

# Rail Freight Trends at Selected U.S.-Canadian Border Crossings

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# Presentation Outline

- Detail the importance of freight movements to the economies of the United States and Canada.
- Discuss rail freight volumes in the United States, both current levels and future projections.
- Examine rail Freight trends among the Top 10 highest volume (in US\$) Northern border crossings focusing in particular on two groups: the Largest 3 and Next 7.

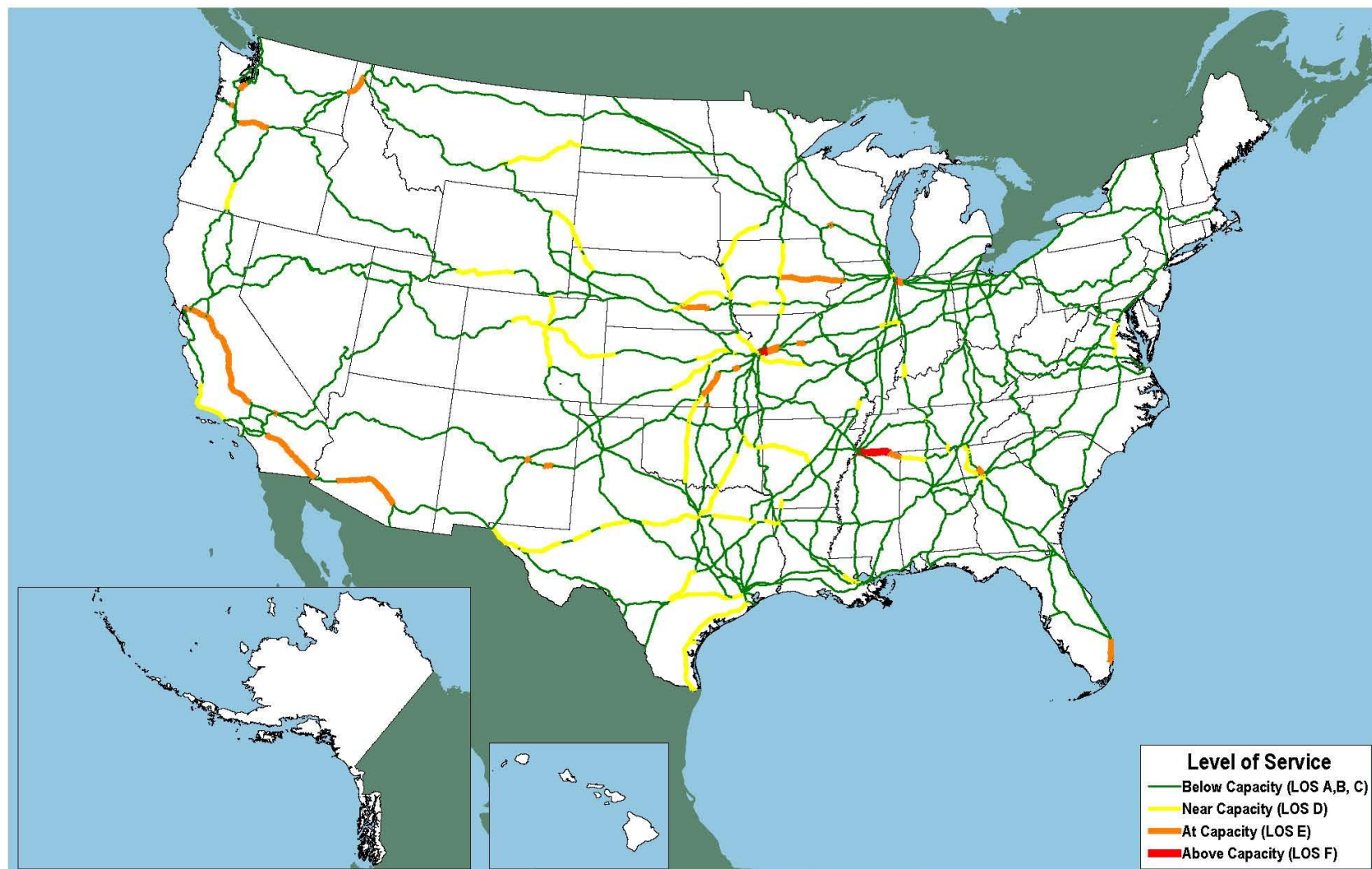
# Why Focus on Freight along the U.S./Canadian Border?

- Canada is the United States' largest trading partner and annually accounts for more than 20% of U.S. Exports.
- In 2009, the U.S. exported more (in US \$ value) to Canada than to Mexico and China combined.
- 35 U.S. States count Canada as their largest export market.
- In 2010, rail transportation trade (imports & exports) with Canada was over \$83 billion.

