



## Rail Freight

### Moving freight by rail

- Rail freight reduces highway congestion and wear.
- It helps keep shipping prices competitive.
- Railways link together regions and other transportation modes.
- Rail freight is an important part of Oregon's economy.

### Rail freight facts

- Oregon has two major railroads, the Union Pacific and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe.
- Oregon has 17 short line and two terminal railroads.
- There are 2,413 miles of railroad tracks in Oregon.
- 60.3 million tons of cargo was shipped by rail in Oregon in 2002.
- 15.3 million tons of rail shipments originated in Oregon.
- 23.5 million tons of rail shipments terminated in Oregon.
- 21.5 million tons of rail shipments passed through Oregon.

### ODOT's role

- ODOT's Rail Division inspects railroad tracks, equipment, hazardous materials, operating practices and signals for compliance with Federal Railroad Administration regulations.
- The division enforces laws relating to railroad employee safety.
- The Crossing Safety Section inspects and regulates all aspects of highway-rail grade crossings.
- The division develops a Rail Plan that includes both freight and passenger elements and meets the goals of the Oregon Transportation Plan.
- To report a highway-rail crossing blockage call the ODOT railroad crossing blockage hotline toll-free at (866) 628-8867.

### Rail tonnage by commodity originating in Oregon — 15.3 million tons

*Calendar Year 2002*

Commodities originating in Oregon shipped by rail	Millions of Tons	Percent of Total
Lumber and wood products	7.3	48%
Pulp, paper and allied products	2.5	16%
Miscellaneous mixed shipments	0.9	6%
Primary metal products	0.9	6%
Glass and stone products	0.6	4%
All other	3.0	20%

### Rail tonnage by commodity terminating in Oregon — 23.5 million tons

*Calendar Year 2002*

Commodities terminating in Oregon shipped by rail	Millions of Tons	Percent of Total
Chemicals and allied products	5.9	25%
Farm products	3.3	14%
Lumber and wood	2.6	11%
Coal	2.4	10%
Waste and scrap	1.9	8%
All other	7.3	31%

### Fiscal Year 2003 rail inspections

- ODOT inspected 15,091 rail cars, finding 898 defects.
- Inspectors examined 340 locomotives, discovering 265 defects.
- They also inspected 3,540 miles of track and 2,496 turnouts, finding 2,010 defects, and 983 railroad/highway crossings.