



Monthly railway carloadings

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Highlights

March 2006 and first quarter 2006

Canadian railways recorded their biggest ever monthly increase in business in March as freight surged in almost every commodity category.

Railways loaded 25.2 million metric tonnes of freight, up 4.0 million metric tonnes or 18.9% from February. Business usually increases with improved weather in March, which is also a longer month. But the gain this year was stunning.

Railways carried an average of 812,000 metric tonnes each day in March, compared with 756,000 tonnes per day in February.

All commodity groups except two were on the rise – ‘other’ cereal grains, consisting mostly of barley and oats, which have been on a downward trend since last November; and loadings of liquid propane gases which are strongly tied to the heating requirements of winter.

Iron ore, wheat, potash, coal and lumber, historically regarded as the top five of the rail industry, had the biggest influence on the surge in March. Together, these five accounted for 55% of the 4.0-million-tonne gain.

The non-intermodal portion of freight totalled 22.7 million tonnes, up 19% from February. About 284,000 railcars were required to ship all of March’s non-intermodal freight.

Loadings of intermodal freight, that is, containers and trailers hauled on flat cars, amounted to 2.5 million tonnes, up 18.7%. This increase in volume exceeded by more than a full percentage point a similar growth pattern between February and March in 2001.

Freight coming from the United States, either destined for or passing through Canada, followed the same pattern. Traffic jumped 19.8% to 2.5 million tonnes.

On a year-over-year basis, non-intermodal tonnage was down 3.0% from March last year. Intermodal traffic rose 4.3%, while traffic received from south of the border was up 4.0%.

On a quarterly basis, railways loaded 69.6 million tonnes of freight between January and March, down from both the first quarter of 2005 and the fourth quarter of 2005.

The non-intermodal portion slipped 1.5% from the first three months of last year. The intermodal portion increased 1.5%, while the traffic received from the United States remained steady.

For further information please contact Transportation Statistics, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6 (Telephone: 1-866-500-8400, Internet: TransportationStatistics@statcan.ca).

May 2006

Note of Appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses and governments. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

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Table 1

Railway Carloading Statistics for Non-Intermodal Traffic by Commodity in Canada - Total¹

Commodity	March 2006		March 2005	
	Cars	Metric tonnes	Cars	Metric tonnes
Wheat	20,595	1,861,420	16,339	1,464,295
Other cereal grains	2,477	193,144	4,809	376,018
Fresh, chilled or dried vegetables	2,900	258,043	2,450	214,756
Fresh, chilled or dried fruit and nuts	0	0	1	65
Colza seeds (canola)	7,035	562,597	4,168	328,470
Other oil seeds and nuts, other agricultural product	556	41,497	839	64,866
Animal feed and products	1,788	147,298	2,322	186,522
Meat, fish, seafood and preparations	0	0	0	0
Milled grain production and preparations, bakery products	1,180	93,340	1,140	88,600
Animal or vegetable fats, oils and flours	2,611	205,595	2,417	190,634
Sugar	477	41,721	434	38,016
Prepared food stuffs, not elsewhere classified	294	17,991	254	16,445
Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages	90	7,108	80	6,385
Sand, gravel and crushed stone	2,815	235,953	3,715	320,118
Salt	1,341	119,464	1,305	117,118
Phosphate rock	546	48,103	889	80,116
Sulphur	6,623	635,417	7,606	733,442
Gypsum	x	x	x	x
Other non-metallic minerals ²	7,209	609,040	6,717	557,105
Iron ores and concentrates	29,361	2,738,664	30,570	2,800,511
Copper ores and concentrates	1,168	102,456	1,451	128,328
Nickel ores and concentrates	2,308	176,743	3,254	236,158
Lead ores and concentrates	282	21,745	207	15,962
Zinc ores and concentrates	904	78,122	782	67,491
Other metallic ores and concentrates	4,964	473,108	5,348	508,730
Coal	26,818	2,731,092	30,908	3,078,938
Gasoline and aviation turbine fuel	2,616	198,018	2,120	161,550
Fuel oils and crude petroleum	6,075	489,506	5,817	470,365
Gaseous hydrocarbons, including liquid petroleum gas (LPG's)	5,883	372,653	6,128	391,270
Coal coke and petroleum coke	2,213	146,231	1,637	107,968
Other refined petroleum and coal products	3,017	235,436	2,772	214,364
Sulphuric acid	2,798	250,464	2,586	230,364
Alumina	2,926	267,639	3,204	291,985
Other basic chemicals	8,727	759,162	8,306	722,647
Potash	12,312	1,182,011	18,173	1,730,895
Fertilizers (excluding potash)	4,631	389,918	5,897	502,829
Other chemical products and preparations	713	59,611	843	70,937
Plastic and rubber	4,319	374,802	4,475	385,614
Logs and other wood in the rough	4,857	277,055	5,481	333,771
Wood chips	6,277	377,113	6,307	382,246
Lumber	18,940	1,577,944	17,746	1,448,868
Other wood products (plywood, veneer et cetera)	8,099	625,180	7,596	578,372
Wood pulp	10,760	867,473	12,381	994,298
Newsprint	7,089	458,618	6,877	442,723
Paper and paperboard, except printed products	5,132	344,944	6,306	408,404
Cement	2,332	215,981	2,114	193,827
Other non-metallic mineral products	503	43,689	865	70,024
Iron and steel, primary or semi-finished	6,205	518,411	5,859	478,690
Copper, primary or semi-finished	436	36,625	360	30,174
Aluminum, primary or semi-finished	2,928	242,722	2,694	217,240
Other non-ferrous metal, primary or semi-finished	804	63,744	889	72,843
Articles of base metal	1,423	107,351	1,171	81,783
Machinery	106	4,343	110	4,287
Automobiles and mini-vans	9,856	168,376	9,829	169,826
Freight motor vehicles	7,405	130,452	7,869	138,259
Other vehicles	19	190	53	1,207
Parts and accessories for motor vehicles	3,090	88,572	2,992	87,338
Other transportation equipment	2,031	59,208	1,016	35,721
Metallic waste and scrap	3,522	271,274	2,827	215,431
Non-metallic waste and scrap	696	36,715	648	36,568
Other manufactured and miscellaneous goods	180	11,505	249	14,790
Pool car traffic of freight forwarder and ship associated	453	22,064	631	29,488
Mixed loads or unidentified freight	532	15,237	587	17,843
Less than carload shipments	...	19	...	25
Total non-intermodal traffic loaded³	284,247	22,689,917	293,420	23,383,923

