American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association.

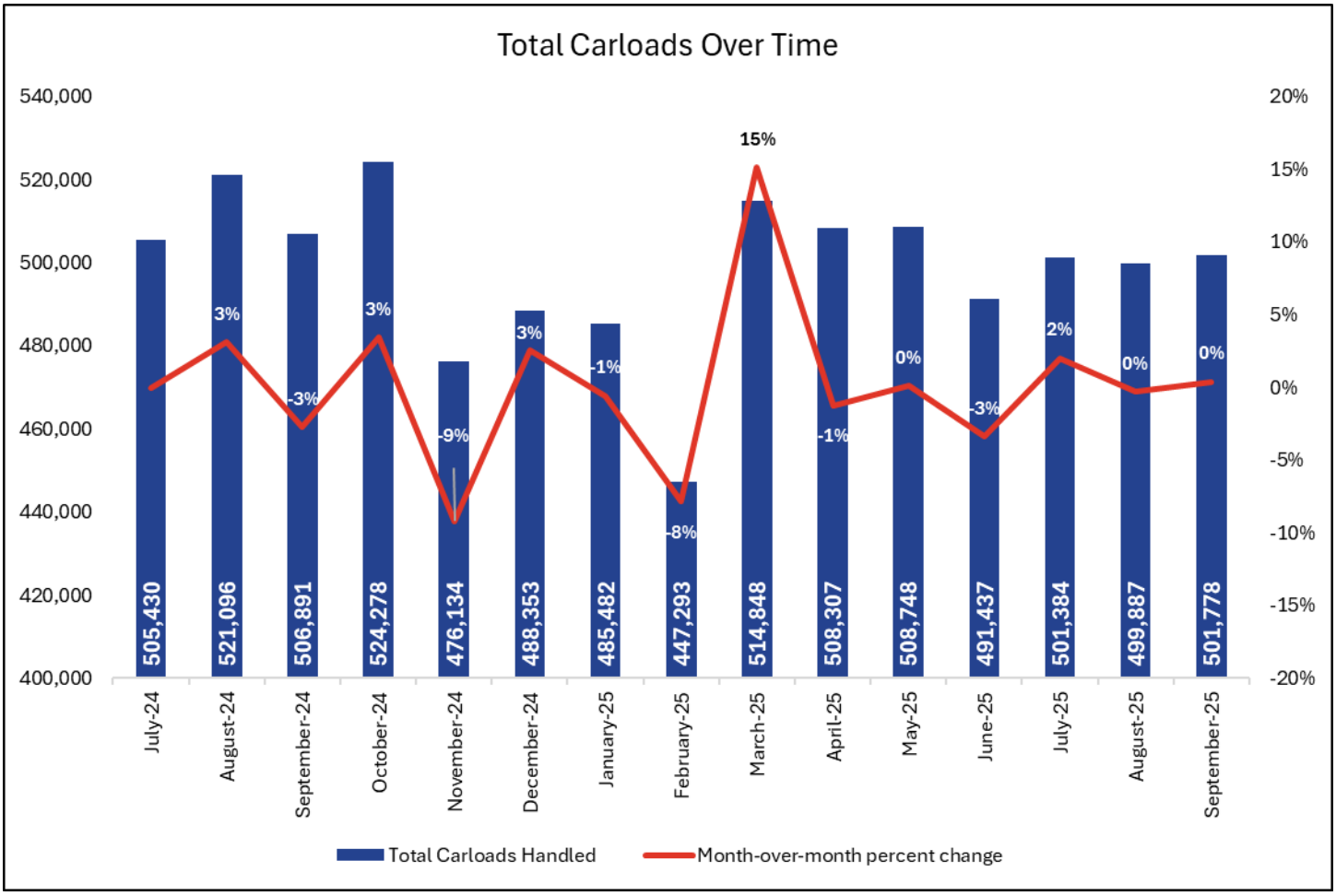
Short Line Carloads Report – November 2025

ASLRRA Second Carloads Report

ASLRRA is proud to share the second in its new ongoing series of reports presenting short line carload volumes and recent trends and changes.

