

Chapter 5

Existing Rail Ridership

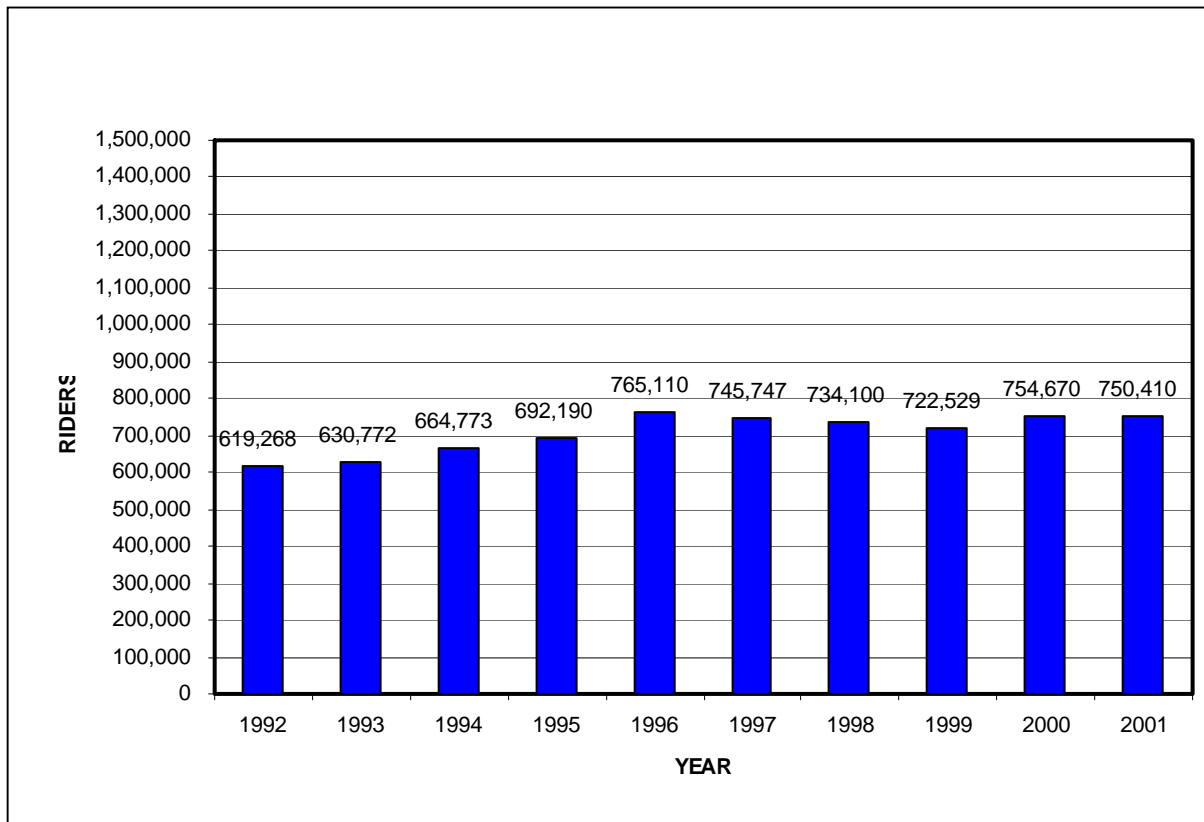
The following chapter provides a review of Metro-North ridership data, including current annual ridership and historic trends, and 2001 inbound boardings, for the Danbury Branch and Harlem Line .

5.1 Danbury Branch

Current Annual and Historic Ridership

Figure 35 illustrates the annual ridership on the Danbury Branch from 1992 to 2001. Ridership on the Danbury Branch has grown from 619,268 in 1992 to 750,410 in 2001, although its peak year was 1996 with a total of 765,110.

