There are many railroad resources available. Some of the best resources are the individual railroad websites. Transportation services and consulting resources are listed but not necessarily endorsed by the Iowa DOT. These firms were included as initial resources for further guidance. Additional, more generalized public information is contained in trade journals. Trade Associations can be good opportunities for networking and topic-specific presentations. Educational resources are also abundant in Iowa.
THIRD-PARTY LOGISTICS SERVICES
CONSIDERATIONS WHEN SELECTING A LOGISTICS COMPANY

Freight transportation intermediaries and third-party logistics (3PLs) companies can provide freight transportation logistics expertise that can improve customer service, reduce damage, improve transit times, and save money. Many companies who have a limited workforce or do not have in-house transportation expertise, especially find that hiring a logistics company to plan, store, package, and ship products can improve the quality of transportation for new companies, small shippers, and mid to large companies with complex shipping needs. The following list of considerations about your supply chain can help identify a company or expert who can work with you to improve service.

What type of product do you plan on storing?

• Is it perishable or does it require temperature control?
• How many pallets or slip sheets will you be moving or storing?
• How many times will the inventory turnover each year?
• Is it a hazardous material?
• Must your products move in bond?
• Is high-value security required?
• Is the product a food-grade material?
• Will it come palletized?
• Do you need any value added services like kitting and assembly or pick and pack services?

Transportation services

Do you ship full truck loads? Less than a truck load or in bulk quantities? What are the terms of sale? Will you own the product in transit? Can you specify carriers? Do you require warehouse services? Will all the product ordered move to the same customer or will inventory be held in transit? Are you familiar with rail car or intermodal services? How many dock doors do you have for truck or rail? How large a parking lot do you have for truck delivery or trailer storage?

Do you use trucking services? If so, do you have pre-existing carrier relationships or would you like to use the vendor’s transportation services? Do you only want to work with a logistics company that has a warehouse and a private trucking fleet or do you need to work with preferred carriers who are familiar with your facilities and products?

What size container will be required? How often do you release shipments? Will products be live-loaded or will a pool of equipment be needed? Do you need transloading services? Do you need customs or international freight documentation services?

3PLs can help you select trucking services, storage solutions, and rail options to move your freight economically with safe and reliable transportation services. With integrated software, often too expensive for individual shippers to own and maintain, they provide shipment visibility for products moving throughout the supply chain. A list of Iowa-based providers is on the following page.
THIRD-PARTY LOGISTICS SERVICES
COMPANY DIRECTORY

The following lists Iowa logistics companies, Iowa warehousing companies, and 3PL providers serving the Des Moines and Cedar Rapids areas in Iowa. Other 3PL firms may serve Iowa shippers, but are not located in the state. When seeking logistics services, a regional search may be necessary.

**Barr Nunn Transportation Inc.**
Barr-Nunn Transportation Inc. is a privately owned, dry van truckload carrier based in Granger. Founded by Robert Sturgeon in 1982, Barr-Nunn operates about 500 tractors and about 1,550 trailers. The company provides an industry-leading Iowa shipping service to manufacturers and users of consumer products, paper products, food products and ingredients, plastic and rubber, building materials, appliances, hardware, castings, animal feeds, and a host of other products.

[www.barr-nunn.com](http://www.barr-nunn.com)

**Centennial Warehouse Corp.**
Centennial Warehouse of Des Moines is a full-service logistics company. Services range from a full-service warehouse, over the road trucking, regional distribution, and freight brokerage. Centennial operates its own fleet of semitrucks and 53-foot air-ride trailers driven by professional drivers.

[www.centennialwarehouse.com](http://www.centennialwarehouse.com)

**GSTC Logistics Inc.**
For more than 25 years, GSTC Logistics Inc. has provided companies with efficient and reliable Iowa transportation and logistics services with 440,000 square feet of warehousing space in Walford.

[www.gstcinc.com](http://www.gstcinc.com)

**Iowa Logistics Quotes**
Get competitive warehousing quotes from leading Iowa third-party logistics providers serving the Des Moines metro area and beyond.


**Jacobson Companies**
Jacobson Companies is a leading national third-party logistics service provider providing integrated warehousing, transporation, and logistics services to the Iowa area and beyond.

