



# **Railroad Update**

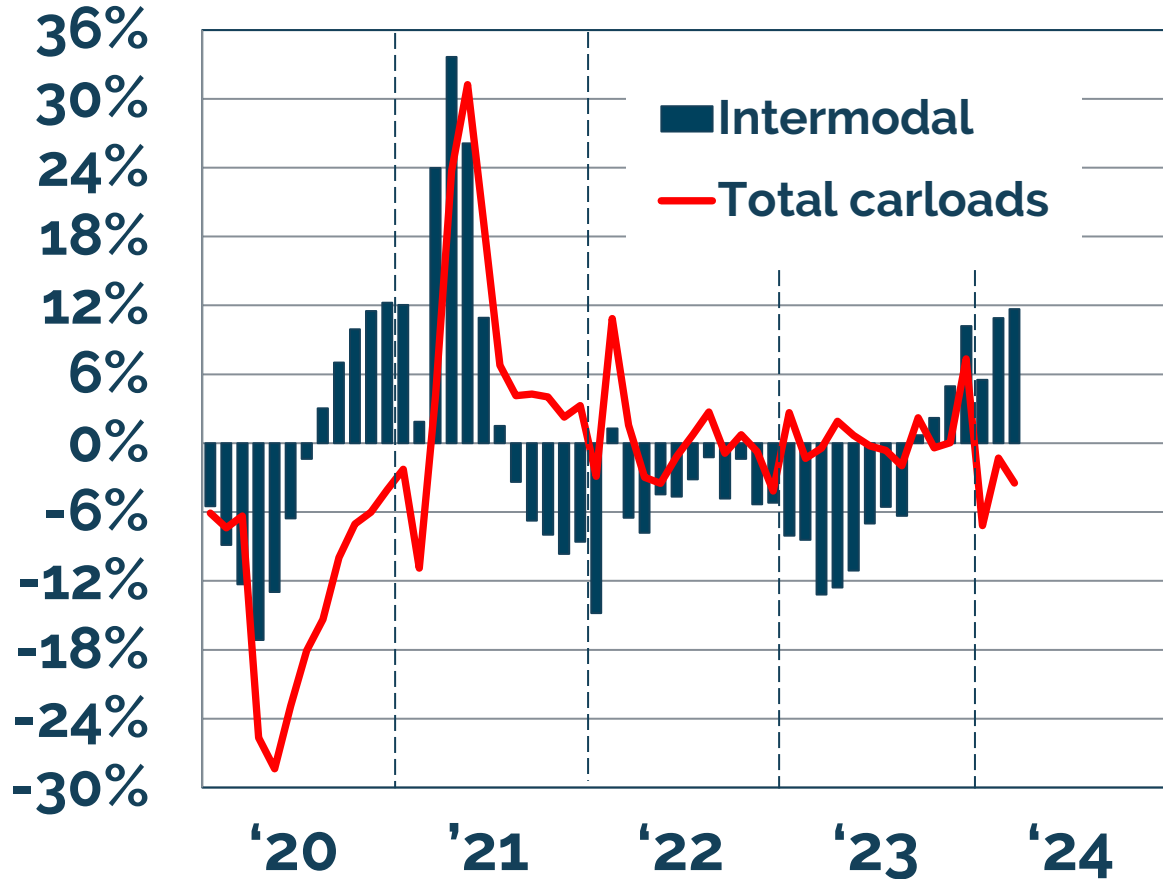
## **Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee**

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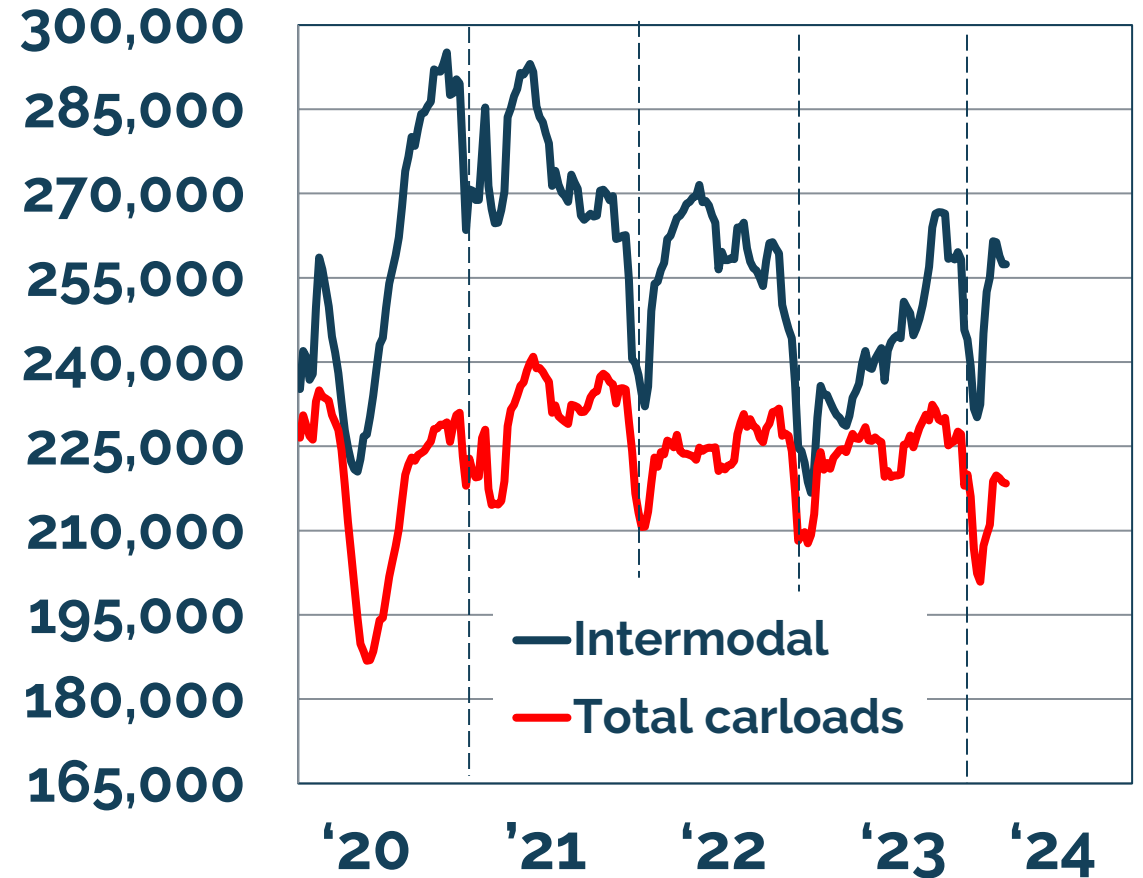
**April 17, 2024**

# U.S. Rail Traffic: Jan. 2020–March 2024

## % Change Same Month Prior Year

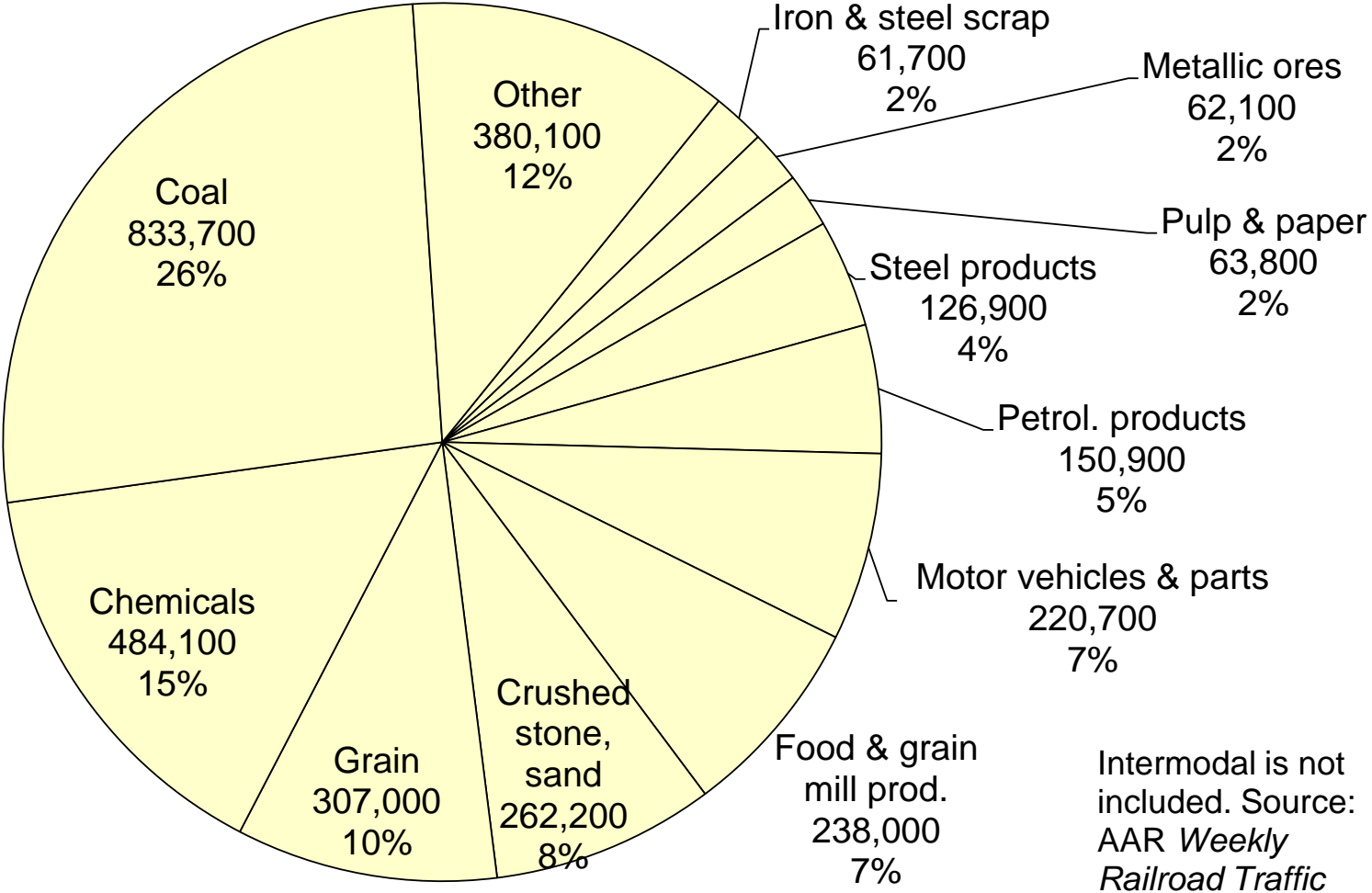


## 6-Week Moving Average



Data are based on originations, are not seasonally adjusted, and don't include the U.S. operations of CN, CPKC, and GMXT. Source: AAR

