

TRANSPORTATION

The scale of economic growth over the past 25 years has had enormous influence on the transport system in South Korea. This has meant a rapid expansion of the passenger and freight markets, commercial passenger transport rose 54% in the 10 years to 1990 in terms of passenger/km, commercial freight transport rose by 91% in terms of ton/km in the same period.

AIR

Seoul's Kimpo International airport is served by 25 international carriers, and Pusan and Cheju also have limited international air service. Domestic airlines provide daily service to the major cities and industrial areas. Domestic air travel increased its share of the passenger market with an average annual growth of 22% between 1980 and 1990. Domestic flights carried 182,000 tons of freight in 1990, 14.2 times as much as in 1980. However, domestic civil aviation only accounted for 0.2% of all freight carried when compared to other modes of transportation.

MARITIME

Major ports include Pusan and Inchon, and smaller ports are located at Kangnung, Pohang, Masan, Mokpo and Kunsan. South Korean vessels carried only 18% of seaborne imports in 1973, but had increased that share to 33% in 1990. The growth of the South Korean merchant fleet has been very rapid. In 1970, the total tonnage carried by the fleet equalled 876,730 grt, by 1980 that total had risen to 4,071,488 grt, and had increased to 6,888,957 grt by 1990. Shipping easily makes up the largest portion of domestic freight transport with 47.8% of all consignments. South Korean ocean going vessels unloaded 57.6 million tons of freight in 1990, while foreign ocean going vessels unloaded 114.7 million tons of freight in the same year.

ROADS

All major cities in South Korea are connected by modern expressways. The government pursued an aggressive highway building program which has led to all districts and population centres of at least 50,000 people to be served by a system of paved roadways, an increase of 10 times in length over 1970. By 1990, the total length of South Korea's roadways totalled over 40,500 kilometres and carried 215 million tons of commercial freight, equal to 22% of total domestic freight carried during that time period, and these numbers are expected to increase in the future.

RAILWAYS

Despite a dwindling share of the domestic freight market, the railways have enjoyed two decades of fairly rapid growth in the volume of their business. The major ports of Pusan and Inchon are linked to Seoul by double-track railroad lines, and all major urban areas have railroad service. The volume of freight traffic increased by 1.75 times between 1970 and 1990, from 316,000 tons in 1970 to 579,000 tons in 1990. The total kilometres commercial freight was carried in 1990 equalled 13.5 billion kilometres. Commercial freight transport accounts for 31% of total freight transported in the country.