

INFRASTRUCTURE

TRANSPORT

Marine:

The Italian merchant marine totals more than 11 million tons and its principal routes are in the Mediterranean, to North America, and to Australia. The main ports of entry for non-European fish products are Genoa, Naples and Venice, whereas most fish products imported from other European countries enter Italy by road. Entry of fish products is not restricted to particular ports. Net income from the carriage of freight is one of the most important items in Italy's balance of payments. The state is a major shareholder in Italian shipping through the company Finmare, which controls the major shipping lines.

Air:

The state airline, Alitalia, operates a wide network of domestic and international services. Alitalia and foreign airlines maintain excellent services to all parts of the world from Rome and Milan.

Land:

The railroad system is principally operated by the Italian State Railways (FS), a government agency. A small section of the system is operated by private companies on concession. The total length of the railroad network is 10,000 miles (16,000 km), slightly more than half of it is electrified. National as well as international connections are adequate.

The highway/road system is approximately 197,000 miles (315,200 km), including over 3000 miles (4800 km) of super highways (autostrada). The network connects the major industrial centres and offers access to Northern Europe. Extensive trucking services are mainly operated by private companies under government concession. Inland transport is a factor to be considered, due to cost and delays.

Warehousing:

Goods must be declared within 15 days after arrival at customs. In exceptional cases, this period may be extended at the discretion of the Chief of Customs, but may not exceed three months. If not claimed within three months after arrival, the goods will usually be considered abandoned and at the disposal of the Customs and at the end of another month, they may be sold. Shorter periods apply for dangerous or perishable goods. Goods may be declared for consumption, warehousing, transit and reexportation.