

Corianne Egan, Associate Editor | Jul 25, 2014 8:58AM EDT

Total rail traffic on North American railroads broke the 11-million-carload mark this week, posting year-to-date gains of 3 percent compared with 2013.

The Association of American Railroads' [weekly traffic report](#) showed railroads moved 398,145 carloads in the week ending on July 19. That total is 8.1 percent higher than the same week in 2013, and brings cumulative carloads to 11,036,893 for the year.

Intermodal units in the same week totaled 338,575. The number of intermodal units was 5.5 percent higher than the same week of 2013 and year-to-date has grown 6 percent.

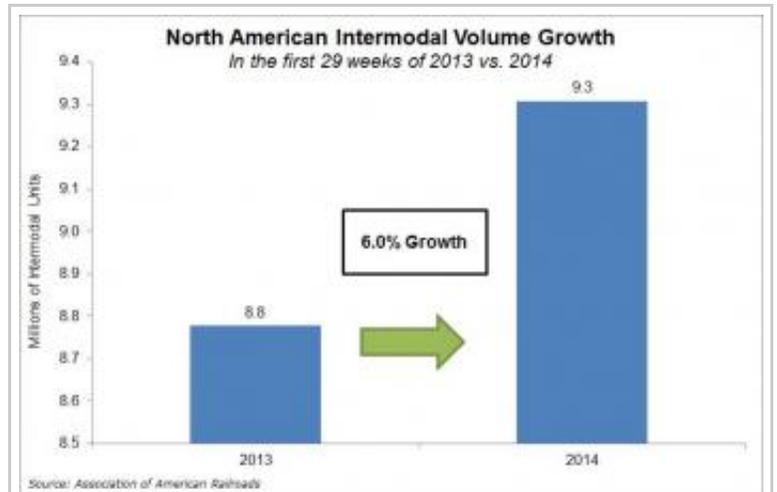
All but one commodity, coal, showed carload growth during the week. Volumes associated with motor vehicles and parts grew 34.8 percent, while grain carloads increased by 17.8 percent.

U.S. railroads' carloads increased by just under 8 percent year-over-year to 299,256. Intermodal units posted 5.6 percent year-over-year growth, to 267,675 intermodal units.

Canadian railroads' traffic showed a similar trend, with total volume jumping nearly 9 percent year-over-year. Carloads increased 11 percent to 82,637, and intermodal climbed 6.1 percent to 59,477 units. Intermodal traffic on Canadian railroads is up 6.4 percent year-to-date.

Mexican intermodal traffic was down nearly 1 percent compared with the same week of 2013, although total traffic, including carload traffic, was up 1.4 percent year-over-year. The week's total of 11,423 units still left intermodal up 3.3 percent year-to-date.

Short-line traffic grew 5.7 percent year-over-year to 149,555 carloads for the week, including 20,714 intermodal carloads, according to the latest RMI [RailConnect Index](#), covering 430 railroads. Intermodal units on short line railroads were down 0.6 percent year-over-year. Year to date, short-line traffic is up 1.9 percent, but intermodal carloads have grown just 0.1 percent.



Intermodal traffic on North American railroads is up 6.0 percent so far this year.

[Full-size chart](#)

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