

## Description of Data and Sources

Data contained in the AAR state railroad pages, which cover calendar year 2009, 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 Freight 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 2009 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.

### Freight Railroad Mileage

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*.

### Number of Freight Railroad Employees

For Class I and many non-Class I railroads, state-by-state employee distributions in 2008 (obtained from the Railroad Retirement Board) were applied to 2009 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.

### Average Wages and Benefits Per Freight Rail Employee

For Class I railroads, a state-by-state estimate of average wages per employee was calculated by multiplying the average wage for a given railroad (as submitted to the STB) by the number of that railroad's employees in each state. The results for each railroad in each state were aggregated and multiplied by 37.5 percent, which is our estimate of the value of average railroad fringe benefits in 2009 (including health and welfare, railroad retirement, supplemental annuities, unemployment insurance, and other programs).

For non-Class I railroads, the Railroad Retirement Board's 2008 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 2008 to 2009. Then, for each state the average wage for each railroad category was multiplied by the number of employees per category, and the result was then multiplied by 37.5 percent as noted above. The results were then summed to obtain total compensation for each state. Average compensation per employee was calculated by dividing freight employees' total compensation by the number of freight rail employees for each state.

### **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.

### **Total Tons Carried**

This figure shows the total number of rail freight tonnage that originated in, terminated in, or passed through a given state in 2009. The data were developed from the STB's *2009 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.

### **Originated and Terminated Rail Traffic**

These figures show the top five commodities (measured by tonnage) originated and terminated by freight railroads in a given state in 2009. The data were developed from the STB's *2009 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.