

Urban public transit, May 2024

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Highlights

In May, Canada's urban transit ridership reached 135.1 million trips, recovering to 87.0% of its pre-COVID-19-pandemic May 2019 level—the highest rate of recovery to date.

Total passenger trips and operating revenue for selected urban transit agencies are available in table [23-10-0307-01](#).

Ridership recovery continues

Canada's urban transit networks provided 135.1 million passenger trips in May 2024, an increase of 9.6% (+11.8 million trips) from May 2023 and marking 38 consecutive months of increases since April 2021.

Ridership in May 2024 recovered to 87.0% of the pre-pandemic level from May 2019. While this represented the highest rate of recovery to date, there were still 20.2 million fewer rides in May 2024 compared with the same month in 2019.

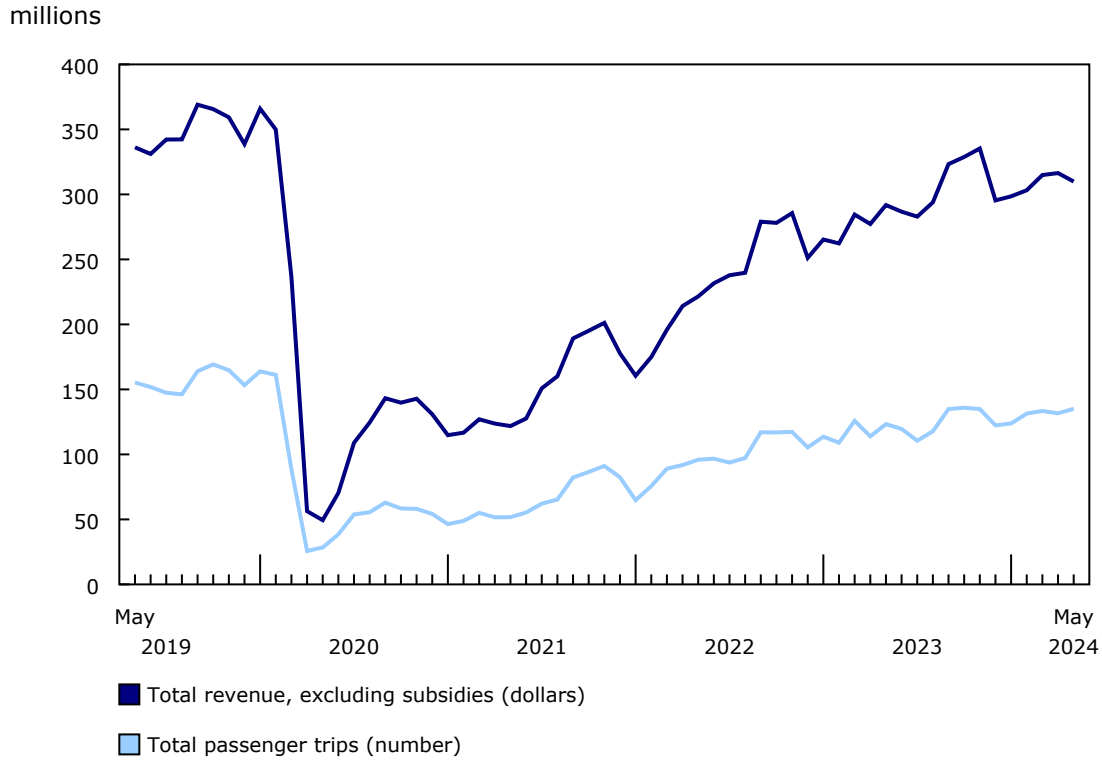
Prior to the pandemic, public transit ridership typically saw little change from April to May. Meanwhile, May 2024 saw a 2.7% increase from April.

Financial situation steady

In May 2024, transit agency operating revenue (excluding subsidies) reached \$309.9 million. This was an increase of 6.2%, or \$18.1 million, from the same month the previous year, albeit \$26.3 million below the pre-pandemic level recorded in May 2019.



Chart 1
Urban public transit operating revenue and passenger trips, monthly, 2019 to 2024



Source(s): Table 23-10-0251-01.

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Note to readers

Statistics Canada is publishing more detail from the Monthly Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Survey. The new table [23-10-0307-01](#)—Passenger bus and urban transit statistics, by Urban transit agency—includes operating revenue and ridership at the city level for selected transit agencies. Statistics Canada appreciates the cooperation of the 15 transit agencies in making this information available to Canadians.

Survey data are revised on a monthly basis to reflect new information.

The data in this release are not seasonally adjusted.

This survey collects data on operating revenue (excluding subsidies) and the number of passenger trips from a panel of urban transit companies that represents at least 75% of revenue in each province and territory. Note that the panel is adjusted annually to maintain the 75% coverage and could differ slightly from what it was in the same month the previous year.

One-time payments from secondary and post-secondary institutions for academic-year student passes are typically reported as revenue during the early fall and early winter months.

Data prior to January 2017 can be found in table [23-10-0078-01](#).

Random tabular adjustment

The random tabular adjustment (RTA) technique, which aims to increase the amount of data made available to users while protecting the confidentiality of respondents, was applied to the totals of the Monthly Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Survey.

Using RTA, Statistics Canada identifies sensitive data and randomly adjusts values rather than suppressing them. The size of the adjustment is calculated to protect respondent confidentiality.

For more information on RTA, please refer to the article "[Random Tabular Adjustment is here!](#)," now available as part of the StatCan Blog.

The [Transportation Data and Information Hub](#), a web portal developed jointly by Statistics Canada and Transport Canada, provides Canadians with online access to comprehensive statistics and measures on the country's transportation sector.

Available tables: [23-10-0251-01](#) and [23-10-0307-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2745](#).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).