Figure 35: Danbury Branch Annual Ridership



Monthly Breakdown

Table 31 provides a breakdown of ridership by month for each year from 1992 to 2001. The ridership data includes both pre-paid fares and allocated cash fares. A more detailed breakdown of monthly ridership by pre-paid fare and allocated cash fare is shown in Table 32.

Table 31: Danbury Branch Ridership by Month (1992-2001)

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
January	54,512	51,468	53,206	58,032	64,287	66,192	64,108	57,484	59,647	65,628
February	46,216	46,622	49,711	50,833	58,482	56,294	55,432	52,929	58,558	55,536
March	53,370	57,540	57,926	61,601	64,954	63,528	63,619	64,267	65,711	63,302
April	52,545	54,797	53,872	53,806	65,300	63,862	63,227	61,579	59,888	62,967
May	49,598	52,028	55,977	59,365	65,070	62,840	59,780	57,365	64,721	65,299
June	53,216	55,320	58,244	59,060	62,075	63,331	64,492	62,855	65,920	64,323
July	53,305	53,465	53,241	53,090	65,104	66,128	63,536	60,354	60,724	63,809
August	49,560	52,573	58,166	60,655	64,124	59,611	60,496	61,151	66,592	65,307
September	51,334	52,082	54,421	56,296	61,479	60,418	59,291	59,703	62,355	56,925
October	53,390	51,506	57,325	62,571	68,709	64,387	62,279	60,836	67,138	68,303
November	48,463	50,323	55,523	58,066	60,173	54,492	56,577	61,105	62,121	60,225
December	53,759	53,048	57,161	58,795	64,363	64,664	61,263	62,881	61,255	58,786
ANNUAL TOTAL	619,268	630,772	664,773	692,190	765,110	745,747	734,100	722,529	754,670	750,410

Table 32: Danbury Branch Ridership by Month (1992-2001) – Prepaid tickets vs. Allocated Cash Fares

BRANCH/MONTH	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
PREPAID TICKETS										
January	49,477	46,265	47,959	52,690	59,266	60,670	57,309	51,085	52,743	57,846
February	41,761	42,163	44,910	46,261	53,575	51,444	49,856	46,972	51,821	48,832
March	48,439	52,423	52,613	56,233	59,494	57,742	57,134	57,358	58,180	55,602
April	47,331	49,385	48,469	48,311	59,484	58,173	56,650	54,361	52,471	
May	44,379	46,452	49,828	53,564	59,082	56,891	52,791	49,810	56,732	
June	47,792	49,687	51,578	53,147	56,034	56,864	57,335	54,236	57,391	
July	47,681	47,820	46,945	46,972	58,548	59,200	55,711	51,705	51,549	
August	43,928	46,493	51,689	54,234	57,737	52,619	52,796	52,630	57,347	
September	45,951	46,510	48,626	50,230	55,497	53,973	52,239	52,238	54,102	
October	47,917	46,035	51,358	56,440	63,386	57,998	55,041	52,616	58,559	
November	43,005	44,678	49,678	52,182	54,243	48,174	49,336	52,586	53,462	
December	47,482	46,794	50,656	52,258	57,494	57,123	52,616	53,552	51,971	
ANNUAL TOTAL	555,143	564,705	594,309	622,522	693,840	670,871	648,814	629,149	656,328	162,280
ALLOCATED CASH FARES										
January	5,035	5,203	5,247	5,342	5,021	5,522	6,799	6,399	6,904	7,782
February	4,455	4,459	4,801	4,572	4,907	4,850	5,576	5,957	6,737	6,646
March	4,931	5,117	5,313	5,368	5,460	5,786	6,485	6,909	7,531	7,700
April	5,214	5,412	5,403	5,495	5,816	5,689	6,577	7,218	7,417	
May	5,219	5,576	6,149	5,821	5,988	5,949	6,989	7,575	7,989	
June	5,424	5,633	6,666	5,913	6,041	6,467	7,157	8,619	8,529	
July	5,624	5,645	6,296	6,118	6,556	6,928	7,825	8,649	9,175	
August	5,632	6,080	6,477	6,421	6,387	6,992	7,700	8,521	9,245	
September	5,383	5,572	5,795	6,066	5,982	6,445	7,052	7,465	8,253	
October	5,473	5,471	5,967	6,131	6,323	6,389	7,238	8,220	8,579	
November	5,458	5,645	5,845	5,884	5,930	6,318	7,241	8,519	8,659	
December	6,277	6,254	6,505	6,537	6,859	7,541	8,647	9,329	9,324	
ANNUAL TOTAL	64,125	66,067	70,464	69,668	71,270	74,876	85,286	93,380	98,342	22,128
COMBINED TOTAL										
January	54,512	51,468	53,206	58,032	64,287	66,192	64,108	57,484	59,647	65,628
February	46,216	46,622	49,711	50,833	58,482	56,294	55,432	52,929	58,558	55,478
March	53,370	57,540	57,926	61,601	64,954	63,528	63,619	64,267	65,711	63,302
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September	51,334	52,082	54,421	56,296	61,479	60,418	59,291	59,703	62,355	
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November	48,463	50,323	55,523	58,066	60,173	54,492	56,577	61,105	62,121	
December	53,759	53,048	57,161	58,795	64,353	64,664	61,263	62,881	61,295	
ANNUAL TOTAL	619,268	630,772	664,773	692,190	765,110	745,747	734,100	722,529	754,670	184,408

