

News Release



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Contact: Media Relations
202 906.3860

AMTRAK ON TRACK TO SET ANNUAL RIDERSHIP RECORD Best March ever makes 17 consecutive months of year-over-year growth

WASHINGTON – March marked 17 consecutive months of year-over-year ridership growth for Amtrak, was the best March ever for the company and puts America’s Railroadsm on track to set another annual ridership record.

“Our ridership has grown more than 36 percent since 2000, and I expect that trend to continue – and if gas prices continue to rise – to accelerate. Our only restriction will be the available capacity,” Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman told a House Appropriations committee today that is considering the national passenger railroad’s FY 2012 budget request.

This strong performance is part of a long-term trend that has seen Amtrak set annual ridership records in seven of the last eight fiscal years, including more than 28.7 million passengers in FY 2010.

Specifically, there was a 5.5 percent increase in riders in March 2011 vs. March 2010, or more than 137,000 passengers. The 17 straight months of year-over-year ridership growth spans from November 2009 to March 2011 and averages a 6.3 percent growth rate over this period.

Comparing the first six months of FY 2011 (October to March) to the same time period in FY 2010 shows ridership is up 5.9 percent, or 802,745 passengers. In addition, during that same period ridership has increased on all three of Amtrak’s major business lines: Northeast Corridor up 3.9 percent, state-supported and other short distance corridors up 7.7 percent, and long-distance trains up 5.3 percent.

Over the past six months ridership also is growing onboard most individual Amtrak train routes and across the country with strong gains in the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and California. The national ridership numbers for this period are likely to have been even higher if not for the harsh winter weather in the Pacific Northwest that resulted in frequent track closures due to the repeated occurrences of mudslides.

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Factors contributing to the continued success of Amtrak include an improved economic environment allowing recovery of business travel along the Northeast Corridor, high gasoline prices which are trending higher, the increased appeal and popularity of rail travel, effective marketing campaigns, and the added benefit of Wi-Fi on the high-speed *Acela Express* trains.

About Amtrak®:

Amtrak is America's Railroadsm, the nation's intercity passenger rail provider and its only high-speed rail operator. A record 28.7 million passengers traveled on Amtrak in FY 2010 on more than 300 daily trains – at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph) – that connect 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. Amtrak operates trains in partnership with 15 states and four commuter rail agencies. Amtrak also is a strong financial performer achieving an 85 percent cost-recovery ratio in FY 2010. Enjoy the journeysm at Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Join us on Facebook at facebook.com/Amtrak and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Amtrak.

Ridership Charts Attached

Amtrak Ridership

	March FY11			October-March FY11		
	Ridership			Ridership		
	FY11	FY10	% change FY10	FY11	FY10	% change FY10
Northeast Corridor						
<i>Acela Express</i>	310,594	301,799	+2.9	1,696,893	1,565,257	+8.4
<i>Northeast Regional</i>	641,063	619,232	+3.5	3,571,003	3,505,018	+1.9
<i>Special Trains</i>	280	100	+180.0	3,659	5,230	-30.0
Subtotal	951,937	921,131	+3.3	5,271,555	5,075,505	+3.9