# Rail Freight Trends United States

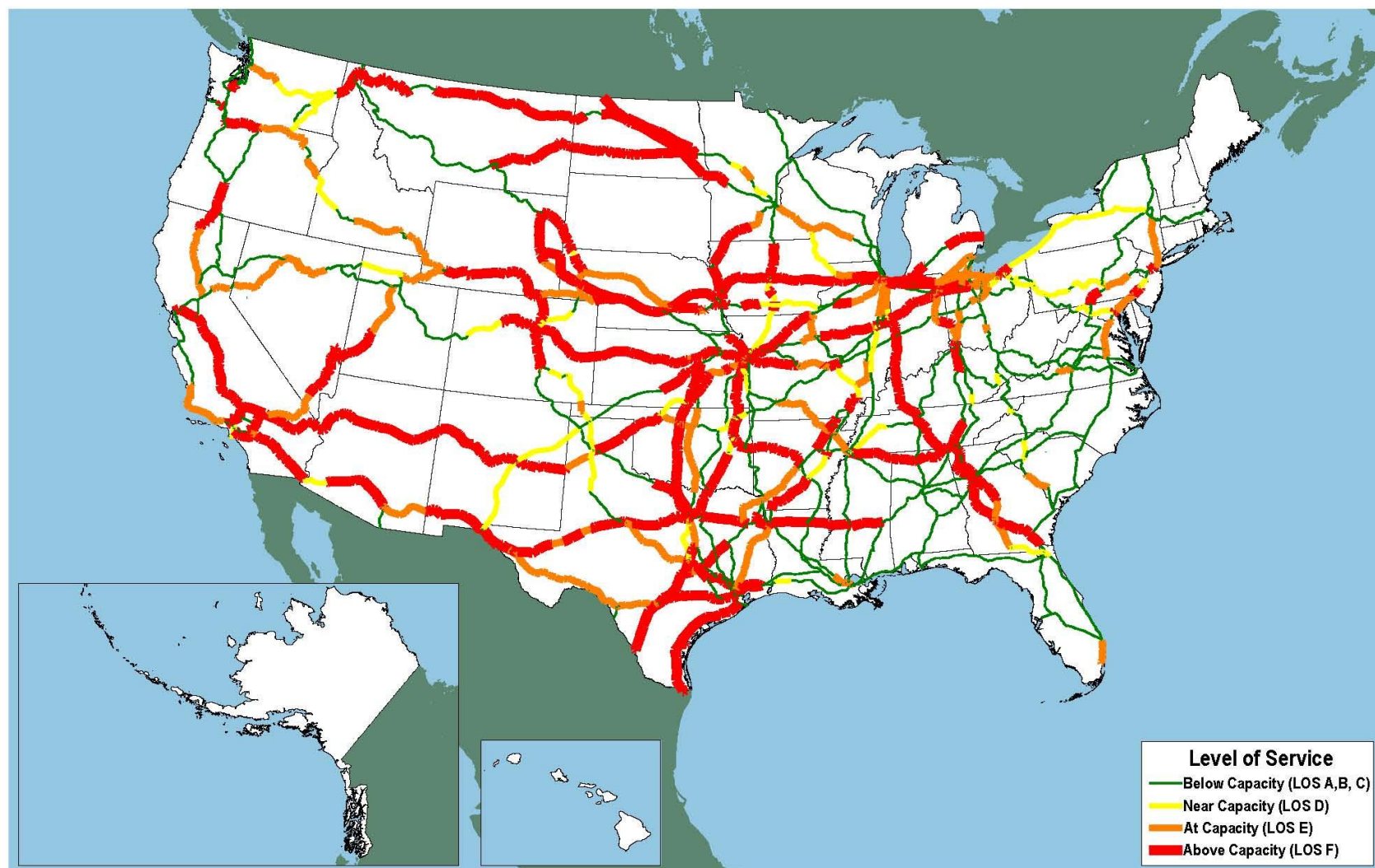


## Current Train Volumes Compared to Current Capacity



Note: Level of Service (LOS) A through F approximates the conditions described in Transportation Research Board, *Highway Capacity Manual 2000* period  
Source: Association of American Railroads *National Rail Infrastructure Capacity and Investment Study*, study prepared by Cambridge Systematics, Inc. (Washington, DC: September 2007), figure 4.4, page 4-10.

## Train Volumes in 2035 Compared to Current Capacity



Note: Level of Service (LOS) A through F approximates the conditions described in Transportation Research Board, *Highway Capacity Manual 2000*.

