

Fare Register Activity

Trolleys that had both a conductor and operator working together were called two-man cars. While the operator, or motorman, operated the trolley, the conductor was responsible for the safety of the passengers and collecting fare. There were many different ways trolley companies collected fares, including punching tickets, collecting money, and fare boxes for tokens. Fare registers helped conductors to track the number of fares paid throughout the day. When a passenger paid a fare, the conductor pulled the lever on the fare register. At the end of the conductor's work shift, the amount of fare collected by the conductor should match the number recorded by the register.

Fare logs helped conductors calculate the total number of paid passengers for the day. At the beginning of their shift, the conductor would record the number on the fare register and then record the number again at the end of their shift. Subtract the total at the beginning of the shift from the total at the end of the shift to find out how many passengers rode the trolley!

Trolley	Starting	Ending	Total
4398	17	54	
New Orleans 832	278	412	
4145	245	376	
4004	78	123	
1758	784	1,243	

1. Find the total number of passengers for each trolley.
2. Which trolley had the highest number of passengers? Lowest?
3. What is the difference between the highest trolley and the lowest trolley?
4. Which trolley had more passengers, 4004 or 4398?
5. Which trolley had fewer passengers, New Orleans 832 or 4145?

The trolley numbers in the activity are real trolleys at the Museum! Visit <https://patriotrolley.org/roster-of-collection/> to learn more about each trolley. Draw a picture below of the trolley that had the most passengers! Where was this trolley from? What season would you most like to ride this trolley?