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Info: BNSF uses a method to systematically assign symbols to all trains operating their territory. These symbols can be more easily understood if they are broken into their parts. A typical train symbol on BNSF looks like this: M-DALLAU-21A In the above example, each character has a specific meaning to identify the train. There are some exceptions, but we will cover those later. M - The first letter identifies the type of train. Each train falls into a specific type category, which can be found below. DIL - The first three letter set identifies the origin of the train. All locations have a three letter identifier, which is used in the train symbols. LAU - The last three letter set identifies the destination of the train. Not all cars may go to the destination, but the train is scheduled to operate that far, picking up and setting out cars as needed along the way. 1 - This number identifies the section number on most trains. 21 - This is the scheduled departure date. This number refers only to the day of the month the train is scheduled for. Note that this reflects scheduled departure and will not be changed if the train departs late. A - The last number is a scheduling, route, or contents identifier. It is most often "A," but can be just about anything. Train Types: There are 26 train type categories used on BNSF, and they correspond with each of the letters of the alphabet. They are as follows: A - Amtrak (occasionally other passenger trains) B - Bareback/Empty Intermodal Equipment C - Loaded Unit Coal Train D - Light Locomotives E - Empty Unit Coal Train F - Foreign Railroad train operating on BNSF G - Loaded Unit Grain Train H - High Priority Merchandise I - Crew Deadhead Move (Not an actual train type, but call type for crews) J - Joint Use Unit Train K - Empty Unit Train L - Empty Unit Coal Train M - Empty Unit Grain Train N - Regularly Scheduled Yard Job Z - Highest Priority Intermodal Location Codes. The next six letters are a pair of three letter codes identifying the origin and destination of the train. The location code list is quite extensive, and identifies nearly every location on the BNSF system. To see the list, please see the BNSF Location Codes page. Section Numbers: Section numbers can be a little confusing because they are used differently, depending on the type of train. Sections are not used at all on empty or loaded coal trains. On some trains, they can represent the commodity being hauled, priority level, or shipper. First, this is the general application of section numbers: 1 - First Section 2 - Second Section 3 - Unscheduled Train 4 - HAZMAT 5 - Unscheduled Train 7 Third Section-Critical Arrival 8 - Second Section-Critical Arrival 9 - First Section-Critical Arrival Grain (G) trains use a different system, to identify what they are carrying, instead of section number, as follows: 6 - Beans 7 - Wheat 8 - Corn 9 - Shuttle Train Station (S) trains use some of the numbers to identify the section, and others to identify the shipper, as follows: 1 - First Section 2 - Second Section 3 - Third Section or Cosco 4 - NYK or Hanjin 5 - Maersk Sealand 6 - K Line 7 - OOCL 8 - Hyundai Other intermodal trains use a more general system, as follows. Vehicle and merchandise trains use a similar system to this: 1 - First Section Primary 2 - Second Section Primary 3 - Third Section Primary 4 - Extra 5 - Second Section Hot 6 - First Section Hot 7 - Third Section Critical 8 - Second Section Critical 9 - First Section Critical Empty and loaded unit trains use a similar system to identify the commodity being hauled. The commodity codes are as follows: 1 - Coal 2 - Grain 3 - Lumber 4 - Petroleum 5 - Chemicals 6 - Metals 7 - Other 8 - Empty 9 - Loaded 10 - Empty 11 - Loaded 12 - Empty 13 - Loaded 14 - Empty 15 - Loaded 16 - Empty 17 - Loaded 18 - Empty 19 - Loaded 20 - Empty 21 - Loaded 22 - Empty 23 - Loaded 24 - Empty 25 - Loaded 26 - Empty 27 - Loaded 28 - Empty 29 - Loaded 30 - Empty 31 - Loaded 32 - Empty 33 - Loaded 34 - Empty 35 - Loaded 36 - Empty 37 - Loaded 38 - Empty 39 - Loaded 40 - Empty 41 - Loaded 42 - Empty 43 - Loaded 44 - Empty 45 - Loaded 46 - Empty 47 - Loaded 48 - Empty 49 - Loaded 50 - Empty 51 - Loaded 52 - Empty 53 - Loaded 54 - Empty 55 - Loaded 56 - Empty 57 - Loaded 58 - Empty 59 - Loaded 60 - Empty 61 - Loaded 62 - Empty 63 - Loaded 64 - Empty 65 - Loaded 66 - Empty 67 - Loaded 68 - Empty 69 - Loaded 70 - Empty 71 - Loaded 72 - Empty 73 - Loaded 74 - Empty 75 - Loaded 76 - Empty 77 - Loaded 78 - Empty 79 - Loaded 80 - Empty 81 - Loaded 82 - Empty 83 - Loaded 84 - Empty 85 - 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western ranglands, respectively.[citation needed] Much of the coniferous forests of the Upper Midwest were clear-cut in the late 19th century, and mixed hardwood forests became a major component of the new woodlands since then. The majority of the Midwest can now be categorized as ruralized areas or pastoral agricultural areas.