Overall Short Line Carloads Volumes

This table presents the long-term trends of carloads handled by short lines and the respective month-over-month percent change. This data series begins with July 2024 carloads, hence there is no data for a month to month change in that field. As seen below, July, August, and September have remained remarkably consistent with total carloads handled floating around 500,000 a month.

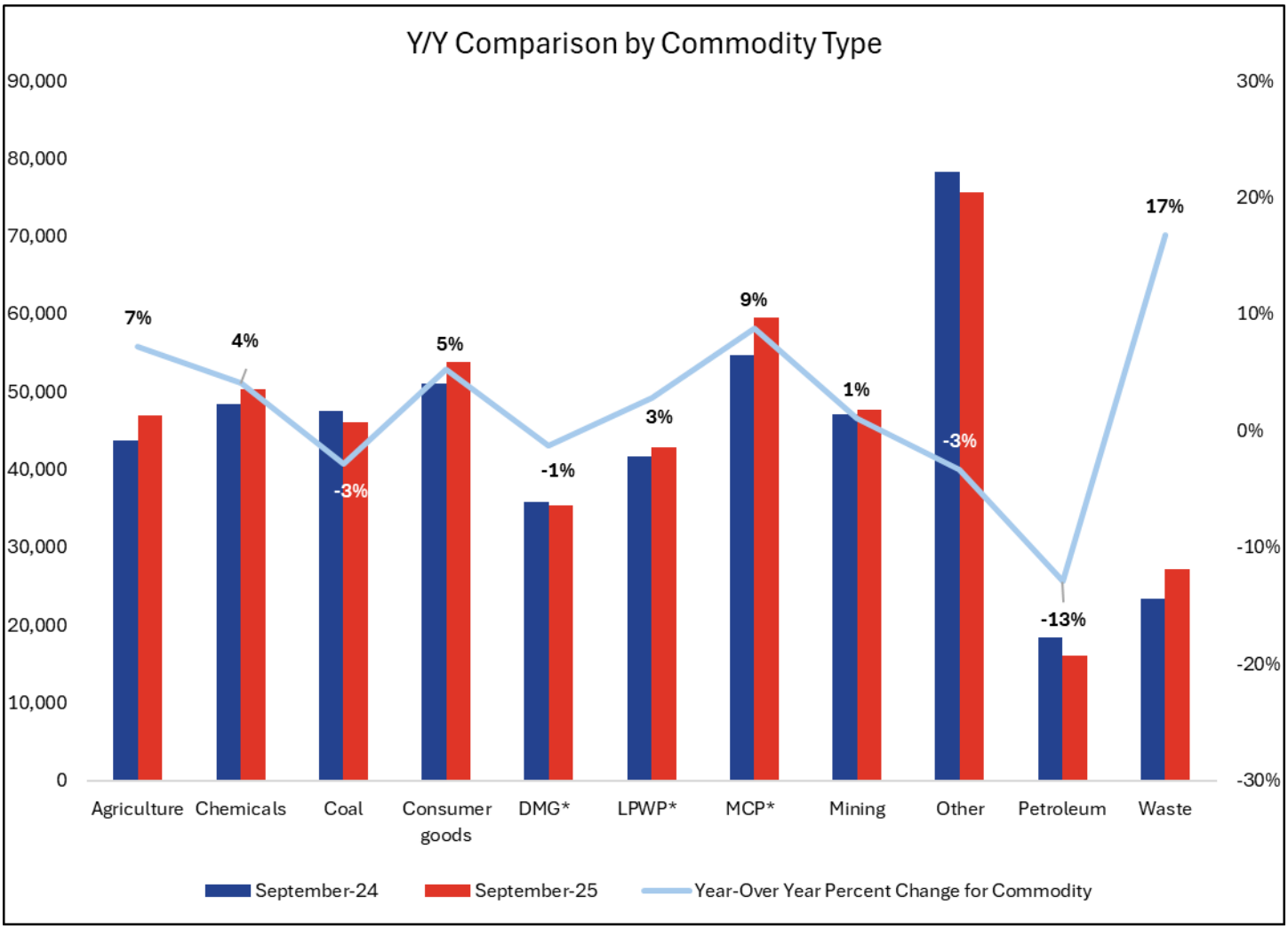


Short Line Carload Trends

Comparing overall carloads handled, as well as by movement-type, shows the overall volumes remaining consistent with only a 2% increase compared to September 2024. The most notable change was the decrease in bridge movements with the category dropping by a fifth. Modest gains in originating and terminating carloads helped offset those losses.

