

# Freight Overview

Supporting Oregon's broad-based economy requires a reliable and connected multimodal freight transportation system. Whether transporting wheat grown in Morrow County to the Port of Portland or bringing pears grown in Jackson County to the northern Oregon coast, the ability to move freight efficiently is critical in preserving Oregon's way of life.

## Quick facts

- A variety of **motor carriers ply Oregon's highways**, transporting goods into, out of, and all around the state.
- Railroads haul **bulk commodities** over long, and increasingly intermediate, distances.
- Ships and barges haul **bulk loads** over long, and increasingly intermediate, distances.
- Airplanes carry primarily **high-value or highly perishable** goods.
- Pipelines move **liquids and gases**.

## How freight moves

- Oregon has established a freight movement system where **providers rely on each other**, allowing competitive partnerships and opportunities for growth.
- Short-line **railroads work with local truckers** and highway users to create more efficient uses within the freight system.
- **Rail, truck and marine carriers work together**, often through intermodal connections, forming intra- and interstate partnerships.
- Aviation transports mainly high-value, low-weight and perishable goods in and out of most Oregon airports.

## Exports play big role

- As the nation's **ninth most** trade-dependent state in the U.S., slowing in global trade has a significant impact on the state's economy.
- Oregon exports began precipitous decline in late 2008 and continued to slow in 2009; however, manufacturing continues to lead the way in Oregon's economy.
- In 2008, **Oregon exported \$19.4 billion of goods** to foreign markets.
- Between 2007 and 2008, export growth in Oregon (at 17.2 percent) exceeded the national average (at 11.8 percent). **Oregon's exports to China surged 73 percent** from 2007 to 2008.
- About half of Oregon's total exports go to countries in Asia; the state's number one **single largest importer of goods is Canada** (17 percent).
- Oregon's largest export industries are **computers and electronic products** (41 percent) and crops (15 percent), followed by transportation equipment (8 percent), and machinery (8 percent).

*Source: Oregon Business Development Department*



### **The future of Oregon business**

- Machinery manufacturing, chemical manufacturing and primary metal manufacturing have moved up in importance to the state's economy.
- Businesses the state is targeting require a solid, multimodal transportation system:
  - Advanced manufacturing
  - Clean technology
  - Forestry and wood products
  - High technology
  - Outdoor gear and apparel

*Source: Oregon Business Development Department*

### **Oregon Freight Advisory Committee (OFAC)**

- OFAC advises the Oregon Transportation Commission on issues that affect freight mobility.
- The group is involved with the *ConnectOregon* programs, authorized by the 2005, 2007 and 2009 Oregon legislatures.
- The committee consists of shippers, carriers, association and agency representatives and other stakeholders.
- Formed in 1998, OFAC was formalized by the legislature in 2001.

For more information, contact: ODOT Freight Mobility Unit Manager, (503) 986-3520.

# Truck Freight

## Interstate highways and trucks

- I-5 is the most important north-south truck route in Oregon, Washington and California, with about **12,200 trucks crossing the Interstate Bridge** between Portland and Vancouver, Wash., every day.
- **I-84 connects I-5 traffic with Idaho** and states farther east.
- About **12,400 trucks daily cross the I-5 Marquam Bridge**.
- About **9,900 trucks daily cross the I-205 Glenn Jackson Bridge**.
- In metropolitan areas, trucks make up less than 15 percent of all traffic on major routes.
- Trucks make up more than 45 percent of all traffic on parts of I-84 in Oregon's rural Baker and Malheur counties.

## Other important truck routes that criss-cross the state include:

- U.S. 97, a major north-south highway through central Oregon.
- Highways traversing mountain passes from western Oregon to central and eastern Oregon.
- Highways moving people from the Willamette Valley to the Oregon coast.
- Highways in Oregon's metropolitan area.

## Oregon's Green Light program saves time, money

Green Light uses weigh-in-motion scales and transponders to let **trucks bypass 21 weigh stations** throughout Oregon. The 22nd Green Light site will open in late 2010 with the completion of a new southbound I-5 weigh station near Myrtle Creek in southern Oregon.

## Truck Facts for 2008-2009

ODOT's Motor Carrier Transportation Division annually registers approximately 50,000 Oregon-based trucks and issues credentials for 250,000 out-of-state trucks operating in the state. The division accomplished the following in 2008-2009:

	2008	2009
Temporary passes and trip permits	231,008	240,051
Weight-mile taxes	\$240 million	\$216 million
Registration fees	\$22 million	\$31 million
Oversize, overweight and special variance fees	306,196	270,378
Trucks weighed	3,554,133	3,558,979
Trucks requiring corrections	3,485	3,171
Citations issued for various violations	21,817	19,710
Warnings issued for various violations	20,265	18,551
Inspections performed/managed	60,550	53,328

- Green Light saves time and money for more than **4,600 trucking companies** with **38,000 trucks**.
- More than **12 million “Green Lights”** have been given to truckers since 1997.
- In 2008, truckers got a green light to **bypass weigh stations 1,481,278 times**. In 2009, they got a **green light 1,504,040 times**. That’s about 4,100 times a day.
- If each Green Light saves five minutes, the program **saved truckers more than 125,000 hours of travel time** in 2009 alone.
- The Woodburn Port of Entry on southbound I-5 is the busiest Green Light weigh station. In 2009, it **precleared trucks 375,784 times**.

#### For more information

- Visit [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/MCT/](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/MCT/) to learn about trucking in Oregon.
- Visit [OregonTruckingOnline.com](http://OregonTruckingOnline.com) to conduct truck-related business online or access public information about trucking companies operating in Oregon.
- For over-dimension truck permits, call the Motor Carrier Transportation Division at (503) 373-0000.



