

How The U.S. Freight Car Fleet Has Changed

31-Dec	Plain Box	Equipped Box	Gondola	Hopper	Covered Hopper	Flat	Refrig.	Tank	Other
1984	160,148	148,104	163,663	303,339	302,522	142,046	58,619	182,661	25,180
1988	104,195	103,495	134,769	237,116	284,556	132,365	48,209	177,997	16,239
1992	69,571	98,507	142,141	204,142	295,728	123,770	36,469	190,896	11,912
1993	55,771	110,752	148,541	190,094	302,903	124,796	35,258	194,328	10,689
1994	47,690	116,324	156,628	187,865	311,910	128,767	33,728	199,318	10,182
1995	42,866	117,945	171,217	175,350	325,882	133,056	33,068	209,728	9,815
1996	39,155	117,129	179,046	166,980	350,611	131,840	31,103	215,482	9,227
1997	31,681	124,893	187,224	163,917	365,196	134,233	29,650	225,029	8,596
1998	26,594	130,039	197,972	164,506	382,316	143,758	29,645	232,425	8,412
1999	24,969	134,182	209,768	170,390	401,217	150,385	28,452	241,776	7,697
2000	23,209	132,582	210,004	167,936	408,106	157,237	26,848	247,600	7,274
2001	21,367	119,209	201,336	154,206	390,444	149,993	25,556	246,108	5,917
2002	21,002	117,054	200,416	151,129	385,461	148,938	24,696	245,173	5,801
2003	19,952	112,670	199,217	143,720	378,354	151,083	24,124	244,124	5,736
2004	19,203	115,136	201,295	143,252	377,055	158,798	24,204	243,632	5,345
2005	20,037	113,842	203,574	150,512	382,779	168,132	24,321	248,083	5,242
2006	20,136	112,009	213,717	164,376	395,843	171,484	23,492	255,116	5,077
2007	16,329	105,241	217,775	166,421	411,503	172,243	22,092	269,076	5,029
2008	15,427	98,855	220,238	168,338	414,418	170,191	18,831	281,430	5,244
2009	13,840	90,055	215,609	167,516	409,564	163,029	17,103	281,923	4,794
2010	12,078	83,436	204,325	155,406	404,011	153,712	15,147	276,561	4,353
2011 ^r	11,614	80,000	197,971	146,177	403,678	161,587	14,294	275,747	3,575
2012 ^r	11,377	79,362	200,578	141,768	418,126	160,765	14,252	286,695	3,262
2013 ^p	11,270	76,914	198,609	137,204	421,549	162,687	13,999	309,245	3,124

Note: Changing traffic mixes, better utilization and higher capacities all contribute to fleet changes. For example, the average capacity for U.S. covered hoppers was 104.2 tons in 2003; by 2012's end, it had increased to 107.1 tons.

Also: Canadian-owned freight cars are excluded, although many are used in both the United States and Canada. Additional U.S. railroads have been acquired by Canadian companies during the past 10 years and their freight cars are excluded after each acquisition.

^r Preliminary

^p Revised

SOURCE: AAR