[citation needed] "Lake states" and "Plains states" redirect here. For the geographic regions, see Great Lakes region and Great Plains. Divisions of the Midwest by the U.S. Census Bureau into East North Central and West North Central, separated largely by the Mississippi River[1] Scotts Bluff National Monument in western Nebraska The first recorded use of the term Midwestern to refer to a region of the central U.S. occurred in 1886; Midwest appeared in 1894, and Midwesterner in 1916.[125][126] One of the earliest late-19th-century uses of Midwest was in reference to Kansas and Nebraska to indicate that they were the civilized areas of the west.[10] The term Midwestern has been in use since the 1880s to refer to portions of the central United States. A variant term, Middle West, has been used since the 19th century and remains relatively common.[127][128] Traditional definitions of the Midwest include the Northwest Ordinance Old Northwest states and many states that were part of the Louisiana Purchase. The states of the Old Northwest are also known as Great Lakes states and are east-north central in the United States. The Ohio River runs along the southeastern section, and the Mississippi River runs north to south near the center. Many of the Louisiana Purchase states in the west-north central United States are also known as the Great Plains states, and the Missouri River is a major waterway joining with the Mississippi. The Midwest lies north of the 36°30′ parallel, which the 1820 Missouri Compromise established as the dividing line between future slave and non-slave states.[129] The Midwest Region is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as these 12 states:[1] Illinois: Old Northwest, Mississippi River (Missouri River joins near the state border), Ohio River, and Great Lakes state Indiana: Old Northwest, Ohio River, and Great Lakes state Iowa: Louisiana Purchase, Mississippi River, and Missouri River state Kansas: Louisiana Purchase, Great Plains, and Missouri River state Michigan: Old Northwest and Great Lakes state Minnesota: Old Northwest, Louisiana Purchase, Mississippi River, part of Red River Colony before 1818, Great Lakes state Missouri: Louisiana Purchase, Mississippi River (Ohio River joins near the state border), Missouri River, and border state Nebraska: Louisiana Purchase, Great Plains, and Missouri River state North Dakota: Louisiana Purchase, part of Red River Colony before 1818, Great Plains, and Missouri River state Ohio: Old Northwest (Historic Connecticut Western Reserve), Ohio River, and Great Lakes state. The southeastern part of the state is part of northern Appalachia South Dakota: Louisiana Purchase, Great Plains, and Missouri River state Wisconsin: Old Northwest, Mississippi River, and Great Lakes state Various organizations define the Midwest with slightly different groups of states. For example, the Council of State Governments, an organization for communication and coordination among state governments, includes in its Midwest regional office eleven states from the above list, omitting Missouri, which is in the CSG South region.[130] The Midwest Region of the National Park Service consists of these twelve states plus the state of Arkansas.[131] The Midwest Archives Conference, a professional archives organization, covers the above twelve states, plus Kentucky.[132] A 2023 Emerson College/Middle West Review poll includes the above twelve states, plus Oklahoma and Wyoming.[133][134] State 2020 census 2010 census Change Area Density Iowa 3,190,369 3,046,355 +4.73% 55,857.09 sq mi (144,669.2 km2) 57/sq mi (22/km2) Kansas 2,937,880 2,853,118 +2.97% 81,758.65 sq mi (211,753.9 km2) 36/sq mi (14/km2) Missouri 6,154,913 5,988,927 +2.77% 68,741.47 sq mi (178,039.6 km2) 90/sq mi (35/km2) Nebraska 1,961,504 1,826,341 +7.40% 76,824.11 sq mi (198,973.5 km2) 26/sq mi (10/km2) North Dakota 779,094 672,591 +15.83% 69,000.74 sq mi (178,711.1 km2) 11/sq mi (4/km2) South Dakota 886,667 814,180 +8.90% 75,810.94 sq mi (196,349.4 km2) 12/sq mi (5/km2) Great Plains 15,910,427 15,201,512 +4.66% 427,993.00 sq mi (1,108,496.8 km2) 37/sq mi (14/km2) Illinois 12,812,508 12,830,632 −0.14% 55,518.89 sq mi (143,793.3 km2) 231/sq mi (89/km2) Indiana 6,785,528 6,483,802 +4.65% 35,826.08 sq mi (92,789.1 km2) 189/sq mi (73/km2) Michigan 10,077,331 9,883,640 +1.96% 56,538.86 sq mi (146,435.0 km2) 178/sq mi (69/km2) Minnesota 5,706,494 5,303,925 +7.59% 79,626.68 sq mi (206,232.2 km2) 72/sq mi (28/km2) Ohio 11,799,448 11,536,504 +2.28% 40,860.66 sq mi (105,828.6 km2) 289/sq mi (111/km2) Wisconsin 5,893,718 5,686,986 +3.64% 54,157.76 sq mi (140,268.0 km2) 109/sq mi (42/km2) Great Lakes 53,085,258 51,725,489 +2.63% 322,528.93 sq mi (835,346.1 km2) 165/sq mi (64/km2) Total 68,995,685 66,927,001 +3.09% 750,521.93 sq mi (1,943,842.9 km2) 92/sq mi (35/km2) Rank(Midwest) Rank(USA) MSA Population[135] State(s) 1 3 Chicago 9,449,351 IllinoisIndianaWisconsin 2 14 Detroit 4,392,041 Michigan 3 16 Twin Cities (Minneapolis–Saint Paul) 3,690,261 MinnesotaWisconsin 4 21 St. Louis 2,820,253 MissouriIllinois 5 30 Cincinnati 2,249,797 OhioKentuckyIndiana 6 31 Kansas City 2,192,035 MissouriKansas 7 32 Cleveland 2,185,825 Ohio 8 33 Columbus 2,138,926 Ohio 9 34 Indianapolis 2,089,653 Indiana 10 40 Milwaukee 1,574,731 Wisconsin 11 51 Grand Rapids 1,150,015 Michigan 12 57 Omaha 967,604 Nebraskalowa 13 74 Dayton 814,049 Ohio 14 81 Des Moines 709,466 Iowa 15 85 Akron 702,219 Ohio 16 87 Madison 680,796 Wisconsin 17 90 Wichita 647,610 Kansas 18 96 Toledo 606,240 Ohio Cathedral of Saint Paul, Minnesota Race (2022)[136] Population Share of population Total 68,787,600 100.0% White (Non-Hispanic) 50,186,628 73.0% Black (Non-Hispanic) 6,797,609 9.9% Asian (Non-Hispanic) 2,383,156 3.5% Native American (Non-Hispanic) 268,845 0.4% Pacific Islander (Non-Hispanic) 41,630 0.1% Multiracial (Non-Hispanic) 2,901,606 4.2% Some other race (Non-Hispanic) 293,288 0.4% Hispanic or Latino (Of any race) 5,914,837 8.6% Historical Racial Composition of the Midwest (1890-1960)[137] Racial composition 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 White 97.8% 97.9% 98.0% 97.5% 96.5% 96.3% 94.7% 93.0% Black 1.9% 1.9% 1.8% 2.3% 3.3% 3.5% 5.0% 6.7% Asian 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.1% 0.1% Native American 0.3% 0.2% 0.2% 0.2% 0.2% 0.2% 0.2% 0.2% Historical Ethnic/Racial Composition of the Midwest (1970-2020) Racial/Ethnic composition 1970[138][139] 1980[140] 1990[141] 2000[142] 2010[143] 2020[144] White (Non-Hispanic) 89.6% 87.5% 85.8% 81.4% 77.8% 72.6% Black (Non-Hispanic) 7.9% 9.0% 9.5% 9.9% 10.2% 10.3% Asian (Non-Hispanic) 0.2% 0.6% 1.3% 1.8% 2.6% 3.5% Native American (Non-Hispanic) 0.3% 0.4% 0.5% 0.6% 0.6% 0.6% 'Some other race' (Non-Hispanic) 0.2% 0.3% 0.1% 0.1% 0.1% 0.1% 0.4% Two or more races (Non-Hispanic) — — — 1.4% 1.7% 4.0% Hispanic or Latino (Any race) 1.9% 2.2% 2.9% 4.8% 7.0% 8.7% According to the 2022 American Community Survey, 22.6% of the Midwest's population report German ancestry, 10.6% report Irish ancestry, 9.4% report English ancestry, 5.9% report Mexican ancestry, 4.8% identify their ancestry as American, 4.3% report Polish ancestry, and 2.6% report Norwegian ancestry.[145][146] The Midwest is home to the largest concentration of German-Americans within the US, with this group making up over 30% of the population in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska. In addition to German-Americans, the upper Midwest is home to a large population of Scandinavian Americans. In Minnesota, 11.8% of the population identifies with Norwegian ancestry, while 6.4% report Swedish ancestry.[147] In North Dakota, 22% of the population reports Norwegian ancestry, the highest rate in the country.[148] While the Midwest historically had a very small Black population,[149] this changed in the early 20th century as numerous African Americans left the South for major urban areas in the North and West, fleeing racial persecution and seeking new economic opportunities in a population movement known as the Great Migration.[150] This drastically changed the demographics of many Midwestern cities that had previously been almost entirely populated by White Americans, leading to segregation and discrimination against the growing Black population, racial violence, and "white flight" to suburban areas. From 1910 to 1970, Black Americans increased from 2% of Chicago's population to 33%, and became almost half of the population in Detroit. [151][152] As a result of the Great Migration, Black Americans currently make up 10% of the Midwest's population, with over 96% being concentrated in urban areas, including major cities like Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and Milwaukee, as well as medium sized cities like Gary and Flint.[153] At the same time, most of the rural Midwest has remained overwhelmingly White, with almost two-thirds of the 1,055 counties in the Midwest being over 95% White. Illinois is the most populous and racially diverse state in the Midwest,[154] and out of all 50 states, it is also ranked as the most representative of the overall demographics of the United States on several metrics, including religion, race/ethnicity, and urban/rural divide.[155] Almost half of the Hispanic population in the Midwest resides in Illinois, mostly in the Chicago metro area. As of 2022, the median household income in the Midwest is \$70,283, slightly lower than the national average of \$74,755. 