

# Making a Private 140,000-mile Network Possible: Freight Rail Infrastructure and Equipment Safety

---

America's freight railroads spent more than \$660 billion from 1980 to 2016 on capital expenditures and maintenance expenses related to locomotives, freight cars, tracks, bridges, tunnels and other infrastructure and equipment. These investments ensure the safety of the vast rail network.

Looked at another way, railroads have invested more than 40 cents out of every revenue dollar right back into the safety and upkeep of a rail network that keeps our economy moving. What is more, the investment dollars are from railroads — not taxpayers.

In recent years, railroads have been spending more than ever before. The average U.S. manufacturer spends about 3% of revenue on capital expenditures. The comparable figure for U.S. freight railroads in recent years has been around 19%, or six times higher. The massive investment helps explain the industry's stellar safety record.

---

## At a Glance

- **Bridge Safety**  
Freight railroads annually spend billions of dollars on bridge safety, employ expert bridge safety personnel and inspect the more than 61,000 Class I railroad bridges in the United States.
- **Advanced Safety Technology**  
With more than 28,000 locomotives, 1.6 million railcars and enough rail to circle the earth nearly eight times, U.S. railroads rely on advanced technologies to monitor the condition of the freight rail network and the locomotives and railcars moving across it.
- **World-Class Testing**  
Many technological advancements are developed, refined and tested at the world's leading rail research facility, the Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (TTCI), in Pueblo, Colorado, or at the industry's premier information services company, Railinc, in Cary, N.C.