



**Public Utilities
Commission**

Rail Statistics Report

2024



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September 15, 2025

Dear Fellow Ohioans:

Ohio is a major crossroads for the railroad industry. With approximately 5,600 miles of track and 5,619 public grade crossings and 44 freight railroads operating within our state, Ohio has the fifth highest rail traffic in the country.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), in conjunction with the Ohio Rail Development Commission, is responsible for ensuring the safety of motorists at public grade crossings in Ohio. PUCO rail inspectors inspect the warning devices that are essential for motorist safety. The PUCO also approves funding for enhancing safety at public grade crossings.

The 2024 Rail Statistics report focuses on statewide trends. If you have any questions about this report, feel free to contact us at:

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180 E. Broad Street – 4th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793
(614) 466-1150

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Overseeing Ohio Railroad Safety



The PUCO works to ensure safety of 5,619 public railroad crossings and works with the Federal Railroad Administration to assist in providing oversight of approximately 5,600 miles of railroad track. PUCO rail staff works to accomplish this goal through inspections, safety upgrades and funding programs.

Federal Railroad Administration State Inspector Program

The FRA State Inspector Program is administered by the FRA (U.S. Department of Transportation) which trains qualified PUCO rail inspectors in one of five disciplines: track; signals and train control; hazardous materials; operating practices; and motive power and equipment (mechanical).

After completing the sometimes multi-year apprenticeship process, the federally-certified inspectors conduct inspections throughout the state. They enforce 49 CFR 200–299 (freight rail regulations) as well as 49 CFR 171–180 (hazardous materials). These inspections involve hazardous materials by rail; physical track inspections; mechanical inspections of locomotives and train cars; inspections of the grade crossing warning devices, as well the signals systems used to communicate with the trains; and inspections of the practices and procedures of the railroads. PUCO FRA-certified inspectors work closely with federal inspectors to improve the safety of Ohio’s railroads.

Railroad inspections

PUCO rail inspectors monitor grade crossings, inspect railroad tracks and equipment, and investigate all grade crossing incidents. These inspectors work across Ohio responding to the concerns of the public such as complaints of rough crossings, excessive noise and overgrown weeds and vegetation that can obstruct sight at railroad crossings. Safety at railroad crossings has improved greatly in recent years as a result of these inspections.

Safety upgrades

The installation of warning devices such as flashing lights and roadway gates is one way safety can be improved at rail crossings. The PUCO approved 238 crossing safety upgrade projects in 2024. Additionally, many other safety and engineering enhancements have been implemented at Ohio rail crossings.

Ohioans wishing to find more information about grade crossings and recent project upgrades in their community can visit the railroad section of the PUCO website.

Safety Improvement Funding Opportunities

Federal and state funding resources are available to local communities to implement safety upgrades and install lights and gates at grade crossings.

Federal funding

The PUCO, in conjunction with the Ohio Rail Development Commission, works to select Ohio grade crossings for federally-funded safety upgrades.

Crossings for these upgrades are chosen based on a priority list that ranks the crossings in order of crash risk. Criteria to determine the crash risk include the number of tracks, average daily traffic, crash history, number of highway lanes, train speed and the number of trains per day. These projects are paid 100 percent through federal funds, and the PUCO monitors the projects to ensure they are completed.



State Grade Crossing Upgrade Program

For crossings not eligible for federal funding, the state-funded Grade Crossing Upgrade Program allows local communities to share the cost of installing safety devices with the state and the local railroad.

Communities who utilize this program may be required to pay between 25 and 65 percent of the cost of the project. The PUCO allocates funds for this program based on an objective formula measuring the need for safety upgrades at the crossing and other special conditions that may be applicable.

Communities wishing to apply for state funding must submit an application to the PUCO for consideration. A PUCO inspector evaluates the crossing site to determine the appropriate level of funding assistance. Construction of the upgrades begins after a financial assistance proposal is approved by the local highway authority and the local railroad.

Safety Improvement Funding Opportunities

Supplemental Assistance Program

A supplemental assistance program is administered by the PUCO to help communities install safety enhancements at crossings in addition to crossbuck signage or lights and gates. Through this program, the PUCO provides up to \$5,000 for physical improvements around the crossing, including rumble strips, illumination, improved signage or vegetation removal.

To apply for supplemental assistance, the local highway authority must submit an application to the PUCO for approval. If approved, a contract will be prepared for the local highway authority and the PUCO to sign. When construction of the project is completed and approved, the local highway authority can then submit the cost for reimbursement of up to \$5,000.

Consolidation Program

In 1991 the Federal Railroad Administration set a goal to close 25 percent of highway-grade crossings in the United States, and the PUCO is committed to working toward this goal. The consolidation program works to eliminate unnecessary crossings in exchange for implementing safety improvements at other crossings along the same rail corridor. These improvements, such as lights, gates, signage and illumination are paid for through federal, state and railroad funds. When a local community agrees to permanently close a grade crossing to vehicle traffic the state works to provide funding for the agreed-upon upgrades.

Communities wishing to participate in the consolidation program should have the local highway authority contact the PUCO. A team surveys the site, evaluates the project and negotiates the levels of participation of the local highway authority and the railroad. Typically, local authorities hold public hearings before deciding to close a public crossing. The PUCO adopts a signed agreement by all parties before construction begins, and the Commission approves the program and issues project deadlines.

The Ohio Rail Hotline

The Ohio Rail Hotline at (866) 814-RAIL is a toll-free number administered by the PUCO, the Ohio Rail Development Commission and the Ohio Department of Transportation. This hotline provides information and answers to questions about railroad crossings in Ohio, including:

- Specific railroad crossings, such as location and type of warning devices
- Funding for railroad crossing safety devices and other crossing improvements
- Railroad operation in Ohio
- Railroad development opportunities
- Rail corridor improvements or public grade crossing closures

Questions or concerns?

