

TRANSPORTATION

Great Britain is a crossroads for international air and marine routes from across Europe. All major cities in the United Kingdom have airport facilities and rail links, while the road network has been considerably enhanced by the completion of the London Orbital motorway. Travel between all points in the UK is generally quick and easy by all modes of transportation. Future transport linkages will benefit from the completion of the Channel Tunnel between England and France. Within Great Britain, road is the major means of transport for both goods and passengers, accounting for 63.2% of the total ton/km of goods carried and for 93.0% of passenger/km travelled in 1990.

GOODS TRANSPORT IN GREAT BRITAIN

Tons (bn)	1988	1989	1990
Road	1,758	1,812	1,749
Rail	150	146	141
Marine	109	109	105

ROADS

As of 1990, there were 358,034 kilometres of public roads in Great Britain, of which 0.9% were motorways and 13.3% other major roads. In general, tolls are not charged on British roads. Road haulage is in the hands of private industry. Exporters should note that maximum loads permitted on British roads are lower than those for continental Europe (38 MT as opposed to 42 MT), but these limits are expected to increase by the mid-1990's. In practice, this means that only about 20.5 MT can be loaded in Canada for delivery to destinations in the U.K. where road haulage is required. Domestically landed wet fish is moved overnight, every night, by road to ensure 7:00am delivery the next morning.

MARINE

The United Kingdom marine fleet has been affected by excess capacity and increasing international competition. At the end of 1990, there were 256 dry cargo ships and 39 bulk carriers within the fleet. The main ports in the United Kingdom are Sullom Voe, London, Grimsby/Immingham, Tees, Hartlepool, Milford Haven, Forth, Southampton, Orkney, Felixstowe, Liverpool and Medway.

AIR

Air transport is not particularly important within the UK due to the small distances involved. British airways is the UK's largest airline, and in terms of international scheduled services, is the largest in the world. Principal airports in the UK are London (Heathrow), London (Gatwick), Manchester and Glasgow. Air shipments usually come into Heathrow, but heavy traffic and goods transport through the terminal can cause significant delays.

RAIL

British Rail is responsible for the operation of the railways in the UK, and handled a total of £794,000,000 in freight receipts for the 1990-91 season.