# U.S. Rail Carloads in 2024 Through Week 15 (Units and Share of Total)



Motor veh. & parts: 84,776, 12.3%

Petrol. & petr. products: 50,050, 11.1%

Crushed stone, sand, gravel: 44,386, 4.3%

Metallic ores: 24,136, 8.9%

Primary metal products: 18,747, 4.6%

Iron & steel scrap: 9,051, 4.4%

Grain mill products: 5,895, 1.3%

Farm products excl. grain: 3,598, 9.5%

Food products: 3,335, 1.0%

Stone, clay & glass prod.: 1,324, 0.3%

Coal: -1,183, -0.03%

Coke: -2,785, -2.0%

Waste & nonferrous scrap: -3,229, -1.7%

Primary forest products: -4,945, -8.4%

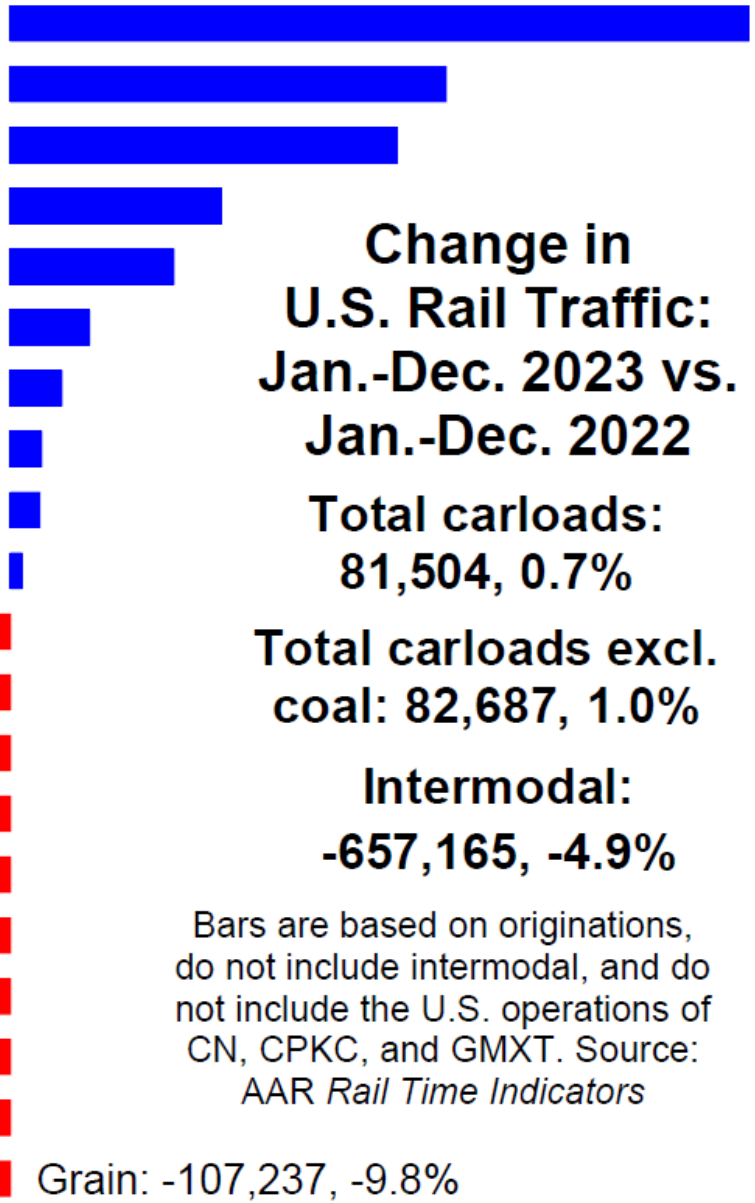
Chemicals: -5,138, -0.3%

Pulp & paper products: -7,566, -3.3%

Lumber & wood products: -9,361, -5.9%

Carloads n.e.c.: -9,540, -3.7%

Nonmetallic minerals: -12,810, -7.1%



**Change in  
U.S. Rail Traffic:  
Jan.-Dec. 2023 vs.  
Jan.-Dec. 2022**

**Total carloads:  
81,504, 0.7%**

**Total carloads excl.  
coal: 82,687, 1.0%**

**Intermodal:  
-657,165, -4.9%**

Bars are based on originations, do not include intermodal, and do not include the U.S. operations of CN, CPKC, and GMXT. Source: AAR *Rail Time Indicators*

**Change in  
U.S. Rail Traffic:  
Jan.-March 2024 vs.  
Jan.-March 2023**

**Total carloads:  
-122,088, -4.2%**

**Total carloads excl.  
coal: -249, 0.0%**

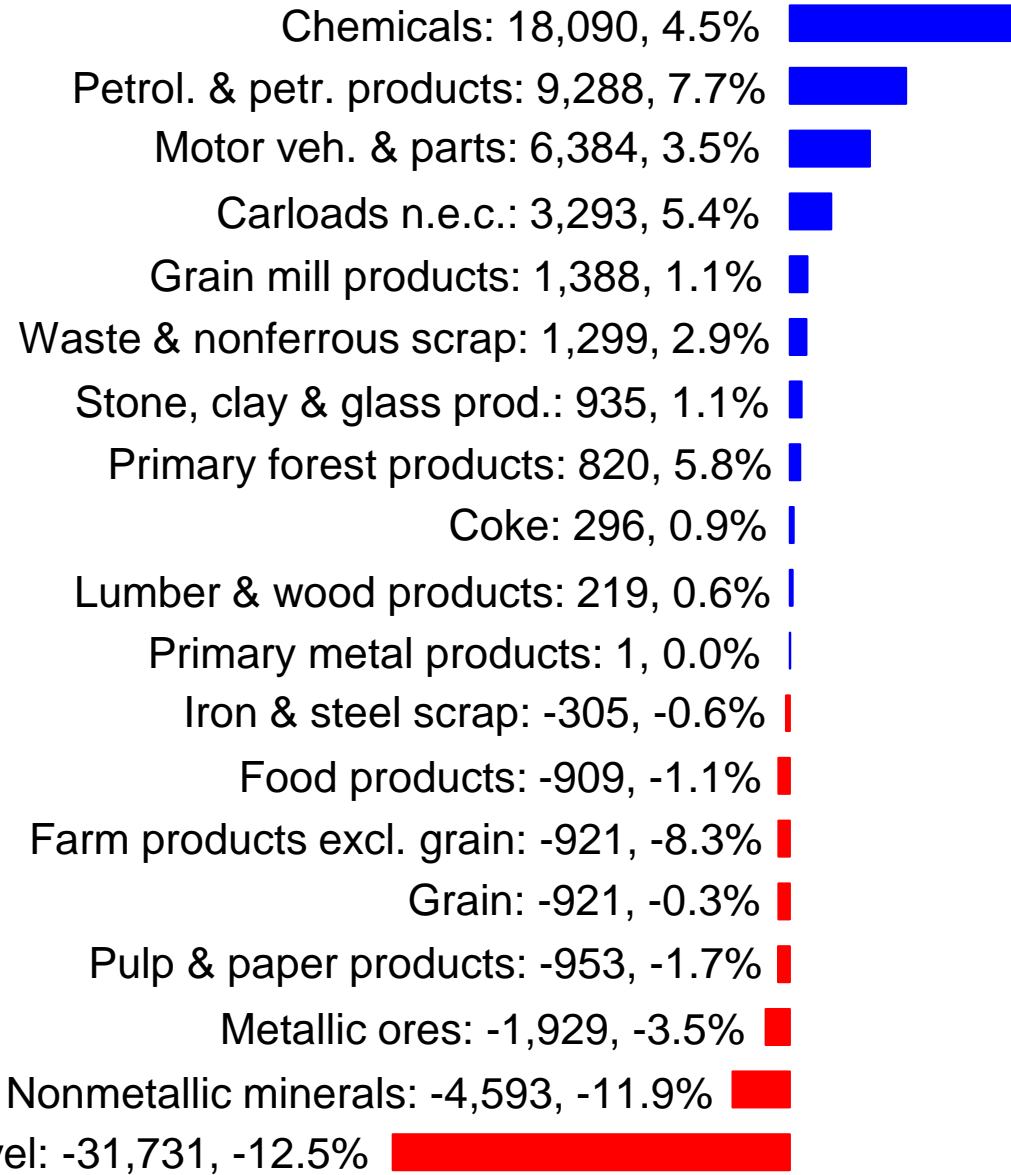
**Intermodal:  
272,238, 9.1%**

Bars are based on originations,  
do not include intermodal, and do  
not include the U.S. operations of  
CN, CPKC, and GMXT. Source:  
*AAR Rail Time Indicators*

Coal: -121,839, -14.1%



Crushed stone, sand, gravel: -31,731, -12.5%



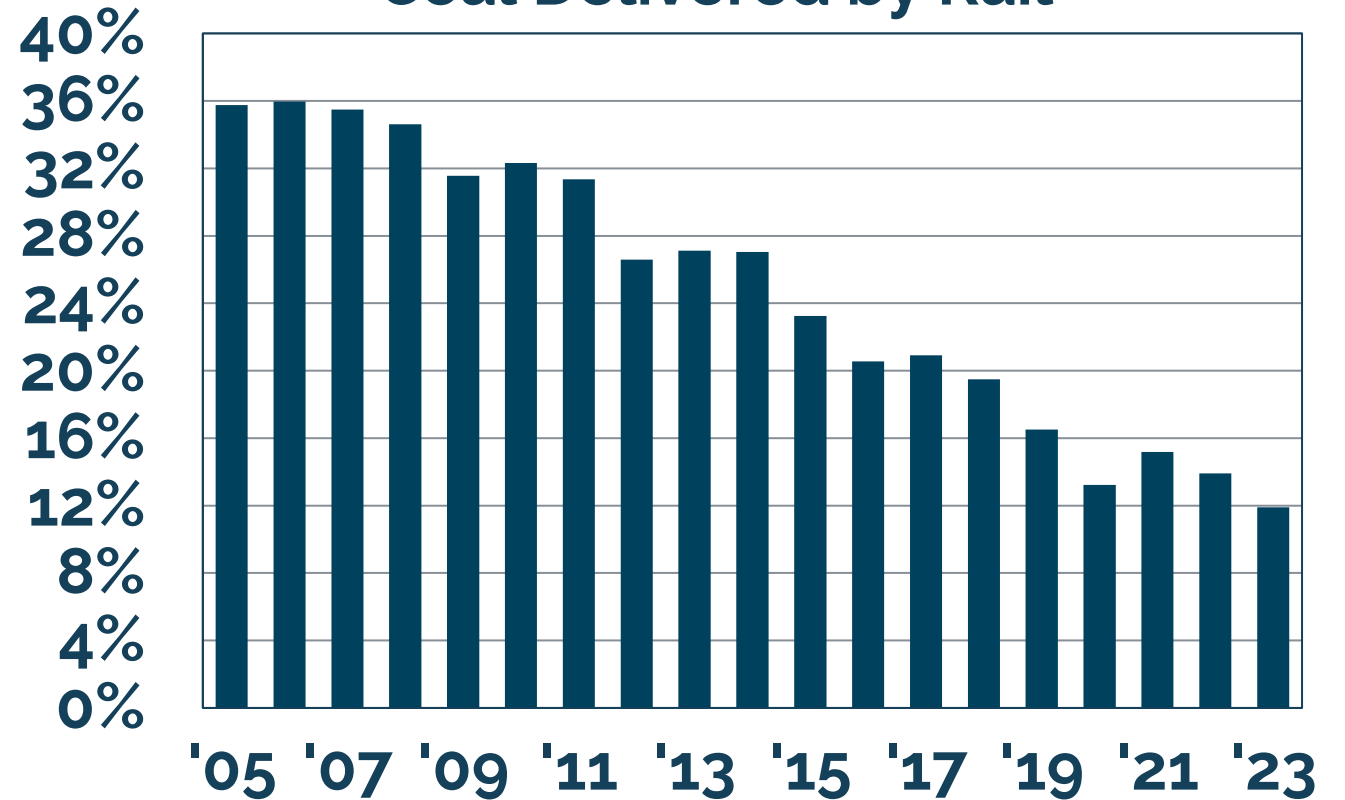
# Continued Decline for Coal

## % Share U.S. Electricity Generation

	2000	2010	2020	2023
<b>Coal</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>16%</b>
Natural Gas	16%	24%	38%	43%
Nuclear	20%	20%	19%	19%
Renewables	2%	4%	13%	16%
Hydro	7%	6%	6%	6%
Other	3%	1%	1%	1%

