

News Release



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AMTRAK RIDERSHIP ON RECORD-BREAKING PACE 13.6 million passengers ride during first six months of FY 2010

WASHINGTON – Amtrak is on pace to break its annual ridership record carrying a best ever 13,619,770 passengers during the first six months of fiscal year 2010 with the historically busier summer travel season still ahead.

The 13.6 million passengers who rode on Amtrak trains during the first two quarters of FY 2010 (October 2009 - March 2010) contributed to a 4.3 percent increase over the same period the prior year. It also is about 100,000 more riders than the 13.5 million posted in FY 2008, which turned out to be Amtrak's best ridership year in company history when America's passenger railroad carried 28.7 million passengers.

"Americans are beginning to travel again and are choosing Amtrak as an affordable and efficient way to move around the country," said President and CEO Joseph Boardman, noting a slowly improving economy and continued high fuel prices as factors in Amtrak ridership growth.

Ridership Highlights

Comparing March 2010 to March 2009, ridership increased by 13.5 percent to a record 2.47 million passengers for the month. In addition, every single Amtrak route carried more passengers with several experiencing double-digit growth.

The Northeast Corridor experienced strong ridership growth in March with Amtrak's high-speed train, *Acela Express*, seeing a 14.3 percent increase and *Northeast Regional* trains up 12.9 percent. For the first six months of FY 2010, *Acela* service increased 2.9 percent and *Northeast Regional* service grew by 4.7 percent.

Ridership on long-distance trains increased by 16 percent in March and is up 5.2 percent for the first two quarters of FY 2010. Long-distance trains posting strong six-month numbers include *City of New Orleans* (Chicago – New Orleans) up 16.4 percent, *Sunset Limited* (New Orleans – Los Angeles) up 15.1 percent, *Silver Star* (New York – Raleigh – Tampa - Miami) up 8.3 percent and *Coast Starlight* (Los Angeles – Seattle) up 7 percent.

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In the Chicago hub, ridership on *Lincoln Service* (Chicago – St. Louis) showed significant growth with an 18 percent jump in March and 11.6 percent for the six month period. *Hiawatha Service* (Chicago – Milwaukee) continues to grow with a 14.3 percent increase in March and up 4.8 percent fiscal year to date. Elsewhere in the Midwest, the *Missouri River Runner* (Kansas City - St. Louis) is up 24.2 percent for March and 15.8 percent for the first half of the Amtrak fiscal year, while the *Blue Water* (Chicago - Port Huron) increased by 21.7 percent in March and 5.2 percent for fiscal year to date.

In the West, ridership on *San Joaquin* (Bakersfield – Oakland) is up 13.2 percent for March and 5.4 percent for the year. *Pacific Surfliner* (Los Angeles – San Diego) increased 7.5 percent in March and its six-month figures are about even with the same period a year ago. Amtrak *Cascades* (Eugene, Oregon - Vancouver, B.C.) increased by 11.4 percent in March and saw a 16.7 percent increase for the first six months of the fiscal year.

Amtrak's popular *Auto Train* saw significant growth in the month of March, increasing 25.1 percent over March 2009, and carrying nearly 25,000 passengers and their cars, motorcycles and other personal vehicles between Lorton, Va., and Sanford, Fla. For fiscal year to date, *Auto Train* ridership has increased by 8.6 percent.

The FY 2010 Amtrak ridership figures are consistent with the annual growth seen during the last several years that saw a 32 percent increase in passengers from FY 2002 to FY 2008. In order for Amtrak to continue to accommodate increasing demand for intercity passenger rail service it must replace, expand and modernize its fleet of aging locomotives and passenger rail cars. Mr. Boardman describes this as the railroad's "most urgent unfunded need" and recently requested \$446 million from Congress to fund its Fleet Acquisition Program.

About Amtrak

As the nation's intercity passenger rail operator, Amtrak connects America in safer, greener and healthier ways. Last fiscal year (FY 2009), the railroad carried 27.2 million passengers, making it the second-best year in the company's history. With 21,000 route miles in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian provinces, Amtrak operates more than 300 trains each day—at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph)—to more than 500 destinations. Amtrak also is the partner of choice for state-supported corridor services in 15 states and for several commuter rail agencies. Visit Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information.