See footnote(s) at the end of tables.

Table 2
Railway Carloading Statistics for Non-Intermodal Traffic by Commodity in Canada - Eastern Division

Commodity	March 2006		March 2005	
	Cars	Metric tonnes	Cars	Metric tonnes
Wheat	423	37,907	616	55,375
Other cereal grains	177	14,752	122	9,198
Fresh, chilled or dried vegetables	34	2,839	76	6,091
Fresh, chilled or dried fruit and nuts	0	0	0	0
Colza seeds (canola)	67	5,261	25	2,074
Other oil seeds and nuts, other agricultural product	87	5,893	64	4,577
Animal feed and products	709	56,724	1,007	79,192
Meat, fish, seafood and preparations	0	0	0	0
Milled grain production and preparations, bakery products	53	4,248	79	6,366
Animal or vegetable fats, oils and flours	306	22,903	263	19,684
Sugar	367	32,053	335	29,264
Prepared food stuffs, not elsewhere classified	38	3,348	29	2,435
Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages	33	2,482	28	2,095
Sand, gravel and crushed stone	1,446	114,058	1,442	115,648
Salt	842	74,856	957	86,184
Phosphate rock	546	48,103	889	80,116
Sulphur	120	10,497	156	13,770
Gypsum	x	x	x	x
Other non-metallic minerals ²	6,777	570,719	6,153	507,509
Iron ores and concentrates	29,361	2,738,664	30,570	2,800,511
Copper ores and concentrates	392	33,547	700	60,958
Nickel ores and concentrates	2,308	176,743	3,254	236,158
Lead ores and concentrates	282	21,745	207	15,962
Zinc ores and concentrates	701	61,428	716	61,984
Other metallic ores and concentrates	4,924	469,556	5,237	498,766
Coal	2,035	178,350	2,607	226,640
Gasoline and aviation turbine fuel	2,265	172,959	1,662	127,427
Fuel oils and crude petroleum	3,162	250,806	3,051	244,448
Gaseous hydrocarbons, including liquid petroleum gas (LPG's)	2,879	182,312	3,389	217,465
Coal coke and petroleum coke	1,501	91,935	969	57,259
Other refined petroleum and coal products	1,354	103,237	1,391	105,004
Sulphuric acid	2,422	216,933	2,260	201,397
Alumina	2,926	267,639	3,204	291,985
Other basic chemicals	3,439	290,549	3,577	303,203
Potash	766	70,486	1,291	117,942
Fertilizers (excluding potash)	140	11,994	376	33,625
Other chemical products and preparations	630	54,109	713	60,753
Plastic and rubber	1,974	165,684	2,213	185,490
Logs and other wood in the rough	3,120	164,975	3,102	168,336
Wood chips	1,690	105,513	1,482	96,092
Lumber	4,997	408,562	5,456	438,529
Other wood products (plywood, veneer et cetera)	3,256	237,255	2,912	208,618
Wood pulp	3,575	271,784	4,308	332,541
Newsprint	6,075	387,883	5,722	365,932
Paper and paperboard, except printed products	3,906	260,318	4,974	318,514
Cement	1,349	124,661	1,014	92,123
Other non-metallic mineral products	348	30,486	538	44,167
Iron and steel, primary or semi-finished	5,466	454,736	4,988	403,789
Copper, primary or semi-finished	335	28,928	263	22,734
Aluminum, primary or semi-finished	2,906	240,973	2,678	215,974
Other non-ferrous metal, primary or semi-finished	341	28,557	437	37,778
Articles of base metal	663	48,294	742	50,266
Machinery	99	3,913	74	2,349
Automobiles and mini-vans	7,832	137,775	7,949	142,105
Freight motor vehicles	6,860	122,182	7,451	132,552
Other vehicles	14	109	53	1,207
Parts and accessories for motor vehicles	3,090	88,572	2,987	87,066
Other transportation equipment	1,560	45,496	893	29,801
Metallic waste and scrap	2,340	182,551	1,789	140,077
Non-metallic waste and scrap	278	17,776	298	18,975
Other manufactured and miscellaneous goods	85	5,978	103	6,737
Pool car traffic of freight forwarder and ship associated	449	21,910	628	29,298
Mixed loads or unidentified freight	525	14,963	469	14,597
Less than carload shipments	...	19	...	25
Total non-intermodal traffic loaded³	136,645	9,999,488	140,938	10,266,737