For more information about the PUCO's role in Ohio railroad programs, contact the PUCO Rail Division at (614) 466-1150 or visit the railroad section of www.PUCO.ohio.gov.

To report railroad emergencies, grade crossing crashes and other incidents, please contact the appropriate local railroad:

- **Ashland Railway**
(419) 525-2822
www.ashlandrailway.com
- **Belpre Industrial Railroad**
(877) 313-3478
www.biprailroad.com
- **Camp Chase Railway**
(888) 783-4316
www.pinsly.com
- **CSX**
(800) 232-0144
www.csx.com
- **G&W Companies** (Columbus & Ohio River Railroad, Ohio Central Railroad, Warren Trumbull Railroad, Ohio Southern Railroad, Indiana & Ohio Railway, Mahoning Valley Railway, Youngstown Belt Railroad, Youngstown & Austintown Railroad, Chicago Ft. Wayne & Eastern, Central Railroad of Indiana)
(802) 527-3499
www.gwrr.com
- **Kanawha River Railroad**
(316) 262-1700
www.watco.com/service/rail/knwa
- **Napoleon, Defiance & Western Railway**
(855) 258-4514
www.patriotrail.com/rail/napoleon-defiance-western-railway-co-ndw/
- **Norfolk Southern**
(800) 453-2530
www.nscorp.com
- **Northern Ohio & Western Railway**
(800) 533-9416
www.omnitrax.com/northern-ohio-western-railway-llc/
- **R.J. Corman Railroads**
(877) 533-6913
www.rjcorman.com
- **Regional Rail, LLC** (Cincinnati Eastern Railroad, Ohio South Central Railroad, Indiana Eastern Railroad)
(888) 280 - 8906
www.regional-rail.com
- **Wheeling & Lake Erie (Akron Barberton Cluster Railway)**
(877) 767-7203
www.wlerwy.com
- **Youngstown & Southeastern Railroad**
(888) 504-6599
www.mbrail.com



Ohio Rail Crossing Statistics 2024

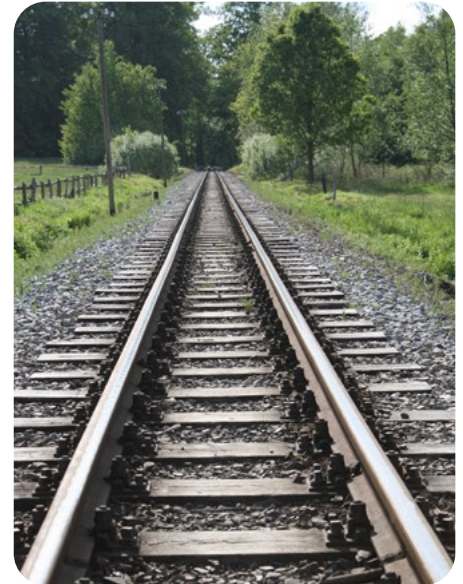


In 2024, the PUCO continued its important mission of monitoring rail transportation in Ohio. Improving safety is a vital part of this mission. A total of 238 federal, state and locally-funded safety upgrades were ordered during the year including the installation of lights and gates, supplemental assistance upgrades, circuitry upgrades and closings.

The PUCO's staff of federally certified inspectors conducted 1008 FRA railroad inspections in 2024. Additionally, PUCO staff conducted 6,680 safety inspections at grade crossings in Ohio.

The PUCO is proud of the success in Ohio rail safety. The number of train-vehicle crashes at Ohio public highway-rail grade crossings has decreased significantly, from 123 in 2001 to 67 in 2024.

While the PUCO believes that active warning devices play an important role in rail crossing safety, there is much work to be done to educate motorists on how to safely travel across railroad crossings. Many of these crashes occurred because of motorist actions including failure to stop, driving around the gates or stopping/stalling on the tracks.