Source: Energy Information Administration

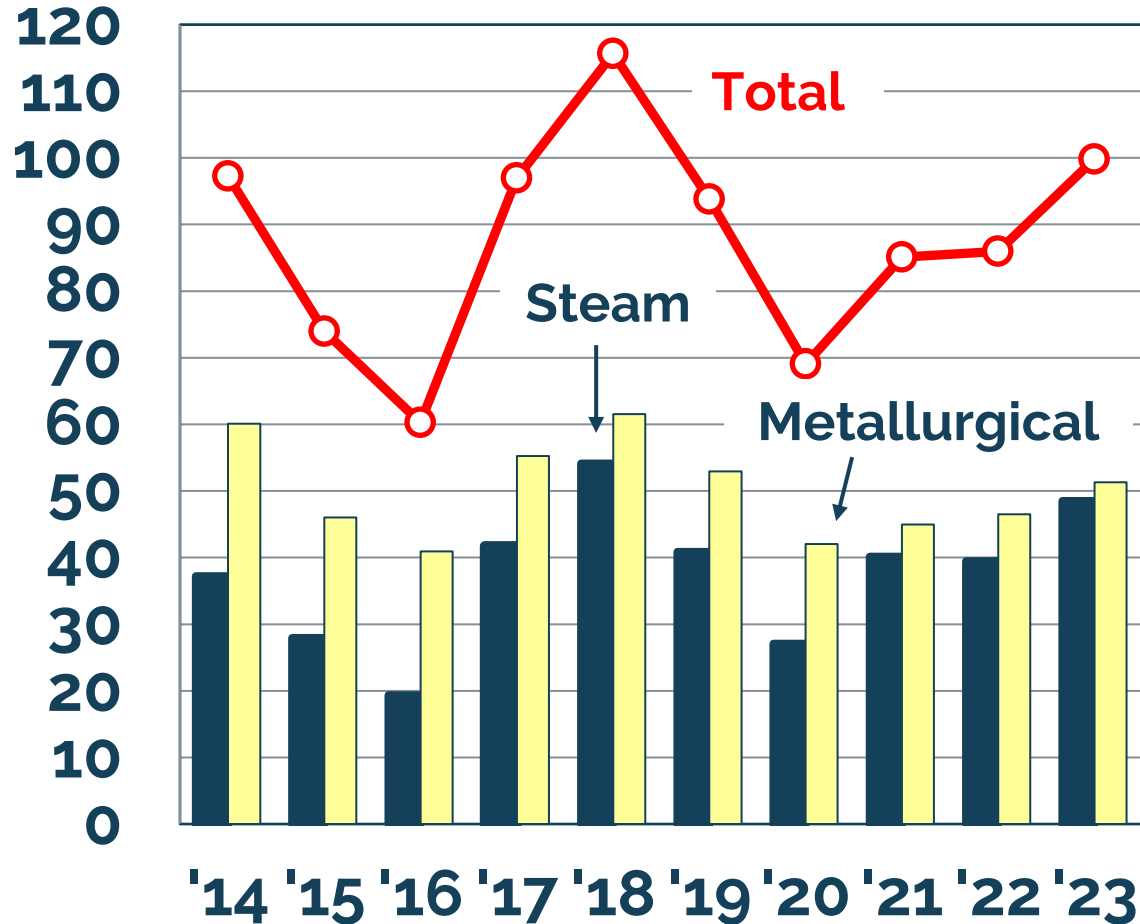
## Share of U.S. Electricity Generated by Coal Delivered by Rail



Figures are estimates based on AAR analysis of EIA data.

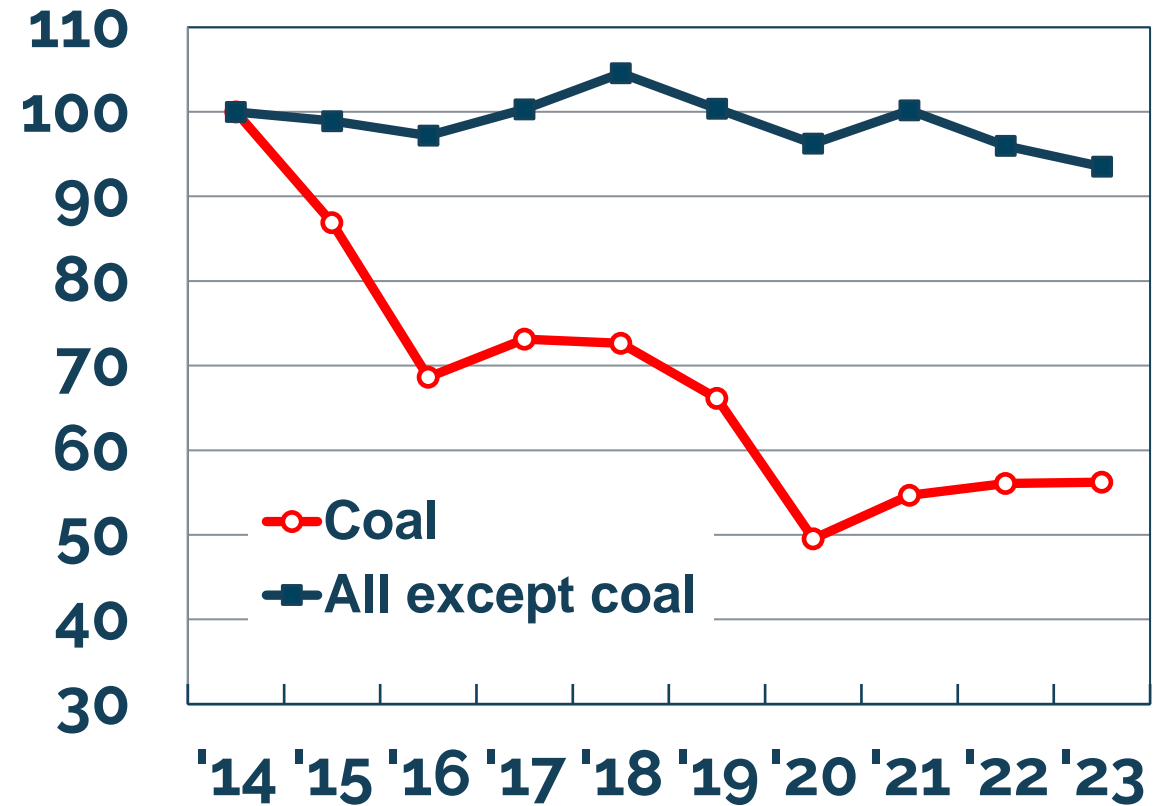
# U.S. Coal Exports

(millions of tons)



Source: Energy Information Administration

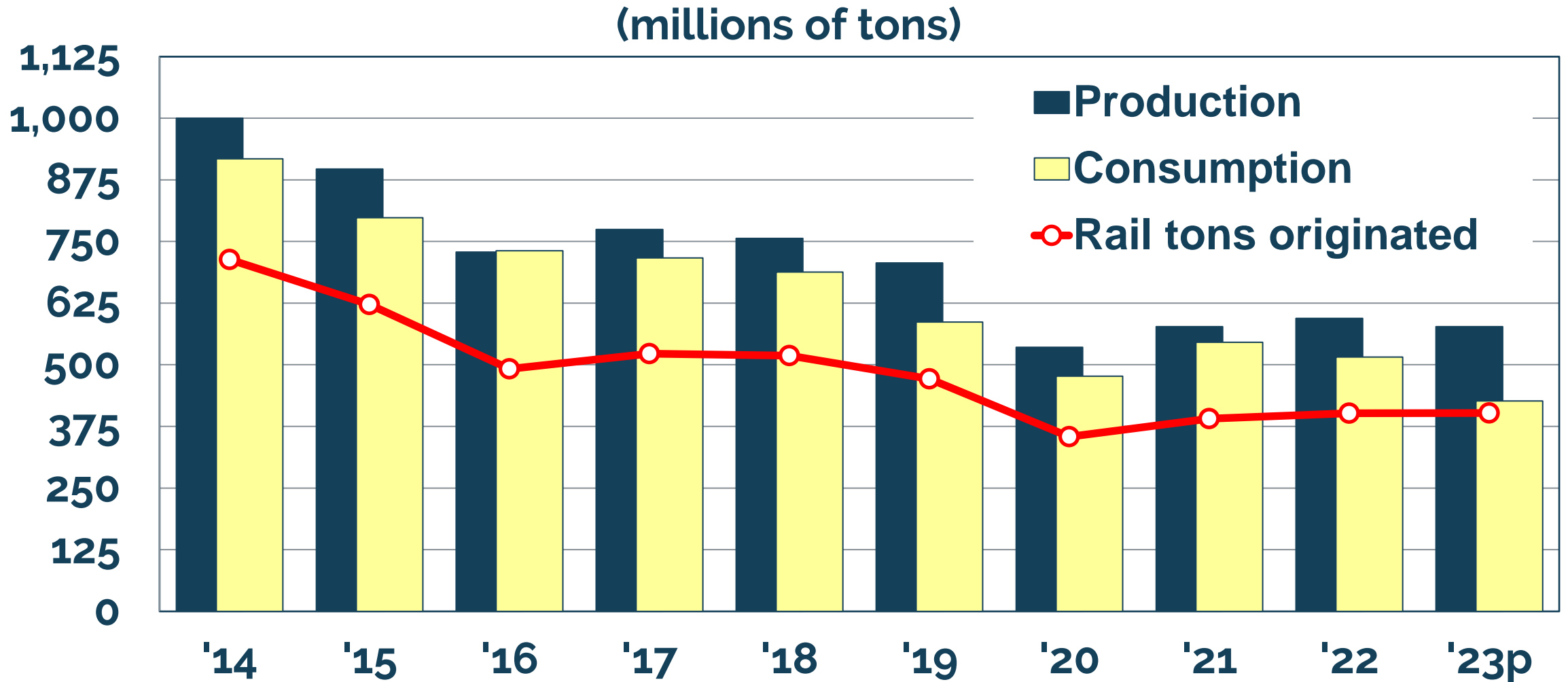
Originated Units (2014 = 100)



Data are for Class I railroads.

