

FREIGHT

Freight Transportation Profile—Louisiana Freight Analysis Framework

Understanding future freight activity is important for matching infrastructure supply to demand and for assessing potential investment and operational strategies. To help decisionmakers identify areas in need of capacity improvements, the U.S. Department of Transportation developed the Freight Analysis Framework (FAF), a comprehensive national data and analysis tool, including county-to-county freight flows for the truck, rail, water, and air modes. FAF also forecasts freight activity in 2010 and 2020 for each of these modes. Information about the methodology used in developing FAF is available on the Office of Freight Management and Operations' website www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight.

The U.S. freight transportation network moves a staggering volume of goods each year. Over 15 billion tons of goods, worth over \$9 trillion, were moved in 1998. The movement of bulk goods, such as grains, coal, and ores, still comprises a large share of the tonnage moved on the U.S. freight network. However, lighter and more valuable goods, such as computers and office equipment, now make up an increasing proportion of what is moved. FAF estimates that trucks carried about 71 percent of the total tonnage and 80 percent of the total value of U.S. shipments in 1998. By 2020, the U.S. transportation system is expected to handle about 23 billion tons of cargo valued at nearly \$30 trillion.

Louisiana

Table 1 presents information on freight shipments that have either an origin or a destination in Louisiana. As shown in the table, trucks moved a large percentage of the tonnage and value of shipments. Figures 1 and 2 show freight flows on the highway and rail modes. Louisiana also handles significant freight activity on its waterway system.

Truck traffic is expected to grow throughout the state over the next 20 years. Much of the growth will occur in urban areas and on the Interstate highway system (Figures 3 and 4). Truck traffic moving to and from Louisiana accounted for 17 percent of the average annual daily truck traffic (AADTT) on the FAF road network. Nearly 16 percent of truck traffic involved in-state shipments, and 18 percent involved trucks traveling across the state to other markets. Approximately 49 percent of the AADTT were not identified with a route-specific origin or destination.

Table 2 shows the top five commodity groups shipped to, from, and within Louisiana by all modes. The top commodities by weight are crude petroleum or natural gas, farm products, and petroleum or coal products. By value, the top commodities are chemicals or allied products and transportation equipment.

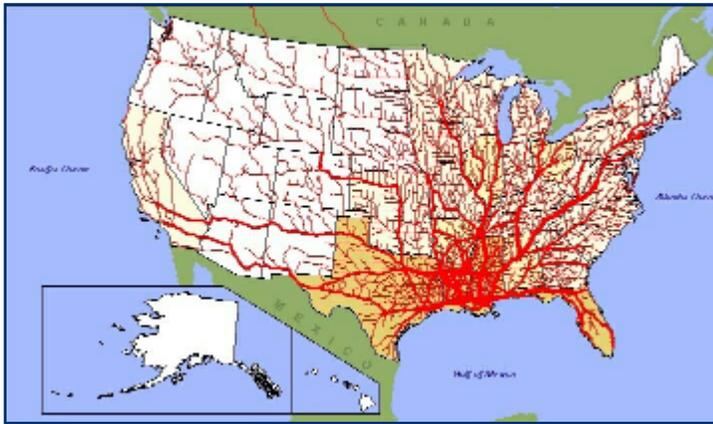
Table 1. Freight Shipments To, From, and Within Louisiana: 1998, 2010, and 2020

LOUISIANA	Tons (millions)			Value (billions \$)		
	1998	2010	2020	1998	2010	2020
State Total	972	1,374	1,703	440	798	1,238
By Mode						
Air	<1	<1	<1	9	20	34
Highway	371	548	693	321	590	919
Other ^a	187	230	261	24	34	48
Rail	113	171	223	39	69	106
Water	302	424	526	47	85	131
By Destination/Market						
Domestic	651	916	1,112	361	655	998
International	322	457	591	78	143	240

Note: Modal numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

^a The "Other" category includes international shipments that moved via pipeline or by an unspecified mode.

