

Jure Povšnar

The Boost of Road Freight Transport in Slovenia and its Communities

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Summary

Slovenian road freight transport has increased sharply in recent years, at most reflected increasing international transport. The volume of road freight transport of domestic carriers per capita, while average in 2003, increased to one of the highest among EU countries in 2008. Employment and value added improved more in companies than in private independent carriers. Road freight transport activity in Slovenian communities has developed very differently according to natural conditions, accessibility of road network and economic development in general, but it is still fairly evenly allocated across Slovenia. It is more concentrated in certain areas like on the way from Ljubljana to Dolenjska, in the Slovenj Gradec region, around the Gorenjska highway, in southern communities between Italy and Croatia, in the direction of Nova Gorica and southeast of Maribor. By value added per capita, the most developed truck driving communities are Trebnje, Šempeter - Vrtojba and Mozirje while the highest rise of this indicator in the period of 2003 to 2008 recorded in the communities of Črenšovci, Trebnje and Ivančna Gorica. In 2008, deteriorating business results in road freight transport was merely a consequence of higher fuel prices and optimistic pre-crisis investing; the global crisis worsened the situation in 2009. We estimate that in 2009, the greatest difficulties were experienced by truck drivers in communities where this activity had already recorded major losses in 2008 (e.g. Komenda, Podlehnik, from larger communities Trebnje, Ilirska Bistrica etc.) and in communities where some important economic activity to which road freight transport activity was closely connected was in trouble because of the crisis (e.g. Slovenj Gradec, Murska Sobota etc.).