THE ECONOMIC ROLE OF FREIGHT IN THE TEXAS TRIANGLE

Overview

The Texas Triangle is a region bounded by the State’s four main urban centers, Houston, Dallas/Ft Worth, San Antonio, and Austin, connected by I-45, I-10, and I-35. About three out of four Texans live within the Texas Triangle. It has a diverse, vibrant, and growing economy providing 13.3 million jobs, worth $885 billion in income and $1,483 billion in Gross Regional Product. Integral to this vital economy is the transport and distribution of raw materials and intermediate and final goods to, from, and within the region. Without freight, the Texas Triangle’s economy would come to a stop.

Jobs in the Freight Transportation Industry

The transportation and handling of freight in the Texas Triangle generate 805,000 jobs. Trucking was the largest generator of jobs in freight transportation in the region, followed by warehousing and storage. Other freight modes and freight-handling and support activities, including rail, water, and pipeline transportation, couriers and messengers, transportation and warehousing, and the U.S. Postal Service also have significant impacts.
Economic Importance of Freight in the Texas Triangle

Freight supports 23% of Triangle jobs or nearly 1 in 4 jobs

Freight-supported jobs generate about 29% of Triangle wages

Freight-dependent businesses generate about 42% of Triangle Gross Regional Product

Freight Moving in the Texas Triangle

About 1.6 billion tons of freight worth $1.5 trillion traveled on the Triangle’s Multimodal freight network. Inbound freight represents imports into the Texas Triangle, outbound freight represents exports from the Texas Triangle, and within movements represent freight that both originate and terminate in the Texas Triangle.

Movement in Tons and Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Million Tons</th>
<th>Billions of $</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>645</td>
<td>$454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>535</td>
<td>$597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>417</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34% Inbound</td>
<td>39% Inbound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% Within</td>
<td>29% Within</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26% Outbound</td>
<td>32% Outbound</td>
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</tbody>
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Economic Impact of Freight in the Texas Triangle

Annual Impact of Direct Freight Employment:
- 1.8 million jobs
- $142 billion in income
- $171 billion in Gross Regional Product

Total Annual Economic Impact of Freight (Total impacts of freight employment plus direct impacts of freight-dependent industries):
- 3.0 million jobs
- $253 billion in income
- $462 billion in Gross Regional Product
- $71 billion in Federal, state, and local tax revenue

The information provided comes from the TxDOT Economic Role of Freight in Texas Study and represents year 2018.