

Description of Data and Sources

Data contained in the accompanying state pages, which cover calendar year 2007, come from a number of sources. Most of the data for Class I railroads is derived from their R-1 Annual Reports to the Surface Transportation Board (STB); these data are published in several publications produced by the Association of American Railroads (AAR), including the *Analysis of Class I Railroads*. The primary source of data for non-Class I railroads is an AAR survey used to produce *Profiles of U.S. Railroads*, a database containing key statistics on all operating U.S. freight railroads. Some data for non-Class I railroads are estimated.

Number of Railroads

According to the AAR's *Profiles of U.S. Railroads*, there were 565 common carrier freight-hauling railroads operating in the United States at the end of 2007, including the non-Class I portions of the two major Canadian railroads operating in the United States. Passenger, commuter, and excursion railroads; subways and mass transit systems; and freight railroads which operate solely on behalf of an individual company and do not interchange traffic with other railroads comprising the U.S. railway network are not included in this total.

Miles of Railroad Operated

This figure shows the total miles of road (synonymous with route-miles, so that a mile of single track is counted the same as a mile of double track) operated in freight service. Lines operated under trackage rights provided by another (owning) railroad are attributed only to the owning carrier. Sidings, turnouts, yard switching mileage, and mileage not operated are excluded. Class I railroad figures are derived from the individual carriers' R-1 Annual Report. Figures for non-Class I railroads come from the AAR's *Profiles of U.S. Railroads*.

Total Carloads Carried

This figure shows the total number of loaded rail cars that originated in, terminated in, or passed through a given state in 2007. The data were developed from the STB's *2007 Waybill Sample*. The sample contains detailed information on the origination and termination of carloads by commodity and carrier for virtually all U.S. freight railroads. Normal statistical variations and limited sampling of very small railroads and states may cause minor distortions.

Total Tons Carried

This figure, comparable to the carloads figure described above, shows the total tons of rail freight transported in each state in 2007. The data come from the STB's *2007 Waybill Sample*.

Railroad Employees Living in State

This figure, from the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), shows the number of active contributors to the Railroad Retirement system by state. The figure includes freight rail employees, passenger rail (including commuter rail) employees, and employees of miscellaneous rail-related organizations such as trade associations and rail labor unions.

Rail Employees — Freight Employees Only

This figure is a subset of total railroad employees described above. Employment figures were derived from more than one source. For Class I and many non-Class I railroads, state-by-state employee distributions in 2006 (obtained from the RRB) were applied to 2007 employment figures obtained from individual railroads. Class I employment counts come from reports submitted to the STB; non-Class I employment counts come from *Profiles of U.S. Railroads*. Employment for some non-Class I carriers which operate in more than one state was apportioned over the respective states on the basis of the rail miles operated in each of those states.

Total Wages of Rail Employees

This figure was obtained by multiplying the number of rail industry employees in each state (see description above) by the national average rail industry wage as derived from the RRB's 2006 One Percent Sample of rail employees, adjusted upward by 3 percent to account for estimated wage increases from 2006 to 2007.

Total Wages — Freight Employees Only

For Class I railroads, a state-by-state estimate was calculated by multiplying the average wage for a given carrier (as submitted to the STB) by the number of that railroad's employees in each state, and then aggregating the results. For non-Class I railroads, the Railroad Retirement Board's 2006 One Percent Sample of rail industry employees was used to derive average wages for several types of non-Class I railroad. The resulting averages were raised by 3 percent to account for estimated wage inflation from 2006 to 2007. Then, for each state the average wage for each railroad category was multiplied by the number of employees per category. The results were then summed to obtain total wages.

Average Wages Per Freight Rail Employee

This amount was calculated by dividing "Total Wages — Freight Employees Only" by "Rail Employees — Freight Employees Only" for each state.

Average Fringe Benefits Per Freight Rail Employee

Estimated, based on a variety of sources, to equal 39.8 percent of wages. Includes health and welfare, railroad retirement, supplemental annuities, unemployment insurance, and other programs. Employees of Regional and Local railroads received a lower level of fringe benefits due largely to their lower average wages.

Total Compensation Per Freight Rail Employee

Equals the sum of average wages and average fringe benefits.

Railroad Retirement Beneficiaries, and Railroad Retirement Benefits Paid

The number of retirees and dependents over age 18 who receive benefits from the Railroad Retirement System, and the dollar value of benefits paid, was obtained from the Railroad Retirement Board, which administers the system.

Tons Originated and Tons Terminated

These figures show the top five commodities (measured by tonnage) originated and terminated by freight railroads in a given state in 2007. The data were developed from the STB's *2007 Waybill Sample* using two-digit Standard Transportation Commodity Codes (STCCs). Normal statistical variations and limited sampling of very small railroads may cause some distortions. To preserve confidentiality, in some states data from more than one commodity category have been aggregated or included in the "all other" category.