Source: AAR *Freight Commodity Statistics*

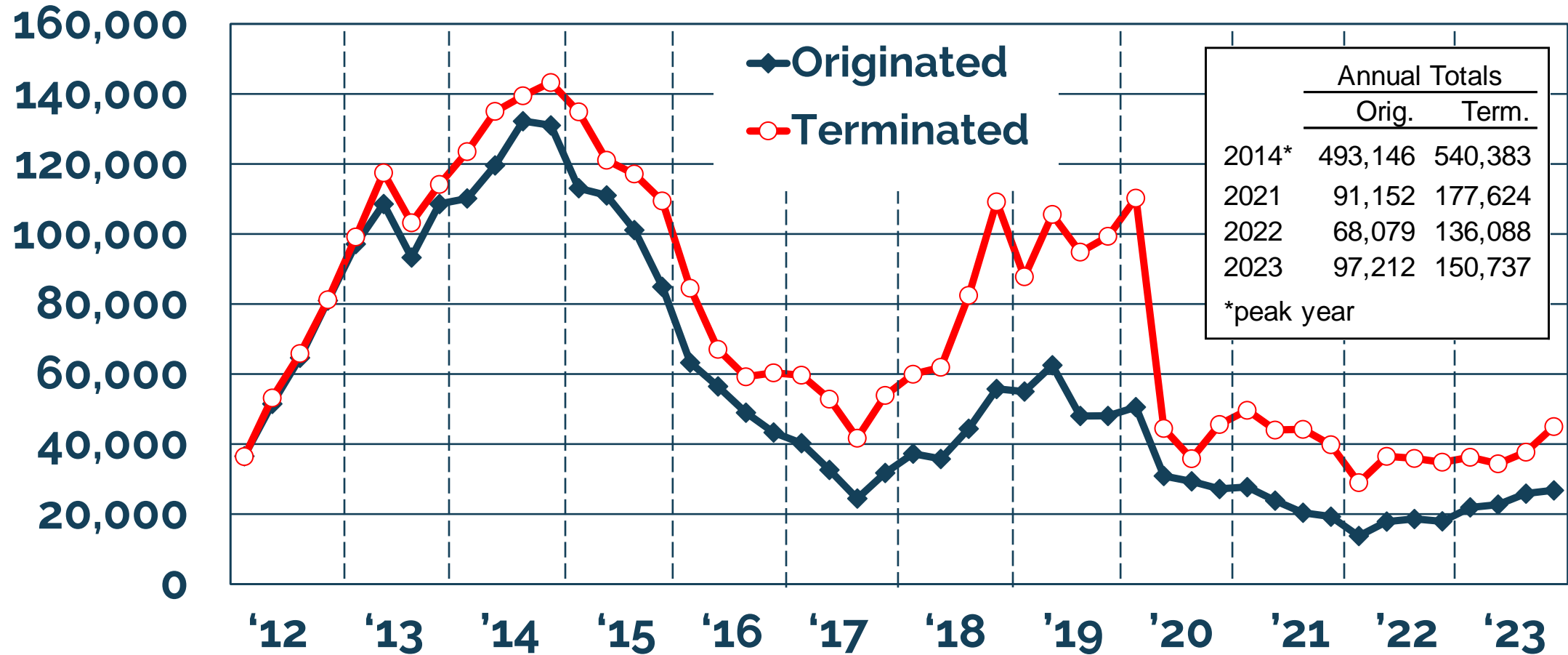
# U.S. Production, Consumption, and Rail Originations of Coal



p – preliminary Source: EIA for production and consumption; AAR for rail tons originated.

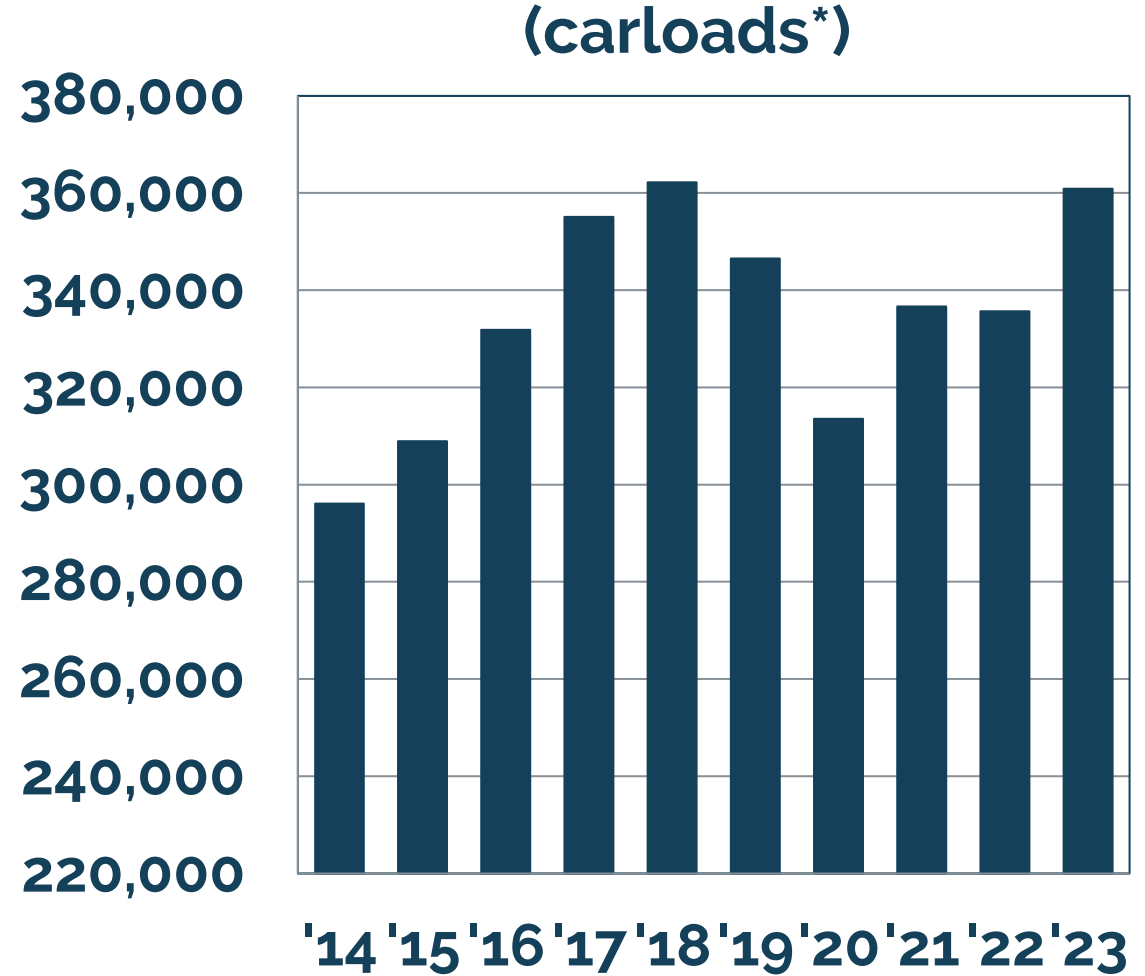
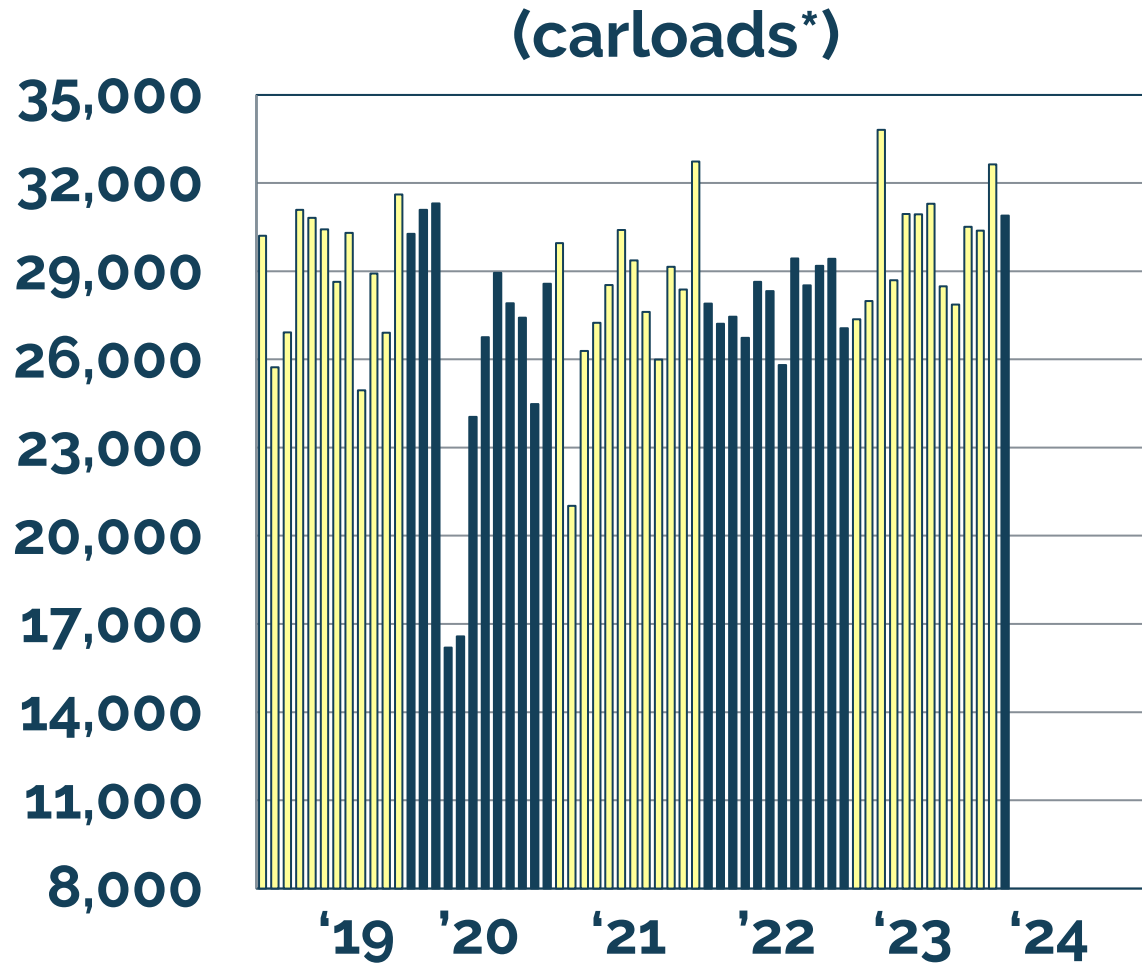


