

NCTCOG FACT SHEET

August 2023

QUICK TAKE

What:

Goods Movement Planning in North Central Texas

Significance:

The North Central Texas Council of Governments coordinates planning and recommendations to move freight more effectively in the 12-county metropolitan planning area.

By the Numbers:

The manufacturing, transportation and warehousing industries in North Central Texas make a combined \$84 billion in gross domestic product (GDP). In 2022, more than 477 million tons of goods were shipped from the region. The Bureau of Transportation Statistics estimates the value of a ton of goods shipped ranges from \$430 for bulk commodities to \$18,000 for electronic and electrical equipment. There are four Foreign Trade Zones in North Texas, including the third busiest for receiving merchandise in the US.

Freight: More than Just Trucks

There are five principal modes of transportation used to transport freight through, in and out of the North Texas region. Trucks are perhaps the most visible mode of freight movement, transporting approximately 85% of goods shipped to and from the region. However, Dallas-Fort Worth is diverse, encompassing rail, intermodal, air cargo, trucks and pipelines. All these modes work together to ensure food gets to the grocery store, fuel makes it from the refinery to the service station and retail products are delivered to market for consumers.

Freight is essential to the regional economy. If the flow of goods were to stop, the Federal Highway Administration estimates:

- Within 6-12 hours, assembly lines would come to a stop.
- Within 24 hours, hospitals would begin to run out of essential supplies.
- Within 48 hours, service stations would begin to run out of gas.
- Within 72 hours, grocery stores would begin to run out of perishable items.

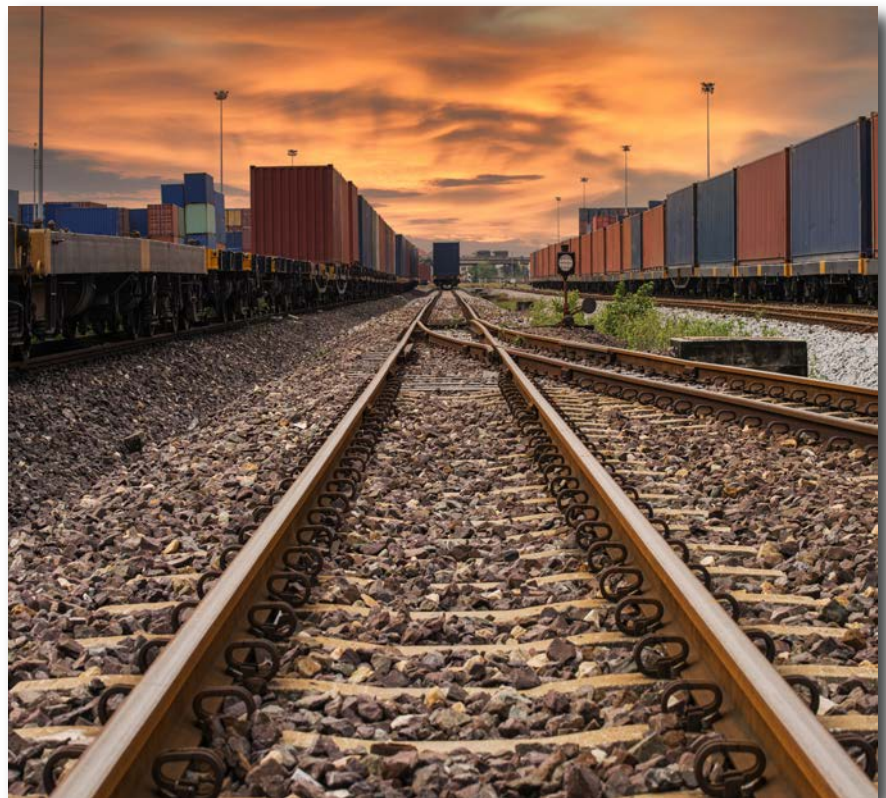


Photo: Getty Images

The region's freight rail network is relied on to ship large amounts items that are heavy, have a low per-unit value or need to be shipped over 500 miles.

