



Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2017

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 30,000 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 FY17 Amtrak served the following Maine locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
Brunswick	29,457
Freeport	10,481
Old Orchard Beach	15,731
Portland	171,257
Saco-Biddeford	42,082
Wells	68,752
Total Maine Station Usage:	337,760

(up 7.6% from FY16)

Procurement

Amtrak spent \$400,588 on goods and services in Maine in FY17.

Employment

At the end of FY17, Amtrak employed 38 Maine residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Maine were \$3,386,314 during FY17.

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 over 500,000 passengers in Fiscal 2016.

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. On November 21, 2016, the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority opened its new train layover facility in Brunswick and added a third round trip between Brunswick and Boston. The \$13-million, 60,000-square-foot facility, which is longer than two football fields, allows the rail authority to service *Downeaster* passenger trains overnight.

NNEPRA Projects

MBTA Track Improvement Project: The *Downeaster* MBTA Track Improvement Project will result in a more reliable service, while also creating capacity for additional, future trips. The project will add double-track and replace rail in Massachusetts on the 38-mile portion of the route that is owned by MBTA. The total cost is \$26.0 million, toward which NNEPRA received an FRA grant for \$20.8 million and the MBTA contributed \$5.2 million. The project will be completed late in 2017.

Royal Junction Siding: This project will eliminate a key bottleneck on the *Downeaster* route and will allow more efficient operation of passenger and freight trains north of Portland. The siding, on the portion of the route owned by Pan Am Railways, extends 4.1 miles between Field Road in Falmouth and near Greely Road in Cumberland. Currently, only three of the five round-trips between Boston and Portland continue north to Brunswick. But with the completion of this project, along with the opening of the Brunswick Layover Facility in 2016, all *Downeaster* trips will be able to operate north of Portland. Construction began in 2017 and will continue into 2018.

Stations

Kennebunk: NNEPRA is working with the Town of Kennebunk on future service of the *Downeaster* in that community. This would restore passenger train service to the town for the first time in half a century. The train would stop at the old Boston & Maine Railroad station on Depot Street, which the town is currently rehabilitating.

