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# PRESS RELEASE

## FIRST YEAR OF GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE EU SINCE THE CRISIS

**BRUSSELS, 20 JUNE 2016**

The use of public transport in the EU has reached its highest level since 2000, with a total of 57.9 billion journeys made in 2014 according to a [new study](#) released today by UITP (the International Association of Public Transport).

**2014 was the first year of distinct growth** in demand for public transport after years of stable demand following the start of the economic crisis in 2008.

The highest total demand in 2014 for bus, tram, metro and suburban rail was recorded in **Germany** (10.9bn journeys), **UK** (7.7bn) and **France** (7.6bn). Between 2013 and 2014, 'growth leaders' **France, Italy, Poland** and the **UK** had a combined increase of 600 million journeys, driving up the total EU figure.

Of the 57.9 billion public transport journeys made in 2014, **55.8% were by bus, 16.1% by metro, 14.5% by tram** and **13.6% by suburban rail**.

The developments mask significant national variations, however, which are quite closely linked to national employment figures. 17 EU countries saw higher ridership in 2014 compared to 2010 but only seven had sustained growth: **Austria, France, Germany, Lithuania, Malta, Sweden** and the **UK**. Bulgaria was the only country where ridership dropped every year since 2000. Encouragingly, countries such as **Spain, Ireland** and **Italy** that have been impacted by the crisis, saw a return to growth in 2014.

In EU capital cities, the average annual percentage growth in demand (2010-2014) was highest in **Brussels**; demand per capita is approximately 2.5 times higher in capital cities than the national average.

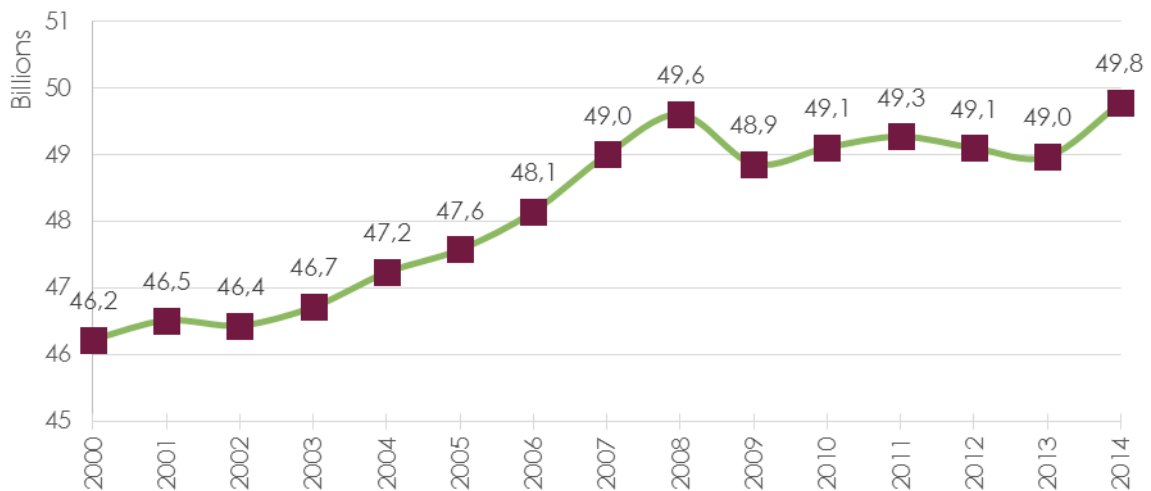
"On an average working day in the EU, urban and suburban public transport carried 185 million passengers with an average urban dweller making three public transport journeys per week," said **Alain Flausch**, UITP Secretary General. "2014 was the first return to growth since the crisis, which could be linked to the economic pickup or a shift to public transport and it will be interesting to see if this recent increase will become a trend".



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See the full Statistics Brief: ['Local public transport in the European Union'](#).

Local public transport journeys in the EU28 2000-2014



#### NOTE TO EDITORS

The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) is a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. We have 1,400 member companies giving access to 16,000 contacts from 96 countries. Our members are public transport authorities and operators, policy decision-makers, research institutes and the public transport supply and service industry. Visit our website [www.uitp.org](http://www.uitp.org). Follow us on Twitter: [@UITPpressoffice](https://twitter.com/UITPpressoffice)

#### CONTACT

ANDREW CANNING | PRESS & MEDIA MANAGER  
+32 2 663 66 39 | [ANDREW.CANNING@UITP.ORG](mailto:ANDREW.CANNING@UITP.ORG)