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# Rail data in Canada: An Overview

[www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)



Telling Canada's  
story in numbers

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Canada



# Overview and Outline

- **Overview of the rail system in Canada:**
  - In 2015, Canadian railways operated 63,000 KM of track and generated \$14.4 billion (CAD) in annual revenue;
  - As of 2017, approximately 30 million tonnes of cargo (intermodal and non-intermodal) are moved each month.
- **Statistical Measurement:**
  - Annual Railway Report / Commodity O-D File
  - Monthly Railway Carloadings Survey
- **Program considerations**

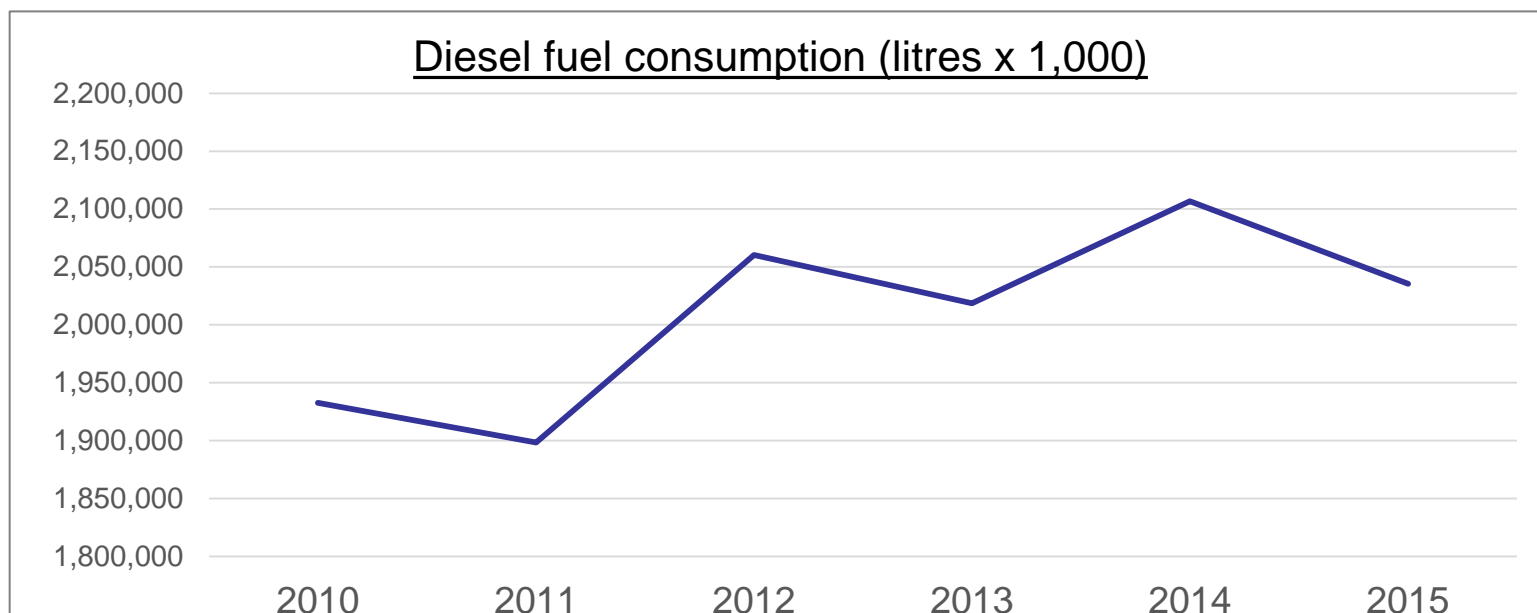


# Annual Railway Survey

- Direct measures of financial & operating statistics via a census of Canadian carriers (freight + pass):
  - Companies falling under federal jurisdiction report data on schedules or forms, directly to Transport Canada.
  - Other (i.e. provincial jurisdiction) carriers report on the same schedules or forms, directly to Statistics Canada.
- At Statistics Canada, reports undergo extensive review and edit for consistency and reliability.
- Rail Commodity Origin-Destination component based on an administrative file of waybills.

