

News Release



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AMTRAK RIDERSHIP SURGES IN APRIL 18 consecutive months of year-over-year growth

WASHINGTON –Amtrak ridership surged in April to be the best April on record and extends the national passenger railroad's streak to 18 consecutive months of year-over-year ridership growth.

Ridership for April 2011 was nearly 2.7 million passengers which represents an increase of 9.9 percent over April 2010 and keeps America's Railroadsm on track to set a new annual ridership record.

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.

Comparing the first seven months of FY 2011 (October – April) to the same time period in FY 2010, national Amtrak ridership is up 6.5 percent so far this fiscal year and all three major business lines are showing gains: the Northeast Corridor up 4.8 percent, state-supported and other short distance corridors up 8.1 percent, and long-distance trains up 5.6 percent.

Northeast Highlights

On the Northeast Corridor, ridership for the high-speed *Acela Express* service saw a 2.9 percent increase in April 2011 vs. April 2010. In addition, April was the best month ever for the popular *Northeast Regional* service carrying a record 692,376 passengers which represents a 13.3 percent increase over the same month last year.

Central Highlights

Ridership on Midwestern routes remains strong with significant increases in April 2011 over April 2010. The Chicago hub experienced steep corridor ridership gains as led by the *Blue Water* (Chicago – Port Huron) with a 28.4 percent increase; *Illini/Saluki* (Chicago-Carbondale) trains up 21 percent; the *Wolverine Service* (Chicago-Detroit/Pontiac) up 14 percent; and the *Hiawatha Service* (Chicago-Milwaukee) increased seven percent.

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West Highlights

Strong ridership continued in April 2011 on all of the three California state-supported routes when compared to April 2010. The *Capitol Corridor* (Auburn – Sacramento – Emeryville/San Francisco – San Jose) was up 10.8 percent; the *San Joaquin* (Oakland/Sacramento – Bakersfield) up 18.3 percent; and the *Pacific Surfliner* (San Diego – Los Angeles – Santa Barbara – San Luis Obispo) up 8.2 percent over the same month last year. Ridership on the Amtrak *Cascades* (Eugene, Ore. – Seattle – Vancouver, B.C.) also was up 6.9 percent, an increase that comes after months of severe weather related service disruptions on this route.

National Highlights

Among the 15 overnight long-distance Amtrak trains, ridership is up 7.7 percent in April 2011 vs. April 2010, with the largest percentage gains posted by the *Silver Star* (New York – Tampa – Miami) up 16 percent , the *Lake Shore Limited* (New York – Chicago) up 15.3 percent and the *Southwest Chief* (Chicago – Los Angeles) up 14.9 percent.

Factors contributing to the continuing success of Amtrak include strong Easter holiday travel in April, high gasoline prices which have trended higher, continued growth in business travel on the high-speed *Acela Express* trains with Wi-Fi service, the increased appeal and popularity of rail travel, and effective marketing campaigns.

The streak of 18 consecutive months of year-over-year ridership growth began in November 2009.

About Amtrak®:

Celebrating 40 years of dedicated service as America’s Railroadsm, Amtrak is 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.com/Amtrak and follow us at twitter.com/Amtrak.

Amtrak Ridership

	April FY11			October-April FY11		
	Ridership			Ridership		
	FY11	FY10	% change FY10	FY11	FY10	% change FY10
Northeast Corridor						
<i>Acela Express</i>	298,769	290,446	+2.9	1,995,662	1,855,703	+7.5
<i>Northeast Regional</i>	692,376	611,232	+13.3	4,263,379	4,116,250	+3.6
<i>Special Trains</i>	398	653	-39.1	4,057	5,883	-31.0
Subtotal	991,543	902,331	+9.9	6,263,098	5,977,836	+4.8