See footnote(s) at the end of tables.

Table 3

Railway Carloading Statistics for Non-Intermodal Traffic by Commodity in Canada - Western Division

Commodity	March 2006		March 2005	
	Cars	Metric tonnes	Cars	Metric tonnes
Wheat	20,172	1,823,513	15,723	1,408,920
Other cereal grains	2,300	178,392	4,687	366,820
Fresh, chilled or dried vegetables	2,866	255,204	2,374	208,665
Fresh, chilled or dried fruit and nuts	0	0	1	65
Colza seeds (canola)	6,968	557,336	4,143	326,396
Other oil seeds and nuts, other agricultural product	469	35,604	775	60,289
Animal feed and products	1,079	90,574	1,315	107,330
Meat, fish, seafood and preparations	0	0	0	0
Milled grain production and preparations, bakery products	1,127	89,092	1,061	82,234
Animal or vegetable fats, oils and flours	2,305	182,692	2,154	170,950
Sugar	110	9,668	99	8,752
Prepared food stuffs, not elsewhere classified	256	14,643	225	14,010
Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages	57	4,626	52	4,290
Sand, gravel and crushed stone	1,369	121,895	2,273	204,470
Salt	499	44,608	348	30,934
Phosphate rock	0	0	0	0
Sulphur	6,503	624,920	7,450	719,672
Gypsum	x	x	x	x
Other non-metallic minerals ²	432	38,321	564	49,596
Iron ores and concentrates	0	0	0	0
Copper ores and concentrates	776	68,909	751	67,370
Nickel ores and concentrates	0	0	0	0
Lead ores and concentrates	0	0	0	0
Zinc ores and concentrates	203	16,694	66	5,507
Other metallic ores and concentrates	40	3,552	111	9,964
Coal	24,783	2,552,742	28,301	2,852,298
Gasoline and aviation turbine fuel	351	25,059	458	34,123
Fuel oils and crude petroleum	2,913	238,700	2,766	225,917
Gaseous hydrocarbons, including liquid petroleum gas (LPG's)	3,004	190,341	2,739	173,805
Coal coke and petroleum coke	712	54,296	668	50,709
Other refined petroleum and coal products	1,663	132,199	1,381	109,360
Sulphuric acid	376	33,531	326	28,967
Alumina	0	0	0	0
Other basic chemicals	5,288	468,613	4,729	419,444
Potash	11,546	1,111,525	16,882	1,612,953
Fertilizers (excluding potash)	4,491	377,924	5,521	469,204
Other chemical products and preparations	83	5,502	130	10,184
Plastic and rubber	2,345	209,118	2,262	200,124
Logs and other wood in the rough	1,737	112,080	2,379	165,435
Wood chips	4,587	271,600	4,825	286,154
Lumber	13,943	1,169,382	12,290	1,010,339
Other wood products (plywood, veneer et cetera)	4,843	387,925	4,684	369,754
Wood pulp	7,185	595,689	8,073	661,757
Newsprint	1,014	70,735	1,155	76,791
Paper and paperboard, except printed products	1,226	84,626	1,332	89,890
Cement	983	91,320	1,100	101,704
Other non-metallic mineral products	155	13,203	327	25,857
Iron and steel, primary or semi-finished	739	63,675	871	74,901
Copper, primary or semi-finished	101	7,697	97	7,440
Aluminum, primary or semi-finished	22	1,749	16	1,266
Other non-ferrous metal, primary or semi-finished	463	35,187	452	35,065
Articles of base metal	760	59,057	429	31,517
Machinery	7	430	36	1,938
Automobiles and mini-vans	2,024	30,601	1,880	27,721
Freight motor vehicles	545	8,270	418	5,707
Other vehicles	5	81	0	0
Parts and accessories for motor vehicles	0	0	5	272
Other transportation equipment	471	13,712	123	5,920
Metallic waste and scrap	1,182	88,723	1,038	75,354
Non-metallic waste and scrap	418	18,939	350	17,593
Other manufactured and miscellaneous goods	95	5,527	146	8,053
Pool car traffic of freight forwarder and ship associated	4	154	3	190
Mixed loads or unidentified freight	7	274	118	3,246
Less than carload shipments	...	0	...	0
Total non-intermodal traffic loaded³	147,602	12,690,429	152,482	13,117,186