12.2% of the region's population lives below the poverty line, including roughly 16% of children under 18, and 10% of seniors over 65. The average household size in the Midwest is 2.4 people[156] As of 2022, the median age in the Midwest is 39.2 years, with 22% of the population being under 18, and 18% being over 65. The age distribution in the Midwest broadly matches the US as a whole. In terms of sex, 50.3% of the region's population are female, and 49.7% are male. Half of the population over the age of 15 are married, while half are unmarried[156] Like the rest of the United States, the Midwest is predominantly Christian.[157] The majority of Midwesterners are Protestants, with rates from 48 percent in Illinois to 63 percent in Iowa.[158] However, the Catholic Church is the single largest denomination, varying between 18 percent and 34 percent of the state populations.[159][160] Lutherans are prevalent in the Upper Midwest, especially in Michigan, Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Wisconsin with their large German and Scandinavian populations.[161] Southern Baptists compose about 15 percent of Missouri's population,[162] but much smaller percentages in other Midwestern states. Judaism and Islam are collectively practiced by 2 percent of the population, with higher concentrations in major urban areas. 35 percent of Midwesterners attend religious services every week, and 69 percent attend at least a few times a year. People with no religious affiliation make up 22 percent of the Midwest's population.[163] Further information: Corn Belt, Wheat production in the United States, and History of agriculture in the United States A pastoral farm scene near Traverse City, Michigan, with a classic American red barn Agriculture is one of the biggest drivers of local economies in the Midwest, accounting for billions of dollars worth of exports and thousands of jobs. The area consists of some of the richest farming land in the world.[164] The region's fertile soil combined with the steel plow has made it possible for farmers to produce abundant harvests of grain and cereal crops, including corn, wheat, soybeans, oats, and barley, to become known today as the nation's "breadbasket".[165] Henry A. Wallace, a pioneer of hybrid seeds, declared in 1956 that the Corn Belt developed the "most productive agricultural civilization the world has ever seen".[166] Today, the U.S. produces 40 percent of the world crop.[167] The very dense soil of the Midwest plagued the first settlers who were using wooden plows, which were more suitable for loose forest soil. On the prairie, the plows bounced around and the soil stuck to them. This problem was solved in 1837 by an Illinois blacksmith named John Deere who developed a steel moldboard plow that was stronger and cut the roots, making the fertile soils of the prairie ready for farming.[citation needed] Farms spread from the colonies westward along with the settlers. In cooler regions, wheat was often the crop of choice when lands were newly settled, leading to a "wheat frontier" that moved westward over the course of years. Also very common in the antebellum Midwest was farming corn while raising hogs, complementing each other especially since it was difficult to get grain to market before the canals and railroads. After the "wheat frontier" had passed through an area, more diversified farms including dairy and beef cattle generally took its place.[citation needed] The introduction and broad adoption of scientific agriculture since the mid-19th century contributed to economic growth in the United States. Central Iowa cornfield, part of the Corn Belt This development was facilitated by the Morrill Act and the Hatch Act of 1887 which established in each state a land-grant university (with a mission to teach and study agriculture) and a federally funded system of agricultural experiment stations and cooperative extension networks which place extension agents in each state. Iowa State University became the nation's first designated land-grant institution when the Iowa Legislature accepted the provisions of the 1862 Morrill Act on September 11, 1862, making Iowa the first state in the nation to do so.[168] Soybeans were not widely cultivated in the United States until the early 1930s, and by 1942, the U.S. became the world's largest soybean producer, partially because of World War II and the "need for domestic sources of fats, oils, and meal". Between 1930 and 1942, the United States' share of world soybean production skyrocketed from 3 percent to 46.5 percent, largely as a result of increase in the Midwest, and by 1969, it had risen to 76 percent.[169] Iowa and Illinois rank first and second in the nation in soybean production. In 2012, Iowa produced 14.5 percent, and Illinois produced 13.3 percent of the nation's soybeans.[170] The tallgrass prairie has been converted into one of the most intensive crop producing areas in North America. Less than one tenth of one percent (

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