

News Release



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Contact: Media Relations
202 906.3860

AMTRAK POSTS SECOND-BEST RIDERSHIP IN HISTORY 27.2 million passengers, \$1.6 billion in tickets, on-time performance up

WASHINGTON – Amtrak carried nearly 27.2 million passengers in Fiscal Year 2009, marking the second highest ridership total since the National Railroad Passenger Corporation started operations in 1971.

The 27,167,014 total passengers for the 12 months ending September 30, 2009, fell short of the all-time record of 28.7 million for Fiscal Year 2008, but exceeded the Fiscal Year 2007 total by 5.1 percent. Total ticket revenue for the Fiscal Year 2009 reached \$1.6 billion.

“In a difficult year for the economy – particularly in the travel industry – Amtrak ridership has remained strong albeit with some regional variation,” said Amtrak President and CEO Joseph H. Boardman. “In particular, reduced business travel along the Northeast Corridor prevented us from reaching the ridership we achieved last year.”

In addition, Amtrak on-time performance system-wide topped 80 percent in FY 2009, a significant improvement that leads to ridership gains by bolstering passenger confidence. Amtrak on-time performance in FY 2008 was 71 percent.

Boardman said the FY 2009 Amtrak ridership figures are consistent with the annual growth seen since FY 2002 with a spike in passengers during FY 2008 due in part from that summer’s record-high gasoline prices. He added Amtrak is restoring and rehabilitating locomotives and passenger rail cars to be in a position to increase capacity and accommodate growth when the economy improves.

Ridership Highlights

While ridership in the Northeast Corridor on *Acela Express* and *Northeast Regional* services did not keep pace with last year, several short-distance routes did achieve new highs, including the Chicago-St. Louis corridor (up 6 percent), the Harrisburg-Philadelphia-New York *Keystone Service* (up 2.7 percent), the Raleigh-Charlotte *Piedmont* (up 3.8 percent) and the Washington-St. Albans *Vermont* (up 1.9 percent).

Elsewhere on the Amtrak national network, the Los Angeles-Seattle *Coast Starlight* ridership was up 22.3 percent from the previous fiscal year, recovering from a 15-week service disruption in 2008 that closed a portion of the route in northern California. Other long distance trains that posted gains in FY 2009 versus FY 2008 include the Los Angeles-New Orleans *Sunset Limited* route (up 9.8 percent), the San Antonio-Chicago *Texas Eagle* (up 3.6 percent) and the New York-Miami *Silver Meteor* (up 3.4 percent) and *Silver Star* (up 1.1 percent).

While other segments posted declines, the 15 long distance trains as a group experienced an increase (up 0.7 percent), highlighting their role in many cases as essential public transportation and reflecting improved on-time performance in most instances.

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—to more than 500 destinations. Amtrak also is the operator of choice for state-supported corridor services in 15 states and for four commuter rail agencies. Visit Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information.

(table attached)

Amtrak Fiscal Year 2009, Oct. 2008-Sept. 2009 (compared with Fiscal Years 2008 and 2007)

	Ridership					Ticket Revenue					
	FY09	FY08	FY07	% change vs.		FY09	FY08	FY07	% change vs.		
				FY08	FY07				FY08	FY07	
Northeast Corridor Spine											
<i>Acela Express</i>	3,019,627	3,398,759	3,191,321	-11.2	-5.4	\$409,251,483	\$467,782,708	\$403,571,410	-12.5	+1.4	
<i>Northeast Regional</i>	6,920,610	7,489,426	6,836,646	-7.6	+1.2	\$431,430,679	\$481,606,621	\$424,721,134	-10.4	+1.6	
<i>Special Trains</i>	5,790	9,667	7,045	-40.1	-17.8	\$1,000,499	\$1,249,590	\$1,011,903	-19.9	-1.1	
Subtotal	9,946,027	10,897,852	10,035,012	-8.7	-0.9	\$841,682,662	\$950,638,920	\$829,304,447	-11.5	+1.5	

