

The transportation sector is a major infrastructural facility and a foundational constituent of national economy, trade transactions, and social and economic developments. Moreover, there exists a direct relationship between transport sector efficiency and economic growth. This sector is an intermediary that links agricultural, industrial, trade, and services activities on national and international levels.

Transportation sector plays a pivotal role in favorable income distribution, economic and social vulnerabilities' reduction, and alleviation of poverty ramifications and the income gap between urban and rural dwellers. Given the geopolitical status of Iran among neighboring states, development of an efficient transportation sector could have a significant impact on socioeconomic advancements. Based on national accounts data, in 1393, the value-added of "transport, storage, and communication" group grew by 2.9 percent at constant 1383 prices. Share of this sector in GDP reached 9.2 percent at current prices.

In the land transport sector (rail and road), 214.8 million passengers and 604.9 million tons of goods were transported, showing respectively 9.2 and 7.5 percent decrease compared with the year before. In the sea and air transport sectors, a total of 45.2 million passengers and 146.7 million tons of goods were transported, indicating

9.6 and 5.3 percent increase, respectively, compared with the year before.

Table 6.1. Performance of Transportation Fleet in 1393

	Passengers		Goods	
	Number (million persons)	Share (percent)	Weight (million tons)	Share (percent)
Road	190.0	73.1	570.0	75.8
Rail	24.8	9.5	34.9	4.6
Sea	17.1	6.6	146.7	19.5
Air	28.1	10.8	0.07	*
Total	260.0	100.0	751.7	100.0

Source: Statistical Yearbooks of the Islamic Republic of Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, and Islamic Republic of Iran Railways; Ports and Maritime Organization; and Civil Aviation Organization.

Government Investment

According to the Budget Law for 1393, a sum of Rls. 41.5 trillion was approved as credits for acquisition of non-financial-national assets projects of transportation sector (road, air, sea, and rail), down by 18.1 percent compared with the approved figure of the previous year. According to the Treasury General, the government spent Rls. 36.4 trillion for the implementation of transportation sector projects, showing 87.8 percent realization compared with the approved figure and 1.8 percent increase compared with the year before.

Table 6.2. Credits Paid for Acquisition of Non-financial–National Assets in Transportation Sector (billion rials)

	1391	1392	1393	Percentage change	
				1392	1393
Transportation sector	16,996.3	35,787.2	36,437.8	110.6	1.8

Source: Treasury General, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance.

In this year, road and rail transport sectors accounted for the highest shares of paid credits by 60.1 and 37.5 percent. Performance figures for the road and rail transport sectors revealed 4.3 percent decrease and 14.1 percent increase, respectively.

Freight and Passenger Transport

Road Transport

In 1393, the share of road transport sector in total carried passengers was 73.1 percent and in total carried goods, 75.8 percent. Moreover, 570 million tons of goods (with and without bill of lading) were carried by road, showing 8.2 percent fall compared with 1392. Approximately 12.3 million tons of goods were transited by road, showing 6.5 percent increase compared with the year before.

In this year, 190 million passengers, using the public transport system, were carried by road (based on manifest), indicating 10.0 percent decline compared with the previous

year. The number of carried passengers measured in person-kilometers decreased by 11.8 percent and reached 49.8 billion person-kilometers. In 1393, the average number of carried passengers was 11.3 persons and the average distance traveled by public transport was 192 kilometers (based on manifest). Total number of passengers carried by road in this year was estimated at 318 million persons.

The length of the roads under the supervision of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (excluding rural roads) reached 85.9 thousand kilometers by end-1393, of which 2.8 percent were freeways, 16.9 percent highways, 29.0 percent main roads, and 51.3 percent side roads.

Figure 6.1. Growth in the number of carried passengers

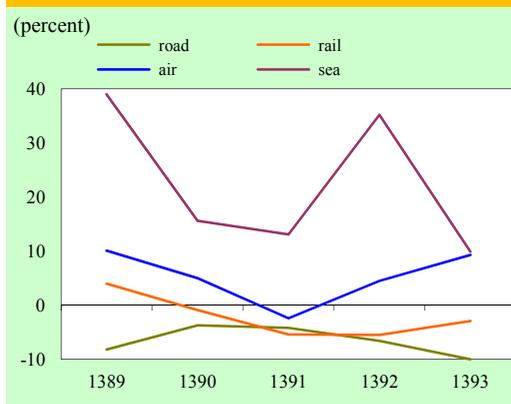


Table 6.3. Road Transport

	1391	1392	1393	Percentage change	
				1392	1393
Carried goods (million tons)	611	621	570	1.6	-8.2
Transited goods (million tons)	10.8	11.6	12.3	7.8	6.5
Carried passengers					
Total carried passengers (million persons) ▲	226	211	190	-6.6	-10.0
Public transport (million persons)	416	388	318	-6.7	-18.0
Share of public transport in carried passengers (percent)	54.3	54.4	59.7	0.1 ¹	5.4 ¹

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Islamic Republic of Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization. ¹ In percentage points.

