



Amtrak Fact Sheet Fiscal Year 2021 State of Idaho

Amtrak Service & Ridership

At the end of FY 2021, Amtrak operated two trains per day in Idaho, as part of the following routes:

- **Long Distance**
Empire Builder (daily Chicago-St. Paul-Seattle/Portland)

Stations Served

During FY 2021, Amtrak served the following location in Idaho.

City (Code)	Ridership
Sandpoint (SPT)	3,594
Total Idaho Station Usage:	3,594

Amtrak maintains the Great American Stations website (<https://www.greatamericanstations.com/>), which includes detailed profiles of every Amtrak station. Information available includes a brief history of each station, a review of what organization or organizations are responsible for the various portions of each facility, a list of routes serving each station, contact information for the appropriate Amtrak representative for that station, and relevant local community links.

Host Railroads & On Time Performance

Amtrak relies heavily on the cooperation of other railroads to operate routes using tracks that Amtrak does not own or control. Host railroads are statutorily required to provide Amtrak trains “preference” over freight transportation. However, on time performance on most host railroads is poor and continues to decline largely due to hosts ignoring their statutory responsibilities.

Listed below are the Amtrak services that operate in Idaho with each service’s host railroads and customer on-time performance (OTP) in FY 2021:

Service	Host Railroad (s)	FY21 OTP
<i>Empire Builder</i>	BNSF, Canadian Pacific, Metra	59.3%

Customer OTP measures what proportion of customers arrive at their destination on time. For *Acela* trains, the margin is within ten minutes of the schedule and the margin is 15 minutes for all other trains. Thus, if a train is 16 minutes late to its final stop, and all its riders are headed for that stop, then even if the train is on time at every intermediate stop, customer OTP would be 0%, reflecting the passengers’ experience.

Amtrak Guest Rewards

At the end of FY 2021, there were approximately 13.5 million members of Amtrak Guest Rewards (AGR), with 14,937 members listing an address in Idaho. This is an 8.6% increase from FY 2020. For more information about AGR, please see: <https://www.amtrak.com/guestrewards/home>

Procurement

In FY 2021, Amtrak procured goods and services worth \$2.63 billion, and more than 99% of that figure was sourced from firms headquartered domestically. In Idaho, Amtrak spent \$2,013,559, broken down in the following locations:

City	Amount (\$)
Hayden	303,418

Employment & Wages

At the end of FY 2021, Amtrak employed 17,055 people, including three Idaho residents. Total FY 2021 wages were \$1.54 billion, of which Idaho residents earned \$436,980.

Additional Information

Amtrak provides a long-distance train, the *Empire Builder*, through the state of Idaho, stopping at Sandpoint with daily service heading west to Seattle and Portland and east to Chicago. In addition, Amtrak provides an extensive network of Thruway Motorcoach services to link communities, that otherwise have no direct rail access to the Amtrak system.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Enacted in November 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), or “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,” provides \$66 billion in guaranteed funding for intercity passenger and freight rail over the next five years. That includes \$22 billion in dedicated Amtrak funding – for fleet modernization, state-of-good-repair work, and other specified project types – and another \$44 billion for FRA-administered grants. This historic federal investment will rebuild crumbling infrastructure, improve accessibility onboard and at our stations, enable overdue service expansions, and transform U.S. passenger rail service.

Amtrak Connects US

In 2021, Amtrak released the Amtrak Connects US vision for growing America’s passenger rail system and meeting the needs of both fast-growing metro areas and other underserved communities. Our vision proposed 39 new routes, 25 enhanced routes, and 160 new stops to serve 20 million new riders across the United States. Since then, the Federal Railroad Administration has launched the Corridor Identification & Development Program to establish a pipeline of intercity passenger rail projects ready for federal investment and technical assistance.

Importantly, the Amtrak Connects US vision was only a starting point. Amtrak is ready to work with States and other eligible entities to begin or expand service anywhere – regardless of whether the route was included in the vision.

Station Update

Amtrak completed renovations and upgrades to the station at Sandpoint, using state funds that were made available as part of the Sand Creek Byway project. The project was a recipient of an “Excellence in Historic Preservation” award at the 38th annual Orchids and Onions Awards Ceremony that is held by Preservation Idaho, the state’s historic preservation council. The station’s passenger lobby reopened in 2015.

