BNSF Railway

BNSF Railway is one of North America’s leading freight transportation companies, with a rail network of 32,500 route miles in 28 states and three Canadian provinces. BNSF is one of the top transporters of the products and materials that help feed, clothe, supply and power communities throughout America and the world. BNSF moves those goods more safely and efficiently, on significantly less fuel, with fewer emissions than the all-highway alternative.

Agricultural Products
• In 2020, BNSF hauled 1.1 million carloads of agricultural commodities
• BNSF moves enough grain to supply 900 million people with a year’s supply of bread
• BNSF transports enough wheat flour in a year to bake more than 23 billion dozens of cookies

Consumer Products
• In 2020, 5.2 million intermodal shipments (truck trailers or containers) were transported on BNSF’s rail lines instead of on the nation’s congested highways
• A new car or truck is loaded/unloaded onto a BNSF automobile train approximately every 11 seconds
• BNSF has 1.3 million feet of track in intermodal facilities alone. If spread end to end, it would be the length of 9 ½ Boston Marathons

Industrial Products
• In 2020, BNSF hauled 3 million carloads of industrial products
• In 2020, BNSF moved more industrial product railcars than the population of Kansas
• BNSF hauls enough asphalt to lay a single lane road two times around the equator
• In 2020, BNSF hauled 1.4 million coal shipments
• One shipment of coal can power 19 homes for an entire year

BNSF Facts
Length of network: 32,500
States in network: 28
Canadian provinces: 3
Employees: ~35,000
Headquarters: Fort Worth, TX
Ports served: 40+
Intermodal facilities: 25
Average trains per day: 1,200
Locomotives: ~7,700
Capital investment (2020): $3.1 billion
Bridges: 13,000+
Tunnels: 89
Grade crossings: 25,000+
Packages shipped on time during typical holiday season: 70 million
Carloads shipped in 2020: 9.4 million
Distance BNSF hauls 1 ton of freight on 1 gallon of diesel fuel: ~500 miles

History
BNSF’s history dates back 170 years to 1849, when the 12-mile Aurora Branch Railroad was founded in Illinois. Over the next several decades, many additional rail lines were built and eventually became part of what is today’s BNSF Railway. Some of BNSF’s predecessor railroads were Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe; Burlington Northern; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; Frisco; Great Northern; Northern Pacific and Spokane, Portland & Seattle.

BNSF was created Sept. 22, 1995, from the merger of Burlington Northern, Inc. (parent company of Burlington Northern Railroad) and Santa Fe Pacific Corporation (parent company of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad). On Feb. 12, 2010, BNSF became a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, Inc.