

Glossary of terms

Average length of haul – The average distance in miles one ton is carried. Computed by dividing total ton miles by tons of freight.

Carload – A one-car shipment of freight from one consignor to one consignee.

Car velocity – Car velocity is an average speed calculation, expressed in miles per day, of the car movements from time of release at one location to arrival at the destination.

Class I railroad – As determined by the Surface Transportation Board, a freight railroad with annual operating revenues that exceed a threshold indexed to a base of \$250 million in 1991 U.S. dollars. The threshold in 2006 was \$346.8 million.

Gross ton miles – The number of tons behind the locomotives (cars and contents) including company service equipment multiplied by the miles of road moved from originating to destination stations on a designated railroad.

Intermodal service – In railroad transportation, the movement of trailers or containers on railroad freight cars.

Linehaul – The movement of trains between terminals and stations on the main or branch lines of the road, exclusive of switching movements.

Main track – A track extending through and between stations upon which trains are operated.

Operating ratio – The ratio of operating expenses to operating revenues.

Revenue ton mile – The movement of a ton of freight over one mile for revenue.

Right-of-way – A strip of land of various widths upon which a rail track is built.

Rolling stock – Transportation equipment on wheels, especially locomotives and freight cars.

Route miles – The miles of right-of-way owned or leased and operated by the designated railroad. Route miles exclude mainline trackage operated under trackage rights. In multiple track territories only one mainline track counts as route miles.

Siding – A track auxiliary to the main track for meeting or passing trains, or in the case of industrial siding, a track serving various industrial customers.

Trip plan – A trip plan is a detailed chain of train handling events describing how a car(s) can be handled from the shipper's door to the consignee's door. Trip plans are expressed in hours and are tailored to a specific customer location, day of week and time of release.

Unit train – A train with a fixed, coupled consist of cars operated continuously in shuttle service under load from origin and delivered intact at destination and returning usually for reloading at the same origin.

Waybill – The document covering a shipment and showing the forwarding and receiving stations, the name of consignor and consignee, the car initials and number, the routing, the description and weight of the commodity, instructions for special services, the rate, total charges, advances and the waybill reference for previous services, and the amount prepaid.

Yard – A system of tracks within defined limits, designed for switching services.

Yard dwell – Yard dwell is the average duration, expressed in hours, that cars spend in a specific operating terminal.