

Selected Car Fleet Data

Year	Total Cars (Millions)	New Cars (Thousands)	Avg. Age Years (all RR)	Avg. Capacity (Tons)	Carloadings (Millions)	Avg. Freight Car Load (Tons)	Tonnage (Billions)	Revenue Ton Miles (Billions)	Avg. Ton Miles per Carload (Thousands)	Freight Car Miles (Billions)	Avg. Length of Haul (Miles)
1976	1.70	53.6	14.6	73.8	23.4	61.0	1.40	794	33.9	28.9	541
1980	1.71	86.7	14.9	78.5	22.2	67.1	1.49	919	40.6	23.8	609
1984	1.49	12.4	16.3	84.1	20.9	68.2	1.43	922	44.0	26.4	645
1988	1.24	22.5	17.7	87.4	21.6	66.2	1.43	996	46.1	26.3	697
1992	1.17	25.8	19.2	90.6	21.2	66.0	1.40	1,066.8	50.3	26.1	763
1993	1.17	35.2	19.5	91.3	21.7	64.4	1.40	1,109.3	51.2	26.9	794
1994	1.19	48.8	19.7	92.0	23.2	63.4	1.47	1,200.7	51.8	28.5	817
1995	1.22	60.9	19.9	92.9	23.7	65.3	1.55	1,305.7	55.0	30.4	843
1996	1.24	57.9	19.9	95.6	24.2	66.7	1.61	1,356.0	56.1	31.7	842
1997	1.27	50.4	20.0	96.5	25.0	63.4	1.59	1,348.9	53.9	31.7	851
1998	1.32	75.7	19.8	97.2	25.7	64.1	1.65	1,376.8	53.6	32.7	835
1999	1.37	74.2	20.1	98.2	27.1	63.4	1.72	1,433.5	52.9	33.9	835
2000	1.38	55.8	20.4	98.7	27.7	62.6	1.74	1,466.0	52.9	34.6	843
2001	1.31	34.3	20.9	99.1	27.2	64.0	1.74	1,495.5	55.0	34.2	859
2002	1.30	17.7	21.2	99.7	27.9	63.3	1.77	1,507.0	54.0	34.7	853
2003	1.28	32.2	21.9	100.1	28.9	62.3	1.80	1,551.4	53.7	34.6	862
2004	1.29	46.9	22.3	100.5	30.1	61.3	1.84	1,662.6	55.2	37.1	902
2005	1.31	68.6	22.3	101.2	31.1	61.0	1.90	1,696.4	54.5	37.7	893
2006	1.35	74.7	22.5	102.0	32.1 ^e	60.7 ^e	1.95 ^e	1,771.9 ^p	55.2 ^e	38.7 ^p	909 ^e

^eEstimated ^pPreliminary

Note: In 2001, Canadian National Railway Co. & Canadian Pacific Railway started counting as their own cars they'd acquired from U.S. railroads in the late 1990s.

Source: Policy and Economics Department, AAR

Less rail traffic ... smaller backlogs?

Rail traffic volumes have leveled off, which means railroads are buying/leasing fewer rail cars — and car builders are working off their backlogs. As of March 31, builders had a collective backlog of 79,038 cars, a 7.9 percent decline compared with 85,826 at year-end 2006, and a 9 percent drop compared with the backlog at the end of first-quarter 2006, according to the American Railway Car Institute Committee of the Railway Supply Institute.