2024 Statistics at a Glance



6,680
state safety inspections

1008
federal inspections by
PUCO inspectors

185
rail complaints
resolved

67
total crashes

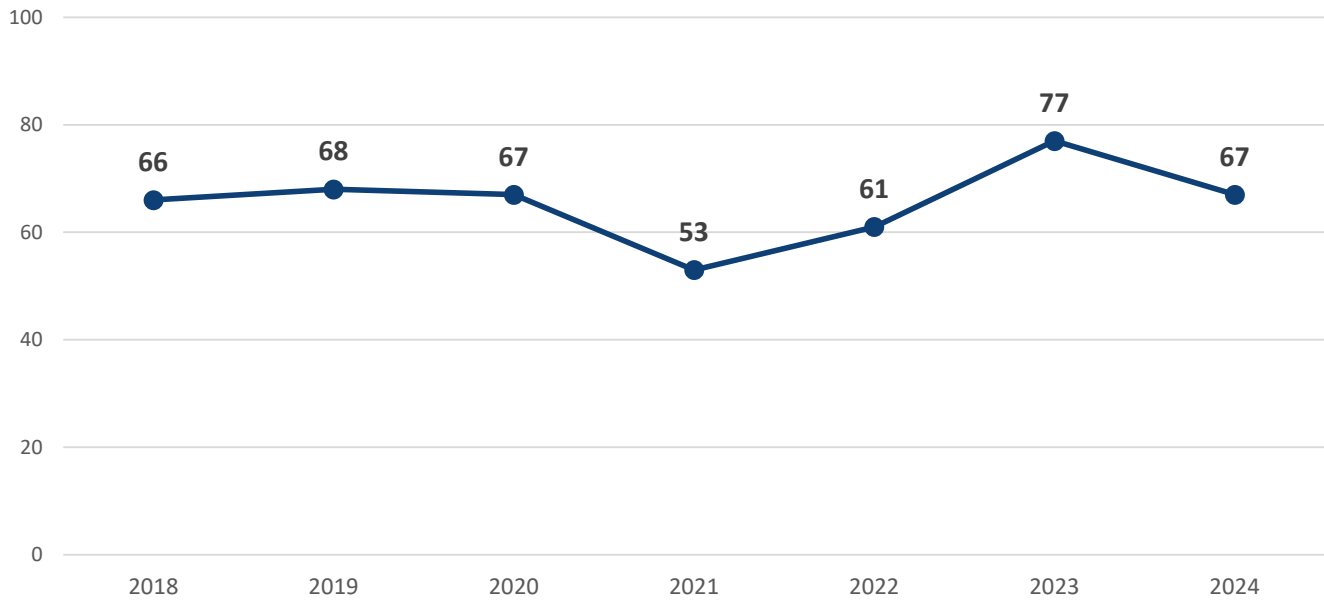
54
counties with no
crashes

22
injuries

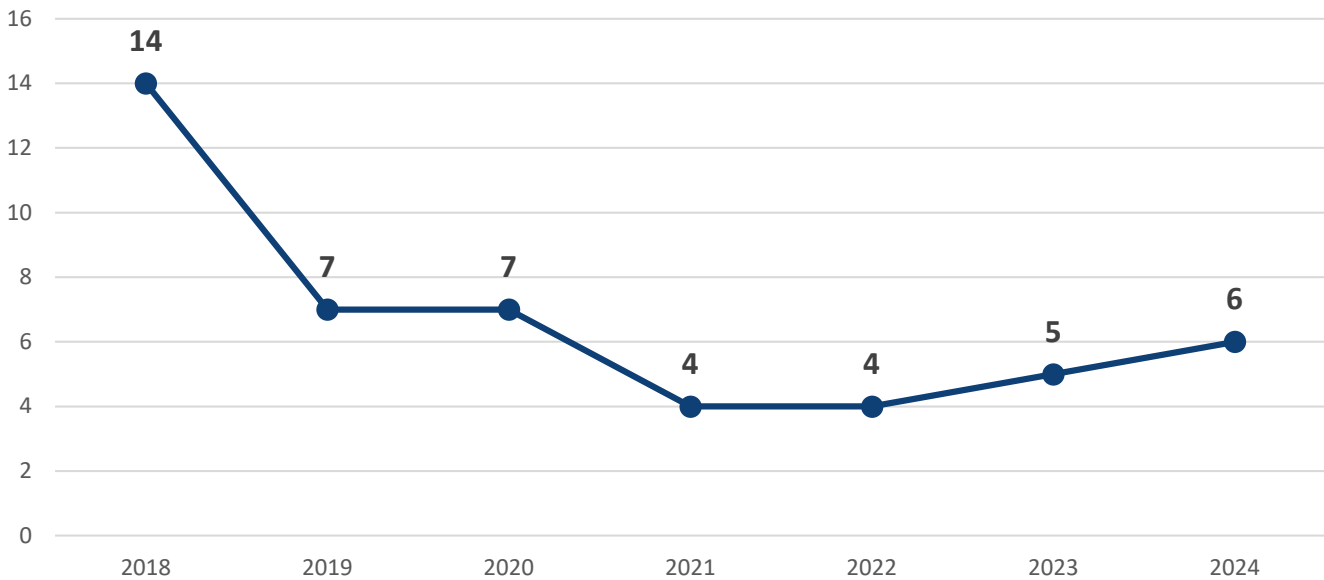
7
fatalities

2018 - 2024 Analysis

Total Railroad Crashes

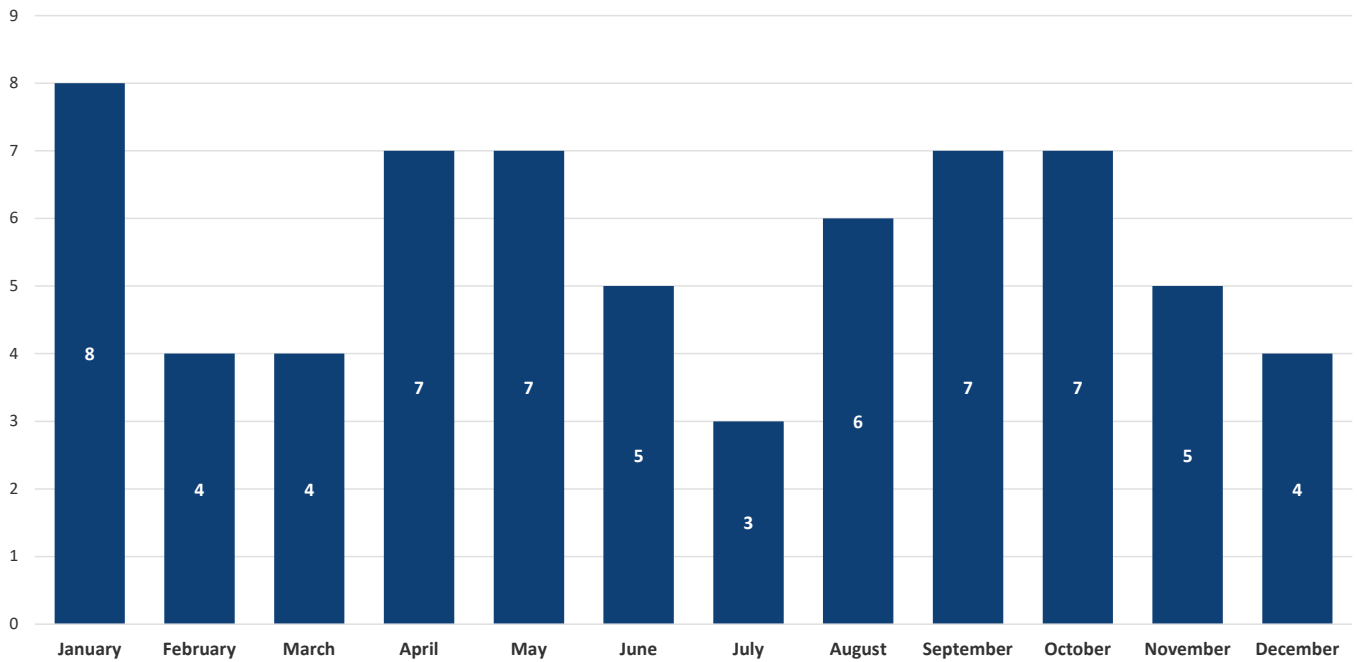


Total Railroad Fatal Crashes

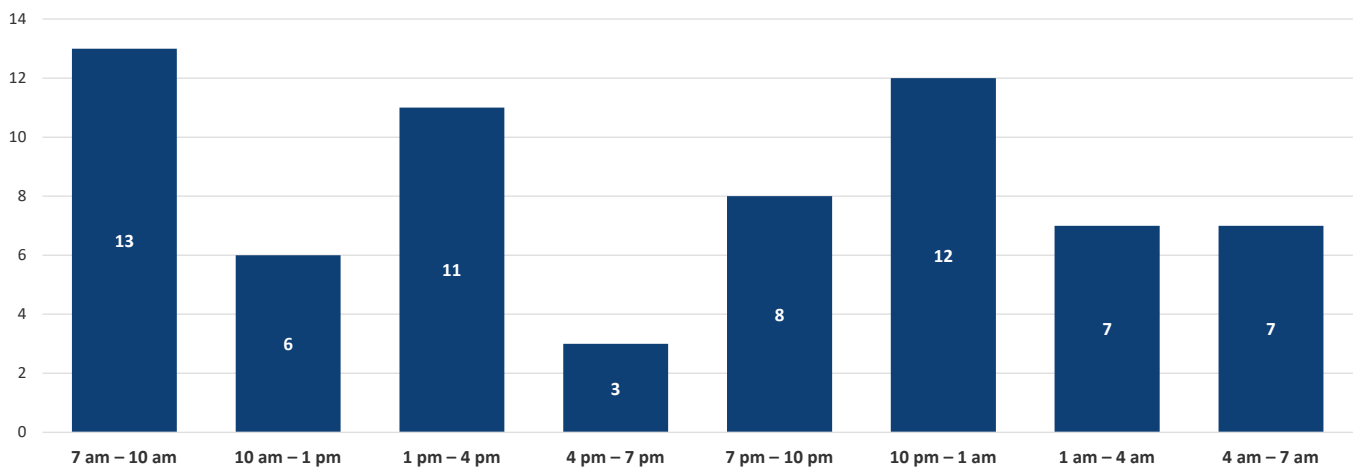


When crashes occurred

