

TRANSPORTATION

The western states of Germany have a modern comprehensive transport and communications infrastructure, featuring a rail network linking most urban centres and a high quality road network. Most major urban centres are linked by motorways, or *Autobahnen*, construction of which began in the 1930's and on which there is only an advisory speed limit in some locations. The state airline, Lufthansa, also flies between major cities.

The transport infrastructure in the eastern states is less well-developed, and much more emphasis is placed on the rail system. The road system in the east is relatively poor, but there are plans to build several *Autobahnen*, and to improve the rail and canal network:

Shipping

At the end of 1991, the German seagoing merchant fleet totalled 5.1 million grt. The West German fleet totalled 4.1 million grt at the end of 1989. Total tonnage transported by the latter was 140 million tons in 1991, as compared to 143.8 million tons in 1990. Freight traffic travelling through German ports totalled 160 million tons in 1991. Hamburg is easily the largest port in Germany, accounting for 35 percent of overall freight shipped. Wilhelmshaven, Bremerhaven, Bremen, Rostock and Lübeck are the other major freight terminals.

Airports

The busiest airport in terms of aircraft movements and passengers embarked was the Rhein-Main Airport outside Frankfurt am Main, which accounted for 5 percent of flights, 35 percent of passenger throughput and nearly three-quarters of freight traffic, although Munich saw a higher number of aircraft movements, mainly of tourist charter flights. The other major passenger airports are Berlin-Tegel and Schönefeld, and Hamburg; while Cologne/Bonn is the second largest airport in terms of freight traffic entering Germany from abroad.

Roadways

The total length of classified roads in the western states at the end of 1991 was 174,000 kilometres, of which 9,000 kilometres were *Autobahnen* (motorways) and 31,000 kilometres were federal roadways. In the eastern states, the total road length at the end of 1991 was 48,000 kilometres, of which 1,900 kilometres were *Autobahnen*.

Railways

The length of railway open in the western states at the end of 1991 was 30,000 kilometres, of which 12,000 kilometres was electrified. Non-state-owned railways accounted for 3,000 kilometres of track. In the eastern states, a total of 14,000 kilometres of railway line was open, but of this length only 4,000 kilometres was electrified.