# Annual Railway Survey

- Financial and Balance sheet information as well as operating information available on 20 detailed CANSIM tables (revenue, expenses, km of track, number and type of employees, fuel) :

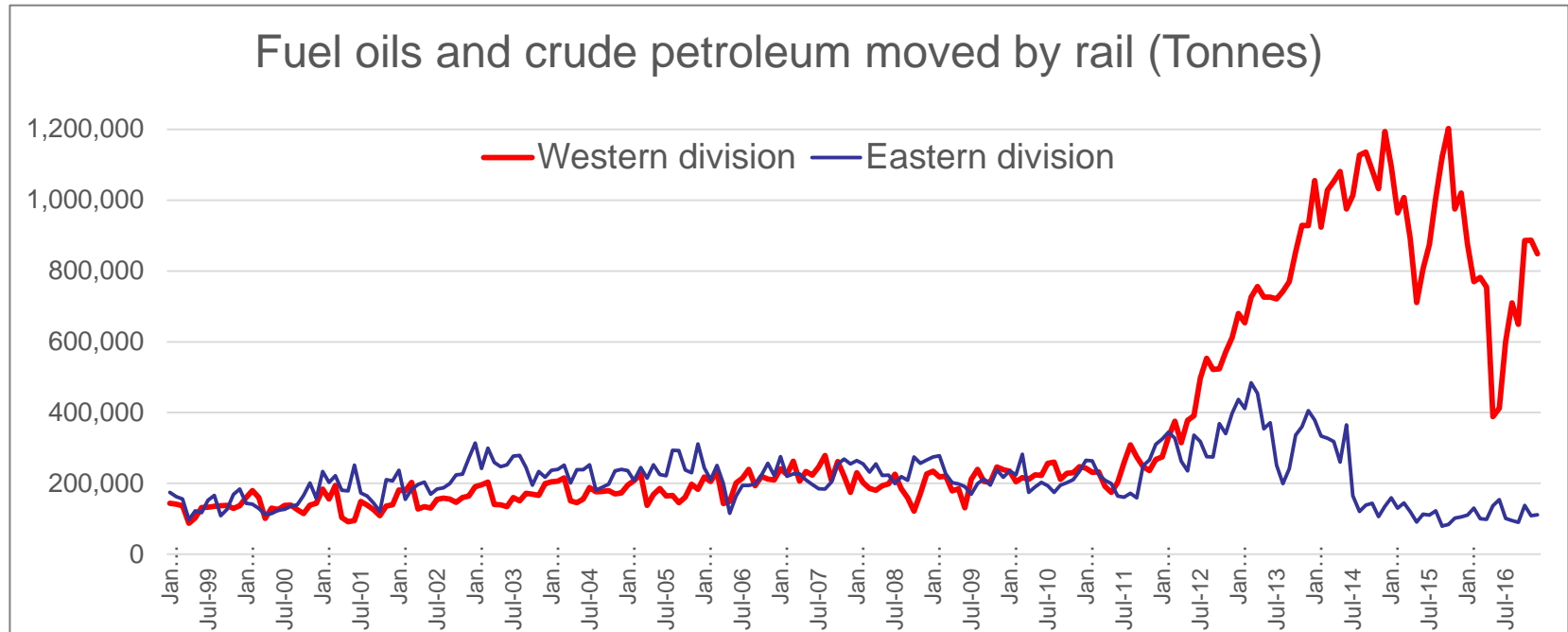


# Monthly Railway Carloadings

- About 24 rail carriers report monthly on total traffic:
  - Non-intermodal traffic, # of cars and tonnes by commodity of revenue-generating freight loaded in Canada;
  - Intermodal freight, # of units and tonnes for containers-on-flat-cars (C.O.F.C.) and trailers-on-flat-cars (T.O.F.C.); and
  - For both, carriers also report the total tonnage of revenue freight received from United States connections.
- Questionnaires / e-reports are filed with Statistics Canada 8 working days after the reference month.
- Data are captured, edited and aggregated to produce tables for Canada and East/West.

# Monthly Railway Carloadings

- Timely:** Data collected, verified and published less than two months after reference period.
- Detail:** Commodity detail: 60+ SCTG commodities



# Program Considerations

- Internal uses
  - National Accounting (e.g. GDP by Industry);
  - Prices (Service Producer Price Index); and
  - Freight Analysis Framework (under development).
- Other government
  - Transport Canada (regulation, policy development);
  - Canada Transportation Agency (statistical, background); and
  - Statistics Canada initiative to be federal rail data custodian
- Outreach efforts
  - Ongoing relationship with Railway Association of Canada; and
  - Request from Energy Information Agency re oil by rail.



*[www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)*

Thank you for your interest.

Questions?

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