



PRESS RELEASE

THE EUROPEAN OUTLOOK: ON TRACK WITH LIGHT RAIL AND TRAM



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Last year UITP provided [a worldwide landscape of light rail and tram systems](#) as our detailed study saw annual LRT ridership reach almost 15 million passengers.

As promised, we're keeping focus on LRT with **a closer look at Europe** with the publication of **"Light Rail and Tram: The European Outlook" Statistics Brief**.

LRT has seen a steady increase since the millennium, as we live through **a remarkable renaissance** with **108 new cities opening their first line – of which 70 are from Europe**.

These exciting developments and achievements are marking **a new level of success for trams and light rail in Europe**.

Germany and Central Europe make up half of all patronage – with the rest split between South Eastern Europe, France, Poland, the Benelux countries (*Belgium, The Netherlands and*

Luxembourg), Western Mediterranean, Nordic/Baltic and the British Isles.

So what can you learn from this latest look at the European rail landscape?

Between **2015 and 2018**, LRT infrastructure in Europe grew by **3.9%** from 8943 km to 9296 km.

We're witnessing **a ridership growth of 6.9% from 9740 million to 10422 million passengers** between 2015 and 2018.

Due to the strong ridership growth, **the demand growth is 50% higher** than the **supply growth**.

Ridership evolution varies according to regions – ranging from **a stronger 17.5% in the British Isles, to 1.5% in Poland**.

The **busiest LRT network in Europe** is in **Budapest**, Hungary, with **411 million passengers**.

The **longest LRT network in Europe** is in **Berlin**, Germany at **193 km long**.

With ongoing pressure to reduce congestion, tackle air quality in cities and reduce greenhouse gas emission contributing to climate change, LRT will continue to obtain support of decision-makers and the travelling public in Europe: **LRT is clean, silent and space-efficient**.

However, much attention and resources will go into the maintenance, modernisation and replacement of assets to keep ageing systems attractive and fit for operational purpose. Our latest Statistics Brief lays out what is to come for LRT in Europe.

The small railways certainly do not play a small role in the sustainability of European cities.

[View the LRT European Outlook Statistics Brief in full](#)

To see all UITP Statistic and Policy Briefs, [visit our Publications Hub](#)

(UITP) The International Association of Public Transport works to enhance quality of life and economic well-being by supporting and promoting sustainable transport in urban areas worldwide. As a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility, UITP is internationally recognised for its work to advance the development of this critical policy agenda. With more than 1700 members in almost 100 countries, UITP has a long history to its name, and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes.

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