See footnote(s) at the end of tables.

Table 4

Railway Carloading Statistics for Non-Intermodal Traffic by Commodity in Canada (YTD) - Total¹

Commodity	January 2006 to March 2006		January 2005 to March 2005	
	Cars	Metric tonnes	Cars	Metric tonnes
Wheat	52,516	4,748,983	48,720	4,369,703
Other cereal grains	12,651	1,003,431	12,370	978,935
Fresh, chilled or dried vegetables	7,161	636,696	4,814	418,516
Fresh, chilled or dried fruit and nuts	0	0	1	65
Colza seeds (canola)	18,012	1,436,767	9,254	730,451
Other oil seeds and nuts, other agricultural product	1,408	108,543	1,406	107,462
Animal feed and products	5,061	416,650	6,769	546,339
Meat, fish, seafood and preparations	2	9	0	0
Milled grain production and preparations, bakery products	3,138	246,853	3,094	240,118
Animal or vegetable fats, oils and flours	7,641	603,666	6,582	519,852
Sugar	1,309	114,672	1,305	114,610
Prepared food stuffs, not elsewhere classified	861	52,515	615	39,660
Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages	272	21,382	210	16,711
Sand, gravel and crushed stone	8,191	709,689	9,200	801,417
Salt	4,158	370,030	4,172	374,195
Phosphate rock	1,692	149,793	2,716	244,855
Sulphur	20,747	1,996,198	19,841	1,917,013
Gypsum	x	x	x	x
Other non-metallic minerals ²	18,866	1,588,706	16,458	1,365,554
Iron ores and concentrates	80,348	7,403,200	85,996	7,875,574
Copper ores and concentrates	3,264	288,129	3,892	343,213
Nickel ores and concentrates	5,627	427,307	9,298	675,257
Lead ores and concentrates	682	52,588	616	47,500
Zinc ores and concentrates	2,300	198,324	2,334	200,137
Other metallic ores and concentrates	14,709	1,403,772	15,358	1,460,585
Coal	76,175	7,720,232	82,023	8,160,534
Gasoline and aviation turbine fuel	7,099	542,914	5,849	444,499
Fuel oils and crude petroleum	16,877	1,369,793	16,255	1,317,689
Gaseous hydrocarbons, including liquid petroleum gas (LPG's)	20,726	1,316,637	21,821	1,381,801
Coal coke and petroleum coke	5,819	404,967	5,077	331,114
Other refined petroleum and coal products	8,263	644,215	7,934	613,863
Sulphuric acid	7,665	686,396	7,060	627,872
Alumina	8,393	767,763	8,776	792,099
Other basic chemicals	23,739	2,066,968	23,733	2,064,113
Potash	27,990	2,675,407	47,222	4,500,321
Fertilizers (excluding potash)	12,625	1,059,541	15,333	1,295,853
Other chemical products and preparations	2,028	169,960	2,238	188,614
Plastic and rubber	12,136	1,047,054	12,525	1,072,853
Logs and other wood in the rough	14,168	814,791	14,493	868,983
Wood chips	18,330	1,084,192	17,120	1,029,779
Lumber	51,302	4,277,181	46,705	3,808,735
Other wood products (plywood, veneer et cetera)	22,155	1,716,614	20,480	1,551,211
Wood pulp	31,541	2,547,781	34,907	2,802,521
Newsprint	20,597	1,330,833	19,716	1,266,021
Paper and paperboard, except printed products	14,850	1,006,460	17,897	1,148,580
Cement	6,064	561,637	5,527	505,688
Other non-metallic mineral products	1,279	110,840	2,047	162,566
Iron and steel, primary or semi-finished	17,713	1,490,062	16,613	1,375,411
Copper, primary or semi-finished	1,268	106,218	1,086	90,457
Aluminum, primary or semi-finished	8,361	691,709	7,642	616,328
Other non-ferrous metal, primary or semi-finished	2,290	181,175	2,425	197,246
Articles of base metal	3,777	283,100	2,415	167,908
Machinery	311	13,826	280	9,626
Automobiles and mini-vans	26,803	465,679	26,374	466,538
Freight motor vehicles	21,465	383,918	21,664	383,410
Other vehicles	52	469	78	1,664
Parts and accessories for motor vehicles	8,538	245,241	8,954	261,534
Other transportation equipment	5,354	152,155	2,984	107,828
Metallic waste and scrap	9,463	731,994	7,617	581,441
Non-metallic waste and scrap	2,087	111,285	1,902	105,039
Other manufactured and miscellaneous goods	488	31,030	841	51,445
Pool car traffic of freight forwarder and ship associated	1,005	45,696	1,580	74,269
Mixed loads or unidentified freight	1,488	43,167	1,611	48,741
Less than carload shipments	...	50	...	25
Total non-intermodal traffic loaded³	790,900	62,876,852	803,825	63,861,941

