

Zeitschrift: Annual report / Swiss federal railways
Herausgeber: Swiss federal railways
Band: - (2002)

Rubrik: Glossary

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 11.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Explanation of terms.

| Term | Definition |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Combined (or intermodal) traffic | Multi-modal transport (e.g. road and rail) of goods without change of the packing units; <i>Unaccompanied combined traffic</i> : Transport of goods in packing units (containers, swap bodies, semi-trailers) without transport of the power vehicle for road transport; <i>Accompanied combined traffic</i> : Railway transport of the whole road lorry and its load, accompanied by its driver (Rolling Road). |
| Current assets | Property items listed on the balance sheet, remaining in the enterprise for a short period of time only, and which are needed for the preparation of the offer: Raw materials, auxiliary means and means of operation such as fuels, lubricants, claims, credit balances at the bank, cash and cash equivalents. |
| Depreciations | Pro rata decrease of value of tangible assets due to ageing and wear. <i>Ordinary depreciation</i> : Taking account in yearly rates until expiry of the presumed service life. <i>Extraordinary depreciation</i> : Taking account of unexpected decrease of value due to special reasons (have become out-dated, damaged, etc.). |
| Domestic traffic | Traffic whose points of departure and destination are situated in the same country. |
| EBIT | Earnings before interest and taxes. Benefit before financial expenses (payment of interest on loans), financial income (interest payments received from financial assets and participations), taxes on income and capital. |
| Fixed assets | Assets as valued on the balance sheet and which serve the enterprise for a longer duration of time: track installations, real property, buildings, line equipment, safety installations, vehicles, concessions, etc. |
| Grants | Financial compensation for uncovered costs of ordered transport services. |
| Length of lines | Length of lines owned by the railway transport undertaking and serving public transport, irrespective of its present use. |
| Local traffic | Operation of lines with short distances between stops for a concentrated transport service to centres and towns, as distinct from long-distance and regional traffic. Services of local traffic are not eligible for federal government grants. |
| Long-distance traffic | Fast services with great distances between stops for the connection of big- and medium-sized centres, operated by the SBB with own responsibility for profit and loss. To be distinguished from regional traffic and local traffic. |
| Mileage | Distance covered by all the trains, measured in train-kilometres. |
| Network access (free) | The system whereby an infrastructure operator places its track network at the disposal of a railway company for train runs, against remuneration (train path price). |

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Operated lines | Lines operated by a railway company, plus lines of other companies leased or operated, less lines leased out to other companies or own lines operated by other companies. |
| Operating performance | Trains operated, representing transport services offered, shown in train-km. |
| Passenger-kilometres | Standard measure for traffic performance (demand) in passenger traffic, expressed in kilometres covered by all passengers. |
| Productivity | Ratio of output to input. Productivity can be expressed without valuation (e.g. trains per line) or with valuation (e.g. ticket receipts against personnel cost). |
| Regional traffic | Services operated with a medium distance between stops, for the connection of regional centres among themselves, and of rural places with towns. As distinct from long-distance and local traffic. The federal government and the cantons compensate the transport companies for the uncovered costs (not covered by ticket receipts) of the offer they had ordered. |
| Seat kilometres | Standard measure for the passenger transport services offered by a railway. Corresponds to the product of the car-kilometres covered and the (mean) number of seats of the rolling stock used. |
| Seat occupancy rate (mean) | Ratio of seats used and seats offered, all trains of all lines considered. |
| Tonnage | Traffic volume in freight traffic. <i>Overall gross tons</i> : overall weight of a freight train including the tares of the wagons and including the locomotive(s). <i>Gross tons</i> : hauled tonnage, meaning overall weight of the train without locomotive(s). <i>Net tons</i> : actual load of a freight train. <i>Net-net tons</i> : own weight of the transported goods in unaccompanied combined traffic without the tare weight of the containers, swap bodies or semi-trailers. |
| Tonne-kilometres (tkm) | Standard measure for transport performance (demand) in freight traffic. It corresponds to the transport of one ton over a distance of one kilometre. |
| Train path | Right to use the infrastructure for a train run, defined as to place and time. |
| Train path kilometres | Performance of infrastructure operators. Corresponds to the train paths used by the railway transport companies against remuneration (train path price). |
| Train traction | The conveyance of trains. Depending on the source of energy, type of engine and power transmission, it is distinguished between electric, diesel-electric and diesel-hydraulic traction, and steam traction. |
| Transport offer | The product generated by the railway transport company, measured in train-, car- or seat -kilometres. |
| Transport performance | The services used by the customers during a certain period, in passenger traffic measured in passenger-km (pkm), in freight traffic in tonne-km (tkm). |