

PORT

Connecting

What is Port?

A port can be defined as a harbor or an area that is able to provide shelter to numerous boats and vessels (transferring people or cargo), and can also allow constant or periodic transaction of shipment.

Ports are strategic geographical locations which are situated at the edge of ocean, seas, rivers, or lakes. These locations are then developed to inculcate facilities for loading and unloading of cargo ships.

Ports are also a major source of employment as a large number of workers are employed at the ports. See the Port show in Figure 1.1.



Figure 1.1.Port

Types of Ports

- Inland Ports
- Fishing Ports
- Warm Water Ports
- Dry Ports

- Sea Ports
- Airport

Inland Ports

Inland ports are ports built on comparatively smaller water bodies such as rivers or lakes. They can either be for cargo purpose or for passengers or for both. Conventionally Inland Ports are constructed or naturally maintained ports at the coastline of small waterways like lake, river or estuaries and rarely seen at sea coasts too.

Some of these inland ports can have access to the sea with the help of a canal system. As such ports are built on inland waterways they usually behave like normal seaports but are not able to allow deep draft ship traffic.

Some of the inland ports can be also be specifically made for recreational purpose allowing only small-sized vessels or can be used just for ferrying people and fishing activities.

Fishing Ports

Fishing ports are mainly related to the commercial sphere as they participate in fishing. The fishing activities can also be treated as a mode of recreation. The existence of a fishing port entirely relies upon the availability of fishes in that region of the ocean. A fishing port can be an inland port or a seaport.

Often, fishing ports are marketable port which is generally used for recreational purposes or aesthetics. These are the ports which allow controlled and disciplined fishing to their customers. These are the highest revenue-generating ports when properly operational.

Unlike other types of ports, the fishing port has an operational loophole that is this port is operational when there are fish available in the port area or locality. In the scarcity of fish in the vicinity these ports become uneconomical.

Warm Water Ports

These are the ports in which the water is maintained at warmer temperature. The biggest advantage where a warm water port is concerned, is that the water does not freeze during the frosty winters. Therefore, it is free to operate all year round without a temporary shutdown during the freezing time. Such ports help to a great extent to boost the economy of the nation.

These ports have a significant role in the economic growth of the region where these are located.

Dry Ports

Dry ports are defined as inland terminals that can be interconnected with a seaport via road or rail transportation facilities, and they usually act as centers of multimodal logistics. A dry port proves useful in the trade of importing and exporting cargo and can help to lessen the inevitable congestion at a nearby seaport. Its functions are quite similar to that of a seaport, with the only difference that is not situated near the coastline.

These are specifically employed for transshipment of cargo to inland destinations. It is a transshipment port which is connected to a seaport and manages intermittent operation like billing and managing co-ordination between importer and exporters.

Sea Ports

Seaports are the most common types of ports around the world which are used for commercial shipping activities these ports are built on a sea location and enable the accommodation of both small and large vessels.

Numerous seaports are situated along the coastline and actively handle the ongoing cargo transactions. A seaport can be further categorized as a cargo port or cruise port. Some of the oldest seaports are still used for recreational and fishing purpose.

Special warehouses are also constructed to store the shipment and to maintain the regular stocking. Added facilities such as hotels, restaurants, port reception facilities, restrooms and eateries can also be made available to rouse the interest of the people visiting the port. Seaports form some of the biggest and busiest ports in the world.

Seaports are the most common type of ports and a major part of water transportation. These are further classified into three categories namely: Cruise Port; Port of call and Cargo port. These all are briefed as under

- Cruise Home Ports
- Port of call
- Cargo Ports

Cruise Home Ports This type of port specializes in dealing with the activities of cruise ships and provide the platform for the passengers to enter and disembark the cruises at the beginning and the end of the journeys, respectively. A cruise home port is also capable of providing the essential provisions required for a luxurious cruise voyage. The supplying may vary from fuel resources to fresh drinking water, wines, foods etc.

Port of call is somewhere midway on ship's travel plan to accept fuel supply and stocking or unloading cargo.

Port of Call is a type of port which is paid a brief visit by a ship on the voyage. It is also used for carrying out essential repair works. Many passengers can also leave the vessel at a “port of call”.

It serves as a stopover port, in between the home ports of a particular vessel.

Cargo Ports As the name suggests, these ports act according to the cargo it manages and the amenities available differ from one port to the other. These are the special ports to handle cargo only. These ports are also known as “bulk ports”, “break bulk ports” or “container ports”.

The cargo ports involve many mechanical techniques to load or unload the shipment. A cargo port may be designed to deal with single, as well as multiple types of products.

Airport

Airport is basically an aerodrome which is intended to be use for the commercial activities. Airport may be internal or domestic. Highways, waterways and railways are important for the development of any nation but in present age where people are time conscious, the importance of airways and air transport is not avoidable.

Air transport is the quickest and efficient means of transportation of goods and people from one place to another either inside or outside the country. The air transport is helpful in improving the exports and imports. Thus, air transport is necessary for the economic development of any country. Due to the importance of airport, airport engineering has been introduced as a measure subject. It involves the design and construction of various facilities of an airport which are necessary for its efficient working.

UN/LOCODE

UN/LOCODE, the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations, is a geographic coding scheme developed and maintained by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). UN/LOCODE assigns codes to locations used in trade and transport with functions such as seaports, rail and road terminals, airports, Postal Exchange Office and border crossing points. The first issue in 1981 contained codes for 8,000 locations. The version from 2011 contained codes for about 82,000 locations.

Structure

UN/LOCODEs have five characters. The first two letters code a country by the table defined in ISO 3166-1 alpha-2. The three remaining characters code a location within that country. Letters are preferred, but if necessary digits 2 through 9 may be used, excluding "0" and "1" to avoid confusion with the letters "O" and "I" respectively.

For each country there can be a maximum of 17,576 entries using only letters (26×26×26), or 39,304 entries using letters and digits (34×34×34).

For the US, the letter combinations have almost all been exhausted. So in 2006, the Secretariat added 646 entries with a digit as the last character.

IATA airport codes

For airports, the three letters following the country code are not always identical to the IATA airport code. According to the Secretariat note for Issue 2006-2, there are 720 locations showing a different IATA code.