# U.S. Rail Carloads of Crude Oil by Quarter



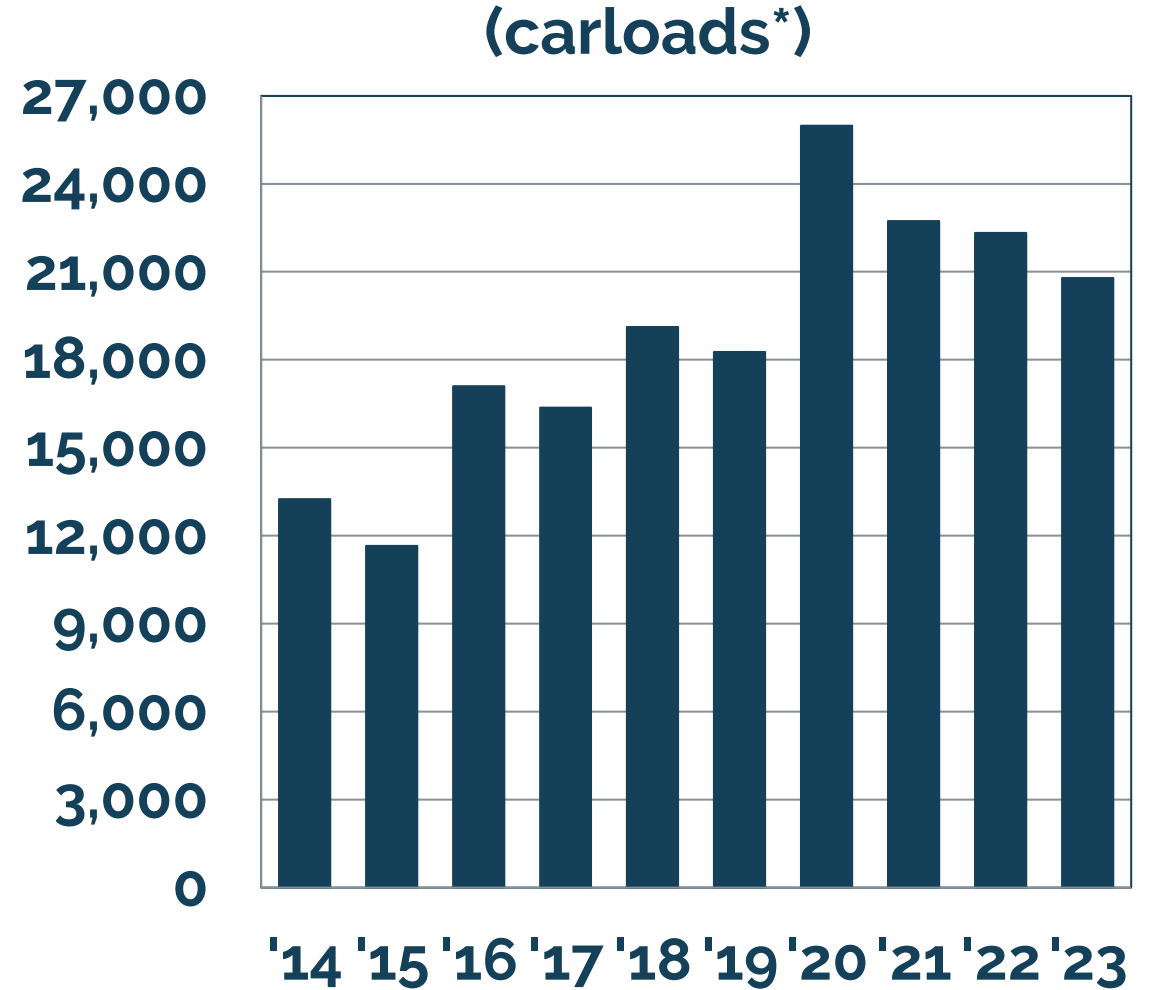
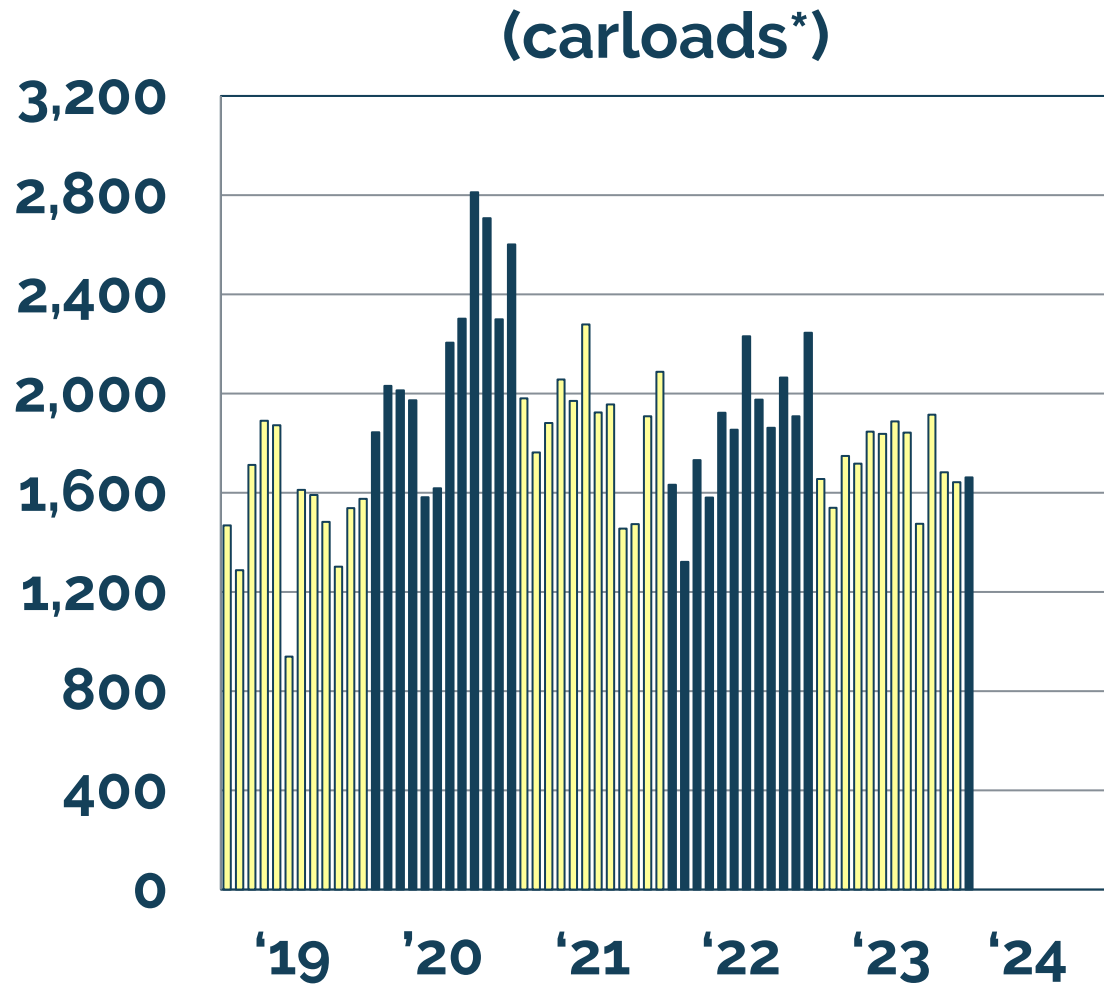
Data are for Class I railroads only. Source: AAR *Freight Commodity Statistics*

