

The national carrier, Austrian Airlines, has flights to all the main trade and tourist centres of the Middle East, and is the only western airline to fly to all the capitals of the COMECON countries

In 1982, pipelines pumped 31 million tons of oil of which 70 per cent in transit, and 15 billion m³ of gas of which 75 per cent in transit. Austria in 1983 also completed its first AC/DC coupling link for reciprocal transfer of electricity between the Eastern and Western European power grids.

Tourism

This is a major industry and source of foreign income in Austria, which shares with Switzerland the distinction of having a surplus in its foreign travel account. Austria can boast having summer and winter tourists' seasons which are equally busy. In 1981, Austria received over 14 million foreign visitors who registered 92 million overnight stays. Some 70 per cent of overnight tourists came from West Germany, 10 per cent from the Netherlands, and the balance from other European countries. North Americans accounted for only 1.5 per cent of total overnights.

Foreign Trade

As an industrial country with a small domestic market, Austria depends heavily on foreign trade. Austria imports more than it exports (ratio of 1.25 in 1982). In 1982 some 23 per cent of Austrian GDP went into export markets. Austria concentrates considerably on trade with the neighbouring European countries (80 per cent), but relatively little on overseas areas (20 per cent).

Austria is a founding member of EFTA, and since the 1970s has a free-trade arrangement with the EEC from which agricultural products are exempted. Free trade with the United Kingdom and Denmark, originally based on common EFTA membership, has continued after these countries joined the EEC, although duties have been reimposed on some food products.