

Metra at a Glance

SERVICE CHARACTERISTICS

- Metra provides commuter rail service in Cook, DuPage, Will, Lake, Kane and McHenry counties in Northeastern Illinois.
- Service operates on 11 routes (10 diesel powered and one electric powered) with 241 stations, totaling nearly 500 route miles and about 1,200 miles of track.
- Metra operates 704 weekday trains, 296 Saturday trains and 163 Sunday trains.
- Metra provided 81.6 million passenger trips in 2015, approximately 300,000 each weekday.
- In 2015, 96.2 percent of trains arrived at final destinations on time, exceeding Metra’s goal of 95 percent.

OPERATIONS

- Metra service is operated over 11 rail lines. Four of these lines are operated through contract agreements with freight carriers (BNSF and UP).
- Four lines are wholly owned by Metra (Milwaukee North and West, Rock Island and Metra Electric) and the three remaining lines (North Central, Southwest Service and Heritage Corridor) are operated by Metra on tracks owned by other railroads.
- Chicago is one of the largest and most complex rail corridors in North America with 25 percent of all U.S. freight traffic passing through it in addition to passenger service.
- Fares cover at least 50 percent of operating costs, one of the highest recovery ratios of all passenger railroads and transit operators in the U.S.

METRA CUSTOMERS

- The work commute accounts for 71 percent of all Metra passenger trips.

- Metra riders account for about half of all work trips made from the suburbs to downtown Chicago while driving accounts for one-third.
- The average trip length on Metra is 22 miles.
- In the six-county region that includes Chicago, 41 percent of Metra riders reside in the five collar counties, 40 percent reside in suburban Cook County, 17 percent reside in the City of Chicago and 2 percent reside outside the region.
- Metra ridership is 73 percent White, 6 percent Hispanic/Latino, 13 percent Black/African-American and 7 percent Asian.

METRA BENEFITS

- Riding Metra saves the average commuter more than 6 days of travel time every year (that’s 12 hours a month) and nearly \$2,000 a year or \$166 a month compared to driving.
- 29 additional expressway lanes would have to be added to the existing expressway network to accommodate Metra riders.