See footnote(s) at the end of tables.

Table 5

Railway Carloading Statistics for Non-Intermodal Traffic by Commodity in Canada (YTD) - Eastern Division

Commodity	January 2006 to March 2006		January 2005 to March 2005	
	Cars	Metric tonnes	Cars	Metric tonnes
Wheat	1,370	122,820	1,758	157,086
Other cereal grains	828	68,011	421	32,202
Fresh, chilled or dried vegetables	82	6,915	111	8,907
Fresh, chilled or dried fruit and nuts	0	0	0	0
Colza seeds (canola)	184	14,399	88	7,071
Other oil seeds and nuts, other agricultural product	277	20,209	185	13,150
Animal feed and products	1,840	148,534	3,337	263,280
Meat, fish, seafood and preparations	2	9	0	0
Milled grain production and preparations, bakery products	145	11,549	204	16,461
Animal or vegetable fats, oils and flours	844	63,398	743	55,817
Sugar	1,027	89,826	1,068	93,699
Prepared food stuffs, not elsewhere classified	121	10,603	56	4,684
Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages	104	7,694	79	5,884
Sand, gravel and crushed stone	3,201	266,305	3,479	286,197
Salt	2,330	207,260	2,524	227,294
Phosphate rock	1,692	149,793	2,716	244,855
Sulphur	344	30,251	430	37,911
Gypsum	x	x	x	x
Other non-metallic minerals ²	17,391	1,458,435	15,216	1,256,597
Iron ores and concentrates	80,348	7,403,200	85,996	7,875,574
Copper ores and concentrates	1,024	89,532	1,926	167,638
Nickel ores and concentrates	5,627	427,307	9,298	675,257
Lead ores and concentrates	682	52,588	616	47,500
Zinc ores and concentrates	1,796	156,669	2,146	184,484
Other metallic ores and concentrates	14,575	1,391,858	15,053	1,433,292
Coal	6,005	517,768	7,776	685,137
Gasoline and aviation turbine fuel	5,773	440,836	4,641	353,375
Fuel oils and crude petroleum	8,829	705,080	8,565	688,480
Gaseous hydrocarbons, including liquid petroleum gas (LPG's)	10,008	639,575	11,194	715,763
Coal coke and petroleum coke	3,395	215,652	3,052	176,451
Other refined petroleum and coal products	3,659	277,453	3,839	288,539
Sulphuric acid	6,659	596,564	6,135	545,601
Alumina	8,391	767,588	8,775	792,009
Other basic chemicals	9,402	798,564	9,638	814,190
Potash	1,666	153,008	3,286	300,280
Fertilizers (excluding potash)	680	60,032	860	76,716
Other chemical products and preparations	1,784	152,439	1,943	165,660
Plastic and rubber	5,319	440,853	6,131	512,441
Logs and other wood in the rough	8,459	444,918	8,441	449,863
Wood chips	4,828	283,660	3,960	247,230
Lumber	12,845	1,050,316	13,509	1,079,684
Other wood products (plywood, veneer et cetera)	8,627	629,688	7,819	556,618
Wood pulp	10,151	777,673	12,363	954,892
Newsprint	17,470	1,113,688	16,551	1,056,683
Paper and paperboard, except printed products	11,644	783,198	13,917	881,526
Cement	3,345	309,992	2,752	250,621
Other non-metallic mineral products	794	69,981	1,359	108,583
Iron and steel, primary or semi-finished	15,548	1,304,261	14,314	1,175,359
Copper, primary or semi-finished	987	84,803	818	69,574
Aluminum, primary or semi-finished	8,293	686,289	7,590	612,143
Other non-ferrous metal, primary or semi-finished	932	78,460	1,196	102,975
Articles of base metal	1,843	134,900	1,737	118,049
Machinery	270	11,581	200	5,620
Automobiles and mini-vans	22,074	393,660	21,671	397,865
Freight motor vehicles	20,090	363,783	20,497	366,292
Other vehicles	47	388	62	1,352
Parts and accessories for motor vehicles	8,538	245,241	8,948	261,177
Other transportation equipment	4,246	118,331	2,633	90,453
Metallic waste and scrap	6,300	494,489	4,770	375,171
Non-metallic waste and scrap	807	52,655	867	55,974
Other manufactured and miscellaneous goods	213	14,286	345	24,261
Pool car traffic of freight forwarder and ship associated	996	45,366	1,567	73,582
Mixed loads or unidentified freight	1,476	42,754	1,319	40,604
Less than carload shipments	...	50	...	25
Total non-intermodal traffic loaded³	378,227	27,496,987	392,490	28,565,658

