

FACT SHEET

FEBRUARY 2025



BUSES

WHAT ARE BUSES?

- The European classification system defines buses and coaches as “vehicles having at least four wheels, designed and constructed for the carriage of passengers, comprising more than eight seats in addition to the driver’s seat”.
 - Buses and coaches are classified as the ‘M2’ category (for those under 5 tonnes) or ‘M3’ (for those exceeding 5 tonnes) by the system.

WHY ARE BUSES IMPORTANT?

- Buses and coaches improve social inclusion, providing access to education, employment and healthcare to all – including those on low incomes, those who do not drive, the older generation, people with disabilities, and people living in remote areas.
- Buses are the most widely used form of public transport in the EU, serving cities as well as suburban and rural areas.
- They are also the most cost-efficient and flexible form of public transport, requiring minimal investments to launch new lines or routes.
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems have gained popularity worldwide as a cost-effective alternative to far more expensive urban rail investments.
- Coaches move people comfortably and affordably across long distances.
 - Buses and coaches are vital contributors to tourism.
- With one bus capable of replacing 30 cars on the road, buses help ease traffic congestion.
- Buses and coaches have the lowest carbon footprint per passenger of any form of motorised transport.

BUSES IN FIGURES



44

There are 44 bus assembly plants in the EU.

53,368

In 2023, 53,368 European buses were exported, worth €1.1 billion.

12.5

The average age of the EU bus fleet is over 12.5 years.

720,783

buses are in circulation on the EU's roads today.

15.9%

Electrically chargeable vehicles (battery electric and plug-in hybrid) together represent 15.9% of new bus sales in the EU.

32,593

new buses and coaches were registered throughout the EU in 2023.

55.7%

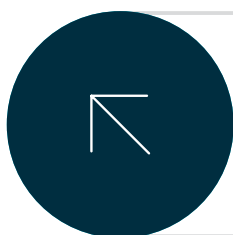
55.7% of all public transport journeys in the EU (or 32.1 billion passenger journeys per year) are made by urban and sub-urban buses.

327

7.3% of passenger transport on land in the EU is made by buses and coaches. This represents 327 billion passenger-kilometres per year.

62.3%

of all new buses sold in the EU are powered by diesel.



1.9%

Electrically chargeable vehicles make up only 1.9% of buses on EU roads.