



UIC world rail statistics for 2008

Provisional UIC statistics show an increase in passenger transport on all continents in 2008. The slowdown in growth or decline of freight transport is a sign of the economic crisis that will affect all transport modes in 2009.

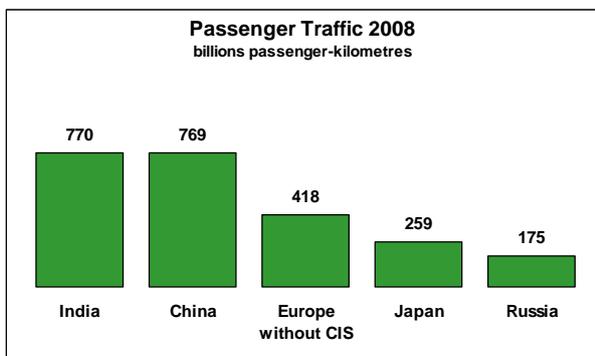
(Paris, 27 March 2009). The International Union of Railways (UIC) has recently published the provisional world rail traffic statistics for 2008, based on the monthly statistics provided by its members. These results are thus an indication of the major trends in passenger and freight transport in various regions of the world.

Passenger transport

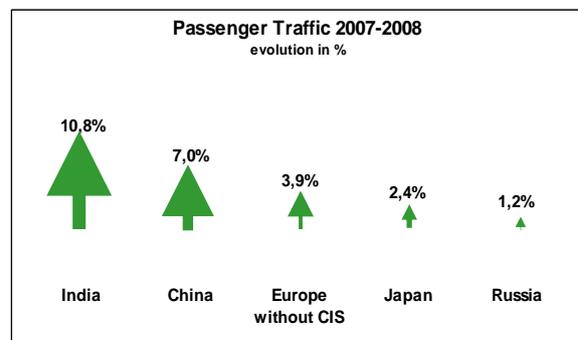
2008 proved to be a positive year overall for passenger transport in **Europe**. Growth in 2008 was + 3% compared to 2007 in terms of the number of passengers transported, and nearly 4% in passenger-kilometres (number of passengers multiplied by the number of kilometres travelled). Thanks to the opening of a high speed connection between Madrid and Barcelona, RENFE saw its passenger-kilometre results increase by 10%, in spite of a slight decrease in the number of passengers.

In **Russia** passenger traffic increased by 1%, which partly compensated the decrease recorded in 2007.

Asia's main rail companies experienced growth all around. In 2008 **Japan** recorded moderate growth in passenger transport, of around 2.4% (in passenger-kilometres), a growth rate similar to that of previous years. **China** saw its traffic (in passenger-kilometres) increase by 7%, a slightly lower rate than in previous years, and **India's** traffic increased by 11% (compared to 13% in 2007).



Source: UIC



Source: UIC

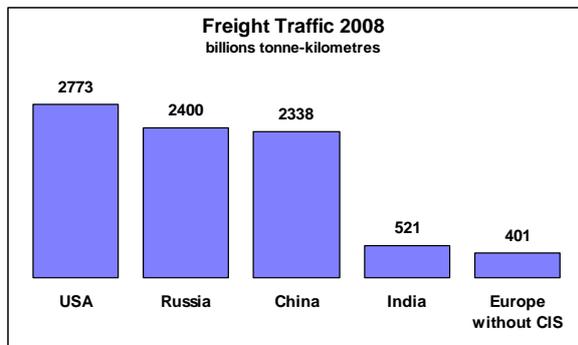
Freight transport

In **Europe**, rail freight transport experienced steady decline throughout 2008, exacerbated from October onwards by the initial effects of the worldwide economic crisis, which affected all transport activities (air, sea, road and rail). For the European railways the year ended with a 5% decrease (in tonne-kilometres) compared to 2007, and all regions are affected.

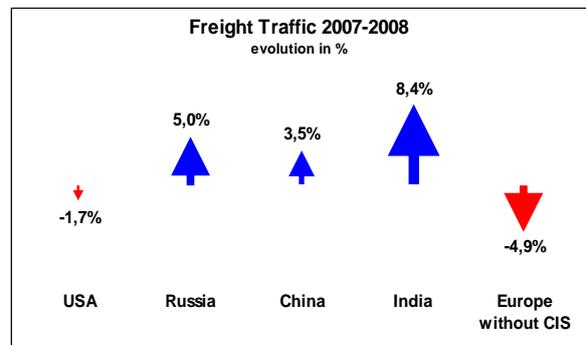
In the **United States**, rail freight grew until late October 2008, but the two months that followed cancelled out any earlier increases. North American freight transport ended the year with - 1,7 % growth.

Asia's main railways recorded positive results in tonne-kilometres in 2008. However, rail freight growth in **China** decreased by half to + 3,5%. In **India** freight traffic increased by 8.4%, a growth rate very close to that of 2007 (+ 9.4%).

2008 was good year for rail freight transport in **Russia**, where the growth rate was + 5%.



Source : UIC



Source : UIC

Contacts

Media

Liesbeth de Jong, Press Relations Manager, dejong@uic.asso.fr

Delphine Margot, Communications Adviser, margot@uic.asso.fr

UIC Statistics Department

Olivier Georger, Senior Adviser - Statistics, georger@uic.asso.fr