See footnote(s) at the end of tables.

Table 6

Railway Carloading Statistics for Non-Intermodal Traffic by Commodity in Canada (YTD) - Western Division

Commodity	January 2006 to March 2006		January 2005 to March 2005	
	Cars	Metric tonnes	Cars	Metric tonnes
Wheat	51,146	4,626,163	46,962	4,212,617
Other cereal grains	11,823	935,420	11,949	946,733
Fresh, chilled or dried vegetables	7,079	629,781	4,703	409,609
Fresh, chilled or dried fruit and nuts	0	0	1	65
Colza seeds (canola)	17,828	1,422,368	9,166	723,380
Other oil seeds and nuts, other agricultural product	1,131	88,334	1,221	94,312
Animal feed and products	3,221	268,116	3,432	283,059
Meat, fish, seafood and preparations	0	0	0	0
Milled grain production and preparations, bakery products	2,993	235,304	2,890	223,657
Animal or vegetable fats, oils and flours	6,797	540,268	5,839	464,035
Sugar	282	24,846	237	20,911
Prepared food stuffs, not elsewhere classified	740	41,912	559	34,976
Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages	168	13,688	131	10,827
Sand, gravel and crushed stone	4,990	443,384	5,721	515,220
Salt	1,828	162,770	1,648	146,901
Phosphate rock	0	0	0	0
Sulphur	20,403	1,965,947	19,411	1,879,102
Gypsum	x	x	x	x
Other non-metallic minerals ²	1,475	130,271	1,242	108,957
Iron ores and concentrates	0	0	0	0
Copper ores and concentrates	2,240	198,597	1,966	175,575
Nickel ores and concentrates	0	0	0	0
Lead ores and concentrates	0	0	0	0
Zinc ores and concentrates	504	41,655	188	15,653
Other metallic ores and concentrates	134	11,914	305	27,293
Coal	70,170	7,202,464	74,247	7,475,397
Gasoline and aviation turbine fuel	1,326	102,078	1,208	91,124
Fuel oils and crude petroleum	8,048	664,713	7,690	629,209
Gaseous hydrocarbons, including liquid petroleum gas (LPG's)	10,718	677,062	10,627	666,038
Coal coke and petroleum coke	2,424	189,315	2,025	154,663
Other refined petroleum and coal products	4,604	366,762	4,095	325,324
Sulphuric acid	1,006	89,832	925	82,271
Alumina	2	175	1	90
Other basic chemicals	14,337	1,268,404	14,095	1,249,923
Potash	26,324	2,522,399	43,936	4,200,041
Fertilizers (excluding potash)	11,945	999,509	14,473	1,219,137
Other chemical products and preparations	244	17,521	295	22,954
Plastic and rubber	6,817	606,201	6,394	560,412
Logs and other wood in the rough	5,709	369,873	6,052	419,120
Wood chips	13,502	800,532	13,160	782,549
Lumber	38,457	3,226,865	33,196	2,729,051
Other wood products (plywood, veneer et cetera)	13,528	1,086,926	12,661	994,593
Wood pulp	21,390	1,770,108	22,544	1,847,629
Newsprint	3,127	217,145	3,165	209,338
Paper and paperboard, except printed products	3,206	223,262	3,980	267,054
Cement	2,719	251,645	2,775	255,067
Other non-metallic mineral products	485	40,859	688	53,983
Iron and steel, primary or semi-finished	2,165	185,801	2,299	200,052
Copper, primary or semi-finished	281	21,415	268	20,883
Aluminum, primary or semi-finished	68	5,420	52	4,185
Other non-ferrous metal, primary or semi-finished	1,358	102,715	1,229	94,271
Articles of base metal	1,934	148,200	678	49,859
Machinery	41	2,245	80	4,006
Automobiles and mini-vans	4,729	72,019	4,703	68,673
Freight motor vehicles	1,375	20,135	1,167	17,118
Other vehicles	5	81	16	312
Parts and accessories for motor vehicles	0	0	6	357
Other transportation equipment	1,108	33,824	351	17,375
Metallic waste and scrap	3,163	237,505	2,847	206,270
Non-metallic waste and scrap	1,280	58,630	1,035	49,065
Other manufactured and miscellaneous goods	275	16,744	496	27,184
Pool car traffic of freight forwarder and ship associated	9	330	13	687
Mixed loads or unidentified freight	12	413	292	8,137
Less than carload shipments	...	0	...	0
Total non-intermodal traffic loaded³	412,673	35,379,865	411,335	35,296,283

See footnote(s) at the end of tables.

