

Freight Transportation Profile—Utah 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.

Utah

Table 1 presents information on freight shipments that have either an origin or a destination in Utah. As shown in the table, trucks moved a large percentage of the tonnage and value of shipments, followed by rail (tonnage) and air (value). Figures 1 and 2 show freight flows on the highway and rail modes.

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 Utah accounted for 9 percent of the average annual daily truck traffic (AADTT) on the FAF road network. Approximately 6 percent of truck traffic involved in-state shipments, and 60 percent involved trucks traveling across the state to other markets. About 25 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 Utah by all modes. The top commodities by weight are coal and clay, concrete, glass or stone products. By value, the top commodities are secondary traffic and transportation equipment. Secondary traffic is defined as freight flows to and from distribution centers or through intermodal facilities. No commodities are assigned to this intermediate step in the transportation process.

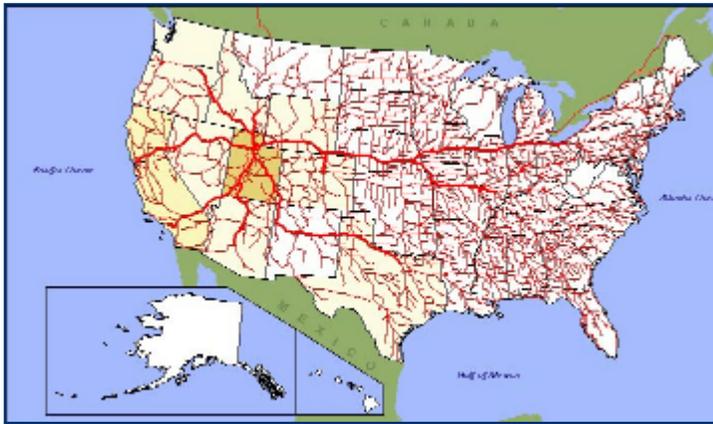
Table 1. Freight Shipments To, From, and Within Utah: 1998, 2010, and 2020

UTAH	Tons (millions)			Value (billions \$)		
	1998	2010	2020	1998	2010	2020
State Total	114	183	247	93	214	384
By Mode						
Air	<1	<1	1	20	54	101
Highway	79	132	184	67	147	262
Other ^a	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Rail	35	51	62	7	13	21
Water	0	0	0	0	0	0
By Destination/Market						
Domestic	111	176	238	90	203	360
International	4	7	10	4	11	24

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 Utah by Truck: 1998 (tons)



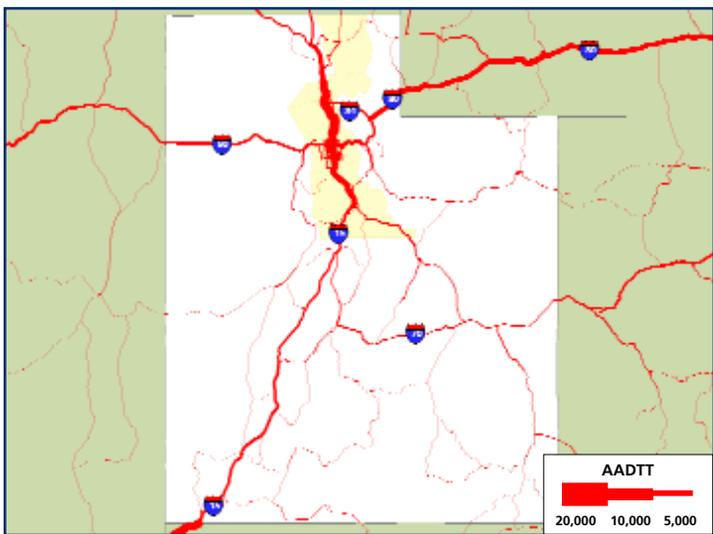
Federal Highway Administration

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



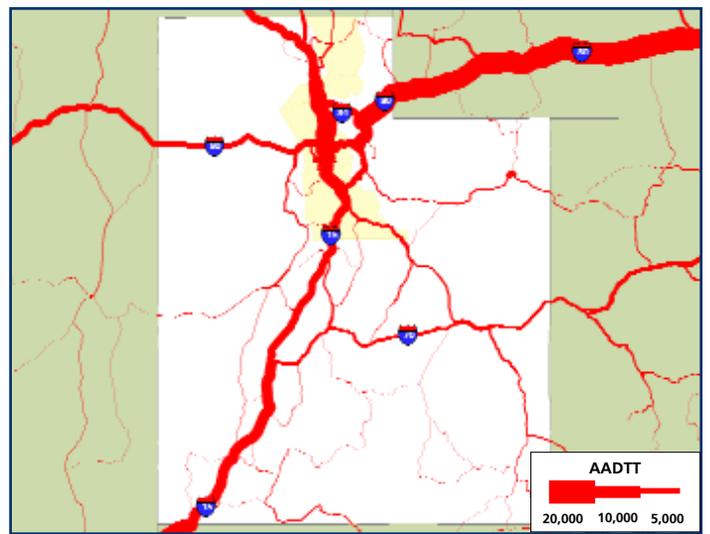
Federal Railroad Administration

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 Utah by All Modes: 1998 and 2020

Commodity	Tons (millions)		Commodity	Value (billions \$)	
	1998	2020		1998	2020
Coal	25	35	Secondary Traffic	13	61
Clay/Concrete/Glass/Stone	17	47	Transportation Equipment	11	29
Secondary Traffic	13	39	Chemicals/Allied Products	11	41
Petroleum/Coal Products	11	21	Machinery	9	53
Chemicals/Allied Products	10	24	Mail/Contract Traffic ^a	8	47

^a U.S. mail or other small packages.

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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.



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