Norwegian Customs and Excise had a total of 1,974 employees at year-end 2013.

Norwegian Customs and Excise's main social duties:

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

The management of Norwegian Customs and Excise as at 1 January 2014



Some highlights in 2013

January

Norwegian Customs and Excise entered into an agreement on training rapid response drivers in the Customs Region East Norway. During the trial arrangement, that will last until 2016, an evaluation will be made about whether the rapid response option for Norwegian Customs and Excise's motor vehicles and personnel can be a permanent measure. The arrangement shall contribute to more secure and more effective enforcement along the roads.

February

New narcotics regulations were established. The regulations give the Norwegian Customs and Excise greater possibilities for stopping the importation of synthetic narcotics etc. An important change is that the new regulations list groups of substances. It means that different substances that are similar to each other can be easily classified as narcotics, and be stopped as illegal goods.

March

3,560,804 notices for annual motor vehicle tax totalling NOK 9,156,901,889 fell due for payment this month. Over 90 per cent paid within the deadline.

April

An air passenger had brought onto the aircraft as many as 226 cartons with a total of 45,200 cigarettes when he was stopped at Oslo Airport. It is the biggest customs seizure of cigarettes ever at Gardermoen. Withheld customs and excise duties totalled NOK 137,578.

Some highlights in 2013

May

From 1 May 2013 new regulations were introduced for the importation of dogs to Norway. From this date dogs must be treated with deworming medication against *Echinococcus multilocularis* (a tapeworm) by a veterinarian prior to entering the country. *Echinococcus multilocularis* can be transmitted from animals to humans, and in worst case can be fatal.

June

Over the course of one week the customs officers in Alnabru and Gardermoen uncovered a series of postal items that contained illegal narcotics and psychoactive pharmaceuticals. Norway was one of 99 countries that participated in Operation Pangea, an extensive action to counter the sale of illegal or bogus pharmaceuticals over the internet.

July

On 1 July Norwegian Customs and Excise was given expanded authority to stop counterfeit goods. Extended retention limits on such goods, as well as increased penalties and levels of compensation, give rights holders better opportunity to follow up cases that Norwegian Customs and Excise uncovers.

August

In August the customs cruiser *Svinør* was christened in Kristiansand. With T/K *Svinør* maritime border enforcement is further strengthened. Norwegian Customs and Excise has four vessels in service that engage in ordinary inspection, monitoring and enforcement. In addition, Norwegian Customs and Excise has an extensive collaboration with the Norwegian Coast Guard.

Some highlights in 2013

September

In September a hearse registered in Latvia was stopped at customs control in Svinesund. The driver was able to furnish both a death certificate and documentation on the transport. Nevertheless, the customs officers wanted to check the car more closely and found a total of 473 litres of spirits and 20,000 cigarettes in the aluminium coffin in the back of the car.

October

The results from the Norwegian Citizen Survey carried out by Difi, show that the users of Norwegian Customs and Excise are very satisfied with the level of service, and that the agency enjoys a high degree of confidence among the general population.

November

Norwegian Customs and Excise at Gardermoen started using a body scanner that can detect whether a traveller is concealing narcotics in their body. Low-dose X-ray equipment has been in use in other countries for several years, and has given good results. The body scanner shall only be used if there is a suspicion of smuggling by internal bodily concealment. This method of control saves time and resources for both the traveller and the customs officers.

December

Early in the morning on 27 December the customs officers in Svinesund wanted to stop a van that was registered in Sweden. The van did not stop and was later found abandoned. A total of 524 kg of khat was seized, which was a new record. The driver was subsequently arrested.

Key figures

Customs duties	2013	2012	2011
Customs and Excise revenues	2,882	2,877	2,537
Value added tax upon importation	121,900	120,071	115,374
Motor vehicle taxes	32,309	33,213	31,912
Special taxes	55,114	53,916	54,433
Total	212,205	210,077	204,256

Collection and arrears	2013	2012	2011
Assessed amounts	213,258	211,312	205,524
New arrears	284	299	201
Accumulated arrears	461	485	397

All figures in NOK millions

Key figures

Assessments	2013	2012	2011
Number of import declarations	5,536,271	5,300,134	5,028,580
Number of export declarations	1,269,026	1,250,930	1,249,633
Total	6,805,297	6,551,064	6,278,213

Financial controls	2013	2012	2011
Number of business controls	1,400	1,445	1,561
Calculated amount (in NOK millions)	443	745	467
Of which duties and special taxes (NOK millions)	168	325	221
Number of serious offences	185	183	192

Norwegian Customs and Excise, Financial results

Control of	2013	2012	2011
Declarations	568	515	433
Accountancy controls	443	745	467
Special tax returns	3	11	3
Currency	51	46	56
Pirated goods	18	18	50
Control of low value shipments	10	-	-
Control of highly taxed goods	90	-	-
Total	1,183	1,338	1,009

All figures in NOK millions.

Norwegian Customs and Excise uncovered withheld customs and excise duties of nearly NOK 1.2 billion in 2013. Swindling takes place with agricultural products, motorhomes, toys, gold products and alcohol, among other things. Goods controls uncovered NOK 18 million of fake brands.

