Rail Overview

Iowa is home to many critical freight and passenger rail lines, as well as rail suppliers. Iowa has the 7th highest number of carloads, 8th highest number of rail tons carried and 10th highest number of rail miles in the country.

**Freight**
- 16 freight railroads, including Class Is like:
  - BNSF
  - Union Pacific
  - Canadian National
  - Canadian Pacific
  - Norfolk Southern
- and short line railroads like Iowa Interstate Railroad and Iowa Northern Railway Co, move more than 6.4 million carloads of food, farm products, chemicals and other types of freight over 3,800 miles with 3,181 employees.

**Amtrak**
- IA has 2 long distance trains and 1 state supported Amtrak trains, including:
  - California Zephyr
  - Southwest Chief
- More than 58,000 train riders are served at IA stations each year. Amtrak spent more than $2 million on goods and services in IA in 2017.

**Suppliers**
- The rail supply industry contributes more than $645 million to IA’s GDP and supports more than 6,950 jobs, including 1,638 direct jobs in IA through manufacturing, transportation and business services.

Did you know?
It would have taken approximately 17.4 million additional trucks to handle the 313 million tons of freight that originated in, terminated in, or moved through IA by rail in 2017.