

Railroad At a Glance

ORGANIZATION

History, Ownership & Operation

- Federal government built the railroad 1914 -1923 in order to open the territory to development.
- State purchased railroad in 1985 for \$22.3 million.
- Independent corporation managed by a 7-member board of directors appointed by the governor.
- State law mandates self-sustaining operations and responsibility for financial and legal obligations.

Mission

- Provide safe, quality transportation and real estate services.
- Operate profitably to be self-sustaining.
- Foster economic development (includes new and improved infrastructure, such as rail extensions).

Assets

- 656 total miles of track
- 863 freight railcars (owned)
- 44 passenger railcars
- 51 locomotives + 2 power cars
- Yards: Seward, Anchorage, Whittier, Fairbanks

Employees

- Not part of state personnel system.
- **2015 Benefits & Wages:** \$72.2 million
- **Year-round:** 597 • **Seasonal:** 129
- **Average Age:** 43.9 • **Ave Years of Svc:** 10.9
- **Male:** 585 (81%) • **Female:** 141 (19%)
- **Veterans:** 117 (16%) • **Alaska Resident:** 94.4%
- **Union represented:** 511 (70%)
 - AFGE/Alaska Railroad Workers 274
 - Alaska Train Dispatchers Association 9
 - TCU/Brotherhood Railway Carmen 41
 - International Brotherhood of Teamsters 51
 - United Transportation Union 136

FINANCIAL

Financial totals for 2015 are audited.

- **2015 Assets:** \$1.09 billion
- **2015 Revenue:** \$183.8 million (including \$50 million in grant revenue)
- **2015 Net Income:** \$10.9 million
- **2016 Budgeted Net Income:** \$9.3 million

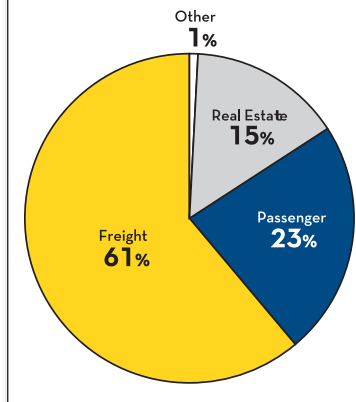
Railroading is capital-intensive, requiring substantial investment to adequately maintain equipment and infrastructure. Revenue in excess of expense (net income) is reinvested in capital improvement projects and infrastructure maintenance programs.

BUSINESS LINES

Freight Business

- **2015 Freight:** 4.29 million tons
- The railroad hauls natural resources including coal, gravel and petroleum products; as well as major commodities including industry chemicals and supplies, dry goods, hazardous materials, pipe, lumber, heavy equipment and large specialty items. The Alaska Railroad offers seamless freight service between shipping points in the Lower 48 to many destinations in Alaska. Crucial to this link is Alaska Rail Marine, a rail-barge service operating between Seattle and Whittier.

2015 Alaska Railroad Revenue Sources



Passenger Business

- **2015 Passengers:** 475,034
- The Alaska Railroad offers year-round regularly-scheduled rail transportation. From mid-May to mid-September, trains run daily between Anchorage and Seward, Anchorage and Whittier, Anchorage and Denali/Fairbanks. During winter months (mid-September to mid-May), trains operate between Anchorage and Fairbanks primarily on weekends.

Real Estate Business

Real estate holdings: 36,228 acres:

- 38% (13,738 acres) for track bed and right-of-way
- 12% (4,520 acres) for railroad operations /rail yards
- 50% (17,970 acres) for long-term lease or permit use

RAILROAD CONTRIBUTIONS

Transportation Link

Alaska's transportation infrastructure is sparse with 640 square miles of land for every mile of paved road. Only 20% of Alaska's roads are paved versus 91% average for the other 49 states. Many places in Alaska have no road access and are accessible only by air, ferry or rail.

Based on 475,034 rail passengers in 2015 and industry average of 36 passengers per motorcoach, the Alaska Railroad keeps more than 13,000 motorcoaches off single-lane highways annually, decreasing safety and road maintenance issues. Rail offers low-impact public transportation to public land treasures such as Denali National Park and the Chugach National Forest, allowing people of all physical abilities safe access to wilderness.

- **Denali National Park, 2015:** 95,906 (about one in five) of the park's 560,757 visitors arrived by train.
- **Chugach Forest, 2014:** 37,987 people rode the *Glacier Discovery* train into forest areas; and 9,848 experienced the forest's Whistle Stops south of Portage.

ARRC subsidizes essential public transportation services to roadless areas where thousands of people live and recreate. This includes the year-round *Hurricane Turn* flagstop service and the Anchorage-Fairbanks winter (October through April) *Aurora* train service.

Community Involvement

- The railroad operates through 13 municipalities and boroughs. ARRC is a member of the state and local chambers of commerce along the railbelt, and a supporter/sponsor of dozens of civic organizations that promote economic growth and commerce, ranging from tourism to mining.
- ARRC enhances the quality of life for Alaskans around the state with annual in-kind donations of rail transportation services valued at just over \$1 million. Each year, ARRC supports about 400 charitable and civic non-profits with rail tickets, posters/prints, used ties, chartered use of the historic *Denali* railcar, and other in-kind donations.
- ARRC places a priority on programs benefitting youth and enhancing education:
 - ARRC offers substantial discounts for school groups traveling by train during the school year.

- ARRC provides in-kind donations, coordinates employee volunteers and supports educational activities as a business partner with schools in Anchorage and Salcha.
- Since 1981, ARRC has partnered with school districts to offer a vocational program to train high school students to serve as hosts onboard summer passenger trains.
- The Alaska Railroad also supports the military community:
 - In-kind rail travel donations to the Armed Services YMCA "Y on Rail" program.
 - In-kind donations to support military morale activities.
 - 20% discount for active duty military members, retirees and their dependents.

Environmental Stewardship

- **Green Star:** ARRC is 20⁺-year member of Green Star, a pro-business, pro-environment program recognizing organizations that meet specific standards for waste reduction, pollution prevention, recycling and energy conservation. In 2011, Green Star presented ARRC with its inaugural *Super Nova* award for setting high environmental standards.
- **Recycling:** The Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) organization has twice honored ARRC with ALPAR awards (2006 and 2011) for supporting backhaul of recyclable materials. ARRC has repeatedly donated gondolas to haul scrap metal out of rural communities along the Yukon River, and transported truck trailers that backhaul materials for recycle in the Lower 48.
- **Freight Impacts:** Rail transport of freight mitigates highway congestion and safety issues, reduces roadway wear and lowers emissions. On average, a single freight train can carry the load of 280+ trucks. ARRC's 2015 freight rail activity carried the equivalent of more than 310,000 trucks:
 - ARRC transported 37,492 hopper and tanker railcars (carrying gravel, coal and petroleum), from mines or facilities to various distribution points. This equates to approximately 265,300 trucks traveling 25 million highway miles.
 - ARRC carried 22,386 cargo-filled trailers and containers on trains moving from Anchorage, Seward and Whittier ports to distribution points all along the railroad. This equals 44,772 truck movements.
- **Fuel Efficiency:** According to the American Association of Railroads, a freight train moves a ton of freight an average of 484 miles on a single gallon of fuel. Thanks to locomotive and technology improvements, railroad fuel efficiency is up 106% since 1980. According to a recent study commissioned by the Federal Railroad Administration, railroads on average are four times more fuel-efficient than trucks.