

2008 ECONOMIC FACT SHEET

SAUK COUNTY

INDUSTRIES SERVED BY FREIGHT RAILROAD SYSTEM

In Sauk County, 14 industries ship freight via rail with the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad. Shipping freight by rail provides these industries listed below a low cost, efficient alternative to shipping by truck or other means.

HANKE TRUCKING
Reedsburg

LORMAN IRON & STEEL
Reedsburg, WI

UNITED COOPERATIVE
Reedsburg

UNITED COOPERATIVE
Rock Springs

UNITED COOPERATIVE
Prairie du Sac

FRONTIER FARM SERVICES
Spring Green

FLAMBEAU PLASTICS
Baraboo

HARTJE LUMBER
LaValle

SENGER LUMBER
Baraboo

SENECA FOODS
Baraboo

GREDE FOUNDRY
Reedsburg

MIDWEST HARDWOODS
Reedsburg

PACE INDUSTRIES
Reedsburg

RR DONNELLEY
Baraboo

2008 Economic Benefits From Industries Utilizing Freight Railroads

2008 Employees (Includes Seasonal)	Total Property Taxes Paid	Property Tax Paid Directly to Sauk County	Ad Valorem Tax To State of WI (All Railroads-2008)	Total Railcar Loads
2,100	\$1,300,000	\$425,000	\$17,500,000	2,499

- With the railroad system in place today, over **\$12 million** is being saved in highway maintenance costs on an annual basis in Wisconsin.
- Rail service preserves existing highway infrastructure. There were **10,000 fewer trucks** on Sauk County roads in 2008 due directly to utilization of the railroad within the county.
- Rail service to industries in Sauk County provides a vital transportation resource linking these businesses to thousands of other businesses in national and international markets.
- Most employees working at these rail served industries live within the county less than 25 miles from work.
- Railroads today provide a very high level of customer service to Sauk County. This efficient service helps industries save thousands of dollars in transportation costs yearly.

In order to further facilitate savings to Sauk County industries, it is imperative to improve rail efficiencies by providing larger capacity railcars on the system. This can be accomplished by improving the existing infrastructure to allow for 286,000 lb capacity – the industry standard.

The 286k Issue

The national trend toward heavier railcars on large railroads - from 263,000 to 286,000 pounds per car (286k) - threatens short line and regional railroad viability. Failure to upgrade short line and regional railroad infrastructure to handle 286k railcars will force more rail traffic to be diverted to highways.

- 43% of short line and regional railroad track miles need upgrades in order to handle 286k.
- Without upgrades, short line and regional railroads face slower, partial loads or lost traffic.

Transportation and Environmental Benefits

One 80,000 lb truck does highway damage equivalent to 9,600 automobiles. Each railcar carries approximately 3 – 4 truckloads, depending on the commodity. For example, a 40-car train equates to at least 120 truckloads and its diversion to trucks may result in roadway damage equal to the traffic of more than 1 million automobiles. Freight moved by rail improves highway safety and congestion, and reduces dependence on foreign oil by offering a more fuel-efficient alternative. Short line and regional railroads offer shippers a cost effective and environmentally favorable transportation option.

SAUK COUNTY



WISCONSIN & SOUTHERN RAILROAD CO.

