

Iowa Rail Facts

- **Going the distance.** In Iowa alone, 16 freight railroads operate across 3,834 miles of track.
- **Supporting jobs.** As of 2017, Iowa freight railroads and their suppliers employed 3,181 people; nationwide, freight rail supported about 1.1 million jobs.
- **Connecting markets.** The most common commodities originating from Iowa markets are, in carloads/year: food products (199,000), chemicals (146,000), and farm products (83,500).
- **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 17.4 million truckloads off Iowa roads annually.
- **Reducing pollution.** Moving freight by rail instead of trucks reduces greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 75 percent.

