

# PRESS RELEASE

## UITP UNVEILS NEW URBAN RAIL STATISTICS BRIEF

BRUSSELS, 5 MARCH 2019

Always staying at the forefront of the international rail sector, UITP is pleased to announce the release of the latest Statistics Brief on global Urban Rail Infrastructure.

The latest [UITP Statistics Brief](#) shows the developments of **urban rail during 2018** with a focus on the evolution of **metro** and **light rail transit**.

Gathered from UITP's **rail project database**, these new statistics show the **growth and domination** of specific continents, countries and cities – alongside the areas experiencing a **slowdown in pace** of opening.

### So what new urban rail statistics can you learn from UITP?

**121** urban rail projects were completed in 2018 on all continents totalling **1270km**

**150 new lines** were opened with **89 metro** and **59 LRT** in the past three years.

**Asia** dominates both the **metro** and **LRT** markets with **China** twice leading the statistics

The first metro system in **Sub-Saharan Africa** opens with the two line system in **Abuja**

*“New urban rail developments have never been as intense as in the last three years, with the opening of nearly 150 new lines (89 metro and 59 LRT). Together with line extensions, this amounts to 3318km of new infrastructure and offers robust business opportunities for a supply chain in deep reorganisation.”*

**Laurent Dauby**  
**UITP Director of Rail**

2018 is once again a successful year for urban rail infrastructure, outlined by standout metro and light rail developments.

### Key 2018 metro developments:

**75 individual metro** infrastructure projects were completed in **17 countries** and **39 cities** for a total of **960km** – with **62%** of new lines and **38%** of line extensions.

### Key 2018 light rail developments:

For the second year running, light rail developments have been more robust in **Asia-Pacific** than in any other continent – tradition LRT strongholds **Europe** and **North America** continue to experience slower growth.

This latest rail publication comes after the [World Metro Figures 2018](#) Statistics Brief released by UITP in [September 2018](#) gathered record interest from the international media.

Alongside the metro figures, these new urban rail statistics meet the demand from the sector for UITP knowledge.

The Urban Rail statistics will be one of the major rail reports that will serve as a source of information for [TER4RAIL](#) (*Transversal Exploratory Research Activities for Railway*), the latest UITP research project.

This **EU-funded project** launched in December 2018 and aims to reinforce the cooperation between rail-related stakeholders to improve the efficiency of research in the rail sector. This is done to facilitate innovative ideas and cross-fertilisation of knowledge from other disciplines.

**To view the Urban Rail Statistics Brief in full [click here](#)**

**For access to all UITP Statistic Briefs visit our [Data & Statistics page](#)**

**(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 1600 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. Visit the [newsroom](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).