

FREIGHT RAIL IN

ALABAMA



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RailChampions.org

Moving Alabama's Economy. Connecting Communities.

With Alabama producing a quarter of all automobiles manufactured in the South and the Port of Mobile preparing to handle more traffic flowing through an expanded Panama Canal, freight rail is helping power the state's economy. Railroads connect manufacturers, farmers, ports, and businesses across Alabama while reducing highway congestion, lowering emissions, and supporting thousands of good-paying jobs.



3,210

FREIGHT TRACK MILES



2,675

FREIGHT RAIL EMPLOYEES



3.6M

TONS GHG SAVED



8M

TRUCKLOADS SAVED

ORIGINATING

Top Commodities Originating

Coal	7.7M Tons 65.3K Cars
Steel Products	5.4M Tons 60.3K Cars
Crushed Stone & Sand	5.2M Tons 46.3K Cars
Cement	3M Tons 28.4K Cars
Pulp & Paper	4.1M Tons 53.4K Cars
Other	12.9M Tons 260.1K Cars



513.8K

TOTAL CARS



38.3M

TOTAL TONS

RECEIVED

Top Commodities Received / Terminated

Coal	19.2M Tons 162.6K Cars
Chemicals	3.7M Tons 39K Cars
Grain	3.1M Tons 29K Cars
Steel Products	2.9M Tons 33.2K Cars
Waste & Scrap	2.7M Tons 28.9K Cars
Other	11.1M Tons 190.2K Cars



482.9K

TOTAL CARS



42.7M

TOTAL TONS



ALABAMA'S Rail Heritage

Alabama's rail story began in 1832 with the opening of the **Tuscumbia Railway**, one of the nation's earliest railroads. Built to bypass the Tennessee River's Muscle Shoals, it helped demonstrate how rail could connect communities and expand commerce. The line also operated the first steam locomotive west of the Allegheny Mountains, marking Alabama's place in the early history of American railroading. Although rail construction slowed during the Civil War, the decades that followed saw rapid expansion as new rail lines fueled Alabama's growing coal, iron, and steel industries while connecting communities and supporting passenger travel.



Class I Railroads

BNSF Railway	231
Canadian National	22
Canadian Pacific Kansas City	44
CSX Transportation	1,011
Norfolk Southern	1,304
Total	2,612

Short Line Railroads

Alabama & Gulf Coast Railway	374
Alabama & Tennessee River Railway	120
Alabama Export Railroad	12
Alabama Southern Railroad	68
Alabama Warrior Railway	2
Autauga Northern Railroad	46
Bay Line Railroad	50
Birmingham Terminal Railway	76
Conecuh Valley Railroad	14
Eastern Alabama Railway	28
Georgia Southwestern Railroad	17
Luxapalila Valley Railroad	23
Meridian and Bigbee Railroad	158
R.J. Corman Railroad – Childersburg Line	13
Sequatchie Valley Switching	4
Tennessee Southern Railroad	20
Terminal Railway Alabama State Docks	8
Three Notch Railway	36
Wiregrass Central Railway	22
Total	1,091

ALABAMA
State Rail Network



- SHORT LINE / REGIONAL
- UP
- CN
- BNSF
- CPKC
- CSX
- NS
- MULTIPLE OWNERS
- AMTRAK
- GMXT

Why Freight Rail Matters



Supports Manufacturing

Rail connects manufacturers with suppliers and customers across North America, efficiently moving raw materials and finished goods.



Strengthens Agriculture

Rail helps move crops, forest products, fertilizers and other agricultural goods efficiently and affordably.



Reduces Congestion

Moving freight by rail removes trucks from highways, helping reduce traffic and wear on road infrastructure.



Protects the Environment

Freight rail is significantly more fuel efficient than moving freight by truck, helping reduce fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions.

