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What are Class I, Class II, and Class III freight railroads?

Class I Railroad – a freight railroad with an operating revenue exceeding \$457.9 million. Seven Class I freight railroads operate in the United States: Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, CSX Transportation, Grand Trunk Corporation, Kansas City Southern Railway, Norfolk Southern Combined Railroad Subsidiaries, Soo Line Corporation, and Union Pacific Railroad. Canadian National Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway are also considered Class I due to their significant trackage in the United States.

Class II Railroad – often called a “regional railroad.” Class II railroads have operating revenues between \$36.6 million and \$457.9 million.

Class III Railroad – often called a “short line railroad.” Class III railroads have operating revenues of \$36.6 million or less.

Source: *Surface Transportation Board*