



Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair  
National Transport Authority

# Summary of the National Rail Census Report 2019

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# Highlights from the 2019 Rail Census

- 177,904 journeys were taken on the day of the Census.
- As in 2018, 12 stations handled in excess of 5,000 passengers. Connolly, Pearse, Heuston and Tara continued to be the busiest stations handling one third of all passengers on census day.
- Outside of Dublin, Kent Station in Cork City, Bray in Wicklow and Maynooth in Kildare feature in the top ten busiest stations in terms of passenger traffic.
- Grand Canal Dock is now the 5th busiest station in terms of boardings, having been ranked 9th in 2018.
- Daily throughput at Broombridge increased by 27% between 2018 and 2019. Patronage at Broombridge is now up 141% since the introduction of LUAS Cross City Services in December 2017. Broombridge Station offers interchange between the LUAS Green and Maynooth Rail lines
- The 10 busiest stations handled just under half (47%) of all passenger movements on the network.
- 20 stations in the Country experienced less than 100 journeys per day. This number has fallen over 37% since 2012. Of the quietest stations, 10 experienced less than 30 journeys.
- Roscrea was the least used station on the network with 7 boardings and 3 alightings during the entire day.
- 23% of stations experienced less than 200 daily journeys.
- As in 2018, the busiest train in the country on Census day was the 08:10 DART service from Malahide to Bray, with a total of 1,450 passengers using this service. The peak passenger load on this service occurred between Killester and Clontarf Road when 1,164 passengers were on board the train.
- The busiest Commuter service was the 07:55 Maynooth to Bray train which carried 1,093 passengers. 885 passengers were on board the train between Maynooth and Drumcondra stations



The busiest train in the country was the 08:10 DART service from Malahide to Bray carrying a total of **1,450** passengers

**177,904**

journeys were taken on Census day a slight decrease on 2018



12 stations handled in excess of **5,000** daily passengers, unchanged from 2018

20 stations in the Country handled **less than 100 journeys** on Census day



Daily throughput at Broombridge increased by **27%**

# The National Rail Census 2018 v 2019

- Overall the number of daily journeys on the rail network decreased by less than 1 percentage point since 2018.
- DART accounted for 44%, Commuter services for 31% and Intercity for 23% of all journeys made on Census day.
- 78,689 journeys were made on the DART on Census day 2019, almost 4% less than in 2018.
- Approximately 1,128 (10%) more passengers boarded commuter services on the Kildare line in 2019 than in 2018.
- 4,834 passengers boarded services operating via the Phoenix Park Tunnel on Census day 2019, up 24% on 2018.
- As in 2018, the greatest passenger flow during the morning peak hour was on DART services travelling towards Dublin between Killester and Clontarf Road.
- Despite an overall decrease, there were increases in boardings on DART services in the 16:00 - 17:00 and 18:00 - 19:00 time periods.
- In 2019 the peak hour for boarding on the DART and Cork Commuter lines was between 08:00-09:00. On the Kildare and Northern Lines the peak hour was 07:00-08:00. Meanwhile on the Maynooth line the peak hour was 17:00-18:00
- Journeys in the GDA account for approximately 85% of total journeys undertaken nationally on Census day - this remains unchanged from since 2013.
- The numbers of rail journeys taken outside of the GDA on Census day 2019 increased by 3% relative to 2018.
- 6,524 passenger journeys were made on Cork Commuter lines on Census day, an increase of 9% on 2018.
- There was a 16% increase in cross border patronage on the Enterprise Service between 2018 and 2019.



78,689

journeys were made on the DART on Census day 2019, 4% less than in 2018

Approximately

1,128

more passengers boarded Kildare line commuter services in 2019 than in 2018



4,834

passengers boarded services using the Phoenix Park Tunnel on Census day, up 24% on 2018

There was a  
**9% increase**  
in patronage on Cork Commuter services between 2018 and 2019

