

FREIGHT RAIL IN CALIFORNIA



*It would have taken
8.5 MILLION TRUCKS
to handle the freight that moved
by rail in California in 2022.*

Class I Railroads

BNSF	2,087
Union Pacific	3,362
	5,449

Short Line Railroads

Arizona & California Railroad	91
California Northern Railroad	282
Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad	65
Goose Lake Railway	95
Merced County Central Valley Railroad	1
Modesto & Empire Traction	5
Napa Valley Railroad	18
Pacific Harbor Line	19
Quincy Railroad	3
Richmond Pacific Railroad	3
Sacramento Valley Railroad	7
San Diego & Imperial Valley Railroad	32
San Francisco Bay Railway	5
San Joaquin Valley Railroad	493
Santa Cruz, Big Trees and Pacific Railway	9
Santa Maria Valley Railroad	14
Sierra Northern Railway	120
SMART Freight	42
St. Paul & Pacific Railroad	32
Stockton Terminal & Eastern Railroad	25
Trona Railway	31
Ventura County Railroad	13
West Isle Line	6
West Oakland Pacific Railroad	2
Yreka Western Railroad	9
	1,422



FREIGHT RR EMPLOYEES

6,885

FREIGHT RRS

27

FREIGHT RR MILEAGE

4,985

RR RETIREMENT BENEFICIARIES

26,600

RR RETIREMENT BENEFITS

\$621M

RAIL TRAFFIC ORIGINATED

COMMODITY	TONS (M)	CARLOADS
Intermodal	36.9	2,832,000
Food products	4.4	50,500
Chemicals	3.0	29,600
Cement	2.4	22,200
Crushed stone & sand	2.0	18,300
Other	8.1	164,500
TOTAL	56.8M	3,117.1K

RAIL TRAFFIC TERMINATED

COMMODITY	TONS (M)	CARLOADS
Intermodal	41.0	2,639,600
Food products	11.7	120,500
Farm products	10.8	101,800
Chemicals	10.6	110,600
Refined petrol. prod.	5.3	64,200
Other	24.3	343,700
TOTAL	103.8M	3,380.5K

© The Association of American Railroads 2025. Data are for 2023 except for rail employment and truck equivalents, which are 2022. Total miles shown for the state exclude trackage rights, but miles shown for individual railroads include trackage rights. Some mileage and employment figures are estimates. Rail traffic figures are based on AAR analysis of industry data. Learn more about America's freight railroads at AAR.org/Railroad-101.



ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS



THE SAFEST WAY TO MOVE FREIGHT OVER LAND

Thanks in part to technologies like train inspection portals and cracked wheel detection, the Class I mainline accident rate is down 42% since 2000, and the last decade was the safest ever, with the 2023 hazmat accident rate at its lowest ever.



\$23B ANNUAL INVESTMENTS

Capital spending as a share of revenue for freight railroads is six times what it is for the average U.S. manufacturer.



HIGH PAYING JOBS

The average Class I railroad employee earns \$135,000 to nearly \$190,000 annually in pay and benefits.



MOVING ONE TON NEARLY 500 MILES ON ONE GALLON OF FUEL.

On average, railroads are three to four times more fuel efficient than trucks, and one train can take hundreds of trucks off the road.