Inbound Boardings

In 2001, weekday inbound ridership on the Danbury Branch totaled 1,052 trips, of which 958 trips occurred in the peak and 94 in the off-peak. Danbury Branch weekday inbound ridership made up 1.8% of the total weekday inbound ridership on the New Haven Line, which totaled 55,641 trips. On weekends, inbound ridership on the Branch totaled 411 trips (213 on Saturday & 198 on Sunday), and accounted for approximately 1.0% of the total weekend inbound ridership on the New Haven Line (42,027).

Table 33 details the number of 2001 boardings during the am peak and off-peak by station on the Danbury Branch. The table shows that the total weekday number of boardings on the Branch was 1,052, with 958 persons boarding during the peak and 94 during the off-peak.

Danbury had the highest number of total weekday boardings followed by Branchville and Bethel. However, during the AM peak, Branchville actually had the highest number of boardings with a total of 182. The table also shows that Redding and Merritt-7 had the lowest number of weekday inbound boardings.

Table 33: 2001 Weekday Inbound Danbury Branch Boardings by Station (1)

STATION	AM PEAK	WEEKDAY OFF PEAK	TOTAL WEEKDAY
Danbury	174	52	226
Bethel	172	10	182
Redding	51	8	59
Branchville	182	13	195
Cannondale	112	3	115
Wilton	173	5	178
Merritt-7	94	3	97
Total	958	94	1052

(1) Calculated by factoring 1998 On/Off counts based on ticket sales data to reflect 2001 ridership levels.

Table 34 provides similar data for the weekend, indicating that the total number of inbound weekend boardings totaled 411, with 213 occurring on Saturday and 198 on Sunday. The table indicates that Danbury, Branchville, and Bethel have the highest number of inbound boardings, and that Merritt-7 had the lowest.

Table 34: 2001 Weekend Inbound Danbury Branch Boardings by Station

STATION	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	TOTAL WEEKEND
Danbury	109	84	193
Bethel	19	29	48
Redding	20	19	39
Branchville	24	35	59
Cannondale	11	11	22
Wilton	21	18	39
Merritt-7	9	2	11
Total	213	198	411

(1) Calculated by factoring 1998 On/Off counts based on ticket sales data to reflect 2001 ridership levels.