# Rail Freight

## Moving freight by rail:

- Reduces highway congestion and wear.
- Helps keep shipping prices competitive.
- Links together regions and other transportation modes.
- Plays a key role in Oregon's economy.

## Rail freight facts

- Oregon has **two Class I railroads**: the Union Pacific and the BNSF Railway.
- Oregon has **18 short line** and three terminal railroads.
- There are **2,389 route miles of railroad tracks** in Oregon.

## ODOT's focus: safety

- The Rail Safety Section **inspects railroad tracks, equipment, hazardous materials**, operating practices and signals for compliance with Federal Railroad Administration regulations, and enforces laws relating to railroad employee safety.
- The Crossing Safety Section **inspects and regulates all aspects of highway-rail grade crossings**, including all public at grade and grade separated crossings.

- The Rail Division develops a Rail Plan that includes both freight and passenger elements and meets the goals of the Oregon Transportation Plan.

## In 2008, inspectors examined:

- **14,163 locomotives and rail cars**, identifying 2,569 defects; and
- Inspections included **2,762 miles of track** and **2,531 turnouts**, finding 2,388 defects; 1,677 railroad/highway crossings, pinpointing 585 deficiencies; and **125 signal installations** and **383 signal records**, finding 102 defects.

## In 2009, inspectors examined:

- **10,097 locomotives and rail cars**, identifying 1,454 defects.
- Inspections included **3,063 miles of track** and **1,862 turnouts**, finding 2,303 defects; **1,634 railroad/highway crossings**, pinpointing 388 deficiencies; and 190 signal installations and signal records, finding 137 defects.

To learn more about railroads in Oregon, visit our website at [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/RAIL](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/RAIL).

# Ports and Marine

Oregon has 23 ports along the Pacific Ocean and inland along the Columbia River. The busiest ports are the Port of Portland and the International Port of Coos Bay.

- The Port of Portland is located where deep water shipping, up-river barging, two water-grade rail lines and two interstate highways converge.
- Petroleum and petroleum products, grains and forest products, containerized cargo and automobiles are the main cargoes shipped through Oregon's ports and waterways.
- In 2008, the Port of Portland saw a slight reduction for total cargo tonnage from its highest of 2007 (**14.1 million tons**). In 2009, the effect of the recession was felt with a sharp 28 percent reduction in total cargo tonnage (**10.2 million tons**).
- Port of Portland remains one of the top five auto import ports in the United States.

## Deep draft shipping

- Oregon has deep draft terminals in Astoria, Columbia County and Portland.
- The 20-year effort to **deepen the 103-mile navigation channel** from the Pacific Ocean to Portland from 40 to 43 feet will allow larger and more fully loaded ships to **serve more than 1,000 businesses** and regional farmers who depend on the Port to get their products to market. Scheduled completion: December 2010.
- Deep-draft terminals also are located in Coos Bay-North Bend and Newport.

## Shallow draft shipping

- Shallow draft commercial marine traffic uses the 465-mile Columbia River-Snake River system as far inland as Lewiston, Idaho.
- Shallow draft ports are located in The Dalles, Arlington, Boardman and Umatilla.
- Upstream from Portland, the Columbia River channel has a minimum 14-foot depth.

## Port of Portland Air and Marine Facts — Fiscal Year 2008 - 2009

- **Jobs: 32,460**  
*More than 30,000 jobs (direct, induced, indirect)*
- **Income: \$1,861,255,000**  
*Nearly \$2 billion in personal income (direct, induced, indirect)*
- **Revenue: \$4,057,678,000**  
*More than \$4 billion in business revenue*
- **Taxes: \$188,918,000**  
*Nearly \$200 million in tax revenue*

Note: Does not include private marine terminals and related activity or visitor industry impacts associated with Portland International Airport.

*Source: Port of Portland*

# Aviation

Oregon's system of airports plays an important role in economic development. Aviation at Oregon Department of Aviation airports:

- Contributes over **130,000 jobs** to the state.
- Pays an aggregate of **\$4.7 billion in wages**.
- Accounts for **\$18.4 billion in total business** activity.
- Jobs include 29,000 generated by airports and more than 100,000 due to the need of businesses in Oregon to use aviation for business travel or cargo shipments

Oregon's aviation system includes:

- **97 public-use** airports.
- **350+ private-use** airports and airstrips.

Oregon's airports are used for a variety of tasks beyond delivering passengers, including overnight mail, air cargo, air ambulance, forest fire suppression, crop spraying, military use, and aviation-related businesses; these important activities and more all depend on an adequate network of airports.

## The State Aviation Board

- A seven-member State Aviation Board sets statewide aviation policy in Oregon.
- The governor appoints the State Aviation Board and the agency director.

## Oregon Department of Aviation

- The Oregon Department of Aviation was founded in 1921.
- ODA was the first government aviation agency in the United States.
- It was a part of the Oregon Department of Transportation until the 70th Oregon Legislative Assembly in 1999 passed legislation granting Aeronautics independent agency status. The Oregon Department of Aviation came into being on July 1, 2000.
- ODA has a small, dedicated staff of professionals specializing in aviation planning, maintenance and operations.
- Aviation fuel taxes, registration fees and user fees provide all ODA funding. ODA uses no state general fund revenue.

## ODA Mission

Enhance the well-being of people in Oregon by advancing aviation

## ODA Goals

- Develop aviation as an integral part of Oregon's transportation network.
- Create and implement strategies to protect and improve Oregon's aviation system.
- Encourage aviation-related economic development.
- Support aviation safety and education.
- Increase commercial air service and general aviation in Oregon.

For more information, visit the ODA's website at [www.oregon.gov/Aviation](http://www.oregon.gov/Aviation).

*Source: Oregon Department of Aviation*