

The completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad, a railway network that ran from the Atlantic Coast to the Pacific Coast, simplified the means of transporting people, goods, and services across the United States. By the time of the Civil War, the rail service reached the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. The task of completing the westward extension was assigned to the [Central Pacific Railroad Company and Union Pacific Railroad Company](#). Chartered by the Pacific Railroad Act, both companies successfully won contracts to complete the Transcontinental Railroad, with the Central Pacific going east from Sacramento, and the Union Pacific working west from the Missouri River. With the help of [many laborers, domestic and immigrant](#), the two companies converged and joined their tracks in Utah on May 10th, 1869.