5.2 Harlem Line

Table 35 provides detail on the number of weekday inbound boardings at Harlem Line Stations. The table shows that weekday inbound boardings for the entire line totaled 43,108 in 2001, with 29,205 occurring in the peak and 13,903 in the off-peak. White Plains and Scarsdale were the two busiest stations, while Tremont and Melrose had the lowest number of boardings. On the upper Harlem Line, stations that are easily accessible for Connecticut residents that live near the Danbury Branch (Katonah, Golden's Bridge, Purdy's, Croton Falls, Brewster, Brewster North, Patterson, and Pawling), had a total of 6,275 total weekday inbound boardings, with 4,600 occurring in the AM peak, and 1,675 in the off-peak. Of these stations, Brewster, Brewster North, and Katonah, had the highest weekend daily total boardings.

Table 36 provides similar data for weekend boardings at Harlem Line Stations.

Table 35: 2001 Weekday Inbound Harlem Line Boardings by Station (1)

STATION	AM PEAK	WEEKDAY OFF PEAK	TOTAL WEEKDAY
Wassaic	32	106	138
Tenmile River	12	9	21
Dover Plains	57	56	113
Harlem Valley-Wingdale	85	43	128
Pawling	175	51	226
Patterson	70	23	93
Brewster North (2)	987	411	1,398
Brewster	757	437	1,194
Croton Falls	449	112	561
Purdys	479	101	580
Goldens Bridge	888	184	1,072
Katonah	795	356	1,151
Bedford Hills	469	225	694
Mount Kisco	876	490	1,366
Chappaqua	1,705	431	2,136
Pleasantville	704	441	1,145
Hawthorne	541	196	737
Mount Pleasant	0	0	0
Valhalla	237	50	287
North White Plains (2)	1,621	782	2,403
White Plains (2)	3,670	4,864	8,534
Hartsdale	2,234	574	2,808
Scarsdale	3,173	952	4,125
Crestwood	1,303	330	1,633
Tuckahoe	1,120	328	1,448
Bronxville	2,377	941	3,318
Fleetwood	2,162	455	2,617
Mount Vernon West (2)	935	316	1,251
Wakefield	278	21	299
Woodlawn	620	211	831
Williams Bridge	66	36	102
Botanical Garden	134	133	267
Fordham	175	225	400
Tremont	2	2	4
Melrose	8	0	8
125th Street	9	11	20
TOTAL HARLEM LINE	29,205	13,903	43,108

- (1) Calculated by factoring 1997 On/Off counts based on ticket sales data to reflect 2001 ridership levels.
- (2) Station totals include transfers.

Table 36: 2001 Weekend Inbound Harlem Line Boardings by Station (1)

STATION	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	TOTAL WEEKEND
Wassaic	140	280	420
Tenmile River	22	28	50
Dover Plains	82	95	177
Harlem Valley-Wingdale	89	119	208
Appalachian Trail	11	2	13
Pawling	87	60	147
Patterson	20	28	48
Brewster North (2)	734	817	1,551
Brewster	579	664	1,243
Croton Falls	183	162	345
Purdys	111	91	202
Goldens Bridge	177	174	351
Katonah	476	401	877
Bedford Hills	312	309	621
Mount Kisco	563	471	1,034
Chappaqua	449	374	823
Pleasantville	432	401	833
Hawthorne	224	184	408
Mount Pleasant	6	10	16
Valhalla	84	89	173
North White Plains (2)	590	455	1,045
White Plains (2)	4,162	3,162	7,324
Hartsdale	594	454	1,048
Scarsdale	964	745	1,709
Crestwood	344	265	609
Tuckahoe	384	301	685
Bronxville	1,015	736	1,751
Fleetwood	694	437	1,131
Mount Vernon West (2)	290	195	485
Wakefield	74	25	99
Woodlawn	232	188	420
Williams Bridge	64	17	81
Botanical Garden	95	93	188
Fordham	213	107	320
Tremont	1	1	2
Melrose	0	0	0
125th Street	8	16	24
TOTAL HARLEM LINE	14,505	11,956	26,461

- (1) Calculated by factoring 1997 On/Off counts based on ticket sales data to reflect 2001 ridership levels.
- (2) Station totals include transfers.