FREIGHT RAIL IN

ARKANSAS

Moving Arkansas's Economy. Connecting Communities.

Railroads help form a seamless and integrated freight transportation web in partnership with river ports and motor carriers in Arkansas.

2,502
FREIGHT TRACK MILES

2,401
FREIGHT RAIL EMPLOYEES

8.6M
TRUCKLOADS SAVED

ORIGINATING

Top Commodities Originating

Crushed Stone & Sand	**6.5M** Tons | **57K** Cars
Steel Products	**3.2M** Tons | **35.3K** Cars
Intermodal	**1.7M** Tons | **118.8K** Cars
Lumber & Wood Products	**1.5M** Tons | **16.5K** Cars
Food Products	**1.1M** Tons | **11.2K** Cars
Other	**5.6M** Tons | **68.1K** Cars

306.9K TOTAL CARS

19.6M TOTAL TONS

RECEIVED

Top Commodities Received / Terminated

Coal	**11.1M** Tons | **91.9K** Cars
Waste & Scrap	**2.3M** Tons | **24K** Cars
Food Products	**2.2M** Tons | **22.5K** Cars
Chemicals	**2M** Tons | **21K** Cars
Grain	**1.9M** Tons | **18.5K** Cars
Other	**5.1M** Tons | **164.3K** Cars

342.2K TOTAL CARS

24.6M TOTAL TONS

ARKANSAS'S

Rail Heritage

In 1853, the Arkansas legislature chartered the state's first real link to the national rail network: the Cairo and Fulton Railroad. Construction dragged for two decades, but the first through train finally ran from Little Rock to St. Louis in December 1873, and the line reached Texarkana the following year, opening Arkansas to trade with markets across the country. The railroad's original route still carries freight today, serving as a key corridor for the Texas petrochemical industry moving products toward the Northeast. That early connection pulled Arkansas into the national economy and set the course for the freight network the state relies on today.

Class I Railroads

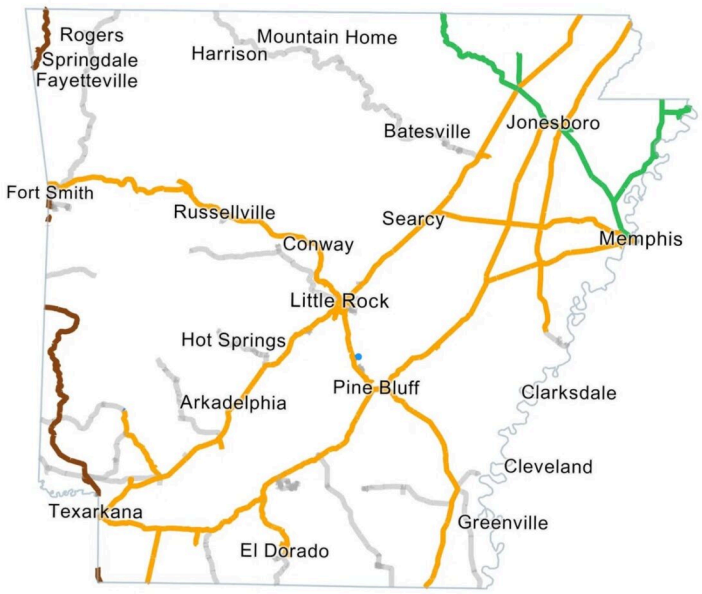
BNSF Railway	1,056
Canadian Pacific Kansas City	162
Union Pacific	1,324
Total	**2,542**

Short Line Railroads

Arkansas & Missouri Railroad	117
Arkansas Midland Railroad	140
Arkansas Southern Railroad	56
Arkansas, Louisiana & Mississippi Railroad	73
Bauxite & Northern Railway	7
Camden & Southern Railroad	3
Dardanelle & Russellville Railroad	5
De Queen & Eastern Railroad	47
Delta Valley & Southern Railway	2
El Dorado & Wesson Railway	6
Fort Smith Railroad	24
Kiamichi Railroad	36
Little Rock & Western Railway	87
Little Rock Port Authority Railroad	12
Louisiana & North West Railroad	24
Missouri & Northern Arkansas Railroad	126
North Louisiana & Arkansas Railroad	46
Ouachita Railroad	13
Prescott and Northwestern Railroad	9
Warren & Saline River Railroad	3
Total	**836**

ARKANSAS

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.