

# JTSTB Digests

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Digests of the Analyses of Railway Accidents

## Accident Prevention Measures in Local Railways

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### 1. Introduction

Local railways refer generally to railway and tramway other than the Shinkansen lines, conventional arterial lines, and urban railways.

Local railways are essential means of transportation for the local residents for commuting, hospital visits, etc. and play an important role as a local infrastructure for tourism promotion and economic activities. On the other hand, since the number of passengers has decreased excessively due to the aging population and declining birthrate and depopulation in rural areas as well as the spread of automobiles, most of railway operators face severe business conditions. Severe business conditions may lead into the deterioration of vehicles and facilities. Therefore, how safety measures are taken to prevent accidents efficiently and effectively is important.

The former Aircraft and Railway Accidents Investigation Commission and the Japan Transport Safety Board (JTSTB) investigated 371 railway accidents. (Excluding the tramways such as street cars) occurred between October 2001 ~ March 2023 and published accident investigation reports. Out of 371 accidents, a total of 99 accidents and serious incidents occurred in local railways. Various types of accidents are included therein such as the derailment accidents caused by insufficient safety measures, the level crossing accidents at the class 3 and class 4 level crossings, and the derailment accidents caused by natural disaster, etc. This digest analyzes the status of the accidents in the local railways and presents necessary safety measures for the purpose of contributing to the prevention of accidents in the local railways. We hope that this digest will be utilized by all relevant in the local railway business.



Photos: South Hokkaido Railway Company (left)/Wakasa Railway Company (Center and Right)