



The Development of Transport in the Czech Republic

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Abstract

Before 1989, transport in the former Czechoslovakia met its tasks based on the controlling principles of planned economy, focused eastwards and oriented on cooperation between the Eastern Bloc countries within COMECON. Due to the preference for raw material extraction and heavy industry, the transport sector dealt mainly with transporting commodities of these branches with high demands in volume. The planned economic principles were also reflected by the consistent division of transport work with a preference for stack substrate transport by rail.

The change of the political and economic circumstances in November 1989 influenced the life and needs of society substantially. A market economy has come, focused on the market of developed European countries and having an impact on the transport sector as such, individual transport systems, transport preferences and transported commodities [2].

As at 1 January 1993, Czechoslovakia has been divided into two independent countries, i.e. the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Therefore the following data from the Transport Statistics of the Czech Republic [1] are comparable starting from 1994. The authors of the article had data available until 2006.

Keywords: Transport, Development trends, Commodities, Statistics.

1. Development of transport from 1994 to 2006

In freight transport, there was an overall decrease in this period (Picture 1, Table 1), as well as a change from the East – West direction to the West/North – South direction and the change of transport labour division (the split model). After the breakup of Czechoslovakia, the average transport distance was shortened, with a negative impact on railway transport. From the macroeconomic point of view, a decrease in transport demands was (and still is) desirable, expressed at the ratio of transport in the overall economic production of the economy. The split model was also disadvantageous, bringing a substantial decrease of railway transport in favour of road transport with all

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