Northern Interior States

NORTHERN INTERIOR RAILROAD TRACK CONSTRUCTION FROM 1826 TO 1850
Click on the name of the state to see details

STATE

1826-30

1831-35

1835-40

1841-45

1845-50

TOTALS

CENSUS

CHANGES

Illinois

18.00

37.00

55.50

110.50

110.50

Indiana

20.00

35.00

179.20

234.20

228.00

6.20

Michigan

109.76

128.21

124.05

362.02

342.00

20.02

Ohio

15.25

89.75

101.98

368.29

575.27

575.27

Wisconsin

20.00

20.00

20.00

TOTALS FOR INTERVALS

0.00

15.25

237.51

302.19

747.04

1,301.99

1,275.77

26.22

The Census data shown is for the year 1850 as reported in the 1860 Census.
See www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/1860e-06.pdf (pages 230-231).
Why are there differences between our figures and the Census Figures?

Here is an explanation state by state:

- Indiana:

- Michigan Central Railroad - 6.20 miles of this Railroad were in Indiana in 1850. The 1860 Census on page 227 shows 226 miles in Michigan in 1850 but the figure for 1860 shows 284.8 miles with 65 miles being deducted as being out of state which leaves 219.80 miles not 226. So what happened to the missing 6.20 miles? They were in Indiana all along and were part of the 65 miles for 1860. It is clear that this Railroad reached Michigan City in Indiana in 1850 which happens to be 6.20 miles from the Michigan border.

- Michigan:

- Central Railroad of Michigan - The state of Michigan actually built this 143.16 mile railroad before selling it to a private company, the Michigan Central Railroad in 1846, which finished the railroad.

- Erie and Kalamazoo Railroad (MI) - This is the Michigan portion of the railroad of the same name in Ohio. It was sold to the state of Michigan when it could not pay back a loan from the state and made part of the Michigan Southern. By the time of the 1860 Census, this railroad had been had been part of the merger into the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad in 1855. The 21 miles in Michigan was reported under the latter name.

- Michigan Central Railroad - This was the name of the private railroad that acquired the 143.16 miles of the Central of Michigan Railroad from the state and built another 78.64 miles in Michigan and 6.20 miles in Indiana by 1850. The 1860 Census on page 227 shows 226 miles in Michigan in 1850 which is 4.2 miles too high. That extra amount must be the

part in Indiana. The figure for 1860 shows 284.8 miles with 65 miles being deducted as being out of state which leaves 219.80 miles not 226. That difference is the 6.20 miles in Indiana which means that the 1850 figure for that part should have been 6.2 miles instead of 4.2 miles, a 2 mile shortfall.

- Michigan Southern Railroad - This was the name of the private railroad that acquired the 62.62 miles of the Southern of Michigan Railroad, the 33 miles of the Erie and Kalamazoo (including 12 miles in Ohio), and the 9.09 miles of the Palmyra and Jacksonburgh Railroad from the state and built another 22.51 miles in Michigan. The Michigan portion comes to 115.22 miles and not the 91 miles (103 minus 12 in Ohio) given for 1850 in the 1860 Census, an error of a 24.22 mile shortfall. By 1880, this railroad had been merged into the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad. No other railroad in this new railroad built any tracks until after 1850 so everything before 1851 was from the Michigan Southern. Adding up the counts from pages 338 and 339 of the 1880 Census gives us a total of 127.22 of which 12 belonged to Ohio. We can account for most of this 24.22 mile error by deciding that the 1860 Census did not count the 22.51 miles built by Michigan Southern itself in 1850. That still leaves the 1860 census 1.71 miles short for 1850 for which there seems to be no explanation.

- Palmyra and Jacksonburgh Railroad - This railroad was built by the owners of the Erie and Kalamazoo in 1838. The 1880 census shows 9.09 miles built in this year by the owner of record in 1880, the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, which fits the length of this railroad. It was sold to the state of Michigan when it could not pay back a loan from the state and made part of the Michigan Southern.

- Southern of Michigan Railroad - The state of Michigan actually built this 62.62 mile railroad before selling it to a private company, the Michigan Southern Railroad in 1846, which finished the railroad.