Rail Transport

In 1393, a total of 24.8 million passengers were carried by rail, registering 2.9 percent fall compared with the previous year. Accordingly, rail share in total carried passengers was 9.5 percent.

Total goods carried by railway increased by 6.8 percent to 34.9 million tons. Rail share in total freight transport was 4.6 percent. Furthermore, about 797 thousand tons of goods (including oil and non-oil goods) were transited by rail, up by 50.4 percent compared with the year before.

The number of locomotives reached 869 at year-end, revealing 5.8 percent growth compared with the previous year. The ratio of locomotives in service to total locomotives (operation coefficient) was 58.6 percent, showing 2.7 percentage points increase compared with the previous year. Moreover, 231.0 kilometers of railroads were renovated and 150.1 kilometers of railroads were reconstructed.

Air Transport

The total number of air passengers in 1393 rose by 9.3 percent to 28.1 million

persons. Therefore, air share in total passenger transport equaled 10.8 percent. The share of non-public sector in domestic flights was 78.5 percent and in international flights, 70.8 percent. The number of passenger aircraft belonging to the national air fleet increased by 9.5 percent to 242 in this year.

In 1393, the amount of cargo carried by air (domestically and abroad) amounted to 73.0 thousand tons, indicating 15.9 percent rise compared with the previous year.

Figure 6.2. Shares of passenger and freight vehicles based on age of vehicles by end-1393

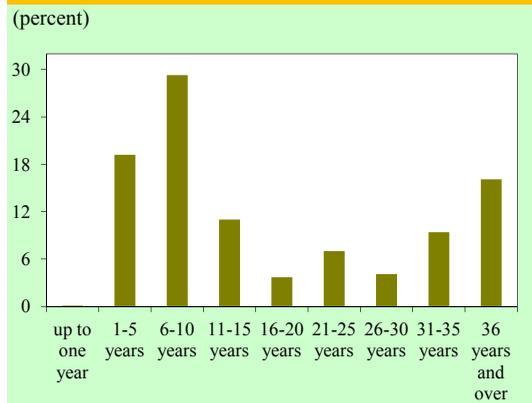


Table 6.4. Rail Transport

	1391	1392	1393	Percentage change	
				1392	1393
Carried passengers (million persons)	27.0	25.5	24.8	-5.5	-2.9
Carried goods (million tons)	34.3	32.7	34.9	-4.6	6.8
Transited goods (thousand tons)	906.0	530.0	797.0	-41.5	50.4

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways.

Table 6.5. Air Transport

	1391	1392	1393	Percentage change	
				1392	1393
Carried passengers (million persons)	24.6	25.7	28.1	4.5	9.3
Domestic flights	16.6	16.6	17.4	0.0	4.8
International flights	8.0	9.1	10.7	13.8	17.6
Carried goods (thousand tons)	80.0	63.0	73.0	-21.3	15.9
Transit flights (thousand)	165.0	179.0	273.0	8.5	52.5

Source: Civil Aviation Organization.

Sea Transport

The nominal capacity of commercial ports (oil and non-oil goods) reached 200.0 million tons in 1393, indicating 5.3 percent growth compared with the previous year. Moreover, the capacity of the commercial sea transportation fleet was 5.2 million tons in this year, indicating 1.9 percent decrease compared with 1392.

Port container traffic increased by 10.4 percent, from 2,219.9 thousand TEU¹ in the year before to 2,450.6 thousand TEU in 1393. Furthermore, port container capacity amounted to 5.3 million TEU, remaining unchanged compared with the previous year.

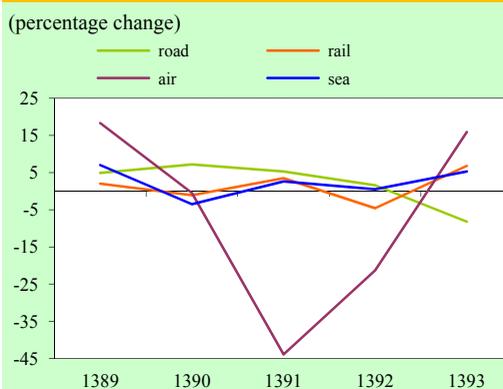
Performance of ports in 1393 indicated that loading and unloading of oil products amounted to 44.0 million tons, down by 0.3 percent. Loading and unloading of non-oil goods, on the other hand, reached 102.6 million tons, up by 7.8 percent compared with the previous year.

Table 6.6. Loading and Unloading of Goods at Ports (million tons)

	1391	1392▲	1393	Percentage change	
				1392	1393
Non-oil goods	97.4	95.2	102.6	-2.3	7.8
Oil products	41.2	44.1	44.0	7.1	-0.3
Total	138.6	139.3	146.7	0.5	5.3

Source: Ports and Maritime Organization.

Figure 6.3. Volume of carried goods



¹ Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit.