



Transport

South Africa's sophisticated road, rail and air transport infrastructure serves millions each day, keeping the wheels of business and industry turning to promote socio-economic development.

Agencies

The four bodies tasked with commercialising certain elements of the Government's operational activities are the South African National Roads Agency Ltd, the South African Maritime Safety Authority, the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency and the Civil Aviation Authority.

Transnet Limited

Transnet is a public company wholly owned by the Government. It is a dominant player in southern Africa's transport infrastructure.

Transnet consists of 10 divisions – Spoornet, the National Ports Authority (NPA), Port Operations, Freight Dynamics, Petronet, Metrorail, Propnet, Transtel, Transwerk and South African Airways (SAA).



FACT

On 31 July 2003, the Durban Container Terminal handled 2 555 container vehicles through its gates – the highest number in a 24-hour period in the port's history.

South African roads:

South Africa's national road network currently covers 7 200 km, with about 20 000 km of primary roads planned in the future.

The roads include 1 400 km of dual carriageway freeway, 440 km of single carriageway freeway and 5 300 km of single-carriage main road with unlimited access. Approximately 1 900 km are toll-roads, serviced by 27 mainline toll plazas.

Source: www.southafrica.info

The company handles 176 million tons (Mt) of rail freight per year, 2,8 Mt of road freight and 194 Mt of freight through the harbours. It also flies 6,1 million passengers per year. Transnet is worth about R69 million in fixed assets and has 80 000 employees.

Road transport

South Africa has the longest road network of any country in Africa.

In 2003/04 provincial budgets for infrastructure and road development rose by 7,5% to R5,1 billion.

Construction of the N4 Maputo Corridor Toll-Road has been completed, one of the few privately financed cross-border toll-roads in the world.

Minibus taxis are responsible for 65% of the 2,5 billion annual passenger trips in urban areas, as well as a high percentage of rural and inter-city transport. A Taxi

New vehicle exports

Sector	2002	2003	March 2004
Cars	113 025	114 909	9 115
Light commercials	11 699	11 283	787
Medium, heavy, extra heavy commercials and buses	582	469	33
Total exports	125 306	126 661	9 935

Source: National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa

Percentage of adults owning cars:

1998: 17,1%
 2000: 16,8%
 2002: 15,4%

Source: South African Advertising Research Foundation

Recapitalisation Programme is set to replace the current ageing minibus taxi fleet with new, safer, purpose-built 18- and 35-seater vehicles which will be locally built.

Goods transport

Eighty percent of all freight carried in South Africa is done so by road. Nearly 7% of Gross National Product is spent on freight transport.

About 69% of road-freight tonnage is carried by firms or operators transporting freight in the course of their business, and 29% by road haulage firms.

Rail transport

Spoornet is the largest division of Transnet, and specialises in freight transport and long-distance passenger services. It also operates the Blue Train, a luxury train service. Transnet has an annual turnover of R13,1 billion and utilises 30 400 km of track, 2 410 locomotives, 88 000 wagons, and 2 097 passenger coaches.

With 80% of Africa's rail infrastructure, Spoornet also connects with other networks in sub-Saharan Africa.

Spoornet plans to invest R1 billion a year in rail transport over the next 15 years.

FACT

In mid-2003, the Department of Transport was reviewing its R4-billion annual transport subsidies. Each subsidised bus passenger gets about R198 in subsidies a month – 6,7% of the average household income. In the 2001/02 financial year, there were almost 380 million subsidised passenger trips.

It is expected that initial demand for the planned Gautrain Rapid Rail Link serving the Johannesburg-Tshwane corridor will be 104 000 passengers a day. An estimated 57 000 jobs will be created during construction.

Total goods conveyed by rail ('000 tons)

Year ending 31 March	Total
1996/97	180 356
1997/98	186 843
1998/99	182 655
1999/00	178 804
2000/01	185 183

Source: Spoornet

Other specialist Spoornet divisions

Coal Line – Responsible for transporting export coal from Mpumalanga to the Richards Bay Coal Terminal.

Ore Line – Which hauls iron ore over the 861 km track from Sishen in the Northern Cape to Saldanha Bay.

Shosholoza Meyl – Which offers daily inter-city passenger services.

Metrarail – Which provides commuter rail services in the Witwatersrand, Pretoria, Western Cape, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. Metrorail transports two million commuters to and from work daily.

Civil aviation

International airports are: Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth, Pilanesberg, Lanseria, Gateway (Polokwane), Nelspruit and Upington.

The Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport, near Nelspruit, was opened in October 2002.

The Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA) owns

Passengers departing from airports operated by ACSA in 2001/02

Domestic	6 903 680
Regional	266 569
International	2 877 185
Non-scheduled	75 597

Source: ACSA

and operates the nine principal airports, including the three major international airports in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. The others are domestic airports in Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth, East London, George, Kimberley and Upington.

ACSA's flagship development, the new R750-million domestic terminal at Johannesburg International Airport, will increase its capacity to serve more than 18 million passengers annually.

ACSA has committed R1 billion to the upgrading and development of Cape Town International Airport. A R10-million interim expansion project to extend the domestic terminal was completed in May 2003.

Construction of the new King Shaka International Airport 50 km outside Durban will start soon.

SAA

In addition to serving Africa, SAA operates services to Europe, Latin America and the Far East.

By December 2003, SAA was the only airline in South Africa which operated:

- 272 flights a week between Johannesburg and Cape Town
- 234 flights between Johannesburg and Durban
- 96 flights between Europe and South Africa
- 34 flights between the United States of America and South Africa
- 36 flights between Asia Pacific and South Africa
- 202 return flights a week between Johannesburg and major African cities.

Ports

The NPA controls seven of the 16 biggest ports in the region: Richards Bay, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, Mossel Bay, Cape Town and Saldanha.

Some R4,3 billion has been budgeted by the NPA for infrastructural investment.

Handling 55 Mt of cargo through five cargo terminals annually, Durban is the busiest port in southern Africa.