# U.S. Ethanol Shipments by Rail



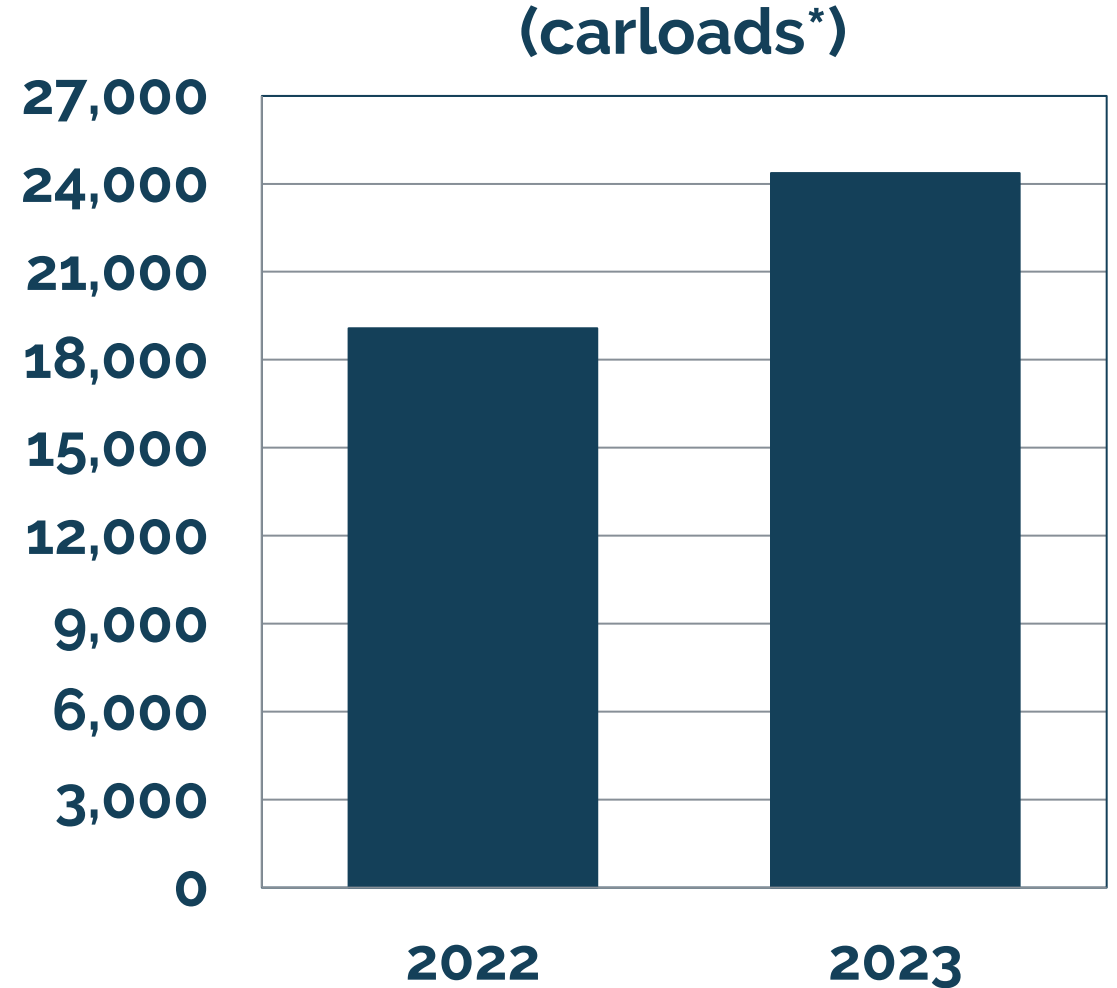
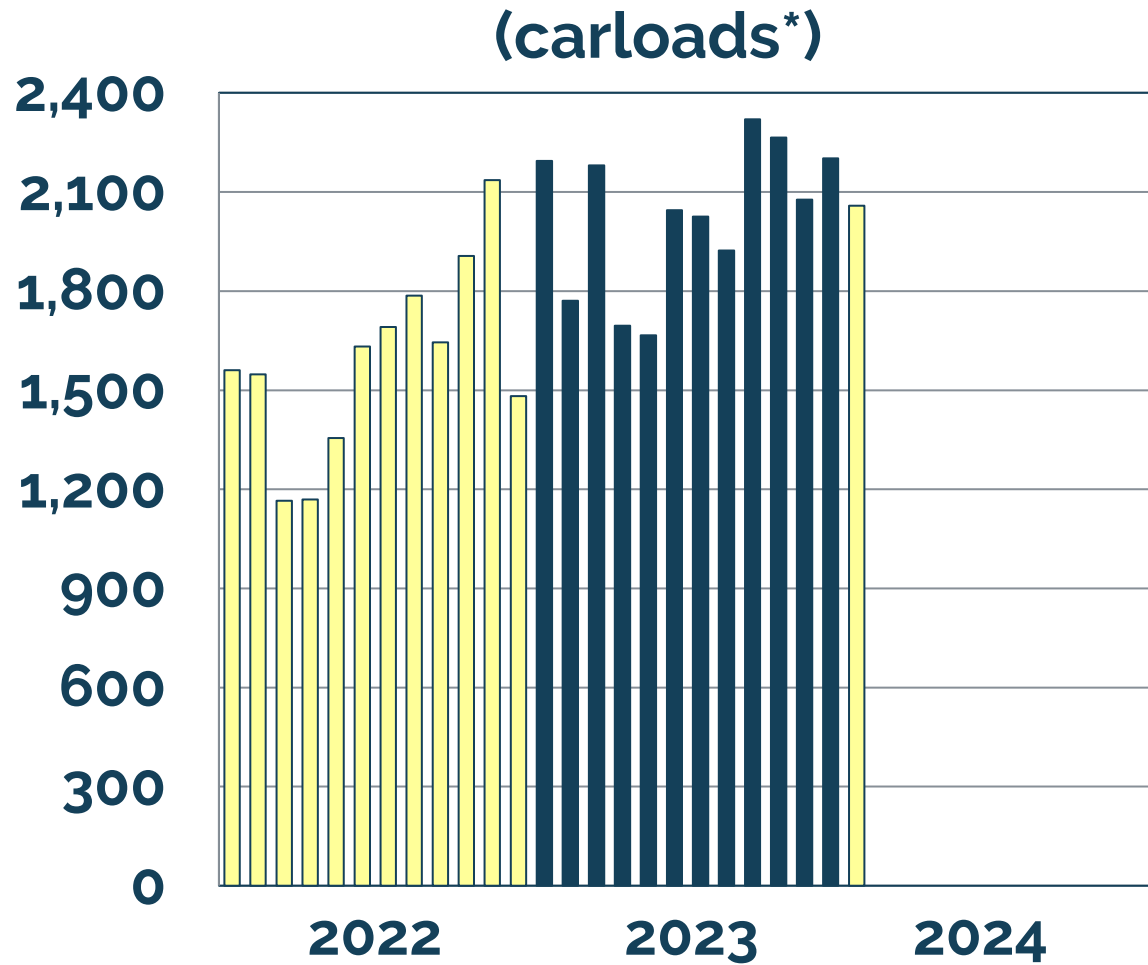
\*Assumes 715 barrels (30,030 gallons) per carload. Figures in these charts might differ from figures from different rail traffic sources. Source: Energy Information Administration

# U.S. Biodiesel Shipments by Rail



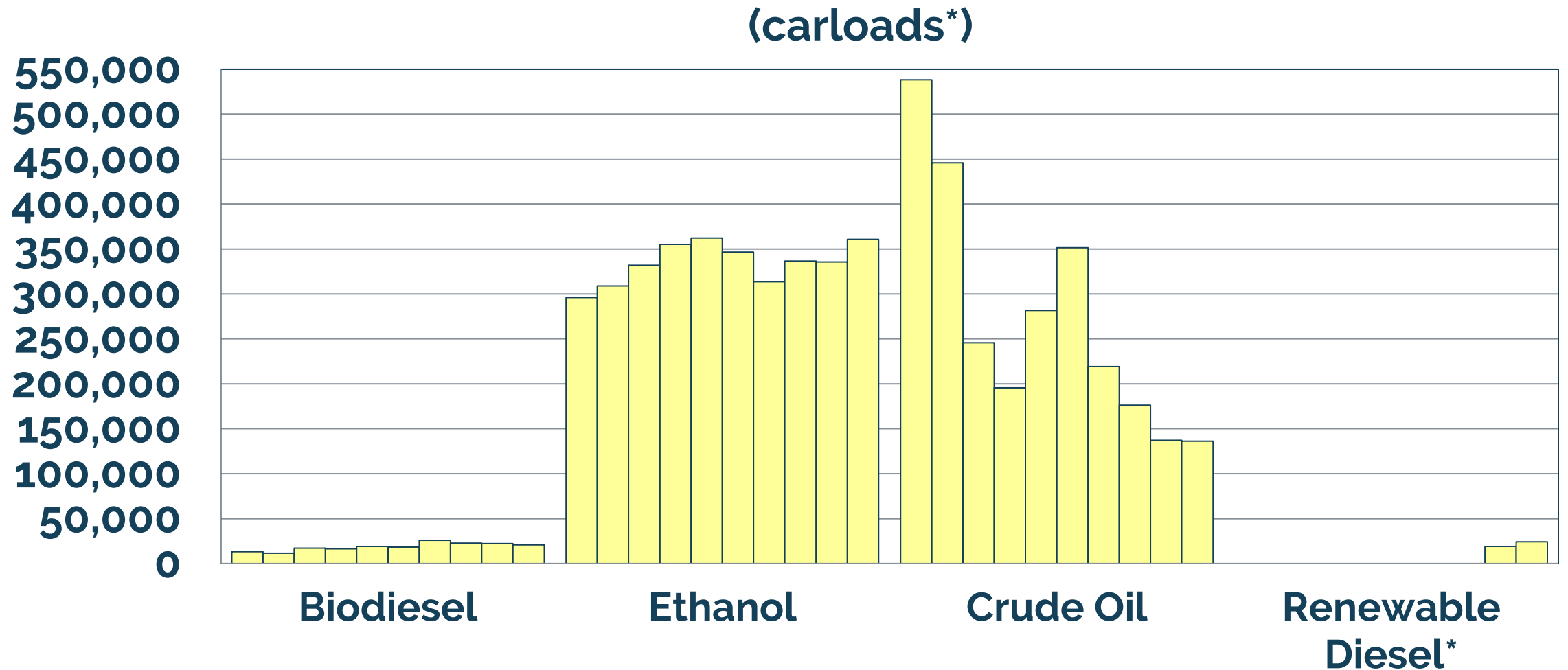
\*Assumes 715 barrels (30,030 gallons) per carload. Source: Energy Information Administration

# U.S. Renewable Diesel Shipments by Rail



\*Assumes 715 barrels (30,030 gallons) per carload. Source: Energy Information Administration

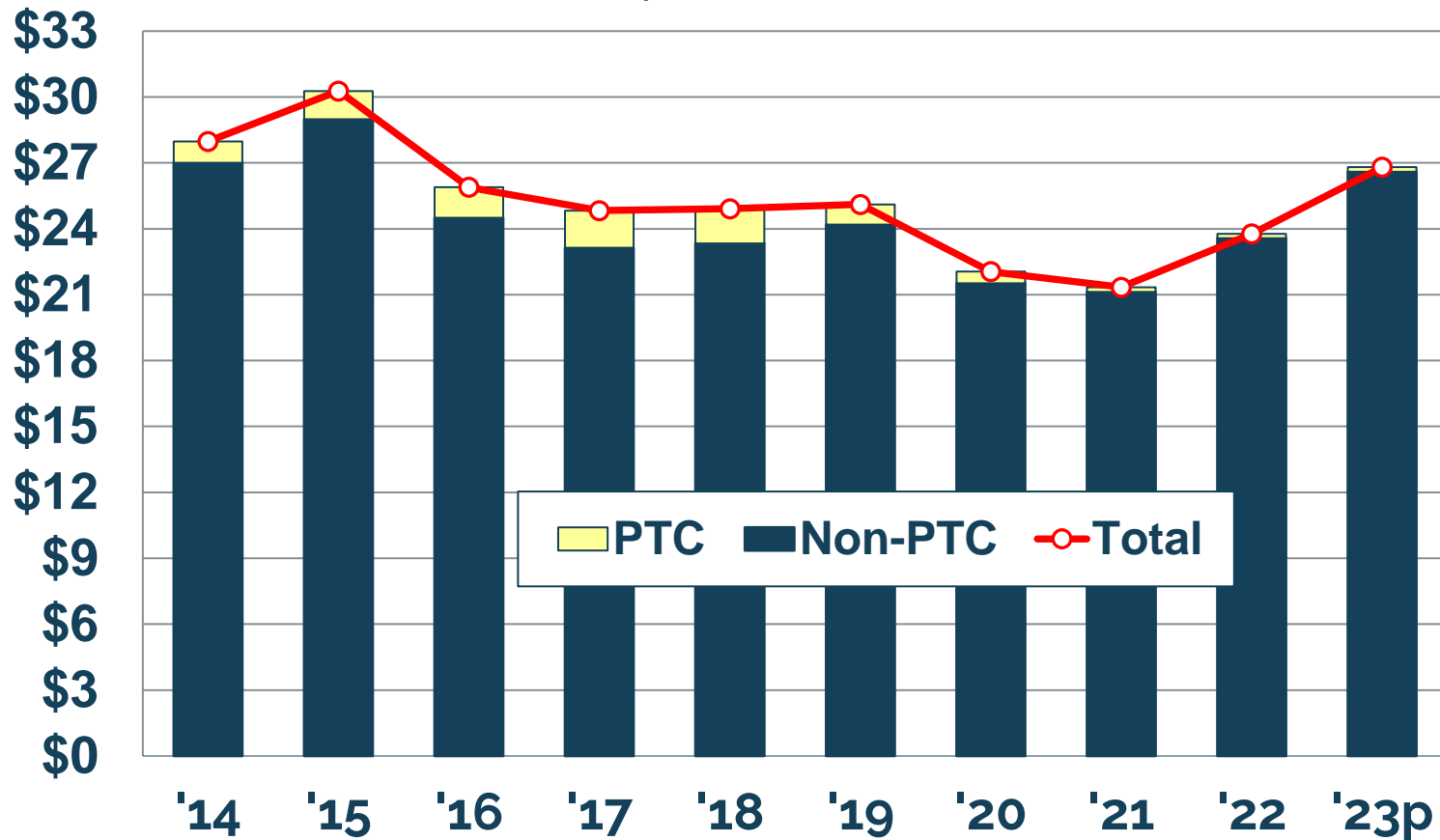
# U.S. Shipments of Energy Products by Rail: 2014-2023



