



Amtrak in Arizona

Fiscal Year 2024



Amtrak is America's Railroad,[®] created by Congress to "provide efficient and effective intercity passenger rail mobility consisting of high quality service that is trip-time competitive with other intercity travel options." In FY 2024, the company's 22,000+ employees operated an average of almost 300 intercity trains per day along 47 permanent routes, serving a record 32.8 million passengers. Amtrak's network includes 524 regularly-scheduled stops across 46 states, 3 Canadian provinces, and Washington, DC. Partner-operated Thruway routes offer connecting service to additional communities, typically via bus.

Service & Ridership

In FY 2024, Amtrak operated an average of **3 intercity trains per day** on 3 permanent routes serving Arizona,¹ with **82,304 total passengers** boarding or alighting in the state.² Service was provided via the following routes:³

▪ Long-Distance Trains

- **Southwest Chief** — Los Angeles - Kingman - Flagstaff - Albuquerque - Topeka - Lawrence - Kansas City - Chicago (1 round trip daily)
- **Sunset Limited** — Los Angeles - Yuma - Maricopa (Phoenix) - Tucson - El Paso - San Antonio - Houston - New Orleans⁴ (3 round trips weekly)
- **Texas Eagle** — San Antonio - Austin - Ft. Worth - Dallas - Little Rock - St. Louis - Chicago (1 round trip daily, with thrice-weekly through-service from / to Los Angeles; cars detach from / attach to separate Sunset Limited trains)

Thruway Connections

Some Amtrak routes offer partner-operated **Thruway connecting service** and/or other interline connections to additional communities (including in Arizona, where *Sunset Limited* passengers can take advantage of connecting service between Maricopa and Phoenix), via either bus or other modes of transportation. Many such services are sponsored by one or more of Amtrak's State-Supported partners, or by other public entities; these connections can be vitally important in certain markets. Tickets are purchasable through Amtrak; detailed, up-to-date information on available connections can be accessed via the booking tool on Amtrak.com.

Stations

During FY 2024, Amtrak intercity trains made scheduled stops at 7 locations in Arizona:

¹ "Trains per day" total does not count *Texas Eagle* through-cars separately from the *Sunset Limited* trains of which they are part.

² Total equals sum of all boardings and alightings at in-state stations.

³ Not all stops shown. Note that certain frequencies may not serve every station listed.

⁴ *Sunset Limited* service is currently suspended east of New Orleans.



Station (Code)	Ridership (Ons + Offs)	Amtrak ADA Responsibility	Amtrak ADA Compliance	Amtrak ADA Investment ⁵
Benson (BEN)	2,071	Partial	FY 26	\$1,780,783
Flagstaff (FLG)	30,471	None	N/A	\$39,713
Kingman (KNG)	8,028	Sole	FY 29	\$4,054,273
Maricopa (MRC)	11,441	Partial	FY 25	\$1,099,326
Tucson (TUS)	21,993	Partial	FY 25	\$3,927,221
Winslow (WLO)	3,717	Partial	FY 25	\$7,584,765
Yuma (YUM)	4,583	Sole	FY 28	\$11,947,637
Total:	82,304	6/7	In Progress	\$30,433,717

Importantly, Amtrak is working to ensure that its stations are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities. Most Amtrak-served stations are decades old; many were served by other railroads before the company ever existed. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), enacted in 1990, requires that U.S. stations be made accessible; in response, Amtrak developed an ADA Stations Program (ADASP) to bring station components for which the company is responsible into full ADA compliance. ADASP aims to ensure Amtrak provides the best possible service in the shortest possible timeframe; the program will ultimately invest a total of \$1.8 billion in up to 385 communities nationwide, including a **\$30.4 million investment in Arizona**. All Amtrak-responsible work is targeted for completion by the end of FY 2029.

Detailed profiles of every permanent Amtrak station stop, including current information on accessibility, can be found on the Great American Stations website: <https://www.greatamericanstations.com>.

Host Railroads & On Time Performance

Outside the Boston-to-Washington, DC, Northeast Corridor (NEC), most Amtrak trains must travel over other “host” railroads’ tracks—and hosts generally control dispatching decisions on the tracks that they own. By law, Amtrak trains are supposed to receive preference over freight trains (i.e., priority in dispatching), but many host-dispatched trains arrive late at their destinations, and many routes do not meet on-time performance (OTP) standards established by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)—affecting millions of passengers per year.

Listed below are the Amtrak routes that operate in Arizona, along with each route’s major in-state host railroad(s) and full-route customer on-time performance (C-OTP)⁶ in FY 2024:

⁵ “Amtrak ADA Investment” describes Amtrak’s projected total investment in compliance work over the lifetime of ADASP.

⁶ C-OTP measures the proportion of customers traveling on a given route who arrive at their destinations on time. Suppose that passengers board a train scheduled to make two stops, and suppose that train is on time at the first stop, but arrives late at the second. If all passengers alight at the first stop, C-OTP for that train is 100%; if all passengers alight at the second stop, C-OTP is 0%.

Route	In-State Host(s)	C-OTP
<i>Southwest Chief</i>	BNSF	34.0%
<i>Sunset Limited</i>	Union Pacific	60.0%
<i>Texas Eagle</i>	Union Pacific	62.5%

Procurement

Amtrak’s procurements are subject to “Buy America”-style domestic preference requirements, which the company is proud to meet or exceed. Nationally, Amtrak paid nearly \$4.5 billion for goods and services in FY 2024; 99% of that amount was spent domestically, and **\$5.8 million** went to vendors in Arizona:

Community	Amount
Scottsdale	\$2,976,610
Gilbert	\$1,682,723
Lake Havasu City	\$602,357
Phoenix	\$391,687
Apache Junction	\$86,486
Tucson	\$38,060
Flagstaff	\$26,781
All Others < \$10K	\$8,497
Total AZ Payments:	\$5,813,202

The single largest in-state payment category was **information technology services**.

Employment & Compensation

At the end of FY 2024, **11 Amtrak employees** worked in Arizona, and the company had paid out a total of **\$981,882 in base wages and salary** in-state. Nationwide, Amtrak employed more than 22,000 active workers; total base wages and salaries for the year exceeded \$2.1 billion.

Current Amtrak Routes in Arizona

(Texas Eagle through-cars operate as element of Sunset Limited trains.)