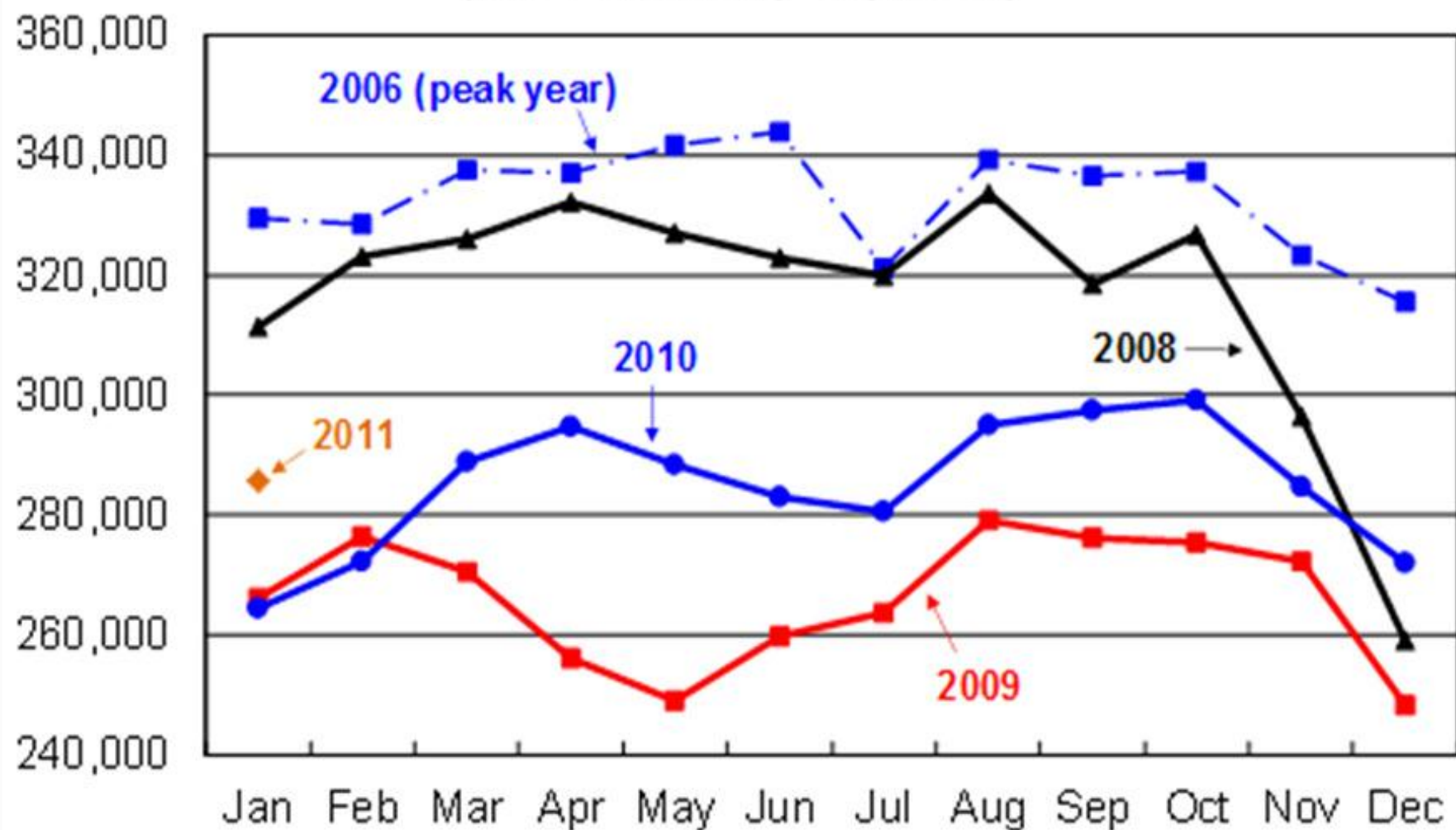
Source: Association of American Railroads, *National Rail Infrastructure Capacity and Investment Study*, prepared by Cambridge Systematics, Inc. (Washington, DC: September 2007), figure 5.4, page 5-5.

# U.S. Nationwide Trends

- 2009 actual U.S. rail shipment volumes were 1.689 billion tons.
- 2040 projected U.S. rail shipment volumes are 2.408 billion tons.
- That's a projected 42.6% increase or about 720 million tons.
- Approximately 1.4% increase annually.