State Supported and Other Short Distance Corridors

<i>Ethan Allen</i>	46,748	46,881	43,942	-0.3	+6.4	\$2,347,362	\$2,407,851	\$2,190,959	-2.5	+7.1
<i>Vermont</i>	74,016	72,655	63,299	+1.9	+16.9	\$4,011,930	\$3,942,778	\$3,357,124	+1.8	+19.5
<i>Albany-Niagara Falls-Toronto</i>	339,434	354,492	288,365	-4.2	+17.7	\$19,269,166	\$21,759,315	\$16,854,750	-11.4	+14.3
<i>Downeaster Service</i>	460,474	474,492	361,634	-3.0	+27.3	\$6,496,040	\$6,560,768	\$4,800,036	-1.0	+35.3
<i>Shuttles (New Haven-Springfield)</i>	325,518	349,928	320,852	-7.0	+1.5	\$9,208,912	\$10,063,889	\$8,840,099	-8.5	+4.2
<i>Keystone Service</i>	1,215,785	1,183,821	988,454	+2.7	+23.0	\$25,105,076	\$24,747,102	\$20,582,838	+1.4	+22.0
<i>Empire Service (New York City-Albany)</i>	925,746	994,293	957,583	-6.9	-3.3	\$36,755,360	\$41,114,816	\$38,592,354	-10.6	-4.8
<i>Lincoln Service (Chicago-St. Louis)</i>	506,235	476,427	408,807	+6.3	+23.8	\$11,327,352	\$11,288,034	\$8,822,785	+0.3	+28.4
<i>Hiawatha Service</i>	738,231	749,659	595,336	-1.5	+24.0	\$13,300,511	\$13,138,765	\$10,230,272	+1.2	+30.0
<i>Wolverine Service</i>	444,127	472,393	449,107	-6.0	-1.1	\$15,041,919	\$16,243,510	\$14,934,656	-7.4	+0.7
<i>Illini/Saluki (Chicago-Carbondale)</i>	259,630	271,082	228,695	-4.2	+13.5	\$7,126,732	\$7,732,413	\$6,187,835	-7.8	+15.2
<i>Ill. Zephyr/Carl Sandburg (Chicago-Quincy)</i>	202,558	202,814	169,258	-0.1	+19.7	\$4,657,372	\$4,979,726	\$3,937,263	-6.5	+18.3
<i>Heartland Flyer</i>	73,564	80,892	68,246	-9.1	+7.8	\$1,592,435	\$1,682,088	\$1,260,579	-5.3	+26.3
<i>Pacific Surfliner Service</i>	2,592,996	2,898,859	2,707,188	-10.6	-4.2	\$46,551,006	\$51,010,624	\$46,788,081	-8.7	-0.5
<i>Amtrak Cascades Service</i>	740,154	760,323	674,153	-2.7	+9.8	\$20,944,809	\$20,999,003	\$18,165,351	-0.3	+15.3
<i>Capitol Corridor Service</i>	1,599,625	1,693,580	1,450,069	-5.5	+10.3	\$22,160,890	\$22,306,774	\$18,059,715	-0.7	+22.7
<i>San Joaquin Service</i>	929,172	949,611	804,785	-2.2	+15.5	\$27,816,923	\$29,847,468	\$24,544,160	-6.8	+13.3
<i>Adirondack</i>	104,681	112,047	101,097	-6.6	+3.5	\$5,312,772	\$5,581,639	\$5,065,860	-4.8	+4.9
<i>Blue Water</i>	132,851	136,538	127,642	-2.7	+4.1	\$4,111,375	\$4,158,742	\$3,557,216	-1.1	+15.6
<i>Washington-Newport News</i>	446,604	459,236	401,510	-2.8	+11.2	\$23,904,997	\$26,276,227	\$20,914,840	-9.0	+14.3
<i>Hoosier State</i>	31,384	31,774	26,347	-1.2	+19.1	\$677,755	\$681,685	\$529,270	-0.6	+28.1
<i>Mo. River Runner (Kansas City-St. Louis)</i>	150,870	151,690	116,517	-0.5	+29.5	\$3,274,897	\$3,311,182	\$2,508,912	-1.1	+30.5
<i>Pennsylvanian</i>	199,484	200,999	180,140	-0.8	+10.7	\$7,819,404	\$7,914,009	\$6,620,783	-1.2	+18.1
<i>Pere Marquette</i>	103,246	111,716	104,819	-7.6	-1.5	\$2,818,294	\$2,975,391	\$2,666,416	-5.3	+5.7
<i>Carolinian</i>	277,740	295,427	256,212	-6.0	+8.4	\$14,707,244	\$16,026,148	\$13,512,362	-8.2	+8.8
<i>Piedmont</i>	68,427	65,941	50,551	+3.8	+35.4	\$1,119,573	\$1,079,184	\$831,383	+3.7	+34.7
<i>Buses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	\$5,948,843	\$5,796,194	\$4,878,943	+2.6	+21.9
<i>Special Trains</i>	32,937	50,626	48,644	-34.9	-32.3	\$2,822,047	\$5,201,520	\$4,622,911	-45.7	-39.0
Subtotal	13,022,237	13,648,196	11,993,252	-4.6	+8.6	\$346,230,996	\$368,826,847	\$313,857,753	-6.1	+10.3

