Australasian Railway Association

The value of rail in Victoria

Rail is a critical enabler of economic growth, jobs, safety and sustainability in Victoria.

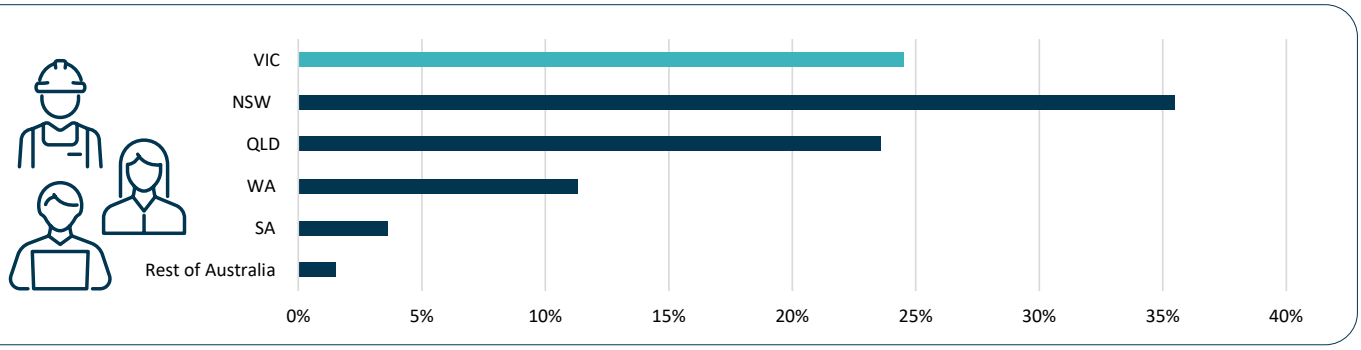
Key highlights

The rail industry delivers significant benefits for the Victorian economy each year.

- Generates $6.8 billion
- Creates 30,366 jobs
- Home to the world's largest tram network
- Leading rail construction activity across Australia

An economic powerhouse

Victoria has the second largest rail workforce in Australia. Most rail jobs are located in the inner, western and southeast parts of Melbourne.



Key rail workforce sectors

- Passenger rail
- Rail manufacturing
- Rail supply chain

Connecting Victorians

Victoria has a vast public transport network spanning Melbourne and its regions. Almost three quarters of Australia's light rail journeys take place in Melbourne.

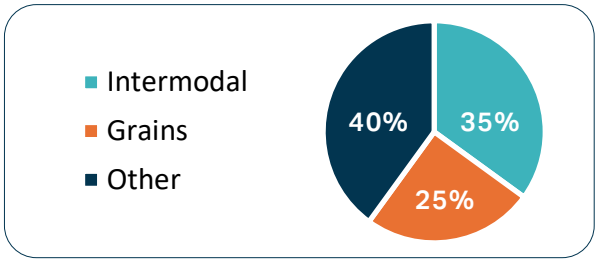
Network coverage of rail (route kilometres)

In 2023-24 more than 337 million passengers travelled on Melbourne's rail network.

Heavy rail journeys: 182.5 million | Light rail journeys: 154.8 million

Inland Rail is set to boost Victoria's rail freight sector

Victoria moved **five billion tonne kilometres** of freight on rail in 2023. The development of Inland Rail and further intermodal terminal developments have the potential to support greater use of rail in the state's freight sector.



New projects are expanding the network's capacity

Melbourne Metro Tunnel will create a new end-to-end rail line from Sunbury in the west to Cranbourne/Pakenham in the South East, with bigger and more modern trains, and five new stations. It is scheduled to open in 2025

Suburban Rail Loop will connect Melbourne's outer suburbs, activating housing and establishing new precincts for commercial operations and essential services. SRL East is underway, and will deliver 26km twin tunnels connecting six new underground stations, enabling 70,000 new homes by the 2050s.

Melbourne Airport Rail will provide a direct rail connection to Melbourne Airport for the first time. The project will support the city's residential and tourism growth and is becomes the nation's largest capital.

Want to know more?

For more information, contact the ARA

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