Seizure statistics for 2013

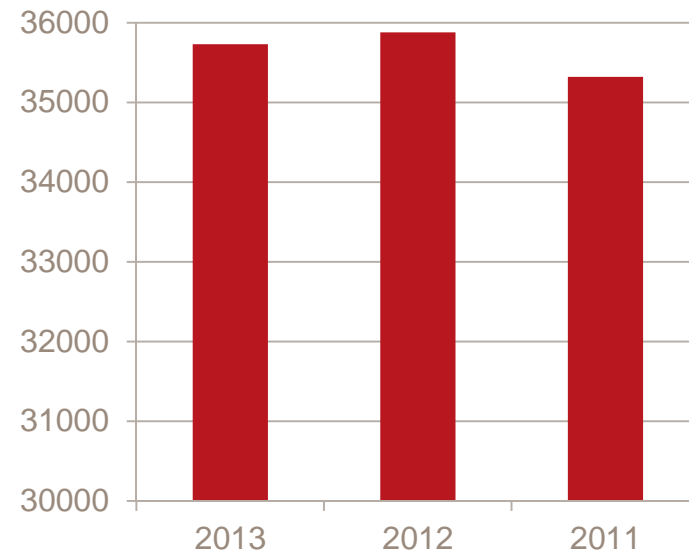
35,729 seizures were made at border controls in 2013, compared with 35,879 in 2012 and 35,319 in 2011.

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



145 kg of cocaine was found in a shipment of banana crates in Oslo in December 2013.

Number of seizures



Seizure statistics for 2013

Narcotics	2013		2012	
	Number of seizures	Quantity	Number of seizures	Quantity
Amphetamine	322	234,951 g	135	110,324 g
Cannabis (hash/marijuana)	1,463	866,291 g	1,221	1,253,034 g
Heroin	40	35,225 g	28	35,840 g
Cocaine	111	147,751 g	77	20,713 g
Khat	339	13,574 kg	283	8,172 kg

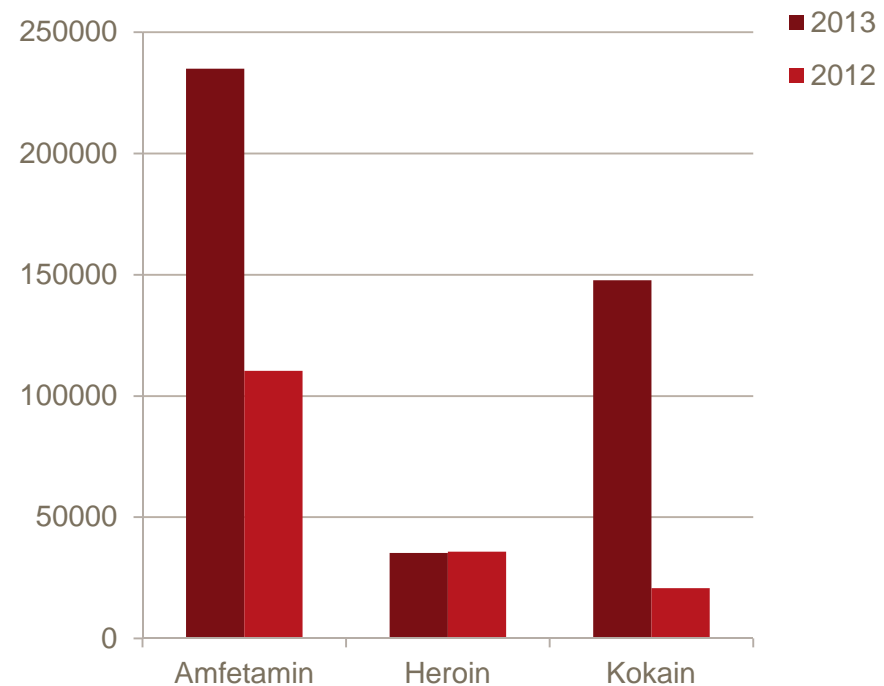
Pharmaceutical preparations	2013		2012	
	Number of seizures	Quantity	Number of seizures	Quantity
Doping (units)	715	104,465	714	205,842

Seizure statistics for 2013

3,905 seizures were made of narcotics, an increase of 32 per cent from 2012, when the total was 2,959 seizures. The seizures include all types of narcotic. Synthetic narcotic substances, which are primarily purchased online, constituted 437 of the seizures, an increase of 118% from 2012.

In December the second biggest cocaine seizure ever was made in Oslo. As much as 145 kg of cocaine was found in a shipment of bananas originating from Ecuador.

Seized quantities of narcotic substances (in grams)



Seizure statistics for 2013

Alcoholic drinks	2013		2012	
	Number of seizures	Amount	Number of seizures	Amount
Spirits	7,380	49,756	7,446	50,027
Spirits above 60%	54	205	45	5,869
Beer	5,093	395,589	5,258	401,288
Wine	4,695	49,519	5,246	49,435

Tobacco products	2013		2012	
	Number of seizures	Amount	Number of seizures	Amount
Cigarettes	7,006	8,902,887	7,435	10,149,568
Tobacco products, other (kg)	1,546	1,495	1,820	2,005

The number of seizures of alcoholic beverages is relatively stable. The quantity of beer, wine and spirits that is seized is at the same level, while seizures of spirits over 60% (illegal product) are declining.

The number of cigarettes seized fell from just over 10 million cigarettes in 2012 to just under 9 million cigarettes in 2013.