

Chapter VII: Transport

This chapter deals with rail, land, maritime, and air transport. Data were principally compiled from national sources and from the publications produced by the League of Arab States, GCC and the Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics.

Table VII-1 provides data on shipping by railways for the period 2002-2006. The data cover length of lines, volume of goods transported by rail, and passenger numbers. In 2003, total operational rail length in the region, excluding Jordan and Iraq, amounted to some 16,000 kilometers (km), passenger movement ranged from 607 million passengers/km in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2005 to more than 52 billion passengers/km in Egypt in 2006, while freight movement ranged between 2.3 billion ton/km net in Syrian Arab Republic in 2005 to 3.6 billion ton/km net in Egypt in 2006.

VII-1

Table VII-2 illustrates land transport, namely, the length of asphalted, paved and unpaved roads. Table VII-3 gives the number of vehicles by type. Both tables cover the period 2002-2006. In 2003, total road length in the ESCWA region excluding Lebanon, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates amounted to some 411 thousand km. In 2003, the total number of vehicles of various type excluding Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Lebanon was some 7.5 million, of which 68 per cent were passengers vehicles, 28 per cent were small and large freight carriers, and 4 per cent were buses.

VII-2

VII-3

Table VII-4 details maritime merchant fleets in the ESCWA region for the years 1996, 2001 and 2006. In 2006, the total deadweight tonnage was 9.8 million tons and the total gross tonnage was 6.7 million tons respectively. The total gross tonnage in ESCWA region decreased by 16 per cent from the year 2001 to 2006.

VII-4

VII-5

Table VIII-5 provides data on sea born shipping in ESCWA member countries. The data include movement of vessels, goods and passengers for the years 1995, 2000, and the period 2002-2006. The available data show that Egypt had the highest share in terms of movement of the passengers for these years and Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates had the highest share in terms of movement of goods.

VII-6

Table VIII-6 presents data on air in ESCWA members for 1995, 2000 and the period 2002-2006 is presented in. Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates recorded the highest share among ESCWA members in terms of movement of planes, goods and passengers.