

# Illinois Rail Facts

- **Going the distance.** In Illinois alone, **49** freight railroads operate across **7,151 miles** of track.
- **Supporting jobs.** As of 2017, Illinois freight railroads and their suppliers employed **27,113 people**; nationwide, freight rail supported about **1.1 million jobs**.
- **Connecting markets.** The most common commodities originating from Illinois markets are, in carloads/year: **intermodal** (3.2 million), **coal** (332,600), **chemicals** (113,800), **food products** (99,400), and **farm products** (94,100).
- **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 **26.8 million truckloads** off Illinois roads annually.
- **Reducing pollution.** Moving freight by rail instead of trucks reduces greenhouse gas emissions by an average of **75 percent**.

