

## FLORIDA

# Brightline expects fewer passengers in 2024 after lower-than-projected ridership in 2023

**Ananya Tiwari**

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Brightline expects 21% fewer passengers this year than it previously had projected, after lower-than-expected ridership from September through December, according to the company's latest forecast.

The high-speed rail company expects 5.5 million passengers, including 2.8 million long-distance trips on the Miami-Orlando route and 2.7 million short-distance trips among the five South Florida stations, according to a December forecast.

That's down from the September forecast for 6.95 million passengers, including 3.5 million long-distance trips and 3.45 million short-distance trips.

**Take a ride:** Brightline train shows unique view of Treasure Coast

## South Florida train stations

The new projections came after 2023 ridership was 27% lower than expected, with 2.05 million passengers instead of the 2.79 million passengers Brightline had projected:

Short-distance: 29% lower than expected, with 1.74 million passengers instead of 2.46 million

Long-distance: 9% lower than expected, with 306,131 passengers instead of 335,972

Short-distance ridership was steady from February-November 2022, but then it began a steady decline after August, around when the tourist season ends.

## Brightline's 2023 ridership

With the Miami-Orlando route launching service on Sept. 22, Brightline's total ridership increased from September to December, just not as much as the company had projected:

143,053 in September

205,745 in October

205,607 in November

237,069 in December

The number of long-distance passengers alone was:

17,578 in September

79,686 in October

93,184 in November

115,683 in December

For the first time, the number of short- and long-distance passengers nearly matched in December, with the former trailing by only 5,703.

With a steady increase in ridership, Brightline projects 49% more passengers in 2025 than in 2024, with 8.2 million passengers, including 4.5 million long-distance and 3.7 million short-distance.

*Ananya Tiwari is a business reporter for TCPalm. You can reach her via email at [ananya.tiwari@tcpalm.com](mailto:ananya.tiwari@tcpalm.com) or follow her work on Facebook, Twitter, and MuckRack.*