State Supported and Other Short Distance Corridors

<i>Ethan Allen</i>	3,719	3,831	-2.9	22,688	23,195	-2.2
<i>Vermont</i>	7,223	6,638	+8.8	44,636	41,431	+7.7
<i>Albany-Niagara Falls-Toronto</i>	34,345	30,191	+13.8	195,702	171,965	+13.8
<i>Downeaster Service</i>	42,826	37,358	+14.6	236,806	216,598	+9.3
<i>Shuttles (New Haven-Springfield)</i>	30,481	30,339	+0.5	183,320	177,160	+3.5
<i>Keystone Service</i>	120,703	116,743	+3.4	661,126	631,446	+4.7
<i>Empire Service (New York City-Albany)</i>	86,501	81,211	+6.5	500,064	473,136	+5.7
<i>Lincoln Service (Chicago-St. Louis)</i>	57,070	50,629	+12.7	291,108	261,552	+11.3
<i>Hiawatha Service</i>	69,511	63,778	+9.0	388,734	365,079	+6.5
<i>Wolverine Service</i>	41,051	37,971	+8.1	243,185	209,091	+16.3
<i>Illini/Saluki (Chicago-Carbondale)</i>	28,087	23,563	+19.2	149,440	130,158	+14.8
<i>Illinois Zephyr/Carl Sandburg (Chicago-Quincy)</i>	19,243	17,343	+11.0	107,144	98,829	+8.4
<i>Heartland Flyer</i>	8,563	7,823	+9.5	36,719	33,696	+9.0
<i>Pacific Surfliner Service</i>	230,510	217,534	+6.0	1,276,151	1,203,171	+6.1
<i>Amtrak Cascades Service</i>	63,629	67,039	-5.1	369,693	384,692	-3.9
<i>Capitol Corridor Service</i>	148,198	133,987	+10.6	817,468	751,174	+8.8
<i>San Joaquin Service</i>	84,210	80,406	+4.7	481,309	465,276	+3.4
<i>Adirondack</i>	9,148	8,646	+5.8	53,094	48,868	+8.6
<i>Blue Water</i>	16,006	12,780	+25.2	85,823	68,030	+26.2
<i>Washington-Lynchburg</i>	14,029	11,365	+23.4	69,901	55,025	+27.0
<i>Washington-Newport News</i>	43,705	37,539	+16.4	245,019	209,846	+16.8
<i>Hoosier State</i>	3,685	3,461	+6.5	17,556	16,105	+9.0
<i>Missouri River Runner (Kansas City-St. Louis)</i>	17,662	15,543	+13.6	87,858	76,781	+14.4
<i>Pennsylvanian</i>	16,783	16,968	-1.1	101,465	102,150	-0.7
<i>Pere Marquette</i>	8,881	8,076	+10.0	48,787	45,732	+6.7
<i>Carolinian</i>	27,574	26,152	+5.4	152,643	144,267	+5.8
<i>Piedmont Service</i>	10,636	6,543	+62.6	70,623	36,276	+94.7
<i>Special Trains</i>	3,600	3,000	+20.0	31,009	31,092	-0.3
Subtotal	1,247,579	1,156,457	+7.9	6,969,071	6,471,821	+7.7

Long Distance

<i>Silver Star</i>	39,470	35,579	+10.9	208,981	193,939	+7.8
<i>Cardinal</i>	9,692	9,310	+4.1	54,052	47,199	+14.5
<i>Silver Meteor</i>	33,021	31,108	+6.1	182,138	170,792	+6.6
<i>Empire Builder</i>	44,147	46,093	-4.2	241,546	248,419	-2.8
<i>Capitol Ltd.</i>	19,810	18,201	+8.8	104,103	97,358	+6.9
<i>California Zephyr</i>	33,507	34,601	-3.2	181,247	170,134	+6.5
<i>Southwest Chief</i>	32,187	29,282	+9.9	161,484	149,960	+7.7
<i>City of New Orleans</i>	23,395	21,366	+9.5	117,626	106,373	+10.6
<i>Texas Eagle</i>	30,450	28,106	+8.3	141,005	133,094	+5.9
<i>Sunset Limited</i>	9,742	8,641	+12.7	47,115	41,843	+12.6
<i>Coast Starlight</i>	31,378	35,200	-10.9	192,786	207,634	-7.2
<i>Lake Shore Limited</i>	33,205	29,937	+10.9	182,920	165,287	+10.7
<i>Palmetto</i>	17,449	17,351	+0.6	95,287	84,122	+13.3
<i>Crescent</i>	29,300	26,532	+10.4	144,349	135,223	+6.7
<i>Auto Train</i>	24,298	24,656	-1.5	127,250	121,067	+5.1
Subtotal	411,051	395,963	+3.8	2,181,889	2,072,444	+5.3
Amtrak Total	2,610,567	2,473,551	+5.5	14,422,515	13,619,770	+5.9

Antrak Monthly Ridership 17 Straight Months of Ridership Growth Year-Over-Year Comparison		
Month	Ridership	% chg. vs same month prior year
Mar-11	2,610,567	+5.5%
Feb-11	2,099,010	+7.6%
Jan-11	2,126,429	+4.6%
Dec-10	2,504,249	+4.6%
Nov-10	2,541,090	+6.3%
Oct-10	2,541,170	+6.9%
Sep-10	2,286,215	+5.7%
Aug-10	2,541,159	+2.3%
Jul-10	2,766,812	+9.8%
Jun-10	2,566,481	+9.3%
May-10	2,490,655	+7.1%
Apr-10	2,445,765	+7.9%
Mar-10	2,473,551	+13.5%
Feb-10	1,951,411	+5.5%
Jan-10	2,032,586	+2.7%
Dec-09	2,394,671	+4.8%
Nov-09	2,389,841	+2.8%

Annual Amtrak Ridership FY 00 to FY 10	
FY00	20,992,485
FY01	21,812,224
FY02	21,669,207
FY03	22,333,180
FY04	23,362,729
FY05	24,031,170
FY06	24,306,965
FY07	25,847,531
FY08	28,716,407
FY09	27,167,014
FY10	28,716,857