

Montreal regions have seen dramatic increases, totaling almost 40 percent since 1990. Lower unemployment and rising fuel costs are two factors associated with these increases. It is expected that in 2001 over 4.5 billion trips will be made on public transit in Canada. Further, the number of passengers on VIA Rail Canada, a Crown corporation created in 1977 to operate Canada's national passenger rail service, increased by 8 percent from 1995 to 2000.

In 1998, Canadians moved 429 million tonnes of commodities within domestic borders. Rail accounted for over 200 million tonnes, close to 50 percent of commodities moved, followed by for-hire trucking at almost 180 million tonnes and marine at close to 50 million tonnes. Air accounted for the least number of tonnes moved at less than one million tonnes.

Transportation demand is the measure of all transportation-related expenditures by households, businesses, and governments on transportation goods and services used in the movement of people and freight. In 1999, transportation demand grew faster than the economy as a whole, as was the case for the last five years. This increase can be explained partly by the increasing importance of exports to the Canadian economy.

In 1999, imports and exports reached 40 and 43 percent of Canada's gross domestic product, respectively. Every day we do over \$2.2 billion worth of business—exports and imports of goods and services—with the world. In fact, in Canada, one job in three depends on exports. Shipping commodities to and from other countries is critical to trade transactions. If globalization of the world economy continues on its current track, transportation of goods over longer distances may increase the demand for transportation, and changing demand patterns may impact on our choice of modes.

Current commuter, trade, and tourism patterns are resulting in congestion in and around Canada's main cities and on some of Canada's major highways. Congestion can have a profound impact on quality of life, health, and the economy. According to a 1999 report on funding transportation, more than 70 percent of the highway network is congested during peak periods in the Greater Toronto area, creating an unacceptably low level of service to business and residents.

The following sections explore the concept of sustainable transportation and actions being taken to make transportation more sustainable.