# Average Weekly U.S. Rail Carloads: All Commodities (not seasonally adjusted)



Data are weekly average originations for each month, exclude the U.S. operations of CN and CP, and reflect revisions from original reporting. Source: AAR Weekly Railroad Traffic



# Rail Freight Trends

## Selected Crossings



Source of all data in this section:  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics-North American Transborder Freight Data  
Base Maps Source: ESRI

# Largest 3 and Next 7

- The three highest volume (US\$) Northern Border Rail Freight crossings are:
  - Detroit, MI/Windsor, ON
  - Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY/Fort Erie-Niagara Falls, ON
  - Port Huron, MI/Sarnia, ON
- The next seven highest volume crossings (US\$) are:
  - International Falls, MN/Fort Frances, ON
  - Portal, ND/North Portal, SK
  - Blaine, WA/Douglas, BC
  - Champlain-Rouses Point, NY/Lacolle, QC
  - Pembina, ND/Emerson, MB
  - Eastport, ID/Kingsgate, BC
  - Sweetgrass, MT/Coutts, AB

# Largest 3 Rail Crossings





# Next 7 Rail Crossings



# Total Rail Freight Volume of Top 10 Northern Border Crossings 2010 (US \$)

Port of Entry	2010 (US \$)
Port Huron, Michigan	23,405,014,471
Detroit, Michigan	19,085,031,554
Buffalo-Niagara Falls, New York	10,061,096,434
International Falls/Rainer, Minnesota	7,743,119,760
Portal, North Dakota	6,872,212,311
Pembina, North Dakota	3,018,330,147
Blaine, Washington	2,864,649,358
Champlain-Rouses Point, New York	2,752,822,682
Eastport, Idaho	2,237,631,159
Sweetgrass, Montana	1,295,953,855

# Top 10 Rail Freight Volume Growth (in US\$) by Percentage 2000-2010

Port of Entry	2000-2010 Growth
Port Huron, Michigan	-5.0%
Detroit, Michigan	122.0%
Buffalo-Niagara Falls, New York	-30.5%
International Falls/Rainer, Minnesota	95.7%
Portal, North Dakota	213.4%
Blaine, Washington	96.5%
Champlain/Rouses Point, New York	175.1%
Pembina, North Dakota	1427.7%
Eastport, Idaho	146.7%
Sweetgrass, Montana	175.6%

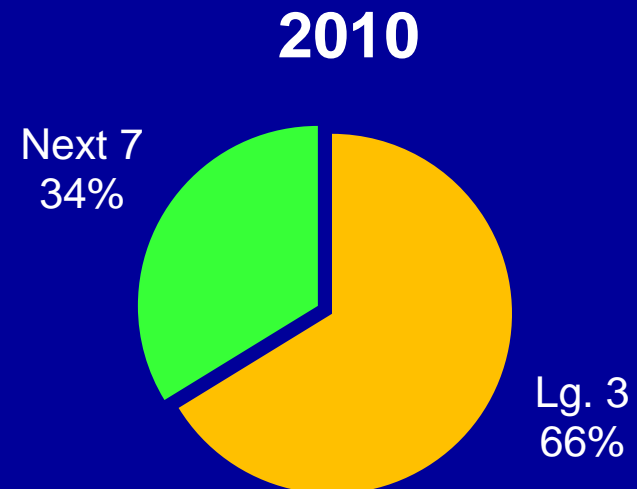
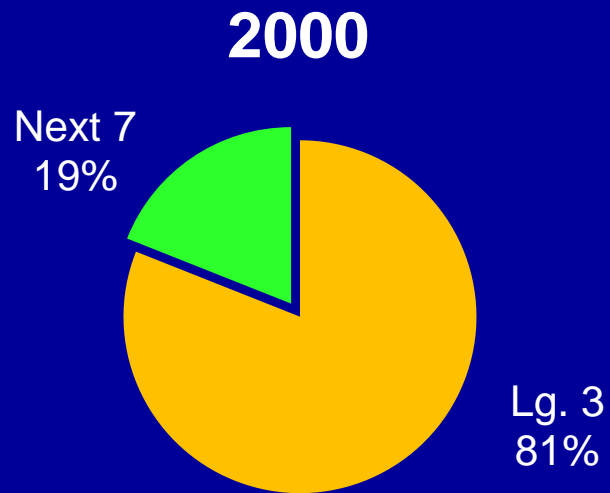
**Detroit:**

**2000-2006:  
158%**

**2006-2010:  
-13%**



# Percentage of 3 Largest Freight Rail Crossings and Next 7 Crossings Total Volume of Top 10 Crossings in US\$ for 2000 and 2010



# Summary

- Northern Border has significant economic impact on the U.S. and Canada.
- Rail freight volumes projected to grow significantly in the United States over the next 25 years.
- Recent trends show rail freight volumes spreading out along the entire Northern Border.

# Thank you!

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