\*Assumes 715 barrels (30,030 gallons) per carload. Figures in these charts might differ from figures from different rail traffic sources. Source: Energy Information Administration

# Freight Railroads Continue to Reinvest Massive Amounts Back Into Their Networks\*

(\$ billions)\*



## Capital Spending as % of Revenue\*

**Avg. all manufacturing 3.0%**

Petroleum & coal products	2.3%
Food	2.3%
Machinery	2.6%
Motor vehicles & parts	2.8%
Fabricated metal products	3.2%
Primary metal products	3.2%
Wood products	3.4%
Plastics & rubber products	3.8%
Chemicals	3.8%
Paper	4.3%
Nonmetallic minerals	4.4%
Computer & electr. products	5.0%

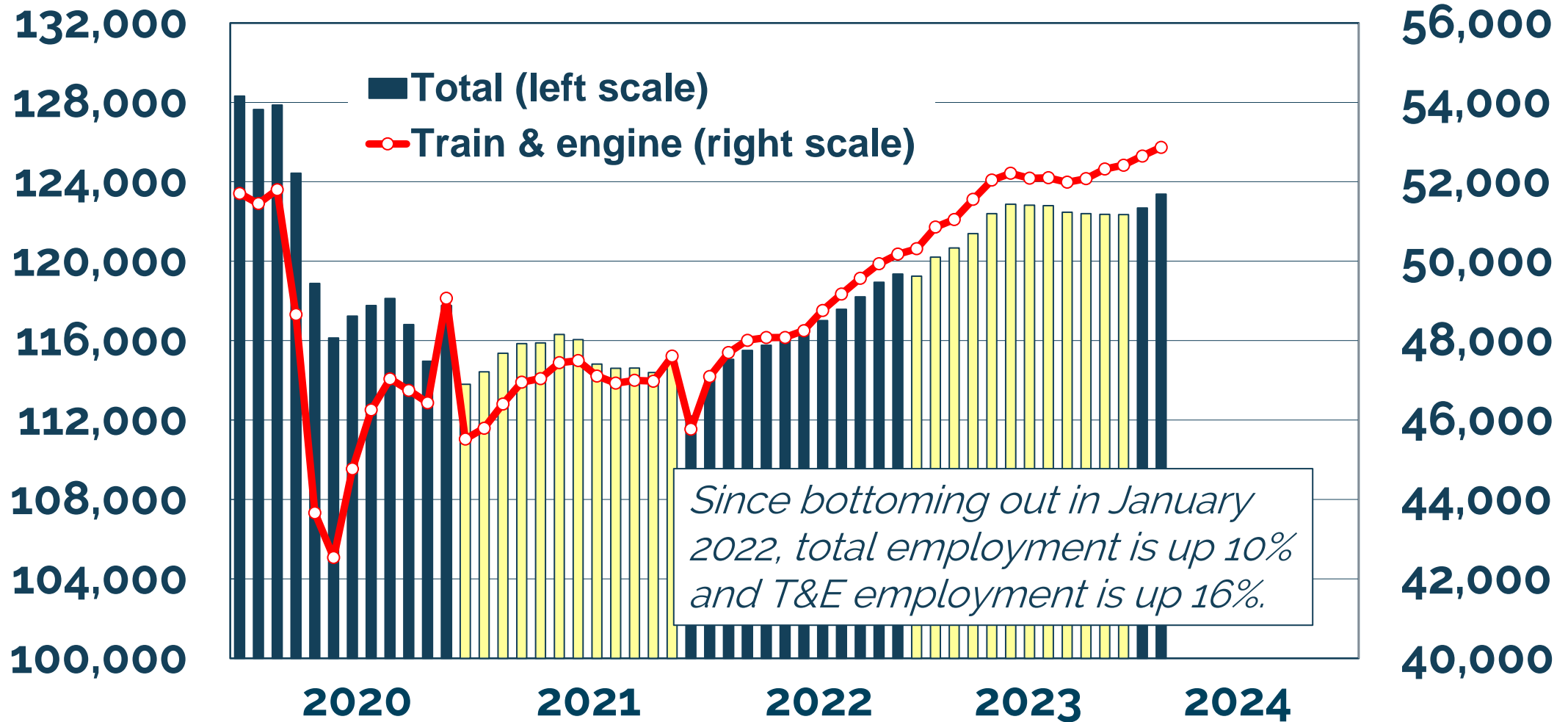
**Class I Railroads 18.4%**

\*Avg. 2012-2021

Source: Census Bureau, AAR

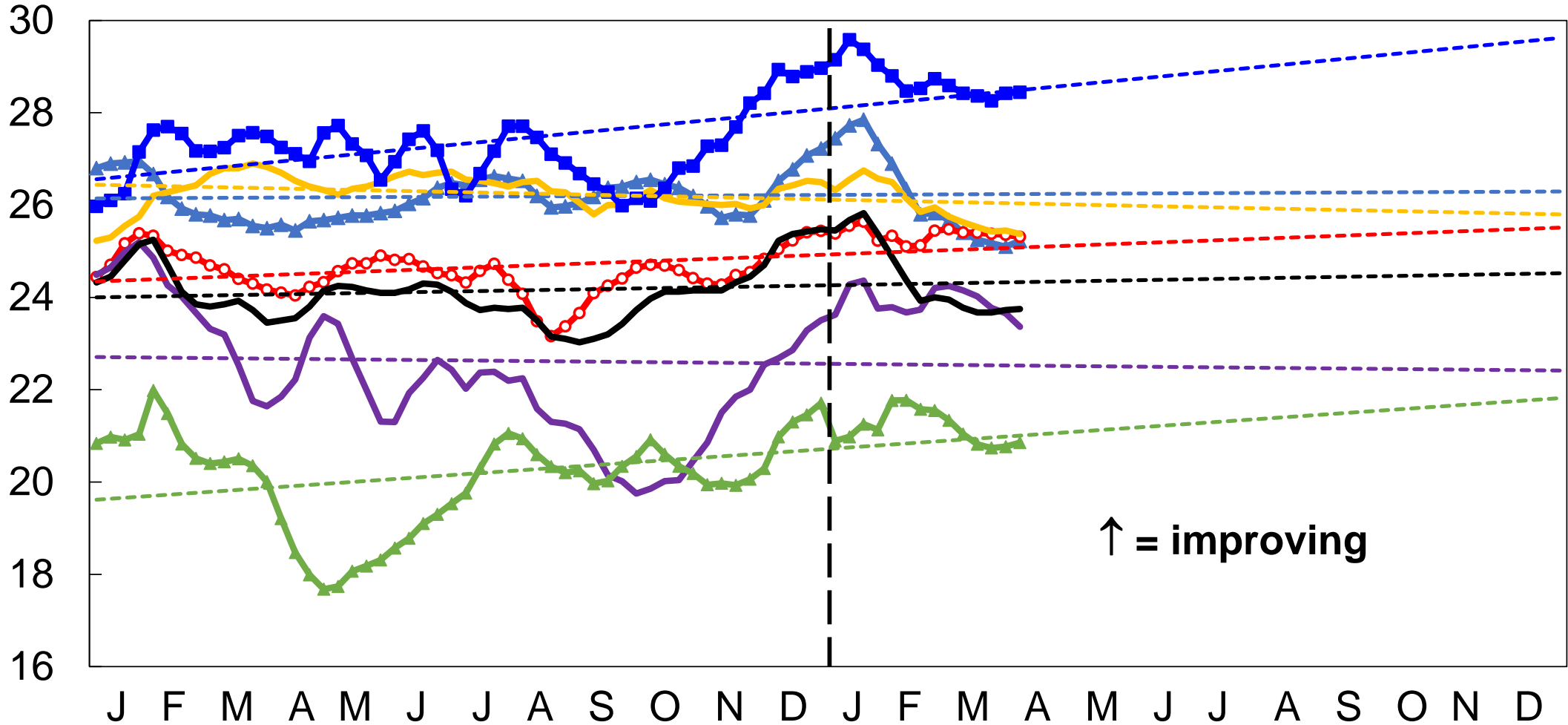
\*Class I railroad capital spending + maintenance expenses on infrastructure and equipment. p = preliminary Source: AAR

# Freight Railroads Continue to Invest in Human Capital



Source: STB

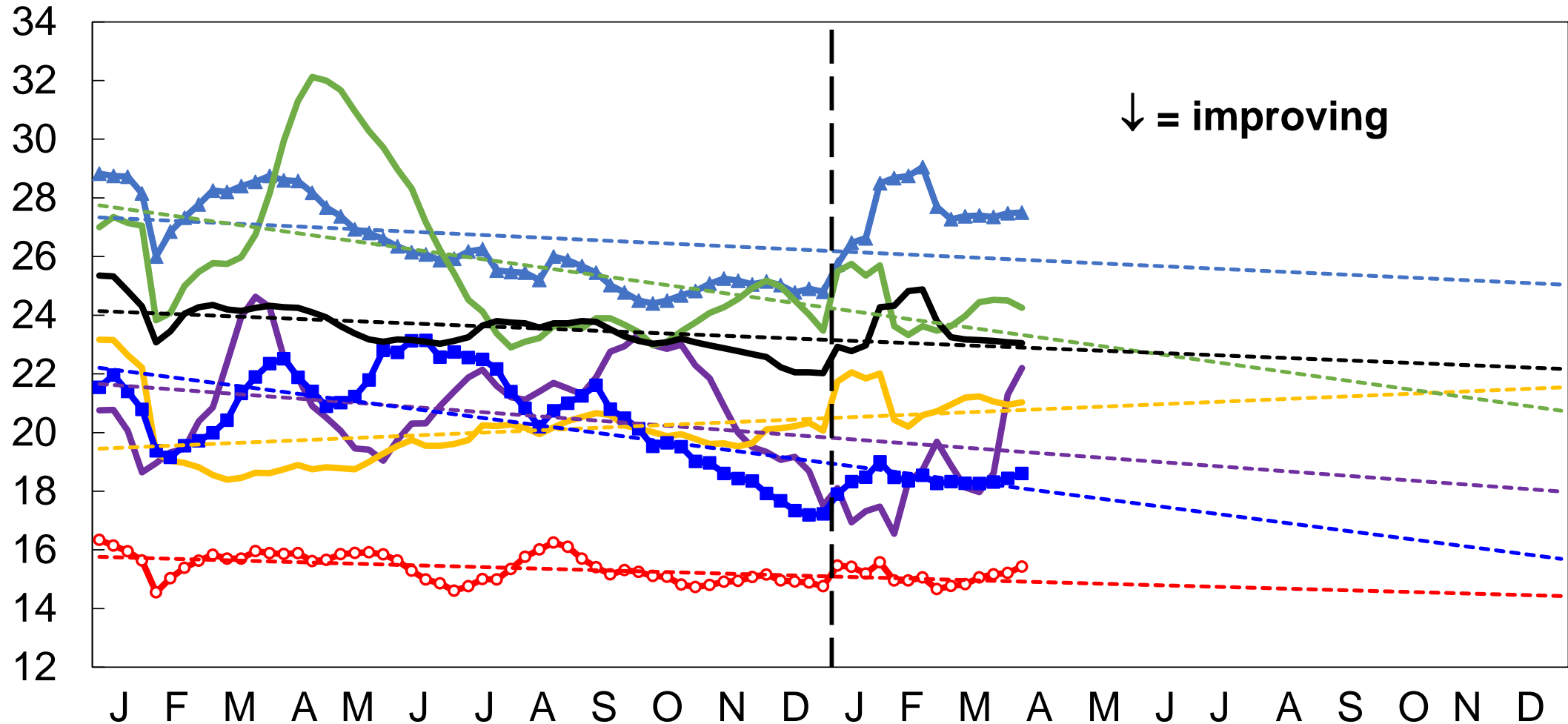
# Average System-Wide Train Speed: Jan. 2023 - March 2024 (miles per hour)



