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AAR REPORTS TRAFFIC FOR APRIL AND FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 2, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C. – May 6, 2015 – The Association of American Railroads (AAR) today reported weekly U.S. rail traffic, as well as volumes for April 2015 and the first four months of 2015.

Carload traffic in April totaled 1,403,044 carloads, down 5.3 percent or 78,712 carloads from April 2014. U.S. railroads also originated 1,383,314 containers and trailers in April 2015, up 5.1 percent or 67,153 units from the same month last year. For April 2015, combined U.S. carload and intermodal originations were 2,786,358, down 0.4 percent or 11,559 carloads and intermodal units from April 2014.

In April 2015, just five of the 20 carload commodity categories tracked by the AAR each month saw carload gains compared with April 2014. This included metallic ores, up 43.3 percent or 9,838 carloads; grain mill products, up 2.3 percent or 1,124 carloads; and motor vehicles and parts, up 0.8 percent or 733 carloads. Commodities that saw declines in April 2015 from April 2014 included coal, down 11.1 percent or 63,306 carloads; primary metal products, down 16.9 percent or 9,256 carloads; and grain, down 3.7 percent or 3,910 carloads.

Excluding coal, carloads were down 1.7 percent or 15,406 carloads in April 2015 from April 2014 and when both coal and grain are excluded, U.S. carloads were down 1.4 percent or 11,496 carloads last month.

Total U.S. carload traffic for the first four months of 2015 was 4,770,126 carloads, down 1.4 percent or 68,367 carloads, while intermodal containers and trailers were 4,401,912 units, up 1.6 percent or 69,588  containers and trailers when compared to the same period in 2014. For the first four months of 2015, total

rail traffic volume in the United States was 9,172,038 carloads and intermodal units, up 0.01 percent or 1,221 carloads and intermodal units from the same point last year.

"The federal government recently announced that its initial estimate of first quarter GDP growth was just 0.2 percent. Based on rail traffic in April, we aren't seeing a surge in economic activity to start the second quarter," said AAR Senior Vice President John T. Gray. "Railroad coal traffic is suffering from reduced electricity generation from coal and lower coal exports, while rail volumes for a number of other commodities are down due to general economic weakness. We hope that turns around. Intermodal, on the other hand, is doing very well, as large intermodal-related investments and service improvements are paying off with record volumes."

Week Ending May 2, 2015

Total U.S. weekly rail traffic for the week ending May 2, 2015 was 565,787 carloads and intermodal units, up 0.2 percent compared with the same week last year. For the week there were 283,091 carloads, down 4.8 percent compared with the same week in 2014, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 282,696 containers and trailers, up 5.7 percent compared to 2014.

Six of the 10 carload commodity groups posted increases compared with the same week in 2014. They were: miscellaneous carloads, up 7.9 percent to 9,055 carloads; farm products and food, up 2.6 percent to 17,060; and chemicals, up 2.1 percent to 32,011. Commodity groups that saw decreases during this one week included: grain, down 12.6 percent to 18,437 carloads; coal, down 9.6 percent to 101,495 carloads; and nonmetallic minerals, down 6.6 percent to 35,312 carloads.

North American rail volume for the week ending May 2, 2015 on 13 reporting U.S., Canadian and Mexican railroads totaled 378,592 carloads, down 5 percent compared with the same week last year, and 355,835 intermodal units, up 5.1 percent compared with last year. Total combined weekly rail traffic in North America was 734,427 carloads and intermodal units, down 0.4 percent. North American rail volume for the first 17 weeks of 2015 was 11,961,834 carloads and intermodal units, up 1.2 percent compared with 2014.

Canadian railroads reported 80,262 carloads for the week, down 6 percent, and 63,460 intermodal units, up 2.8 percent compared with the same week in 2014. For the first 17 weeks of 2015, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 2,341,497 carloads and intermodal containers and trailers, up 6 percent.

Mexican railroads reported 15,239 carloads for the week, down 4.4 percent compared with the same week last year, and 9,679 intermodal units, up 3 percent. Cumulative volume on Mexican railroads for the first 17 weeks of 2015 was 448,299 carloads and intermodal containers and trailers, up 3.2 percent from the same point last year.

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For more information contact: AAR Media Relations at media@aar.org or 202-639-2345.

About AAR: The Association of American Railroads (AAR) is the world's leading railroad policy, research and technology organization focusing on the safety and productivity of rail carriers. AAR members include the major freight railroads of the U.S., Canada and Mexico, as well as Amtrak. Learn more at www.aar.org.

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