THE ECONOMIC ROLE OF FREIGHT IN THE ABILENE DISTRICT

Overview

Employment in the Abilene district totals 164,000 jobs, worth $7.4 billion in income and $13.2 billion in Gross Regional Product. The distribution of raw materials, intermediate, and final goods to, from, and within the Abilene district are important components of the Texas economy. Without freight, the Abilene economy would come to a stop.

Jobs in the Freight Transportation Industry

The transportation and handling of freight in the Abilene district generates 2,470 jobs. Warehousing and Storage is the largest employer in freight transportation in the district, followed by Trucking. Other freight modes and handling activities, including couriers and messengers, support activities to transportation and warehousing, and the U.S. Postal Service also have impacts in the district.

Direct Employment by Mode

- Postal Service: 520
- Truck: 730
- Couriers and Messengers: 50
- Warehousing and Storage: 1,170
- Total: 2,470

Freight Infrastructure in the Abilene District

- 564 Miles on the Texas Highway Freight Network
- Three major (Class I) railroad companies: BNSF Railway Company, Kansas City Southern Railway Company; and Union Pacific Railroad Company
- Four short line railroads

Moving the Goods, Fueling the Economy

The top five commodities by tonnage moving on the Texas Multimodal Freight Network in the district are:
- Brine, water (71M Tons)
- Nonmetallic minerals (12M Tons)
- Clay, concrete, glass, stone (2M Tons)
- Petroleum or coal products (2M Tons)
- Waste or scrap materials (1M Tons)
Economic Impact of Freight in the Abilene District

Annual Impact of Direct Freight Employment
- 3,900 jobs
- $252 million in income
- $276 million in Gross Regional Product

Total Annual Economic Impact of Freight
(Total impacts of freight employment plus direct impacts of freight-dependent industries)
- 32,100 jobs
- $1.3 billion in income
- $3.2 billion in Gross Regional Product
- $634 million in Federal, state and local tax

Economic Importance of Freight in the Abilene District

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<tr>
<th>Freight supports</th>
<th>Freight-supported jobs</th>
<th>Freight-dependent businesses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20% of district jobs</td>
<td>18% of district wages</td>
<td>24% Gross Regional Product</td>
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<td>or 1 in 5 jobs</td>
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Freight Moving in the Abilene District

169 million tons of freight worth $8.4 billion originated in, was destined for, or moved within the district. Inbound freight represents imports into the district; outbound freight represents exports from the district; and, within movements represents freight that both originate and terminate in the district.