
TRANSPORTATION

Austria has a modern transport network to the extent permitted by the mountainous terrain in much of the country. Much of the seafood imported into Austria is either transported by air, or is trucked into Vienna from ports such as Rotterdam.

AIR

Austria has six major airports which handle both passengers and freight. Air freight (including transit shipments) totalled 70,135 tons in 1991 for all airports; Vienna handled 92% of the total air cargo.

MARINE

The Danube is an important international waterway with approximately 7 million tons of freight transported on Austria's main inland waterway. However, inland waterways are expected to receive a significant boost with the opening of the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal which will expedite and broaden inland water traffic in the area.

ROADS

Highways in Austria are representative of the mountainous terrain but provide a quality mode of transport for freight moving with the country. Total length of the roadways is approximately 109,000 kilometres. Half of all the road trans-border traffic is transit in nature, with its final destination not in Austria.

RAIL

The total length of the railway system in Austria is 5,700 kilometres, of which 3,700 kilometres is electrified. Goods traffic is approximately 12 billion ton-km, including some 3 billion ton-km of transit traffic. An extensive programme of investment in modernisation (the *Neue Bahn* project) is being implemented by the federal railway. Important projects include a tunnel through the Semmering mountains south of Vienna and, in the medium term, a rail tunnel under much of the province of Tirol to siphon off transit commercial traffic (road and rail) generated by the EC's internal market. Goods transported between 1989 and 1991 increased from 58.6 million tons to 64.7 million tons.