[www.jacobsonco.com](http://www.jacobsonco.com)

**Merchants Distribution Service**
Merchants Distribution Service is a leading Iowa warehousing and distribution provider. Merchants is literally at the crossroads of America - the intersection of interstates 80 and 35 in Des Moines. Almost any place in the continental United States is just three days by truck, a few more by rail. It is no secret that a public warehouse offers storage. However, the company offers much more. Merchants has established themselves as specialists in rail-to-truck and truck-to-rail, serving the paper, lumber, manufacturing, and agriculture industries with warehouse facilities in Altoona and Des Moines.

[www.merchantsdsm.com](http://www.merchantsdsm.com)

**Midwest 3PL**
Midwest 3PL is a leading Iowa third-party logistics provider specializing in advanced value-added services such as tracking and tracing, cross-docking, specific packaging, or providing a unique security system. With a solid logistics information technology foundation and a focus on economies of scale, Midwest 3PL is a leading Iowa warehousing and logistics service provider.

[www.midwest3pl.com](http://www.midwest3pl.com)

**Scarborough International, Ltd.**
Scarbrough has been servicing the Midwest USA since 1984 as the leading Global Trade Management Service Provider. Scarbrough’s services include: U.S. Customs Brokerage, Import & Export Freight Forwarding, Domestic Transportation, Warehousing, Large Project Freight and Consulting. Right from our offices in the Midwest, your single point of contact can connect you to the world. We are your Partner for International Logistics.

[www.scarbrough-intl.com](http://www.scarbrough-intl.com)

**Worley™ Warehousing**
Worley’s is a leading logistics and freight management provider headquartered in Cedar Rapids. Their experience goes well beyond their innovative warehouse management software and operational expertise. Worley has built and facilitated more than 4 million square feet of warehousing start-ups. Worley provides custom Iowa logistics services for hundreds of companies, delivering world class results every step of the way.

[www.worleycompanies.com](http://www.worleycompanies.com)
PUBLICATIONS

3PLwire.com
A Web-based publication featuring third-party logistics trends, news, and information.
www.3plwire.com

Commercial Carrier Journal (CCJ)
CCJ is a transportation-focused logistics publication edited for executives who manage, operate, and maintain for-hire, utility, and specialty transportation fleets.
www.ccjdigital.com

DC Velocity
A trade publication for operations and logistics management professionals, offering logistics solutions for distribution center management.
www.dcvelocity.com

Inbound Logistics
Inbound Logistics provides the latest news about warehousing, logistics, supply chain management, transportation, logistics IT, 3PLs, cargo, freight, and shipping.
www.inboundlogistics.com/cms

Journal of Commerce: International Logistics
The legendary online newsletter for busy supply chain and logistics professionals considered the “first-read” for international trade and logistics professionals.
www.joc.com/international-logistics

Leonard’s Guide
Offers a variety of directories on trucking, warehousing, 3PLs, and other freight-related services.
www.leonardsguide.com

Logistics Management
Publication for logistics professionals offering industry news and in-depth analysis on the major forms of freight transportation (truck, maritime, air, and rail/intermodal), plus information on products, technologies, government regulations, and international logistics. Also publishes the respected warehousing buyer’s guide, American Public Warehouse Register.
www.logisticsmgmt.com

Logistics Quarterly: LQ™ Magazine
A quarterly logistics magazine written by logistics professionals to exchange ideas and transform business through supply chain management and logistics.
www.logisticsquarterly.com

Manufacturing & Logistics IT
One of the few supply chain and logistics trade magazines that focus solely on information technology (IT). Covers pertinent IT topics including ERP, advanced planning and scheduling, demand forecasting, mobile solutions, warehouse management, printing and labeling, and transportation solutions.
www.logisticit.com
Material Handling & Logistics magazine
Material Handling & Logistics magazine delivers thought-provoking, high-quality, fact-based editorial that supports material handling and logistics as functions that support the bottom line and ultimately enhance an organization's profitability. Subscribe to Material Handling & Logistics and learn about cutting-edge trends, new product innovations, and best practices in the logistics industry.
www.mhlnews.com