Each line is a Class I railroad. Dashed lines are trend lines. Absolute values are not comparable across railroads due to operational and other differences in the respective rail systems. Source: STB



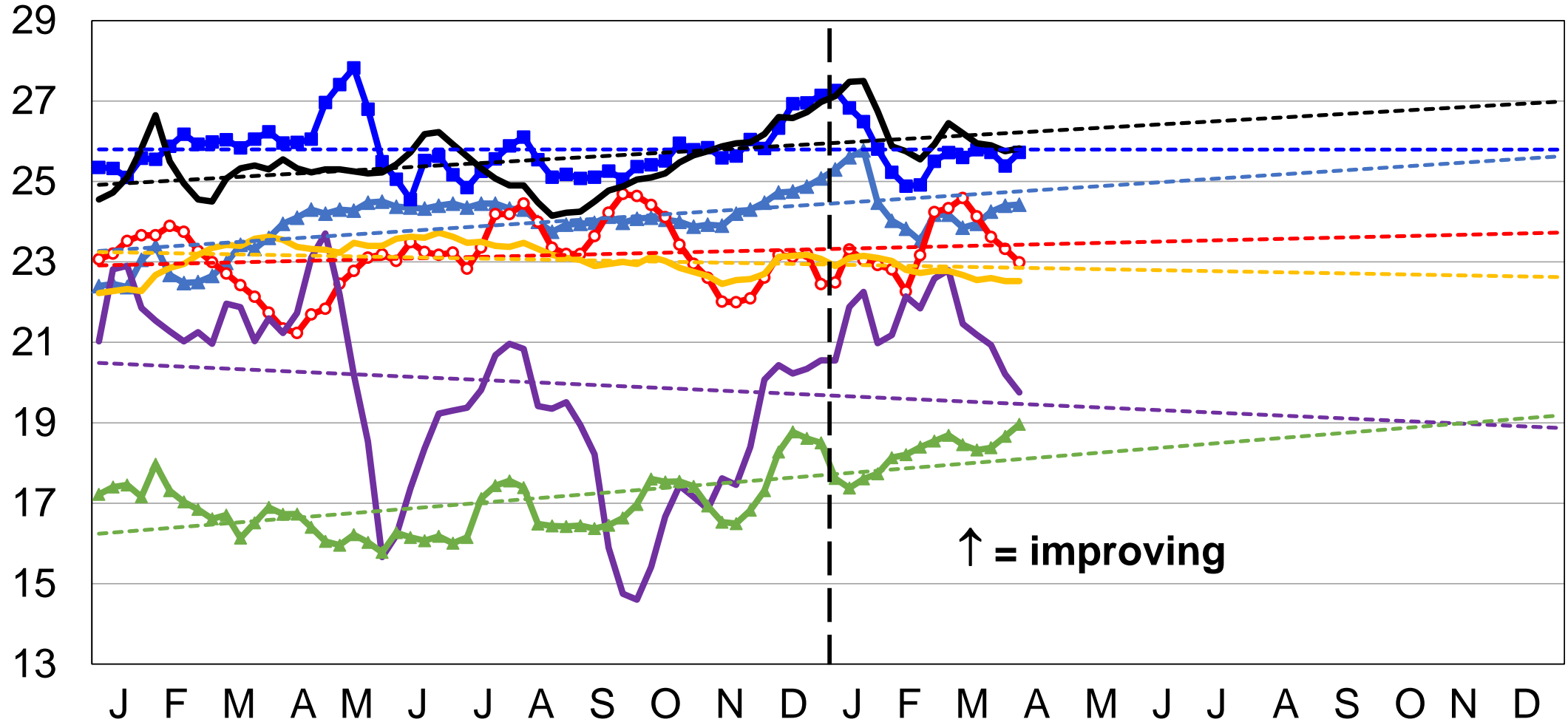
# Avg. System-Wide Terminal Dwell Time: Jan. 2023 - March 2024 (hours)



Each line is a Class I railroad. Dashed lines are trend lines. Absolute values are not comparable across railroads due to operational and other differences in the respective rail systems. Source: STB

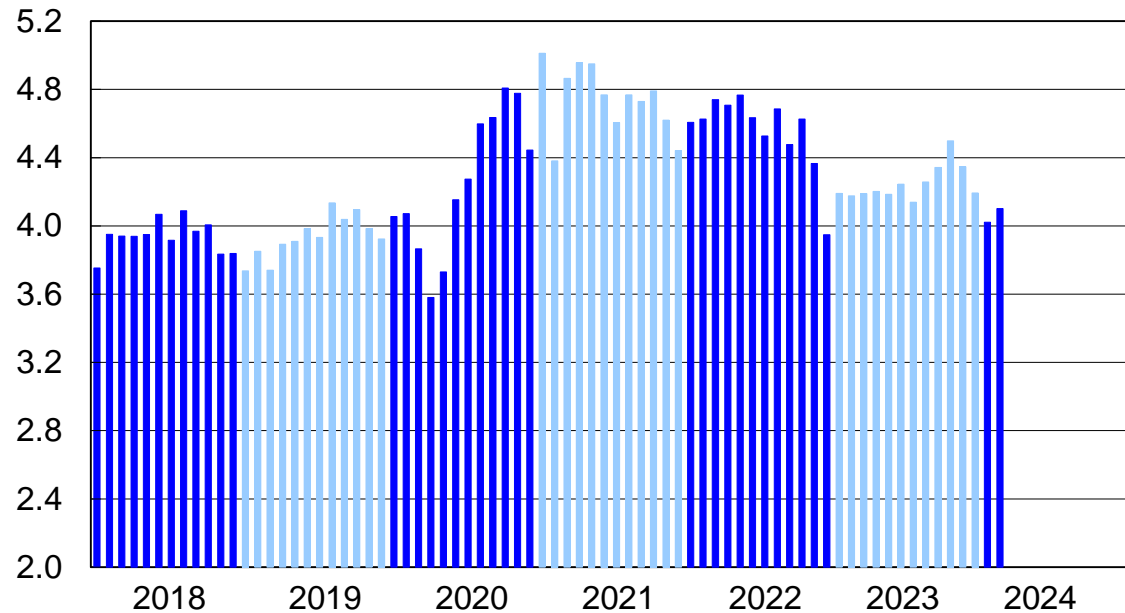


## Average Coal Train Speed: Jan. 2023 - March 2024 (miles per hour)



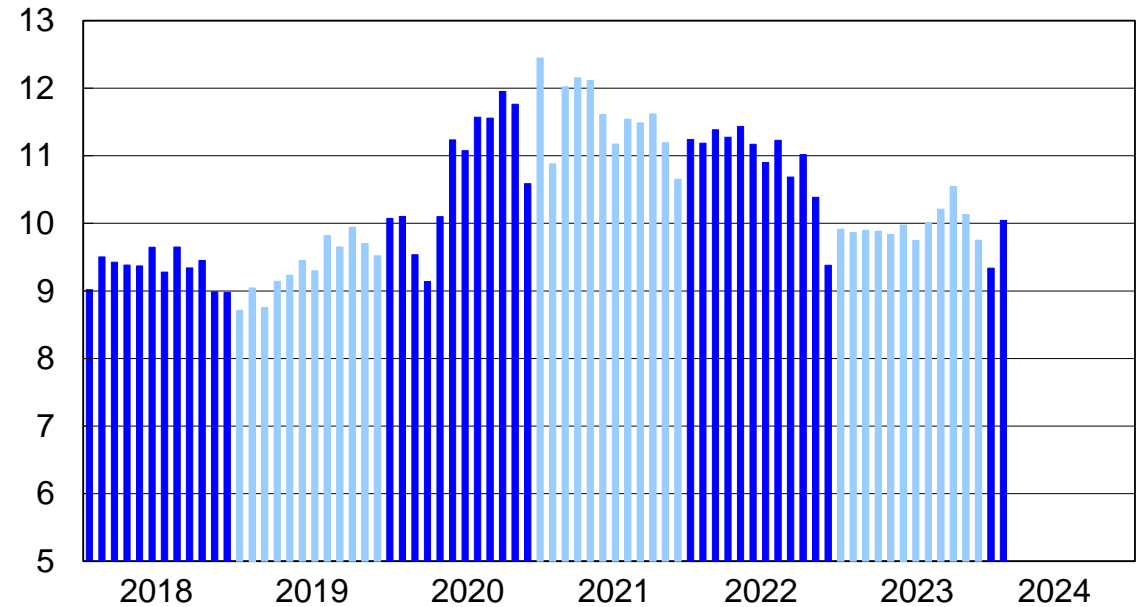
Each line is a Class I railroad. Dashed lines are trend lines. Absolute values are not comparable across railroads due to operational and other differences in the respective rail systems. Source: STB

### Weekly Originated U.S. Rail Traffic Units Per Employee: Jan. 2018 - Feb. 2024



\*Traffic is based on weekly average total carloads + intermodal units for each month. Data are for BNSF, CSX, NS, and UP combined; CN and CPKC and non-Class I railroads are not included for data availability reasons. Data are not seasonally adjusted. Source: AAR, STB

### Weekly Originated U.S. Rail Traffic Units Per Train & Engine Employee: Jan. 2018 - Feb. 2024



Traffic based on weekly average originated total carloads + intermodal units. Data are for BNSF, CSX, NS, and UP combined; CN, CPKC, and non-Class I railroads are not included. Data are not seasonally adjusted. Source: AAR, STB