Figure 1. Freight Flows To, From, and Within Louisiana by Truck: 1998 (tons)



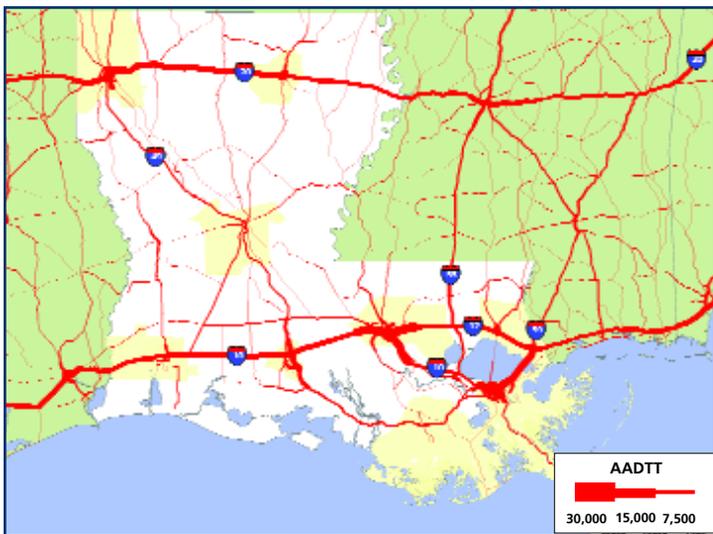
Federal Highway Administration

Figure 2. Freight Flows To, From, and Within Louisiana by Rail: 1998 (tons)



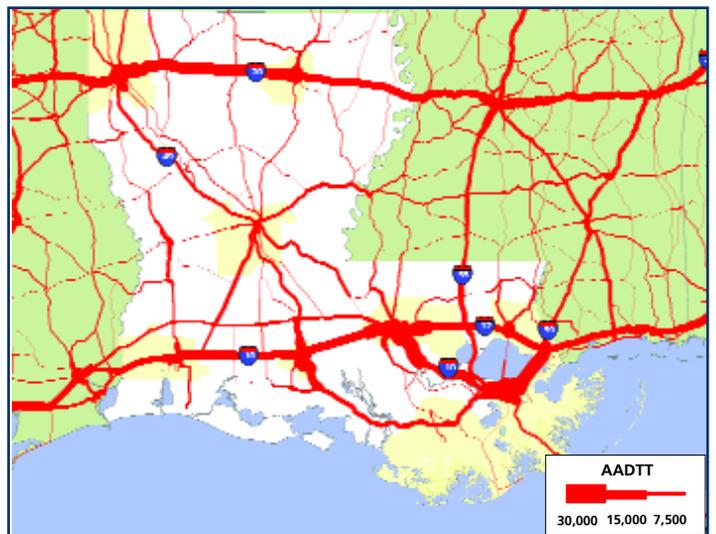
Federal Railroad Administration

Figure 3. Estimated Average Annual Daily Truck Traffic: 1998



Federal Highway Administration

Figure 4. Estimated Average Annual Daily Truck Traffic: 2020



Federal Highway Administration

Table 2. Top Five Commodities Shipped To, From, and Within Louisiana by All Modes: 1998 and 2020

Commodity	Tons (millions)		Commodity	Value (billions \$)	
	1998	2020		1998	2020
Crude Petroleum/Natural Gas	183	235	Chemicals/Allied Products	94	250
Farm Products	159	314	Transportation Equipment	59	113
Petroleum/Coal Products	141	249	Food/Kindred Products	43	164
Chemicals/Allied Products	114	196	Primary Metal Products	33	81
Food/Kindred Products	60	140	Farm Products	33	75

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A series of FAF products are available on the website noted below. FAF outputs include freight flow maps for states, modes, and gateways; detailed databases on traffic flows and commodity movements; information on the methodologies used to develop FAF; and forecast assumptions.

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) is also developing a series of state transportation profiles. For more information and to obtain a copy of the BTS reports, please call 202-366-DATA.



U.S. Department of Transportation

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