It is important to maintain the pace of freight movement because of its effect on the economy. Not only does this ensure the timely delivery of goods in the region, but it also employs hundreds of thousands of North Texans. Over 375,000 workers are involved in some facet of the transportation and material-moving industry.

Truck

North Texas heavily relies on trucks to deliver commodities such as gasoline, fuel oils, nonmetal mineral products, natural sand and coal. An extensive road network allows access to the region from many directions, saving truck operators and consumers time and money.

Railroads

The regional rail network is extensive, composed of three Class I railroads (BNSF Railway, Kansas City Southern Railway and Union Pacific Railroad) and two regional railroads (Dallas, Garland & Northeastern and Fort Worth & Western) that link the region with major international and domestic freight routes in North America. Rail shipments utilize the regional network, which covers more than 2,300 miles, to ship large amounts items that are heavy (e.g., coal and grains), have a low per-unit value (e.g., gravel) or need to be shipped over 500 miles. The region also relies on heavy rail to deliver commodities such as plastics, rubber, gasoline, fuel oils and basic chemicals.

Intermodal

Intermodal is a critical part of the region's freight transportation network. An intermodal facility is a place where a specific transportation mode (truck, rail, air, or ship) transfers goods to another transportation mode. In North Texas, the most prominent intermodal transfers occur between trucks and railroad cars.

The region has four Intermodal railyards: BNSF Railway's Alliance Facility, located in Fort Worth; Union Pacific Railroad's Dallas Intermodal Terminal, located in Wilmer/Hutchins; Union Pacific Railroad's Mesquite Intermodal Terminal in Mesquite; and KCS

Railway in Wylie. Combined, these facilities handle over one million intermodal transfers annually.

Air Cargo

Air Cargo is mainly used to transport highly valuable and priority items, representing only a small share of the total tonnage shipped in the US. North Texas has three air cargo facilities: Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, Dallas Love Field, and Perot Field Alliance Airport. DFW Airport and Alliance lead the region in transportation of cargo.

Pipelines

Pipelines and pipeline facilities in the region allow for the transportation of petroleum, natural gas and other hazardous materials. The region's pipeline network is extensive, totaling approximately 16,000 miles. This extensive network, which operates mainly below ground, transports almost 30 million tons annually in North Texas, placing it second to trucks in tons transported.

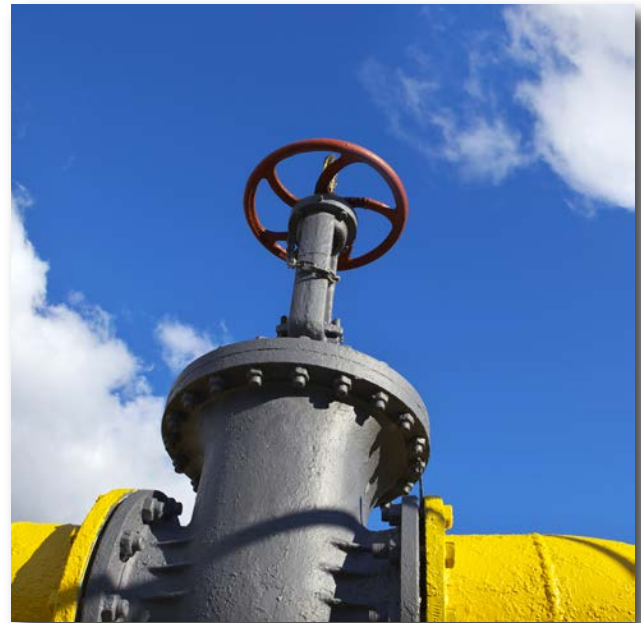


Photo: Getty Images

The region's 16,000-mile pipeline network is responsible for transporting 30 million tons of petroleum, natural gas and other hazardous materials each year.



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

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