Overview of Public Transport Statistics

- UK Department for Transport reports on a wide variety of statistics relating to public transport, but statistical collections predominantly focused on **bus** and **light rail and tram** statistics.

**Passenger journeys on public transport**

Passenger journeys by mode: Great Britain 1985/86 to 2017/18

- Publish **annual bus statistics**, based on annual Public Service Vehicle (PSV) survey of over 500 local bus operators.
- Statistics often split by usage in **London** and **non-London** areas as journeys in London accounted for around a half of the **4.36 billion** passenger journeys made by local buses in England in 2017/18.

- Data collected and released by non-ministerial department, the **Office for Rail and Road**.

- Data collected and released by operators (e.g. **Transport for London**).

- Publish **annual light rail and tram statistics**.
Light Rail and Tram Statistics

- Annual statistical release on light rail and tram systems in England for the latest financial year – data covering usage, infrastructure, revenue and passenger experience.

- Key statistics 2017/18

  267.2m passenger journeys
  0.2% since 2016/17

45% of passenger journeys are Docklands Light Railway

- Docklands Light Railway 2.2%
- Manchester Metrolink 9.0%
- Midland Metro 8.6%
- London Tramlink 1.4%
- Nottingham Express Transit 8.4%
- Sheffield Supertram 2.3%
- Tyne and Wear Metro 3.5%
- Blackpool Tramway 1.9%
Data compiled from responses to the Light Rail and Tram Survey.

A fairly simple questionnaire, which reduced reporting burden and consistently gets a 100% response rate.

Data requested should be readily available to operators, or easy for them to extract. Returns are validated by comparison with previous years and seeking explanation where differences are large or unexpected. This means that figures for each system should be broadly comparable over time.
Operator Data Collection

- Figures are compiled from data provided by eight light rail and train operators:
  - **Passenger journey** figures derived from different sources and methods used to count journeys which may affect comparisons between different systems.
    - Most operators report that passenger journeys figures are derived from *ticket data*, either directly from ticket machines (Blackpool, Sheffield, Nottingham and Midland Metro) or based on ticket sales (Manchester Metrolink).
    - London Tramlink passenger numbers are recorded by an on-tram passenger count system using *infra-red door sensors*.
    - Docklands Light Railway figures are based on *automatic passenger counts at stations*.
    - Tyne and Wear Metro figures are based on *surveys* of 12-15,000 passengers every four weeks (which the operator reports as providing data accurate to +/- 1% on an annual basis).
    - Assumptions based on passenger surveys are made to estimate the number of journeys per ticket (for example, for season tickets).
  - **Vehicle mileage** is based on scheduled timetables (minus known lost mileage)
  - **Revenue figures** are derived from operators’ financial records

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Thank you for listening

For a summary of statistical trends in the British transport sector, see Transport Statistics Great Britain.