	September 2024	September 2025	Percent change
Bridged	115,072	92,169	-20%
Originating	219,113	228,973	4%
Terminating	249,178	261,602	5%
Total Handled	490,323	501,778	2%

The following chart provides the Year-Over-Year monthly comparison by commodity, identifying the drivers of overall carload volume.



DMG – Durable Manufactured Goods

For September, short line carloads movements saw the greatest growth in Waste (17%), Manufacturing or construction products (9%), and Agriculture (7%) compared to September 2024. The largest decreases were seen in carloads for petroleum products (-13%). When looking at raw carload volumes Manufacturing or construction products also saw the greatest growth with a net gain of 4,790 carloads compared to Petroleum products decreasing by a net negative 2,567 carloads.

Carloads Table

Commodity Group	Trip Type	Sep-24	Sep-25	Percent change
Agriculture	Originated	26,041	25,801	-1%
	Bridged	3,864	3,744	-3%
	Terminated	20,938	24,696	18%
	Total Handled	43,788	46,963	7%
Chemicals	Originated	12,285	12,145	-1%
	Bridged	15,831	13,192	-17%
	Terminated	27,451	30,290	10%
	Total Handled	48,388	50,346	4%
Coal	Originated	23,620	23,642	0%
	Bridged	8,533	4,695	-45%
	Terminated	26,294	25,391	-3%
	Total Handled	47,487	46,137	-3%
Consumer Goods	Originated	20,423	22,105	8%
	Bridged	12,552	11,285	-10%
	Terminated	25,433	26,906	6%
	Total Handled	51,106	53,781	5%
Durable Manufactured Goods	Originated	7,885	8,010	2%
	Bridged	32,545	31,197	-4%
	Terminated	7,862	8,170	4%
	Total Handled	35,821	35,357	-1%
Lumber, Paper, and Wood Products	Originated	21,569	22,080	2%
	Bridged	3,414	3,095	-9%
	Terminated	21,892	22,863	4%
	Total Handled	41,759	42,938	3%
Manufacturing or Construction Products	Originated	30,770	34,747	13%
	Bridged	6,554	5,546	-15%
	Terminated	24,600	26,836	9%

Commodity Group	Trip Type	Sep-24	Sep-25	Percent change
	Total Handled	54,730	59,520	9%
Mining Mining	Originated	24,380	25,480	5%
	Bridged	2,648	960	-64%
	Terminated	31,442	33,155	5%
	Total Handled	47,176	47,694	1%
Petroleum Products	Originated	8,181	7,098	-13%
	Bridged	1,438	1,248	-13%
	Terminated	13,307	11,072	-17%
	Total Handled	18,467	16,087	-13%
Other *Includes but not limited to misc. freight shipments; mail, express or other contract traffic; freight forwarder traffic; misc. mixed shipments, etc.*	Originated	32,884	33,178	1%
	Bridged	24,857	14,247	-43%
	Terminated	37,330	37,609	1%
	Total Handled	78,256	75,689	-3%
Waste	Originated	11,075	14,687	33%
	Bridged	2,836	2,960	4%
	Terminated	12,629	14,614	16%
	Total Handled	23,345	27,266	17%
Total	Originated	219,113	228,973	4%
	Bridged	115,072	92,169	-20%
	Terminated	249,178	261,602	5%
	Total Handled	490,323	501,778	2%

Definitions

- **Originated**- A carload's initial point of shipment.
- **Bridged** - A carload shipment that originates on one railroad, is transported by a bridge railroad, and then transferred to another railroad for its final destination.
- **Terminated** - A carload shipment of a commodity that originated on one railroad but was unloaded from the receiving railroad at its final destination, with no further rail transportation planned.
- **Total handled** – Total number of individual carloads that were either an origination, termination, or a bridge movement, moved by at least one short line. This total will generally be smaller than the sum of originated, bridged and terminated movements as adding those together results in double (or triple) counting of the same carload.

Carload data is based on a custom short line carload report created in cooperation between ASLRRA and Railinc based on waybill data submitted by railroads.