State Supported and Other Short Distance Corridors

<i>Ethan Allen</i>	4,144	3,606	+14.9	26,832	26,801	+0.1
<i>Vermont</i>	7,263	6,412	+13.3	51,899	47,843	+8.5
<i>Albany-Niagara Falls-Toronto</i>	36,721	32,244	+13.9	232,423	204,209	+13.8
<i>Downeaster Service</i>	48,101	42,786	+12.4	284,907	259,384	+9.8
<i>Shuttles (New Haven-Springfield)</i>	33,717	30,755	+9.6	217,037	207,915	+4.4
<i>Keystone Service</i>	117,945	113,082	+4.3	779,071	744,528	+4.6
<i>Empire Service (New York City-Albany)</i>	89,732	83,921	+6.9	589,796	557,057	+5.9
<i>Lincoln Service (Chicago-St. Louis)</i>	47,461	48,194	-1.5	338,569	309,746	+9.3
<i>Hiawatha Service</i>	69,566	65,241	+6.6	458,300	430,320	+6.5
<i>Wolverine Service</i>	47,570	41,715	+14.0	290,755	250,806	+15.9
<i>Illini/Saluki (Chicago-Carbondale)</i>	26,254	21,700	+21.0	175,694	151,858	+15.7
<i>Illinois Zephyr/Carl Sandburg (Chicago-Quincy)</i>	19,745	17,960	+9.9	126,889	116,789	+8.6
<i>Heartland Flyer</i>	6,709	5,662	+18.5	43,428	39,358	+10.3
<i>Pacific Surfliner Service</i>	253,275	234,158	+8.2	1,529,426	1,437,329	+6.4
<i>Amtrak Cascades Service</i>	70,674	66,094	+6.9	440,367	450,786	-2.3
<i>Capitol Corridor Service</i>	152,781	137,871	+10.8	970,249	889,045	+9.1
<i>San Joaquin Service</i>	99,391	84,044	+18.3	580,700	549,320	+5.7
<i>Adirondack</i>	9,586	8,559	+12.0	62,680	57,427	+9.1
<i>Blue Water</i>	17,338	13,503	+28.4	103,161	81,533	+26.5
<i>Washington-Lynchburg</i>	16,810	11,973	+40.4	86,711	66,998	+29.4
<i>Washington-Newport News</i>	53,900	43,129	+25.0	298,919	252,975	+18.2
<i>Hoosier State</i>	3,384	2,664	+27.0	20,940	18,769	+11.6
<i>Missouri River Runner (Kansas City-St. Louis)</i>	16,209	13,551	+19.6	104,067	90,332	+15.2
<i>Pennsylvanian</i>	16,810	15,693	+7.1	118,275	117,843	+0.4
<i>Pere Marquette</i>	9,761	9,639	+1.3	58,548	55,371	+5.7
<i>Carolinian</i>	29,452	27,787	+6.0	182,095	172,054	+5.8
<i>Piedmont Service</i>	12,189	7,825	+55.8	82,812	44,101	+87.8
<i>Special Trains</i>	701	494	+41.9	31,710	31,586	+0.4
Subtotal	1,317,189	1,190,262	+10.7	8,286,260	7,662,083	+8.1

Long Distance

<i>Silver Star</i>	37,281	32,147	+16.0	246,262	226,086	+8.9
<i>Cardinal</i>	9,727	8,566	+13.6	63,779	55,765	+14.4
<i>Silver Meteor</i>	31,712	28,701	+10.5	213,850	199,493	+7.2
<i>Empire Builder</i>	35,991	38,875	-7.4	277,537	287,294	-3.4
<i>Capitol Ltd.</i>	20,422	18,046	+13.2	124,525	115,404	+7.9
<i>California Zephyr</i>	30,880	27,318	+13.0	212,127	197,452	+7.4
<i>Southwest Chief</i>	29,364	25,547	+14.9	190,848	175,507	+8.7
<i>City of New Orleans</i>	18,362	18,644	-1.5	135,988	125,017	+8.8
<i>Texas Eagle</i>	22,476	21,677	+3.7	163,481	154,771	+5.6
<i>Sunset Limited</i>	8,431	7,426	+13.5	55,546	49,269	+12.7
<i>Coast Starlight</i>	31,692	32,192	-1.6	224,478	239,826	-6.4
<i>Lake Shore Limited</i>	34,433	29,854	+15.3	217,353	195,141	+11.4
<i>Palmetto</i>	18,353	17,238	+6.5	113,640	101,360	+12.1
<i>Crescent</i>	27,291	26,226	+4.1	171,640	161,449	+6.3
<i>Auto Train</i>	23,808	20,715	+14.9	151,058	141,782	+6.5
Subtotal	380,223	353,172	+7.7	2,562,112	2,425,616	+5.6
Amtrak Total	2,688,955	2,445,765	+9.9	17,111,470	16,065,535	+6.5

NOTE: Ridership to some locations south and west of Chicago is on both state-supported and national system Amtrak trains, as reported above. Combined ridership of all Amtrak trains on these corridors is as follows for October 10 - April 11: Chicago-St. Louis, 371,737 (up 7% from October 09 - April 10); Chicago-Carbondale, 203,090 (up 17% from October 09 - April 10) and Chicago-Quincy 146,001 (up 8% from October 09 - April 10).

Amtrak Ridership

36% increase in ridership from FY 2000 – FY 2010

New records set in 7 of the last 8 fiscal years, including more than 28.7 million in FY 2010

