



Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2015

State of Maine

Amtrak-Maine partnership

- The *Downeaster* runs five times daily in each direction, Portland-Boston
- Service to Freeport and Brunswick began in November 2012
- Nearly 22,000 Maine residents are members of the Amtrak Guest Rewards frequent user program

Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak operates one State Supported service in Maine, the *Downeaster* (5 daily round-trips Boston-Portland, of which 2 round-trips operate to/from Brunswick).

During FY15 Amtrak served the following Maine locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
Brunswick	25,754
Freeport	11,370
Old Orchard Beach	9,943
Portland	133,210
Saco-Biddeford	37,561
Wells	48,674
Total Maine Station Usage:	266,512

(down 22.1% from FY14)

Procurement/Contracts

Amtrak spent \$2,794,607 on goods and services in Maine in FY15. Most of this, \$2,531,181, was in South Portland.

Employment

At the end of FY15, Amtrak employed 39 Maine residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Maine were \$3,586,459 during FY15.

PRIIA Section 209 and Agreements

The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-432) required, by October 2013, an equitable arrangement of cost sharing between Amtrak and state or public agency partners that provide funding for short-distance, intercity train services. Agreements were reached with all parties, including in Maine, by the deadline, and the services continued to run without interruption. Amtrak operates the *Downeaster* under contract with the State of Maine's Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA).

About the *Downeaster*

December 14, 2001 marked the inaugural run of the *Downeaster*, restoring passenger rail service between Boston and Portland after an absence of over 35 years. The service features five daily round-trips between Portland and Boston North Station, with eight intermediate stops: Woburn, Haverhill, Exeter, Durham-UNH, Dover, Wells, Saco, and in season, Old Orchard Beach. Starting in Fiscal 2013 (see below) additional service from Portland to Freeport and Brunswick is in place. The *Downeaster* had nearly 421,000 passengers in Fiscal 2015.

Most trains make the Boston-Portland trip in 2 hours, 30 minutes. Track work and speed increases in 2004 and 2007 allowed a 15-20 minute schedule reduction.

On November 1, 2012, *Downeaster* service was extended to Freeport and Brunswick. This project was funded by state funding and by a \$35-million federal stimulus grant in 2010. It included rehabilitation of 26.4 miles of track owned by Pan Am Railways, upgrades to numerous wayside signals, and improvements to 36 highway grade crossings. The *Downeaster* service now offers two daily round trips between Brunswick, Freeport, and Boston North Station.

Station Improvements

The Saco Transportation Center was dedicated on February 27, 2009, replacing a platform and shelter. The \$2.2-million building, which opened for regular service in March, was built by the city and also houses the Biddeford-Saco Chamber of Commerce and a QuikTrak ticketing machine. It is powered by a wind turbine and its temperature is controlled by a geothermal energy system.

New Stations

Brunswick: The new station is in the Brunswick Visitors Center building, 16 Station Avenue. It also houses two restaurants and other businesses serving the community. Long-term parking (two hours or more) is free and located adjacent to the station, and also nearby at 86 Union Street. A Quik-Trak machine in the station waiting area offers ticketing services. The Station/Visitors Center is conveniently located downtown and provides easy, walking access to the Bowdoin College campus, restaurants, and hotels.

Freeport: The new station is at 19 Depot Street. The Visitors Center, which is the tower at the entrance to the parking lot and platform, has a passenger waiting area and Quik-Trak machine. There is free parking in the station lot and in the garage across the street. Many local hotels offer free station pick-up.

The station is just a block from the L. L. Bean campus of stores and just steps from hundreds of national retailers, name-brand outlets, and locally owned boutiques, all in a 19th-century Maine village setting.

Kennebunk: NNEPRA plans to begin stopping the *Downeaster* in Kennebunk on a seasonal basis, possibly at a temporary platform, as early as summer 2016, restoring passenger train service to the town for the first time in half a century. In the longer term, possibly by 2017 or 2018, the train would stop at the old Boston & Maine Railroad station on Depot Street. Located just south of downtown, the former station has not been used as such since the last B&M service to Portland ran on January 3, 1965. Town officials are currently planning to lease a 100-square-foot area of the current building to use as a waiting area. The town also plans to purchase a parcel across the street from the station for an expanded parking area, and plans to secure land from an adjacent property owner for short-term parking and space for a road trolley to turn around.

Brunswick Layover Facility

NNEPRA started construction in October 2015 on a passenger train layover facility in Brunswick, to maximize the utility and efficiency of expanded *Downeaster* service. The facility will include a set of railroad storage tracks and switches, a building for overnight storage of passenger rail equipment, and ancillary components to support daily, routine servicing and maintenance functions. The building is intended to accommodate the overnight storage of up to three train sets and will enable the addition of a third daily round trip between Brunswick and Boston.

