South Dakota Rail Facts

- Going the distance. In South Dakota alone, 10 freight railroads operate across 2,029 miles of track.
- Supporting jobs. As of 2017, South Dakota freight railroads and their suppliers employed 1,024 people; nationwide, freight rail supported about 1.1 million jobs.
- Connecting markets. The most common commodities originating from South Dakota markets are, in carloads/year: corn (42,700), soybeans (33,200), ethanol (29,000), wheat (18,900), and food products (16,800).
- 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 6.6 million truckloads off South Dakota roads annually.
- Reducing pollution. Moving freight by rail instead of trucks reduces greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 75 percent.



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