Idaho Rail Facts

- Going the distance. In Idaho alone, 12 freight railroads operate across 1,729 miles of track.
- Supporting jobs. As of 2017, Idaho freight railroads and their suppliers employed 2,326 people; nationwide, freight rail supported about 1.1 million jobs.
- Connecting markets. The most common commodities originating from Idaho markets are, in carloads/year: nonmetallic minerals (26,500), food products (22,300), lumber, wood products (12,400), farm products (12,000), and chemicals (11,000).
- 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 6.4 million truckloads off Idaho roads annually.
- Reducing pollution. Moving freight by rail instead of trucks reduces greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 75 percent.