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Amtrak National Network FY10	March FY10 Ridership			October-March FY10 Ridership		
			% change vs.			% change vs.
Northeast Corridor (NEC Spine)	FY10	FY09	FY09	FY10	FY09	FY09
<i>Acela Express Service</i>	301,799	263,970	+14.3	1,565,257	1,520,497	+2.9
<i>Northeast Regional Service</i>	619,232	548,695	+12.9	3,505,018	3,348,829	+4.7
<i>Special Trains</i>	100	460	-78.3	5,230	3,930	+33.1
Subtotal	921,131	813,125	+13.3	5,075,505	4,873,256	+4.2
State Supported and Other Short Distance Corridors						
<i>Ethan Allen</i>	3,831	3,501	+9.4	23,195	22,772	+1.9
<i>Vermonteer</i>	6,638	5,946	+11.6	41,431	37,590	+10.2
<i>Albany-Niagara Falls-Toronto</i>	30,191	25,892	+16.6	171,965	162,339	+5.9
<i>Downeaster Service</i>	37,358	35,362	+5.6	216,598	213,654	+1.4
<i>Shuttle Service (New Haven-Springfield)</i>	30,339	25,762	+17.8	177,160	158,829	+11.5
<i>Keystone Service</i>	116,743	104,749	+11.5	631,446	606,347	+4.1
<i>Empire Service (New York-Albany)</i>	81,211	73,654	+10.3	473,136	447,804	+5.7
<i>Lincoln Service (Chicago-St. Louis)</i>	50,629	42,923	+18.0	261,552	234,337	+11.6
<i>Hiawatha Service</i>	63,778	55,777	+14.3	365,079	348,422	+4.8
<i>Wolverine Service</i>	37,971	33,915	+12.0	209,091	214,093	-2.3
<i>Illini/Saluki (Chicago-Carbondale)</i>	23,563	22,705	+3.8	130,158	133,042	-2.2
<i>Illinois Zephyr/Carl Sandburg (Chicago-Quincy)</i>	17,343	16,655	+4.1	98,829	98,623	+0.2
<i>Heartland Flyer</i>	7,823	7,615	+2.7	33,696	33,850	-0.5
<i>Pacific Surfliner Service</i>	217,534	202,409	+7.5	1,203,171	1,203,450	-0.0
<i>Amtrak Cascades Service</i>	67,039	60,155	+11.4	384,692	329,616	+16.7
<i>Capitol Corridor Service</i>	133,987	126,646	+5.8	751,174	798,953	-6.0
<i>San Joaquin Service</i>	80,406	71,043	+13.2	465,276	441,245	+5.4
<i>Adirondack</i>	8,646	7,739	+11.7	48,868	43,783	+11.6
<i>Blue Water</i>	12,780	10,503	+21.7	68,030	64,648	+5.2
<i>Washington-Lynchburg</i>	11,365	-	-	55,025	-	-
<i>Washington-Newport News</i>	37,539	31,420	+19.5	209,846	200,242	+4.8
<i>Hoosier State</i>	3,461	3,016	+14.8	16,105	15,079	+6.8
<i>Mo.River Runner Service (Kansas City-St.Louis)</i>	15,543	12,518	+24.2	76,781	66,322	+15.8
<i>Pennsylvanian</i>	16,968	15,521	+9.3	102,150	95,590	+6.9
<i>Pere Marquette</i>	8,076	7,556	+6.9	45,732	48,939	-6.6
<i>Carolinian</i>	26,152	14,302	+82.9	144,267	131,630	+9.6
<i>Piedmont</i>	6,543	4,758	+37.5	36,276	35,042	+3.5
<i>Buses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Special Trains</i>	3,000	3,810	-21.3	31,092	28,680	+8.4
Subtotal	1,156,457	1,025,852	+12.7	6,471,821	6,214,921	+4.1
Long Distance						
<i>Silver Star</i>	35,579	31,028	+14.7	193,939	179,094	+8.3
<i>Cardinal</i>	9,310	8,311	+12.0	47,199	51,121	-7.7
<i>Silver Meteor</i>	31,108	28,368	+9.7	170,792	160,422	+6.5
<i>Empire Builder</i>	46,093	39,603	+16.4	248,419	240,380	+3.3
<i>Capitol Limited</i>	18,201	15,804	+15.2	97,358	99,250	-1.9
<i>California Zephyr</i>	34,601	28,701	+20.6	170,134	168,320	+1.1
<i>Southwest Chief</i>	29,282	25,615	+14.3	149,960	148,545	+1.0
<i>City of New Orleans</i>	21,366	17,547	+21.8	106,373	91,393	+16.4
<i>Texas Eagle</i>	28,106	22,648	+24.1	133,094	122,688	+8.5
<i>Sunset Limited</i>	8,641	6,849	+26.2	41,843	36,346	+15.1
<i>Coast Starlight</i>	35,200	32,978	+6.7	207,634	194,034	+7.0
<i>Lake Shore Limited</i>	29,937	25,617	+16.9	165,287	155,969	+6.0
<i>Palmetto</i>	17,351	13,415	+29.3	84,122	76,987	+9.3
<i>Crescent</i>	26,532	25,013	+6.1	135,223	133,758	+1.1
<i>Auto Train</i>	24,656	19,710	+25.1	121,067	111,531	+8.6
Subtotal	395,963	341,207	+16.0	2,072,444	1,969,838	+5.2
Amtrak Total	2,473,551	2,180,184	+13.5	13,619,770	13,058,015	+4.3