



PRESS RELEASE

A REMARKABLE RENAISSANCE: THE GLOBAL LANDSCAPE OF TRAM AND LIGHT RAIL



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UITP is providing a worldwide landscape of light rail and tram systems - as 2018 sees annual LRT ridership reach almost 15 million passengers.

The Global Tram and Light Rail Landscape Statistics Brief details the **evolution of LRT since 2015** – and provides a **snapshot of the situation in 2018**, the most recent full year in review.

LRT has seen a steady increase since the millennium, as we live through **a remarkable renaissance** with **109 new cities opening their first line**.

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

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

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

As of 31 December 2018, **tram and light rail systems** (both described as LRT in this capacity) **are available in 389 cities around the world.**

Europe may have been the world leader in LRT – but we're witnessing a huge development growth in Asia-Pacific. Keep an eye on **China, as they heavily invest in these systems.**

In 2018, annual **LRT ridership worldwide reached 14,658 million passengers** – with **Europe accounting for 10,428 million.**

Budapest was the **busiest LRT system** in the world, followed by **Prague and Paris.**

Eurasia bucks the trend of demand growth by experiencing **a decline in ridership.**

Over 1,000 km of green-field LRT projects are expected to open for revenue service in the next three years, making the discussion over tram systems and light rail more important than ever.

UITP will be keeping focus on that global landscape by following up this worldwide view with a focus on LRT in Europe as **“Light Rail and Tram: A European Outlook” Statistics Brief** is published next week.

[Read our full Statistics Brief on The Global Tram and Light Rail Landscape here!](#)

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(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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