

News Release



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MICHIGAN AMTRAK RIDERSHIP UP STRONGLY National Amtrak ridership tops 25.8 million, fifth straight year of increases

CHICAGO and LANSING, Mich. – Amtrak ridership in Fiscal Year 2007 on trains in Michigan increased by more than 17,000 passengers, totaling nearly 682,000 riders on the three routes in the Great Lakes State.

In all, Amtrak sold more than 750,000 tickets to and from locations in Michigan ([charts attached](#)).

Amtrak operates three daily roundtrips on the Pontiac-Detroit-Ann Arbor-Chicago route known as the *Wolverine Service*. The 2.4 percent ridership gain on the *Wolverines* matches the national Amtrak ridership increase and is the result of more than 449,000 passengers choosing rails instead of roads.

The state-supported single-frequency daily routes in Michigan – Grand Rapids-St. Joseph-Chicago *Pere Marquette* and the Port Huron-East Lansing-Chicago *Blue Water* – also posted increases. Ridership on the *Pere Marquette* was up 2.8 percent to nearly 105,000 passengers and on the *Blue Water* passenger count of almost 128,000 was a 3.1 percent gain.

Amtrak operates the *Pere Marquette* and the *Blue Water* under a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

“We are excited about increased interest in passenger rail travel,” said State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle. “Michigan reflects the national trend. Our ridership numbers have increased for the last five years, showing strong support for all three Amtrak routes in Michigan.”

“Highway and airway congestion, volatile fuel prices, increasing environmental awareness, and a need for transportation links between growing communities, are some of the factors that make intercity passenger rail extremely relevant in today’s world,” said Alex Kummant, President and CEO of Amtrak.

“Our record setting ridership and ticket revenue in FY07 indicate the stage is set for Amtrak to take on a role as not only a contributor to the nation’s transportation network, but as a leader among modes,” he added.

Nationally, Amtrak ridership in Fiscal Year 2007 increased to 25,847,531, marking the fifth straight year of gains and setting a record for the most passengers using Amtrak trains since the National Railroad Passenger Corporation started operations in 1971.

This total, for the period October 1, 2006-September 30, 2007, topped the 24,306,965 for the previous 12 months and is greater than the passenger count of 25.03 million reached in 2004.

Total ticket revenue for the fiscal year, \$1.5 billion, was an 11 percent increase over the \$1.37 billion in FY06.

About MDOT

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is responsible for nearly 10,000 miles of state highways that carry 54 percent of all motor traffic and 70 percent of truck traffic. The department also is responsible for providing aviation services, freight and passenger rail services, public transit, marine and non-motorized transportation for Michigan residents, businesses, and visitors. More information about MDOT can be found at www.michigan.gov/mdot.

About Amtrak

Amtrak provides intercity passenger rail services to more than 500 destinations in 46 states on a 21,000-mile route system. For schedules, fares and information, passengers may call 800-USA-RAIL or visit Amtrak.com.

(Michigan station chart follows, total Amtrak tickets to and from each stop)

Albion, MI	1,490
Ann Arbor, MI	144,114
Bangor, MI	3,786
Birmingham, MI	19,404
Battle Creek, MI	53,197
Dearborn, MI	72,158
Detroit, MI	56,548
Dowagiac, MI	2,579
Durand, MI	8,361
Flint, MI	23,718
Grand Rapids, MI	53,260

Holland, MI	38,457
Jackson, MI	27,135
Kalamazoo, MI	107,251
East Lansing, MI	48,518
Lapeer, MI	6,695
New Buffalo, MI	2,476
Niles, MI	18,061
Pontiac, MI	16,450
Port Huron, MI	12,544
Royal Oak, MI	25,556
St. Joseph, MI	8,445

(route ridership chart attached)