

HIGHWAY STATISTICS

2000 - 2011 Delaware Transit Ridership Trend

The table below shows that there was a significant change in Delaware Transit Ridership. Since 2000, there has been a net increase of 34.68% which exceeds the growth of total population.

Fiscal Year	Transit Ridership	Yearly Change	Cumulative % Change
2000	8,944,828		
2001	9,260,336	3.53%	3.53%
2002	9,045,281	-2.32%	1.12%
2003	8,785,314	-2.87%	-1.78%
2004	9,224,929	5.00%	3.13%
2005	9,602,722	4.10%	7.36%
2006	10,238,738	6.62%	14.47%
2007	10,154,338	-0.82%	13.52%
2008	10,556,609	3.96%	18.02%
2009	11,184,706	5.95%	25.04%
2010	11,270,422	0.77%	26.00%
2011	12,047,186	6.89%	34.68%

Source: Delaware Transit Corporation

Delaware Transit Service

Higher fuel prices, congestion on the main travel routes in the urbanized areas, increasing travel times, and the rising cost of parking in central business districts are making transit a more viable alternative to driving. Transit ridership increases in certain areas indicate Delaware's economy is recovering with more people returning to work, with transit work trips being the majority. This also equates into air quality benefits, by people choosing transit as an alternative mode, vehicle miles are declining. However, there is another significant component to the growth shown here. The figures in the foregoing include paratransit, which serves the elderly and persons with disabilities. Delaware Transit offers special discounts for seniors and the disabled. As the general population ages, the state of Delaware continues to attract retirees from other states, particularly to Sussex County, where the demand for paratransit is growing rapidly.

Given current economic conditions, the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce and the Resort business community have reported changes in the public's travel behavior. In response, they have begun arranging day trips in lieu of a full week vacations. This coupled with a greater use of public transit has resulted in a more economical vacation for visitors. For beach traffic, [Delaware Area Resort Transit](#) offers special discounts, and also connectivity with Ocean City Transit.

Catherine C. Smith
Planning Manager, DTC
302.576.6071
Fax # 302.577.8040
cathy.smith@state.de.us