

Rail Freight Facts and Figures

Did you know that...

- Rail freight moves goods for all the major supermarket chains
- A quarter of all containerised goods imported to the UK move by rail, including clothes, food, toys etc.
- Rail freight keeps the lights on by moving 35% of the fuel used to make electricity
- Rail freight is helping to build Britain: Terminal 5, Olympic stadia, M1 and M25 widening
- Rail freight's heaviest train is 4000 tonnes - equal to 160 lorries
- Britain's fastest freight train moves letters at 100 mph
- Each week freight trains leave Britain for Spain, Italy and Germany
- On average, every 1.5 minutes a freight train starts its journey
- Using rail instead of road reduces CO₂ emissions by 70%

Size of the Rail Freight Market

- Between 1995 and today, rail freight volumes have grown by 60%.
- Since 1998 (the first year specific data is available) intermodal traffic has increased by 47%.
- In 2008/09, rail freight moved 20.63 billion net tonne km of goods and lifted 104 million tonnes of goods, a rise of 1% on the previous year.
- In 2008/09 there were 316,684 freight train movements – around 1000 per day based on 6 day per week operation. Freight services operate across the entire UK network to meet customer requirements.

Market Share

- Rail now has 11.5% of the surface transport market (rail and HGV), and 8.3% of the total freight market including pipelines, water and air freight. At privatisation, the surface transport market share was 8%.
- Rail freight was estimated to have removed 6.7m lorry journeys from UK roads equating to 1.4 billion lorry kilometres. (2007/08).

Rail Freight Operators

- There are 8 licensed rail freight operators in the UK;
- It is estimated that rail freight operators employ around 7,200 staff directly, with other staff employed by Network Rail, at ports and terminals and other suppliers.

The Rail Freight Group represents the rail freight industry
www.rfg.org.uk

The Rail Freight Operators' Association
is the collective voice of the four largest UK rail freight operators

RFG: Tony Berkeley, Chairman, tony@rfg.org.uk, +44 7710 431542
Maggie Simpson, Policy Manager, maggie@rfg.org.uk, +44 7737 007957
RFOA: Graham Smith, Chairman, graham.smith@dbschenker.com, +44 7801 905500,
Lindsay Durham, Vice Chairman, durhaml@freightliner.co.uk, +44 7793 369583