

PRESS RELEASE

THE EVOLUTION OF THE METRO: UITP UNVEILS NEW WORLD STATISTICS



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Metros are crucial to the efficient and sustainable mobility our cities need to offer the absolute best urban living.

By regularly monitoring the global development of the metro, UITP has gathered data on a series of indicators including ridership, stations, lines, and fleet size.

In 2018, UITP published the most recent World Metro Figures, showing that 14 new lines had opened in cities across the globe, bringing the total cities with metros to 193.

Now, UITP is unveiling its new “World Metro Figures 2021” Statistics Brief displaying the rich data collected since the previous release.

At the time of gathering this data in 2020, global ridership had fallen by 60% as a result of Covid-19 - ranging from 32% in Asia-Pacific, to 63% in North America. While many networks have since recovered a substantial part of the drop in passenger numbers, few have reached their pre-pandemic levels.

The latest trends and developments...in the global metro system

Our new Statistics Brief offers a glimpse at these changing times, showing the ways in which metros are developing worldwide, especially as citizens are demanding more and more for safe, efficient and sustainable alternatives to private cars.

Metros are advancing in all regions of the world, with the pace of development particularly impressive in the Asia-Pacific region. Year after year, mega-cities in the region top all charts.

Stand out statistics...from the international metro map

190 million passengers every day in 2019

3,300km of new infrastructure was put in revenue service **between 2018-2020**

Seven Asia-Pacific cities are in the **top 10 longest metro** networks

Prague was the city with the most trips per resident in 2019 – **one trip per day**

Metros are a unique urban transport mode thanks to their capacity to move unparalleled numbers of travellers efficiently across transport corridors and networks. UITP provides a detailed picture of the evolution of metros in terms of infrastructure, fleet and ridership – across all regions and throughout an eight-year period. The data shows a sustained development of metro infrastructure, notably in fast-growing cities which face major challenges for mobility and quality of life, and also have a role to play in climate change mitigation."

Corentin Wauters

Rail Manager, Knowledge & Innovation, UITP

Despite the challenges that the sector has faced since the pandemic began, metros continue to play a crucial role in making our cities more liveable, and more sustainable.

This data from UITP and our members shows how essential public transport is to building back better beyond Covid-19, and that the metro is a vital component to better urban living.

World Metro Figures 2021: The new UITP Statistics Brief

FOR EDITORS

(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 **1900 members** in **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. Visit the [newsroom](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

Questions? Quotes? Interview requests? Contact Scott Shepherd

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