

# Illinois Rail Facts

- **Going the distance.** In Illinois alone, **52** freight railroads operate across **6,883 miles** of track.
- **Supporting jobs.** Illinois freight railroads employed **11,772 people** in 2019 and rail suppliers employed **9,418** as of 2017; nationwide, freight rail supported about **1.1 million jobs**.
- **Connecting markets.** The most common commodities originating from Illinois markets are, in carloads/year: **intermodal** (2.9 million), **farm products** (208,500), **coal** (200,200), **nonmetallic minerals** (128,600), and **food products** (92,400).
- **Powering state economies.** Spending by Class I railroads in 2017 generated nearly **\$220 billion** in U.S. economic activity and **\$26 billion** in state and federal tax revenues, according to a Towson University study.
- **Preserving infrastructure, cutting congestion.** Freight railroads take **28.2 million truckloads** off Illinois roads annually.
- **Reducing pollution.** Moving freight by rail prevented the emission of **12.5 million tons** of greenhouse gases in Illinois in 2019, the equivalent of planting **189 million trees**.