Long Distance

<i>Silver Star</i>	371,235	367,139	329,132	+1.1	+12.8	\$27,034,942	\$27,699,306	\$25,715,553	-2.4	+5.1
<i>Cardinal</i>	108,614	109,195	96,896	-0.5	+12.1	\$6,364,295	\$6,490,845	\$5,453,083	-1.9	+16.7
<i>Silver Meteor</i>	330,734	319,773	291,735	+3.4	+13.4	\$32,640,978	\$30,568,604	\$27,379,452	+6.8	+19.2
<i>Empire Builder</i>	515,444	554,266	504,977	-7.0	+2.1	\$54,064,861	\$59,461,168	\$53,177,760	-9.1	+1.7
<i>Capitol Limited</i>	215,371	216,350	193,748	-0.5	+11.2	\$17,581,767	\$17,431,949	\$14,877,428	+0.9	+18.2
<i>California Zephyr</i>	345,558	352,563	329,840	-2.0	+4.8	\$38,679,674	\$39,001,032	\$35,719,619	-0.8	+8.3
<i>Southwest Chief</i>	318,025	331,143	316,668	-4.0	+0.4	\$38,033,503	\$41,079,865	\$37,935,113	-7.4	+0.3
<i>City of New Orleans</i>	196,659	197,394	180,473	-0.4	+9.0	\$14,976,461	\$14,875,928	\$13,311,213	+0.7	+12.5
<i>Texas Eagle</i>	260,467	251,518	218,321	+3.6	+19.3	\$19,721,777	\$19,514,531	\$16,424,146	+1.1	+20.1
<i>Sunset Limited</i>	78,775	71,719	63,336	+9.8	+24.4	\$8,272,084	\$8,052,515	\$6,955,881	+2.7	+18.9
<i>Coast Starlight</i>	432,565	353,657	343,542	+22.3	+25.9	\$32,637,793	\$28,117,404	\$29,171,278	+16.1	+11.9
<i>Lake Shore Limited</i>	334,456	345,632	312,643	-3.2	+7.0	\$23,978,505	\$24,238,394	\$21,421,657	-1.1	+11.9
<i>Palmetto</i>	171,316	173,949	156,998	-1.5	+9.1	\$12,479,621	\$12,901,668	\$11,280,047	-3.3	+10.6
<i>Crescent</i>	286,576	291,222	263,136	-1.6	+8.9	\$26,498,509	\$27,095,838	\$24,262,171	-2.2	+9.2
<i>Auto Train</i>	232,955	234,839	217,822	-0.8	+6.9	\$58,589,872	\$58,154,402	\$52,883,481	+0.7	+10.8
Subtotal	4,198,750	4,170,359	3,819,267	+0.7	+9.9	\$411,554,642	\$414,683,450	\$375,967,883	-0.8	+9.5
Amtrak Total	27,167,014	28,716,407	25,847,531	-5.4	+5.1	\$1,599,468,300	\$1,734,149,216	\$1,519,130,083	-7.8	+5.3

NOTE: Ridership to some locations south and west of Chicago is on state-supported and national system Amtrak trains, as reported above. Combined ridership of all Amtrak trains on these corridors is as follows for FY09: Chicago-St. Louis, 577,801 (up 6% from FY08, up 21% from FY07); Chicago-Carbondale, 290,626 (down 5% from FY08, up 10% from FY07) and Chicago-Quincy 232,017 (up 0% from FY08, up 19% from FY07).