Crashes by month

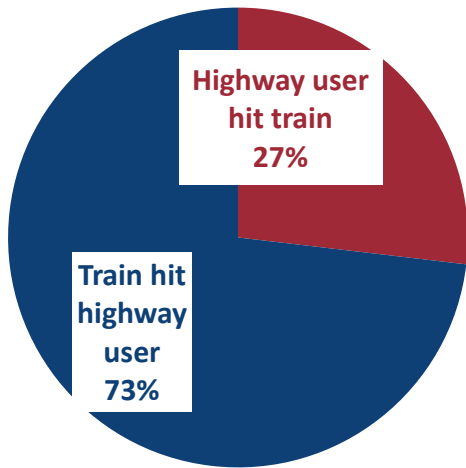


Crashes by time

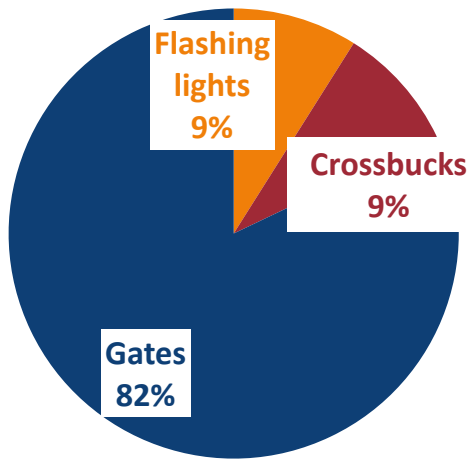


Before the crash

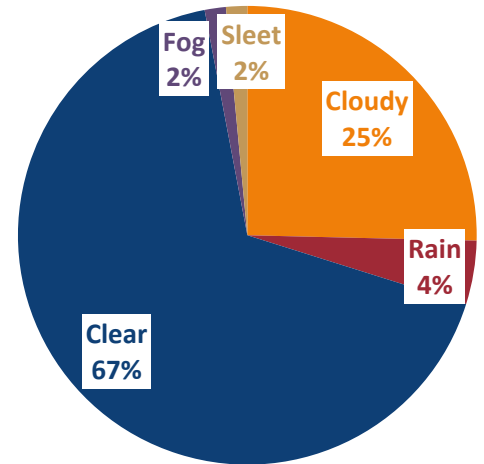
Crash type



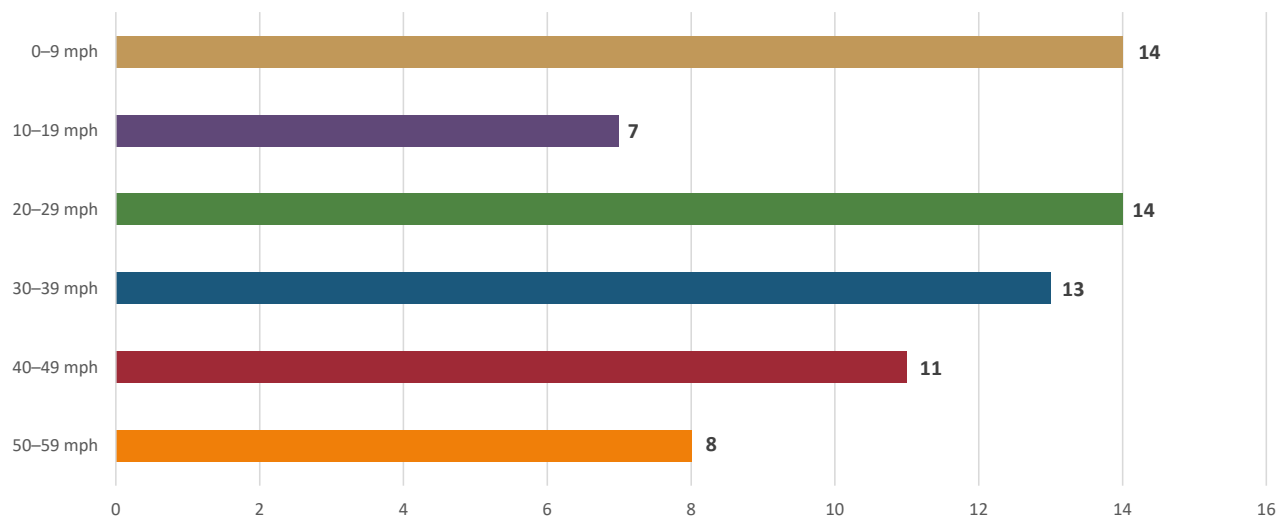
Type of warning device



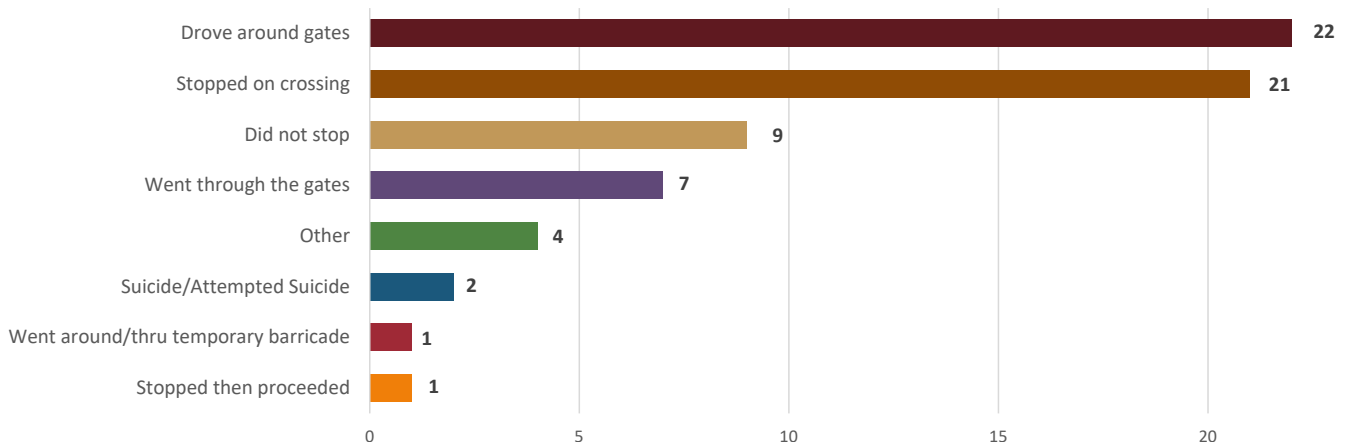
Weather



Speed of train in crash

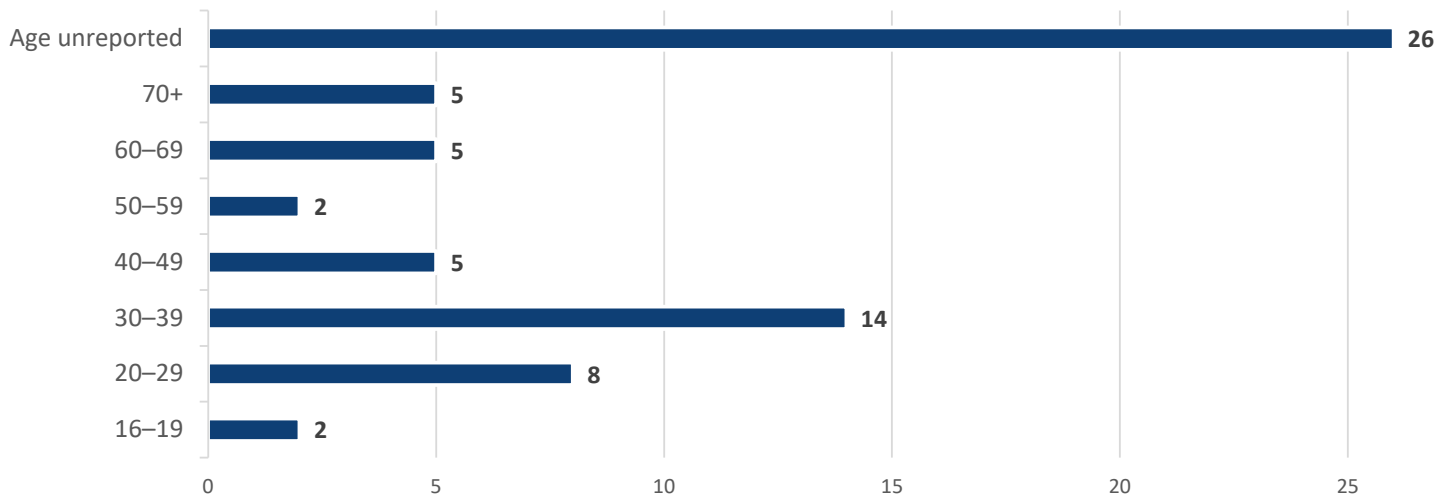


Motorist actions before crash

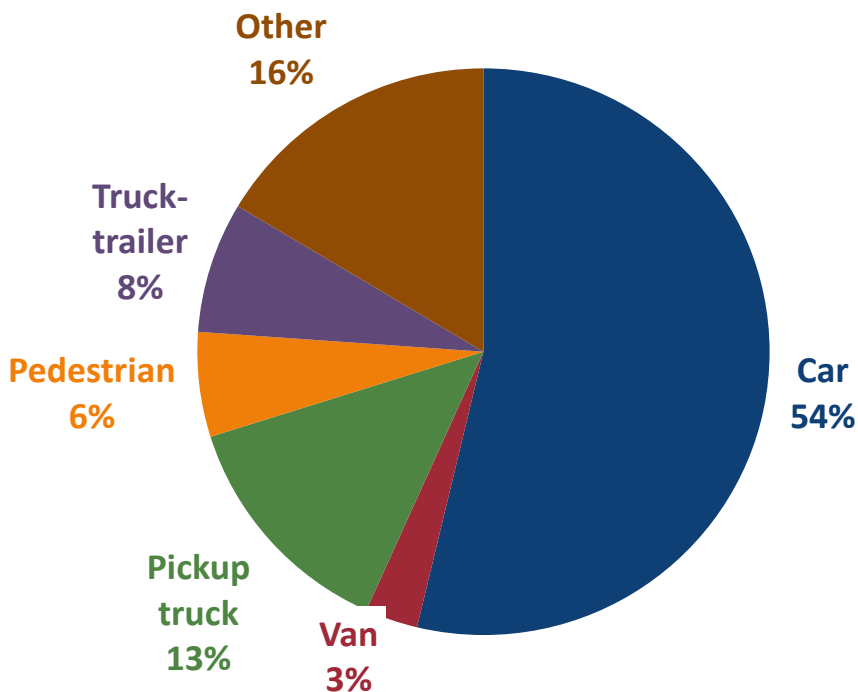


