
TRANSPORTATION

Sweden transported over 40 million tons of goods during 1993. All major cities are ports, with very good deep water facilities for large vessels. These ports are modern and well equipped. Shipping services to northern Sweden are obstructed between the months of November and May, as the Gulf of Bothnia is frozen during this period. However, the large ports are normally kept open throughout the winter with the use of icebreakers.

The fleet has been declining rapidly in size due to high "flagging" costs in Sweden as well as worldwide overcapacity. However, mainly old vessels have been sold and partly replaced by new vessels, such that a third of the fleet is under four years old. Rivers are a less important part of the transport system, although 640 kilometres of inland waterways are used.

Air transportation is becoming more important in Sweden, particularly in serving the remote northern areas. Domestic air travel in Sweden is mainly run by small regional airlines, and international routes are served by the Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS), and many other international airlines. In 1993, the air system handled over 200 million tons/km of international freight.

Sweden is crossed by a comprehensive network of roads. In 1993, there were 98,848 kilometres of state administered roads in use of which 71 percent had a permanent surface and there were 1,032 kilometres of motorways.

Sweden has more miles of railway and more motor vehicles per capita than any other European country. There were 11,545 kilometres of railway in use at the end of 1993 (compared with 15,219 kilometres in 1960), of which 7,464 kilometres were electrified. During 1993, there were over 50 million tons of freight transported by the Swedish railway system.