

README for “Intermodal Freight Facilities 1996-Present” dataset.

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)[distributor]

2021-03-29

LINKS TO DATASET

A. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1520807>

SUMMARY OF DATASET

The Intermodal Freight Facilities dataset is comprised of TOFC/COFC, Air to Truck, and Marine Roll-On/Roll-Off layers. These layers were listed as one dataset until 2019 when the layers each became their own individual dataset. The descriptions are listed below: TOFC/COFC: When available, the primary sources for this dataset were the websites of the railroads. Every facility is assumed to be served by both rail and truck, and those facilities which support port operations, the name of the port is also identified. The dataset also includes the services provided at each facility (TOFC only, COFC only, or both TOFC and COFC), and the Station Point Location Code (SPLC) associated with the rail facility. Air-to-Truck: This dataset includes air to truck intermodal freight facilities for the top 60 airports by total freight moved in 2017. This dataset is one of several layers in the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) Intermodal Freight Facility Database. Marine Roll-on/Roll-off: When available, primary sources for this dataset were the websites of the ports, as well as port operators. Every facility is associated with a port and assumed to be served by both marine and truck, and those facilities which support rail operations, the reporting code for the operating rail company is also identified. The dataset also includes at least one Navigation Unit ID (NAV_UNIT_ID) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Port Facilities dataset which is associated with the Ro/Ro terminal.

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A. GENERAL INFORMATION

0. Title of Dataset:

Intermodal Freight Facilities 1996-Present [datasets]

1. Description of Dataset:

The Intermodal Freight Facilities dataset is comprised of TOFC/COFC, Air to Truck, and Marine Roll-On/Roll-Off layers. These layers were listed as one dataset until 2019 when the layers each became their own individual dataset. The descriptions are listed below: TOFC/COFC: When available, the primary sources for this dataset were the websites of the railroads. Every facility is assumed to be served by both rail and truck, and those facilities which support port operations, the name of the port is also identified. The dataset also includes the services provided at each facility (TOFC only, COFC only, or both TOFC and COFC), and the Station Point Location Code (SPLC) associated with the rail facility. Air-to-Truck: This dataset includes air to truck intermodal freight facilities for the top 60 airports by total freight moved in 2017. This dataset is one of several layers in the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) Intermodal Freight Facility Database. Marine Roll-on/Roll-off: When available, primary sources for this dataset were the websites of the ports, as well as port operators. Every facility is associated with a port and assumed to be served by both marine and truck, and those facilities which support rail operations, the reporting code for the operating rail company is also identified. The dataset also includes at least one Navigation Unit ID (NAV_UNIT_ID) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Port Facilities dataset which is associated with the Ro/Ro terminal.

2. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1520807>

3. Authorship Information:

Principal Data Creator or Data Manager Contact Information

Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington D.C. 20590

Email: bts@dot.gov

Data Distributor Contact Information

Name: National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)

Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), The Office of Spatial Analysis and Visualization (OSAV)

Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington D.C. 20590

Email: ntad@dot.gov

4. Date of data collection and update interval:

Updates occur by individual layer, one per quarter to repeat every 2-3 years

5. Geographic location of data collection:

United States of America.

6. Information about funding sources that supported the collection of the data:

U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics

B. SHARING/ACCESS & POLICIES INFORMATION

0. Recommended citation for the data:

U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)[distributor]. (2020). Intermodal Freight Facility 1996-Present [datasets]. <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520807>

1. Licenses/restrictions placed on the data:

These data are in the Public Domain.

2. Was data derived from another source?:

No.

3. This dataset and its documentation was created and shared to meet the requirements enumerated in the U.S. Federally-Funded Scientific Research" Version 1.1 << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520559> >> and guidelines suggested by the DOT Public Access website << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1503647> >>, in effect and current as of December 03, 2020.

C. DATA & RELATED FILE OVERVIEW

1. File List for the bts_NTAD_Intermodal_Freight_Data_Package.zip collection

A. Filename:

terminal_XXXX.zip

Short description:

Compressed file folders containing the geospatial data for Intermodal Freight Facilities 1996-Present dataset.

B. Filename:

bts_Intermodal_Freight_DMP_20210329.pdf

Short description:

A PDF file containing the Data Management Plan that was created for current and future management of the data and associated files.

C. Filename:

bts_Intermodal_Freight_20210329_README.txt

Short description:

The README.txt file that includes human-readable information about the data, variable definitions, contact information, and other contextual information. The file you are reading now.

2. File List for the teminal_XXXX.zip collection

A. Filename:

terminal.shp

Short description:

A shapefile containing the geospatial data for Intermodal Freight Facilities 1996-Present dataset. This includes associated files with extensions .prj, .dbf, .sbn, .sbx, .shx.

B. Filename:

terminal.txt

Short description:

A text file containing key metadata and documentation information such as methodology, procedures, data dictionary, etc.

D. METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION

1. Description of methods used for collection/generation of data:

Methods are different from layer to layer. TOFC/COFC: created through a compilation of Class I and Class II railroads primary and secondary data. Each railroad provided detail on its intermodal facilities, often through their websites and subsequent PDFs. Placement of the points were determined through Google Street View imagery. Each intermodal facility is represented by a single point, which is located within 100-feet inside the facility's entrance gate. If a facility has more than one entrance gate, then the location of the main gate is used to assign the location of the point in the dataset. Dataset is then posted and distributed. Air-to-Truck: created by using both the airport's own website as well as satellite imagery from ESRI with Google Maps for verification as needed. The facilities can often be found under the master plan or map on the airport's site. If clear information is not available, Google Maps' location data (stored as "pinpoint" on map) was referenced to help identify the estimated center point of the building. Estimated area is calculated to the nearest square foot. The pinned point is checked, and the airline name referenced from the Official Airline Guide is listed. Marine Roll-on/Roll-off: created through source collection, AIS data, and formatted as a point-shape file. The source of the data preferably were the rail companies and ports or the shipping carrier management companies. If unavailable, aerial imagery confirms the port. Points were georeferenced on ArcMap with the remaining fields populated from excel. The data is then added to NTAD.

2. Instrument- or software-specific information needed to interpret the data:

The data and documentation files can be opened with Esri ArcMap and any GIS software package.

E. DATA-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. XXXXXX data table

Data is updated by individual layer, one per quarter to repeat every 2-3 years. Dataset Manager is contacted to verify changes to data resulting in NTAD update. The metadata is updated in the same manner. For the most recent data, please visit the NTAD catalog at <https://data-usdot.opendata.arcgis.com/>

A. Number of variables (columns):

The data dictionary found in (PDF documentation) provides definitions for the variables

B. Data Dictionary/Variable List:

Because of the large number of variables, please refer to the Data Dictionary found within the file terminal.txt for names, definitions, and formats of variables.

C. Missing data codes:

None

F. UPDATE LOG

This `bts_Intermodal_Freight_20210329_README.txt` file was originally created on 2021-03-29 by Dominic Menegus, Geographer, dominic.menegus@dot.gov

[Note changes or update to the `readme.txt` file, e.g.:]

2021-03-29: Original file created