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UIC world rail statistics

Freight transport growing across all regions of the world Passenger transport also records sustained growth due to growth in Asia.

(Paris, 27 July 2011) UIC members' statistics for 2010 indicate an average overall growth of 3.4%, measured in tonne-kilometres for the freight sector worldwide, confirming economic and trade recovery. As for passenger transport, the statistics provided show a 3.5% jump in passenger-kilometres worldwide, boosted by the development of rail traffic in Asia and in particular by railways in India.

With an 8% increase compared to 2009, Russia's extremely dynamic freight sector represents almost a quarter of tonne-kilometres transported in the world. The United States and Canada notched up 4% growth whilst representing over 25% of total tonnage transported, whereas China, which represents 70% of the total tonnage in Asia (and Oceania), showed a slight sag at only 3%. Indian Railways saw its traffic increase by 9% followed closely by Kazakh Railways with 8%. Europe (non CIS) for its part showed an increase of 7%, a trend which has continued through the early part of 2011. Growth was at 1.5% in Africa.

Passenger transport growth worldwide remains steady on the whole due to growth in Asia, particularly India, which saw an 8% increase, and China, which saw a 0.4% increase.

Passenger transport remains steady due to Indian Railways which has seen its traffic increase by 8% on average throughout 2010 compared to 2009 in passenger-kilometres, whilst representing almost half of passenger traffic in the Asian region. Passenger rail transport in China, representing over a third of the traffic volumes reported, increased by an average of 0.4% in 2010. Passenger transport in Russia saw a decline of 9%, whilst remaining stable in Europe. Africa on the other hand remains steady with a 0.2% increase.

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