

METHODOLOGY FOR GRAIN CAR UTILIZATION SCOREBOARD

The purpose of the National Grain Car Council Measurement Task Force (MTF) was to identify measures that could be developed to monitor the utilization of the Nation's rail grain car fleet. The MTF has proposed a system that would report monthly loadings of grains and oilseeds and grain and oilseed related products in the types of cars commonly described as the grain car fleet. In addition to reporting these loadings, a monthly measure of the utilization of this grain car fleet will also be calculated. Together these numbers will provide a monthly scoreboard that can be used to track the demand for and utilization of grain cars in the United States.

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) will provide monthly loadings of Farm Products and Food or Kindred Products (Standard Transportation Commodity Codes (STCC) 01 and 20) in AAR car types C113, C114, C313, and C314 for the United States. This loading information will be taken from the AAR TRAIN 2 data set. STCC 01 includes all grain and oilseeds. STCC 20 includes all grain mill products and oilseed meals. The four identified car types account for more than 99 percent of all grain and oilseed loadings.

The number of cars in the grain car fleet will be estimated by William (Bill) C. Harding, Harding & Associates, Tucson, Arizona. His estimates will be based on data collected from the railcar manufacturing industry and on analysis of loadings in the four types of cars identified above from the Carload Waybill Sample. These estimates will be updated annually by Mr. Harding to provide a fleet size as of January 1 each year.

The grain car fleet utilization number will be calculated monthly based on the previous months loadings and the fleet estimate as of January 1. The utilization measure will be the ratio of loadings of the specified commodity groups and the number of cars in the fleet. The ratio can be expressed as follows:

Car Loadings

Number of Cars in the Fleet

Where: *Car Loadings* = the monthly number of loadings of STCC 01 and 20 commodities in C113, C114, C313, and C314 rail cars as reported by the AAR from the TRAIN 2 data set