



Illinois Rail Facts

Railways have been instrumental in the development of the Illinois' economy. Illinois is the center of the nation's rail network, and Chicago represents the largest U.S. rail hub in North America. Illinois' rail system is critical to moving people and goods. The rail system in Illinois is privately owned and maintained, stimulating local, state, regional and national economic activity by providing safe, efficient, low cost and environmentally-friendly transportation services. For Illinois business and industries shipping or receiving low value, dense products, from or to long distances, rail access is not just a convenience, but a necessity for doing business.

Did you know...

- Illinois is the only state in which all Seven Class I railroads operate
- Illinois has the second largest rail system in the nation, second only to Texas, with nearly 7,000 miles of railroad track
- Chicago is the nation's busiest rail freight gateway and the third largest intermodal container/trailer port in the world, following Singapore and Hong Kong
- Nearly 500 freight trains and 700 passenger trains travel through Chicago every day
- More than 500 million tons of freight move on Illinois' rail systems each year, which is the most of any state in the nation
- Illinois ranks first in carloads carried
- Freight rail volume is expected to double by 2025
- Illinois has more than 10,000 places where public highways and rail crossings meet
- There are over 60 railroad companies that operate their trains in and through Illinois, which is the highest in the nation
- Illinois was one of a handful of states selected for a \$1.2 billion federal award to bring high-speed passenger rail service to Illinois
- The state supports 30 daily Amtrak trains traveling to Milwaukee, St. Louis, Quincy and Carbondale
- Nearly 2 million passengers took Amtrak in 2015

