

TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

The transport and logistics sector is one of the main sectors within the Catalan economy. Most of the activities take place in the Catalan capital, Barcelona, due to its highly developed airport and (industrial) ports. Furthermore, Barcelona is located at a privileged physical location, because in a territorial radius of only five kilometres, different international corridors converge and all modes of transport come together: maritime, air, rail and road.

The city also has all the necessary facilities and infrastructure to carry out highly qualitative and large-scale logistics activities. The Barcelona Growth Centre develops policies in order to stimulate the sector.

(http://w42.bcn.cat/web/en/per-que-barcelona/sectors-estrategics/logistica_transport.jsp)

Zona Franca/Barcelona Free Port

The Zona Franca or Barcelona Free Port is currently the most active and largest industrial hub in Spain, with 250 businesses located in an industrial estate of six million m², well connected with the airport and main cargo train station of Catalonia.

The Free Port generates 45,667 direct and 274,000 indirect jobs. Furthermore, companies can enjoy several duty-free operators such as warehouses. All of these factors combined make the industrial area one of the city's main economic pillars.

Together with the other ports, and the expected expansion of the Port of Barcelona (co-funded by the EU), activities and opportunities in transport and logistics in the ports will keep increasing in the next coming years.

Aeroport El Prat

Barcelona's Airport El Prat is not only Spain's fastest growing airport in terms of passengers, also the amount of cargo is increasing rapidly every year. The total amount of transported goods increased in 2014 by 2.4%, with more than 102,000 tons of cargo. Germany, Qatar, the United States and the United Arab Emirates were the main destinations for cargo flights landing or taking off at Barcelona El Prat Airport. Furthermore, the airport is expanding its international and intercontinental destinations.

El Corredor Mediterráneo

The projected Mediterranean Railway Corridor is an international network of railways that will link Spain's main ports located at the Mediterranean Sea coast with Central and Northern Europe. It will link Spain's largest industrial areas, responsible for most of the country's exports, with France and the rest of Europe. Although the European Commission gave permission for this project at the end of 2013, the project itself is on a hold due to budgetary affairs.

The Corridor will offer great potentials for increased use of Spanish railways. Nevertheless, Catalonia is already well connected by (high-speed) trains with national and international destinations such as Zaragoza, Madrid, and Paris.

International Corridors

The highway network is the main transport system of Catalonia, as 80% of the goods transported in Catalonia are transported by road. Catalonia possesses

high quality roads and is well connected to all major national destinations as well as to the South of France.

Magnitude

According to the sector's professional association Barcelona-Catalunya Centre Logístic the logistics sector contributes to the economic development of Catalonia with more than 4% of the gross added value in Catalonia, 12% of the gross added value of the services sector, and 4% of the people employed in Catalonia.

For example, only the Port of Barcelona represents almost 2% of Catalonia's GDP. Based on the two complementary and global ports of Barcelona and Tarragona; this system is responsible for 60% of international traffic and ensures the competitiveness of Catalonia in a globalized economy.

Economic forecasts for the transport and logistics sector in Catalonia are favourable; the expansion of the Port, the increasing flights on airport El Prat, and the planned arrival of the Mediterranean Railway Corridor secure that the sector will keep developing and expanding in the future.

Supply Chain

An overview of the companies involved in transport and logistics in Spain, can be found here: http://www.logisticsspain.com/Logistics_Spain.

Companies within the sector in Catalonia, are listed here: <http://www.bcncl.es/es/>.