Progressive Railroading
Top rail news and reporting on the Web with railroad industry articles, events, webcasts, jobs, product directories, and more.
www.progressiverailroading.com

Railway Age
Railcar shipping statistics, including railcar deliveries, traffic, commodities hauled, and intermodal statistics.
www.railwayage.com

Supply and Demand Chain® Executive magazine
A supply chain trade publication catered toward logistics and supply chain executives. Covers business strategies trends and key issues in supply chain management.
www.sdcexec.com

Supply Chain Digest™
Supply Chain Digest is the industry's best publication and website for supply chain management and logistics practitioners to find information, news, insights, and benchmarking measures.
www.scdigest.com

Supply Chain Management Review
An executive-level logistics publication known for its well-researched think pieces focusing on supply and logistics industry issues. Provides comprehensive coverage of a wide range of supply chain management issues. The editorial package includes in-depth feature articles, exclusive columnists, professional development opportunities, and a complete listing of information resources.
www.scmr.com

Trains magazine
A railroader magazine covering Class I, II, and III carriers, covers management and network-related topics. Features a rail map of the month.
www.trainsmag.com
TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

APICS – The Educational Society for Resource Management
5301 Shawnee Road
Alexandria, VA 22312
800-444-2742
www.apics.org

APQC – American Productivity & Quality Center
123 N. Post Oak Lane
Houston, TX 77024
800-776-9676
www.apqc.org

AST&L – The American Society of Transportation and Logistics
1400 Eye St. NW, Suite 1050
Washington, DC 20005
202-580-7270
www.astl.org

ATA – American Trucking Association
950 N. Glebe Road, Suite 210
Alexandria, VA 22203
703-838-1700
www.truckline.com

AAR – Association of American Railroads
50 F St. NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-639-2100
www.aar.org

CSCMP – Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals
333 E. Butterfield Road, Suite 140
Lombard, IL 60148
630-574-0985
www.cscmp.org

ISM – Institute for Supply Management
P.O. Box 22160
Tempe, AZ 85285
480-752-6276
www.ism.ws

IWLA - International Warehouse Logistics Association
2800 S. River Road, Suite 260
Des Plaines, IL 60018
847-813-4699
www.iwla.com

IANA – Intermodal Association of North America
11785 Bettsville Drive, Suite 1100
Calverton, MD 20705
301-982-3400
www.Intermodal.org

Iowa Regional and Shortline Railroad Association Inc.
c/o Iowa Northern Railway Co.
Paramount Theatre Building
305 Second St. SE, Suite 400
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
319-297-6000
www.iowanorthern.com

MHIA – Material Handling Industry of America
8720 Red Oak Blvd., Suite 201
Charlotte, NC 28217-3992
704-676-1190
www.mhia.org

NITL – National Industrial Transportation League
1700 North Moore St., Suite 1900
Arlington, VA 22209
703-524-5011
www.nitl.org

NARS – North American Rail Shippers
2115 Portsmouth Drive
Richardson, TX 75082
972-690-4740
www.railshippers.com

SmartWay® Program
2000 Traverwood
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-214-4767
www.epa.gov.smartway

SOLE – The International Society of Logistics
810 Professional Place, Suite 111
Hyattsville, MD 20785
301-459-8446
www.sole.org

APICS SCC – APICS Supply Chain Council
1400 Eye St., NW Suite
Washington, DC 20005
202-962-0440
www.supply-chain.org

TIA – Transportation Intermediaries Association
1625 Prince Str., Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-299-5700
www.tianet.org

GS1 US
1009 Lenox Drive, Suite 202
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-620-4590
www.gs1us.org

WERC – The Warehouse Education and Research Council
1100 Jorie Blvd., Suite 170
Oak Brook, IL 60523
630-990-0001
www.werc.org
EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

Education and training
As the importance of supply chain logistics and carrier management increase, many programs have become available to train tomorrow’s workforce. Many state universities, such as Iowa State University, offer a degree program in supply chain management. More than a hundred national and international programs are listed on the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals’ Web page (www.cscmp.org).

Logistics certification programs
The trade and professional associations listed below offer certification programs specifically in the logistics area. Visit an association’s website for information about its certification program(s).

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