Table 7
Railway Carloading Statistics for Intermodal and Non-Intermodal Traffic in Canada - Total¹

	March 2006			March 2005		
	Units	TEUs ^e	Metric tonnes	Units	TEUs ^e	Metric tonnes
Total non-intermodal traffic loaded³			22,689,917			23,383,923
Container-on-flat-car	150,504	260,554	2,403,295	141,183	242,870	2,271,871
Trailer-on-flat-car	5,645	.	80,065	7,176	.	109,634
Traffic received from United States connections	.	.	2,460,931	.	.	2,366,001
Total traffic carried³			27,634,208			28,131,429
Container-on-flat-car included in receipts from United States connections	19,004	33,156	250,418	19,818	33,892	266,221
Trailer-on-flat-car included in receipts from United States connections	1,627	.	25,059	1,515	.	21,363
Traffic received from Canadian connections	.	.	3,831,954	.	.	4,624,271

See footnote(s) at the end of tables.

Table 8
Railway Carloading Statistics for Intermodal and Non-Intermodal Traffic in Canada - Eastern Division

	March 2006			March 2005		
	Units	TEUs ^e	Metric tonnes	Units	TEUs ^e	Metric tonnes
Total non-intermodal traffic loaded³			9,999,488			10,266,737
Container-on-flat-car	86,538	150,343	1,412,046	78,607	135,195	1,294,077
Trailer-on-flat-car	5,144	.	71,040	6,711	.	101,128
Traffic received from United States connections	.	.	670,551	.	.	694,191
Total traffic carried³			12,153,125			12,356,133
Container-on-flat-car included in receipts from United States connections	5,805	11,489	67,557	5,782	10,993	72,644
Trailer-on-flat-car included in receipts from United States connections	144	.	2,495	608	.	11,710
Traffic received from Canadian connections	.	.	3,101,894	.	.	3,619,310

See footnote(s) at the end of tables.

Table 9
Railway Carloading Statistics for Intermodal and Non-Intermodal Traffic in Canada - Western Division

	March 2006			March 2005		
	Units	TEUs ^e	Metric tonnes	Units	TEUs ^e	Metric tonnes
Total non-intermodal traffic loaded³			12,690,429			13,117,186
Container-on-flat-car	63,966	110,211	991,249	62,576	107,675	977,794
Trailer-on-flat-car	501	.	9,025	465	.	8,506
Traffic received from United States connections	.	.	1,790,380	.	.	1,671,810
Total traffic carried³			15,481,083			15,775,296
Container-on-flat-car included in receipts from United States connections	13,199	21,667	182,861	14,036	22,899	193,577
Trailer-on-flat-car included in receipts from United States connections	1,483	.	22,564	907	.	9,653
Traffic received from Canadian connections	.	.	730,060	.	.	1,004,961

See footnote(s) at the end of tables.

Table 10

Railway Carloading Statistics for Intermodal and Non-Intermodal Traffic in Canada (YTD) - Total¹

	January 2006 to March 2006			January 2005 to March 2005		
	Units	TEUs ^e	Metric tonnes	Units	TEUs ^e	Metric tonnes
Total non-intermodal traffic loaded³			62,876,852			63,861,941
Container-on-flat-car	410,326	710,053	6,522,374	392,274	670,674	6,338,344
Trailer-on-flat-car	16,016	.	228,222	19,895	.	309,983
Traffic received from United States connections	.	.	6,912,133	.	.	6,891,800
Total traffic carried³			76,539,581			77,402,068
Container-on-flat-car included in receipts from United States connections	50,964	88,648	673,700	54,087	92,065	729,048
Trailer-on-flat-car included in receipts from United States connections	4,307	.	65,080	4,750	.	68,319
Traffic received from Canadian connections	.	.	11,451,600	.	.	12,967,031

See footnote(s) at the end of tables.

