



# Freight Rail & Trade

WHY IT MATTERS



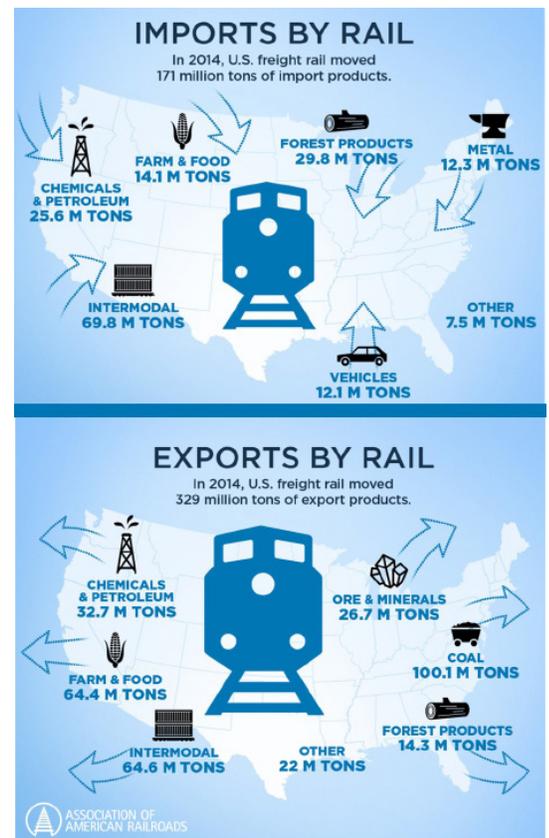
**International trade supports 41 million jobs across the United States, including 50,000 freight rail jobs worth over \$5.5 billion in annual wages and benefits.**

Privately owned freight rail — an industry that connects and serves nearly every industrial, wholesale, retail and resource-based sector of the economy — offers a distinct perspective on how trade powers our economy. Indeed, a recent report found that **42% of rail carloads** and intermodal units and **35% of annual rail revenue** are directly associated with trade.

Without freight railroads, American industry and consumers could not participate in the global economy anywhere near as fully as they do today. Limiting trade might save some jobs, but it would also eliminate many more — along with the huge productivity and quality of life advancements they entail.

**Trade-associated rail traffic can be found in every part of the country.**

Trains take Midwest grain to the Pacific Northwest and Gulf Coast for export. Containers of consumer goods originating in Asia arrive at ports in Los Angeles, Long Beach, Oakland, Tacoma, Miami, Savannah, Norfolk, and Newark and reach the rest of the country via rail. In Maryland, Virginia, the Gulf Coast and the great lakes, trains move coal to ports for export. The examples go on — from outbound Minnesota iron ore to the import and export of automotive products for factories in dozens of U.S. states.



## USMCA AT A GLANCE

- North American trade, worth more than \$1 trillion, supports 14 million U.S. jobs, and saves consumers at least \$7 billion annually.
- Railroads are proud partners to farmers across the country, helping link them to the world. North American trade supports 50,000 agriculture jobs and \$13 billion of GDP. One in every 10 planted acres in the U.S. feeds people in Mexico or Canada.
- The auto industry’s competitiveness hinges on the North American supply chain, through which vehicle components cross the Mexican and Canadian borders, most often by freight rail, as many as eight times in the vehicle assembly process. Railroads are involved in many stages of auto manufacturing — from hauling the raw iron ore and coke needed to make steel to ultimately moving 75% of automobiles and light trucks.