Who was involved

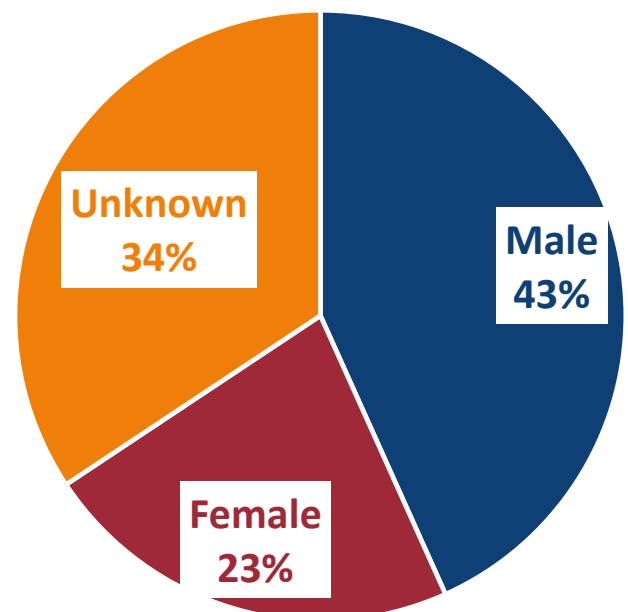
Crashes by motorist age



Crashes by vehicle type



Crashes by gender



Railroad crash statistics

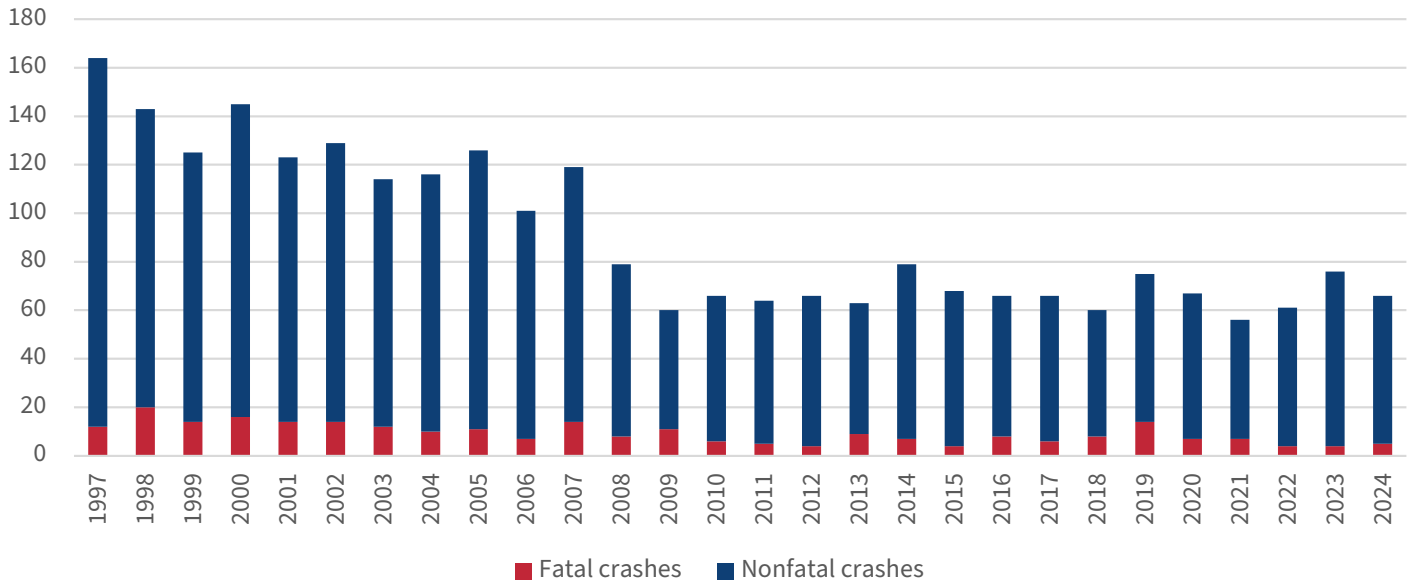
2024 crashes by county

County	Crashes	Fatalities	Injuries
Allen	1	0	0
Ashtabula	1	0	1
Butler	7	0	4
Clark	4	0	3
Crawford	1	0	1
Cuyahoga	1	0	0
Darke	1	0	0
Erie	2	1	0
Franklin	3	0	2
Hamilton	2	0	0
Hancock	2	1	0
Hardin	1	0	1
Henry	1	0	0
Highland	1	0	1
Lake	1	0	0
Lawrence	1	0	0
Lorain	2	0	0
Lucas	4	0	2
Marion	5	1	1
Miami	1	1	0
Montgomery	4	0	2
Ottawa	1	1	0
Pickaway	1	0	0
Portage	1	0	0
Putnam	2	0	2
Sandusky	1	0	1
Scioto	1	0	0
Seneca	3	2	0
Stark	3	0	0
Summit	1	0	0
Trumbull	1	0	1
Van Wert	1	0	0
Warren	2	0	0
Wood	3	0	0
Total	67	7	22



Railroad crash statistics

Crashes from 1997 - 2024



Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Crashes	172	137	127	143	123	127	112
Fatal Crashes	20	14	16	14	14	12	10
Nonfatal crashes	152	123	111	129	109	115	102
Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Crashes	117	122	108	113	82	55	65
Fatal Crashes	11	7	14	8	11	6	5
Nonfatal crashes	106	115	94	105	71	49	60
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Crashes	63	71	61	76	72	64	68
Fatal Crashes	4	9	7	4	8	6	8
Nonfatal crashes	59	62	54	72	64	58	60
Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Crashes	66	68	67	53	61	77	67
Fatal Crashes	14	7	7	4	4	5	6
Nonfatal crashes	52	61	60	49	57	72	61