Table 11

Railway Carloading Statistics for Intermodal and Non-Intermodal Traffic in Canada (YTD) - Eastern Division

	January 2006 to March 2006			January 2005 to March 2005		
	Units	TEUs ^e	Metric tonnes	Units	TEUs ^e	Metric tonnes
Total non-intermodal traffic loaded³			27,496,987			28,565,658
Container-on-flat-car	222,623	386,879	3,641,729	215,660	368,310	3,590,638
Trailer-on-flat-car	14,825	.	206,506	18,626	.	286,186
Traffic received from United States connections	.	.	1,972,368	.	.	2,025,718
Total traffic carried³			33,317,590			34,468,200
Container-on-flat-car included in receipts from United States connections	15,967	31,352	187,708	15,990	30,180	202,956
Trailer-on-flat-car included in receipts from United States connections	547	.	9,436	1,963	.	37,651
Traffic received from Canadian connections	.	.	9,455,199	.	.	10,262,191

See footnote(s) at the end of tables.

Table 12

Railway Carloading Statistics for Intermodal and Non-Intermodal Traffic in Canada (YTD) - Western Division

	January 2006 to March 2006			January 2005 to March 2005		
	Units	TEUs ^e	Metric tonnes	Units	TEUs ^e	Metric tonnes
Total non-intermodal traffic loaded³			35,379,865			35,296,283
Container-on-flat-car	187,703	323,174	2,880,645	176,614	302,364	2,747,706
Trailer-on-flat-car	1,191	.	21,716	1,269	.	23,797
Traffic received from United States connections	.	.	4,939,765	.	.	4,866,082
Total traffic carried³			43,221,991			42,933,868
Container-on-flat-car included in receipts from United States connections	34,997	57,296	485,992	38,097	61,885	526,092
Trailer-on-flat-car included in receipts from United States connections	3,760	.	55,644	2,787	.	30,668
Traffic received from Canadian connections	.	.	1,996,401	.	.	2,704,840

See footnote(s) at the end of tables.

Methodology and concepts

The ***Railway Carloadings (Monthly)*** publication presents essential data for timely analysis of the Rail Transport Industry and its contribution to the Canadian economy. Approximately 40 rail carriers report each month on their total intermodal and non-intermodal¹ traffic of the previous month. For non-intermodal traffic, the carriers report the number of cars and tonnes by commodity of revenue-generating freight that they have loaded in Canada. For intermodal freight, the carriers report the number of units and tonnes for containers-on-flat-cars (C.O.F.C.) and trailers-on-flat-cars (T.O.F.C.), with no commodity detail. The carriers also report the total tonnage of revenue freight received from United States connections.

The total quantity of freight carried in Canada is the sum of the non-intermodal and intermodal freight loaded and the traffic received from U.S. connections. Additional information provided includes the number of units and tonnes of C.O.F.C. and T.O.F.C. received from U.S. connections and the total tonnes of cargo that the carriers received from other Canadian connections. This freight that is exchanged among Canadian based carriers is counted only once in the total quantity of freight moved as it is counted only when loaded. For intermodal freight, twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) are derived from the dimensions of the freight-laden containers. Empty containers are not included in these statistics.

The data are collected via questionnaires and electronic reports that are filed with Statistics Canada eight working days after the reference month. These questionnaires are captured and edited and the data are then aggregated to produce tables for all of Canada and the Eastern and Western divisions of Canada². Tables show the data for the reference month and the year-to-date. These year-to-date figures include revisions of data from previous months.

Users of ***Railway Carloadings (Monthly)*** current and historical data should be aware of a break in the continuity of these data. Starting with the January 1999 reference period, the commodities presented in the ***Railway Carloadings (Monthly)*** publication were modified to conform to the Standard Classification of Transported Goods (SCTG) and the number of carriers surveyed more than doubled from the eighteen carriers surveyed prior to 1999.

The additional carriers were primarily shortline carriers whose data were previously included with the data of mainline carriers. The change in commodity classes has had negligible impact on the reporting of bulk commodities (e.g., wheat, potash and coal) which represent the majority of the total number of cars and tonnes. However, the reporting of manufactured and miscellaneous goods has changed significantly.

Details of the commodities included in each SCTG class presented in ***Railway Carloadings (Monthly)*** are available upon request. For further information, please contact Transportation Statistics, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6 (tel.: 1-866-500-8400, Internet: TransportationStatistics@statcan.ca.)

1. Intermodal traffic is for freight carried in containers or truck trailers that are loaded onto flat cars.

2. The Eastern and Western Divisions, for statistical purposes, are separated by an imaginary line running from Thunder Bay to Armstrong, Ontario. Freight loaded at Thunder Bay is included in the Western Division while loadings at Armstrong are reported in the Eastern Division.

Footnotes:

1. Data included in table 1 and 4 represent about 40 railway carriers.
2. Includes carloadings of gypsum.
3. Excludes goods transported in containers or trailers on flat cars.

Symbols:

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- ^p preliminary
- ^r revised
- x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- ^E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published

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