# ECONOMIC IMPACT OF IOWA'S INLAND WATERWAYS



## IN 2021, IOWA'S PORTS, INLAND WATERWAYS, AND INLAND WATERWAYS-DEPENDENT INDUSTRIES SUPPORTED

Nearly 88,000 jobs

**\$5.0 billion** in personal income

\$9.9 billion in Gross State Product

\$31.0 billion in total output

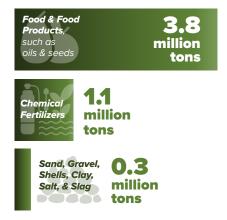
#### INLAND WATERWAYS SUPPORT IOWA'S KEY INDUSTRIES

Industry Sub-Category	Percent of Goods Shipped by Water (Tons)	Direct Iowa Jobs
Crop Production	↔ 3.8% of outbound	3,370*
Food Manufacturing	G 1.4% of outbound	23,275
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Mfg	Ge 9.4% of inbound	5,700

\*Total for Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting sector (NAICS 11)

# TOP INLAND WATERWAYS COMMODITIES BY WEIGHT

(comprising 65% of total tonnage)



#### TOP INLAND WATERWAYS COMMODITIES BY VALUE (comprising 85% of total value)

...Giving rise to

in state & local

\$349

million

tax revenue



lowa has nearly 490 MILES of navigable inland waterways, ranking it 40th in the

# *IOWA'S INLAND WATERWAY ASSETS AT A GLANCE*

nation

Missouri and Mississippi Rivers

3 public ports

### In 2021, **8M** tons of freight valued at \$1.5 BILLION

moved on Iowa's inland waterways, which is equivalent to over

# 202,000 TRUCKS

Avoided trucks translates into reduced congestion, emissions, and crashes, and contributes to the state of good repair of highway infrastructure

#### BENEFITS OF INLAND WATERWAYS TRANSPORTATION

America's inland waterways system is vital to our nation's competitiveness and economic growth. The inland waterways efficiently, sustainably, cost-effectively and safely transport critical commodities like agricultural goods, energy products, building materials and industrial chemicals to destinations within the U.S. and to deep water ports for export. In 2021, nearly 500 million tons of goods valued at more than \$158 billion moved on the U.S. inland waterways system. The U.S. Department of Transportation Freight Analysis Framework freight forecasts suggest total water tonnage will increase at an annual growth of 0.7% per year through 2040. Barge transportation is the safest, most environmentally friendly, economical, and fuel-efficient way to move our nation's goods for use domestically and for export. On a single gallon of fuel, one barge can move freight more than four times farther than trucks, releasing 10 times fewer emissions.

Called "the backbone of the transportation logistics system," the inland waterways are a key part of the United States' transportation supply chain. The system includes a vast network of 12,000 miles of connecting waterways and 219 locks. However, the majority of locks and dams on the Mississippi River system were constructed during the 1930s and are operating well beyond their 50-year design life. Modernizing the nation's inland waterways system will support and create American jobs, increase U.S. exports, and inject billions of dollars into the U.S. economy to power our growth for the next 50 years.

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture Inland Waterways Study (2019); U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterborne Commerce Statistics; Federal Highway Administration Freight Analysis Framework; U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics; IMPLAN

#### Our nation's ports and waterways remain the crucial backbone of our One standard economy. Approximately 2.3B tons of cargo are shipped to, from 15-barge tow or through **41 states each year.** The U.S. marine transportation industry moves the equivalent volume of supports trillions of dollars in commerce and millions of jobs. 216 rail cars Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Value to the Nation Civil Works, 2021. plus 6 locomotives The annual net economic benefit **Barges have** 832% more generated by the Corps' Civil Works the smallest than barges mission is estimated to be **S89B** – .050 trucks carbon footprint a return of about \$12 for every dollar among surface **expended** – with the total amount 40.7 provided to improve the nation's transportation water infrastructure at \$10.24B. modes Source: Senate Environment and Public Works Committee summaries, 2023 43% more In 2021, there were than recreational **>** barges lockages Source: National Waterways Foundation on the inland waterways system. Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Recreation

Tons of CO2 per Million Ton-Miles

Compared to barges, moving an

identical amount of cargo by rail

generates 43% more carbon dioxide

emissions, and trucks generate

over 800% more emissions.

Source: Texas Transportation Institute

Marine transportation is critical to **agricultural exports**, forecast at **\$175.5B**. Agriculture will provide a **\$10.5B** trade surplus to the American economy, with **imports forecast at \$165** billion. Forestry and fishery products, and critical farm inputs such as fertilizer, feed, and fuel move on the waterway system as well.

Agricultural exports are responsible for **25.5%** of **U.S. farm income**, also driving rural economic activity and supporting more than **1M American jobs** on and off the farm.

Source: A Reliable Waterway System Is Important to Agriculture, 2022