While Iowa's rail miles have remained stable in recent years, the amount of tonnage moving over the Iowa network has increased. Between 1985 and 2008, ton-miles (the movement of one ton of freight one mile) increased 222.0%, while rail miles decreased 16.0%.

A majority of Iowa rail traffic involves bulk commodities. Farm and food products account for 68.5% of the Iowa originations, totaling 35.8 million tons in 2008. Three commodities: coal, farm products, and chemicals - account for 78.9% of all freight terminating in Iowa, totaling 34.5 million tons in 2008.

Source: Iowa Department of Transportation (Office of Systems Planning)
Iowa LSA Staff Contact:
Marcia Tannian
(515-281-7942)
maria.tannian@legis.state.ia.us