



COMMITTEE ON

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

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Jobs & Economic Importance of U.S. Infrastructure Network

The Nation's transportation and infrastructure network not only connects our communities and citizens to doctors, hospitals, and medical services during emergencies, it supports millions of American jobs. Congressional actions to stabilize the economy and critical segments of the transportation sector will help ensure that these jobs that are vital to moving the American economy still exist once the COVID-19 crisis is over.

Aviation

- Aviation supports 5% of our Nation's GDP and generates \$1.6 trillion in annual economic activity.
- Mainline air carriers directly employ about 750,000 people and induce another 10 million jobs.
- Regional airlines employ about 70,000 people and operate 41% of all U.S. departures.
- Ultra low-cost carriers employ over 29,000 people.
- Airports are preparing for possible drop-offs at individual airports of 80-100% of passengers.
- More than 1.2 million people work at airports, including airport employees, federal employees, contract workers, and concessionaires.
- U.S. commercial airports economic output exceeded \$1.4 trillion in 2017.
- Small airports, served exclusively or primarily by regional airlines, supported \$134 billion in U.S. economic activity last year and created 1 million jobs.
- Two million jobs are associated with the U.S. aviation manufacturing industry.

Trucking & Motor Carriers

- 7.8 million people were employed in trucking-related jobs in 2018, excluding the self-employed.
- There were 892,078 for-hire carriers; 772,011 private carriers; and 84,930 other interstate motor carriers on file with USDOT in May 2019. 91.3% operate 6 or fewer trucks.
- In 2017, there were 36 million trucks registered and used for business purposes (excluding government and farm).
- Trucks move more than 70% of the Nation's freight by weight.
- Commercial trucks make up 13.4% of all registered vehicles and in 2017 paid \$17.7 billion in federal highway-user taxes and \$25.8 billion in state highway-user taxes.
- The motor coach industry – largely made up of 3,000 operators, most of which are small businesses – provides almost 89,000 full-time equivalent jobs. If the pandemic lasts the year, nearly 75% of those jobs could be lost.

Ports & Waterways

- The total economic contributions of the U.S. waterways systems resulted in nearly 256,000 jobs and \$27.2 billion in GDP in 2016.
- About 2.3 billion tons of cargo, including grain, coal, agricultural inputs, steel, petroleum products, chemicals, and aggregate materials, is shipped via the Nation's inland, coastal, and Great Lakes navigation systems.
- Cargo activity at U.S. ports supported nearly 31 million jobs in 2018, providing for \$1.4 trillion in personal income and local consumption.
- Cargo activities at U.S. ports account for 26% of the U.S. economy and generated nearly \$5.4 trillion in total economic activity in 2018.
- Cargo volume at U.S. ports is expected to drop 20% in the first quarter of 2020.
- All major cruise lines have suspended ports of call in the United States for 30 days.

Water Infrastructure

- 1.7 million workers are directly involved in designing, constructing, operating, and governing water infrastructure, including clean water and drinking water. Of those, about 300,000 are employed at water utilities specifically, and another 200,000 plus people are employed by public utilities as operations contractors and construction project contractors.

Pipelines

- There are over 2.6 million miles of gas and hazardous liquid pipelines overseen by USDOT.
- The oil and gas industry supports 10.3 million U.S. jobs and makes up nearly 8% of GDP.
- The industry provides above average wages to American workers (85% higher than average private sector salaries).

Rail

- In 2017, Class I freight railroads supported over 1.1 million jobs and \$219.5 billion in economic output. This industry produces some of the Nation's best-paid jobs and actively recruits military veterans.
- Railroads haul approximately 35% of all U.S. exports.
- Amtrak employs over 20,000 people.
- More than 32 million Amtrak trips were taken in Fiscal Year 2019. Amtrak estimates a 95% drop in demand for its Acela service and 85% drop on its Northeast route – its most densely populated corridor.

Public Transportation

- Public transit agencies employ 435,000 people and support millions of private sector jobs.
- Public bus and rail transportation provided 55.8 billion passenger miles traveled in both rural and urban communities. Of public transit trips, 48% are by rail and 47% by bus.
- Approximately 87% of bus and rail trips directly benefit the local economy, 50% get people to work and 37% connect them to local businesses.
- Transit is experiencing significant reductions in ridership due to state and local workplace restrictions and is facing billions of dollars in fare revenue losses.