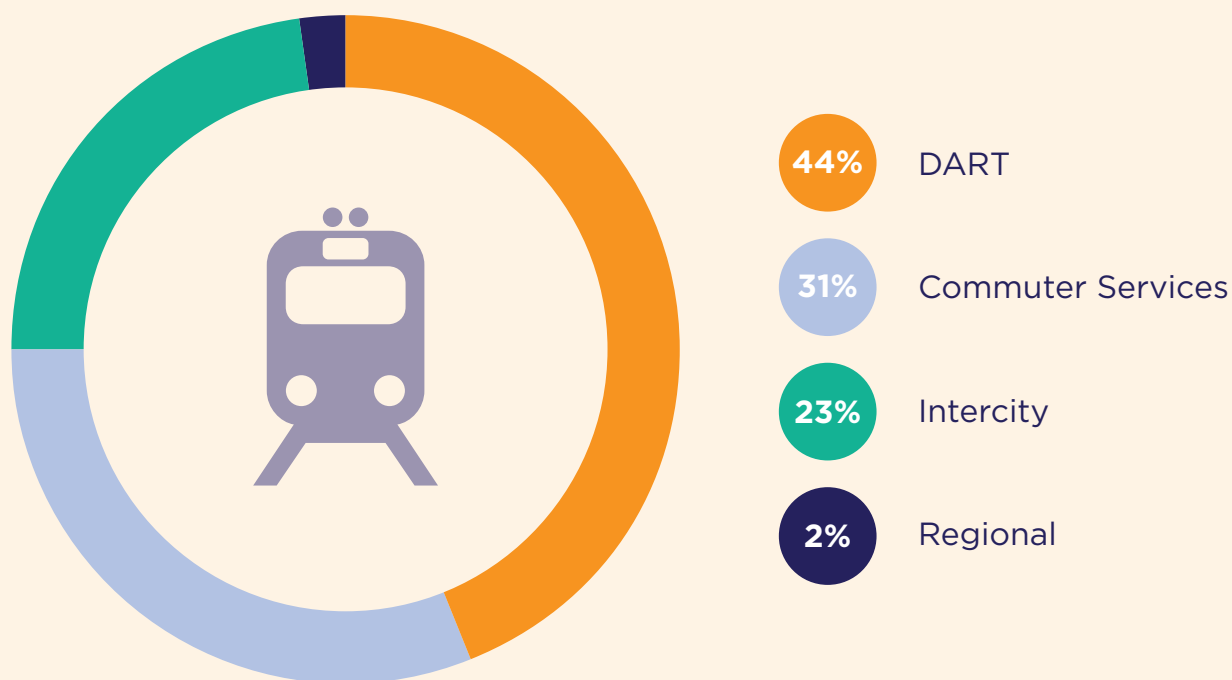


There was a

**16%**

increase in cross border patronage on the Enterprise Service between 2018 and 2019

# Passenger Journeys 2019



Approximately **85%** of total journeys undertaken nationally on Census day were in the GDA



The number of journeys outside the GDA increased by **3%** between 2018 and 2019



Almost **40%** of daily commuter patronage on the Kildare line was on Phoenix Park Tunnel services

# The Rail Census

## Data Qualification

The Rail Census is a snapshot of rail usage on a single day. While this survey is broadly representative of a typical weekday it is important to remember that it does not present systematic use or provide information on variations in rail usage by day of week or seasonally.

Variation in rail usage from one day in a particular year to another day in the next year may be influenced by a range of factors. Some of these factors include operational changes such as amendments to timetables and frequencies of services, while other factors are outside the control of the operator, such as weather or the macroeconomic environment.

Although providing a robust annual trend, the data presents a snapshot only and does not provide a full picture of rail usage over the course of an entire year. The findings in this report should be interpreted in this context.

## The National Heavy Rail Census

- The National Heavy Rail Census, funded by the National Transport Authority, records rail patronage at every train station in the Country on one day of the year.
- The 2019 Census is the eighth National Census. Prior to 2012, the Census was carried out in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) only.
- The Census was conducted by surveyors counting the number of individuals boarding and alighting each service at each station for an entire day on 21st November 2019.
- The month of November is chosen as a month which is unaffected by holidays and when most places of work and education are in full session.
- Operating conditions on the day of the census were normal with no severe delays, cancellations or disruptions on the rail network. Therefore it is reasonable to conclude that the Census was undertaken on a generally representative day.



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