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## TRANSPORTATION

### AIR

The Netherlands main international airport (Schiphol) is located close to Amsterdam and handled over 700,000 tons of freight in 1992, in addition to 16 million passengers. Schiphol Airport has direct rail and bus connections to the other main centres in Holland, and is often used as an entrepot serving major cities across Europe, as such facilities as bonded warehouses have prompted exporters abroad to use Schiphol as an international distribution centre for their products.

### ROADS

Road haulage is an important form of freight movement in Holland, with one-third of the truck hauling fleet, and 60 percent of European river-barges owned and operated by Dutch firms. Because Rotterdam is the world's largest port, a highly efficient cargo transfer infrastructure exists and freight is transported in an efficient and rapid manner. Due to the small land area of the Netherlands, the highway system only has a total length of 2,100 kilometres, but over 27 percent of international road haulage in Europe is handled by Dutch carriers.

### WATER

The main Dutch ports are Rotterdam and Amsterdam, with Rotterdam being the largest port in the world handling approximately 300 million tons of cargo in 1992. Dutch ports act as the "Gateway to Europe" with extensive dock and storage space, container terminals, roll-on/roll-off and bulk handling equipment. Both ports are well connected to the road, rail, river and canal routes leading to excellent turn-around times. The Dutch government has embarked on an ambitious modernisation programme for its ports in order to maintain their leading position among world ports.

### RAIL

The state-owned railroad system, Netherlands Railways (Spoorwegen or NS), equipped with the latest rolling stock, provides fast, efficient and economical transportation between the major cities in the Netherlands and across Europe. Total freight traffic on Dutch railways has been declining and totalled 17 million tons in 1992.