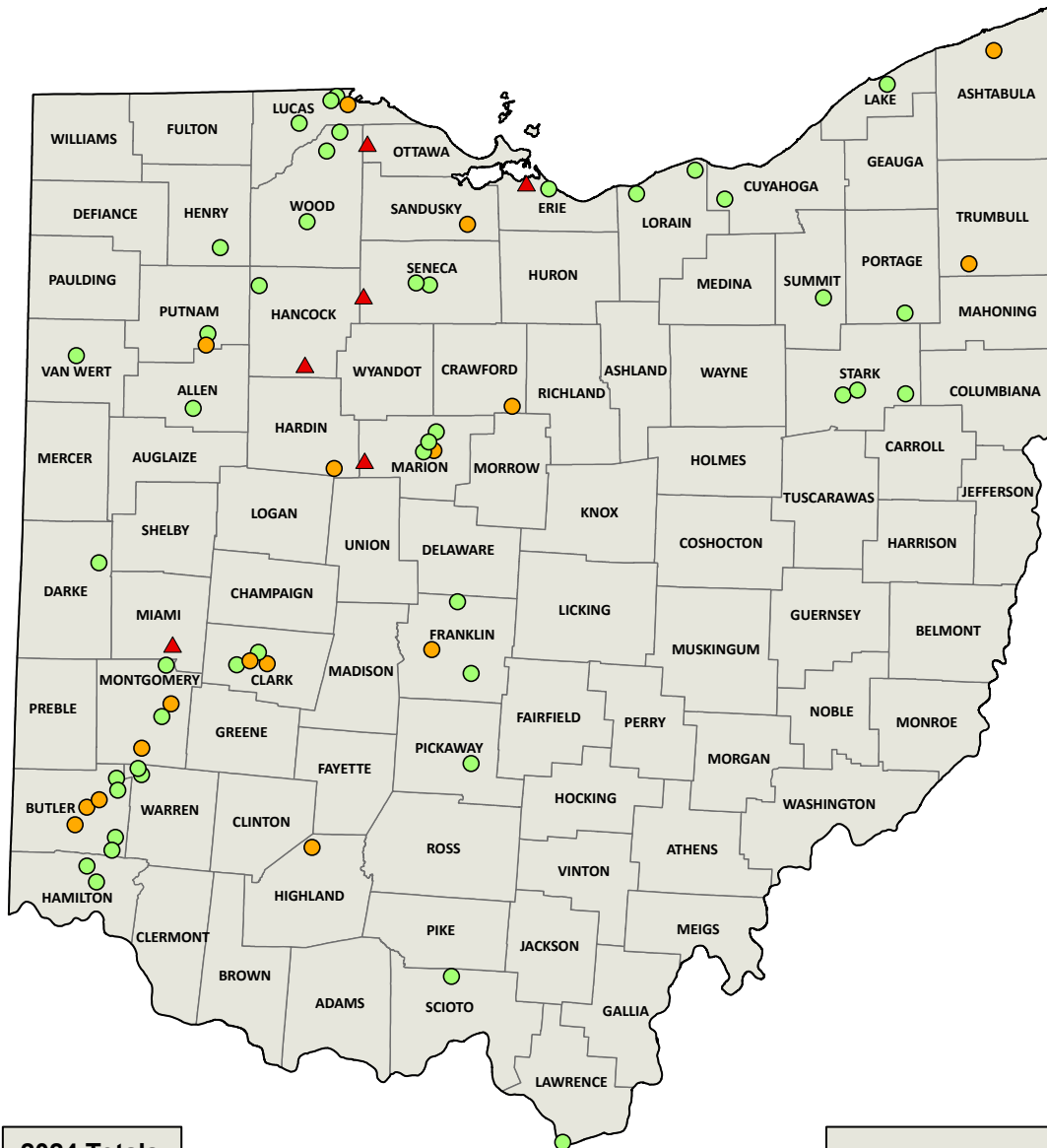
1997 - 2024

Total Crashes **2537**

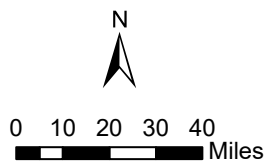
Fatal Crashes **255**

Nonfatal crashes **2,282**

2024 Railroad Crash Locations



2024 Totals	
Total Crashes:	67
Fatal Crashes:	6
Total Fatalities:	7
Injury Crashes:	17
Total Injuries:	22



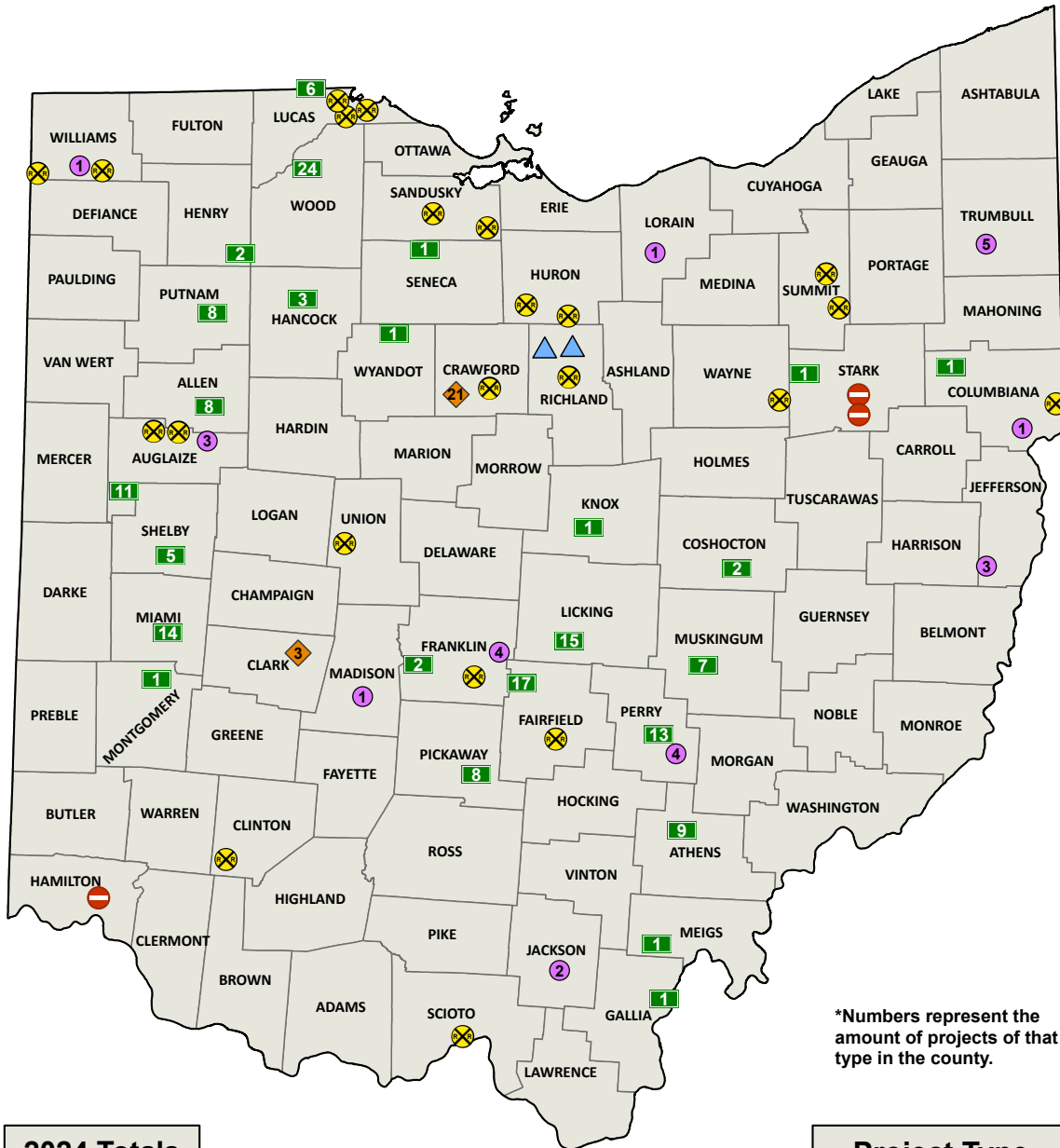
Crash Type	
	Fatal
	Injury
	Non-Injury



PUCO-ordered improvements

Year	Total Improvements	Lights and Gates	Supplementals
1996	69	51	0
1997	140	115	0
1998	95	70	0
1999	228	174	0
2000	72	52	3
2001	230	177	22
2002	164	111	27
2003	65	34	16
2004	103	75	11
2005	123	86	17
2006	74	51	9
2007	87	65	3
2008	75	36	21
2009	94	68	6
2010	133	72	29
2011	46	12	9
2012	543	85	56
2013	82	63	3
2014	97	60	10
2015	176	52	7
2016	96	46	15
2017	102	57	6
2018	54	32	0
2019	91	38	0
2020	77	40	1
2021	64	17	6
2022	208	47	0
2023	179	38	0
2024	238	22	24
Total	3805	1846	301

2024 Grade Crossing Improvements



*Numbers represent the amount of projects of that type in the county.

2024 Totals	
Total Projects:	238
Circuitry:	2
Closure:	3
Lights/Gates:	22
Other:	25
Supplemental:	24
Upgrades:	162

Project Type	
	Circuitry
	Closure
	Lights/Gates
	Other
	Supplemental
	Upgrade