

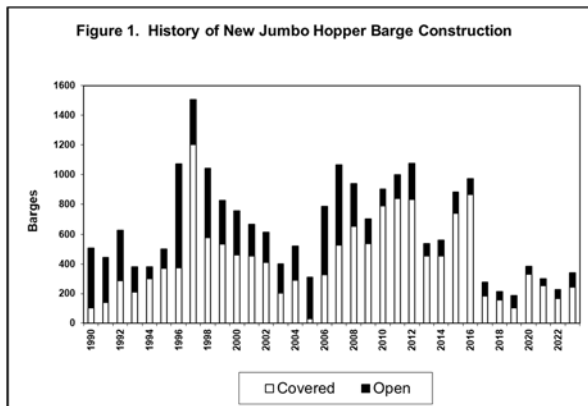


# RIVER TRANSPORT NEWS

Reprinted with Permission from the March 4, 2024 Edition

## Update: New Hopper Builds Increase in 2023 to 340

Earlier this year, *RTN* reported what turned out to be preliminary results from its annual survey of new hopper construction activity for 2023 (see *RTN* 1/22/2024, p.1). *RTN* initially reported that barge operators plying the Mississippi River System and its connecting waterways took delivery of 318 new jumbo hopper barges last year. Thanks to timely subscriber input and updated Coast Guard data *RTN* now reports that a total of 340 new hopper barges have been identified as being built and delivered to inland barge operators in 2023. These deliveries represent a 50.4 percent increase from the 226 hopper barges delivered in 2022 (see Figure 1).



With the additional data, the number of entities taking delivery of new hopper barge equipment last year increases from nine to ten. The updated roster of those taking delivery of new equipment is summarized in Table 1, page 2..

The updated review indicates that Heartland Barge Management remained the leading operator taking delivery of new equipment last year. Its delivery total, however, was revised upwards from 151 covered hoppers (121 from Heartland Fabrication and 30 from Arcosa) to 155 covered hoppers (123 from Heartland Fabrication and 32 from Arcosa).

The new hopper delivery total for O’Fallon, IL-based RTI Barge Management also was revised upwards. *RTN* originally reported that RTI took delivery of two Arcosa-built jumbo covered hopper barges last year. That delivery total has been revised upwards to 14 barges. Finally our original new build report

### River Transport News

is published bi-weekly (24 issues per year) by  
Critron Corporation  
947 Hover Ridge Circle  
Longmont, CO 80501  
(301) 879-0447

Sandor J. Toth  
Publisher

Samuel Toth,  
Associate Editor

On the Web at

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

Subscription Rates: Check or Money Order  
1 year (24 issues) \$595  
2 years (48 issues) \$1155

Discounts for multiple subscriptions to the same address. Foreign subscriptions: add \$50 for 1 year and \$100 for two years.

This publication is for subscribers' use only. No part of it may be reproduced in any form without the permission of the Publisher.

© 2024 by Critron Corporation. All rights reserved.

**Table 1.  
New Hopper Barge Deliveries by Customer,  
Builder, and Type: 2023**

<b>Company</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Builder*</b>
Heartland			
Barge Mgmt	123*	Covered	Heartland
	32*	Covered	Arcosa
Campbell	54	Open	Arcosa
Crouse	40	Open	Arcosa
Parker Towing	31	Covered	Arcosa
CIBCO Barge Line	25	Covered	Arcosa
RTI Barge Mgmt.	14*	Covered	Arcosa
Robert Miller	6*	Covered	Arcosa
St. Paul Barge Line	6	Covered	Arcosa
JEM Transportation	5	Covered	Arcosa
M/G Transport	3	Covered	Arcosa
	1	Open	Arcosa
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>		

\* Revised from original January 2024 edition

completely omitted six covered hopper barges that were built last year by Arcosa for Robert Miller & Associates.

**Covered Hopper Dominance Grows**

While covered hopper deliveries already dominated the 2023 new build market prior to these current revisions, their numbers now are even larger. All of the 22 additional

barges that were added to the 2023 new build list were covered hoppers. Consequently, the covered hopper new build total for 2023 was revised upwards to 245 barges from its prior level of 223. The open hopper delivery total remains unchanged at 95 barges (see Table 2).

Shipyard operator totals also are revised upwards for both Arcosa and Heartland Fabrication. Given the additional barges added to the 2023 new build roster, Arcosa’s new hopper build total is increased to 217 barges from its prior level of 197. Heartland Fabrication’s new build total, meanwhile, edges slightly higher to 123 covered hoppers from the prior reported total of 121.♣

**Table 2.  
New Hopper Deliveries by  
Builder & Type: 2023**

<b>Builder</b>	<b>Jumbo Covered</b>	<b>Jumbo Open</b>	<b>Total</b>
Arcosa	122	95	217
Heartland	123	0	123
<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>340</b>