



Agricultural Atlas of Viet Nam A Depiction of the 2001 Rural Agriculture and Fisheries Census

Introduction

Transportation Network

The country's road network comprises approximately 200,000 km of roads, of which over 15,000 km are classified as national highways, 17,000 as provincial roads, and 36,000 as district roads. Though this is a relatively well-developed network, road quality is for the most part rather low, with the majority of roads in rural and remote areas unsealed, and many communes lacking road access at all.

Vietnam's main highway stretches over 1,700 km, from Ca Mau on the southern tip of the Mekong River Delta through Ho Chi Minh City, along the coast through the major ports of Cam Ranh, Danang and Vinh up to Hanoi, finally ending northeast of Lang Son at the Chinese border. In addition, the well-developed National Highway 5 connects Hanoi with the port city Hai Phong.

Vietnam's rail transport system stretches over 2,600 km. It connects to the Chinese rail network in Lang Son in the Northeast and in Lao Cai in the north, and extends on its main line through Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City. The rail network is largely based on the French-built system, the quality of which limits speeds to well below 50 km per hour on average. There are no electrified train lines in Vietnam. Though dated, the railway system is vital to the economy, carrying over 10,000,000 passengers annually, and transporting over 5,000,000 tons of cargo in 1999.

Inland waterways used for transport stretch over approximately 12,000 km and are of significant importance, particularly in the Red River Delta and the Mekong River Delta. Almost 40,000,000 tons of cargo are transported on rivers per year - nearly 30% of all domestic cargo.

Air transport is becoming increasingly important in Vietnam. Besides the three international airports in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Da Nang, there are 13 domestic airports used for civil aviation. The domestic air service connects several of the generally less accessible areas to the main cities of the country.

