

European rail traffic growing but effects of Covid downturn still evident

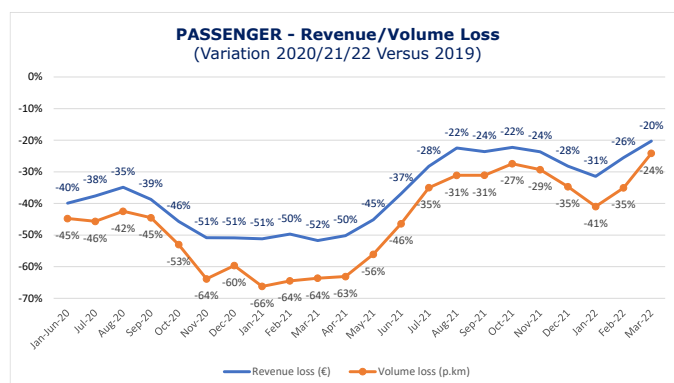
The latest update of the CER Crisis Impact Tracker (April 2022), carried out by the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER), shows that while rail traffic is growing, the effects of the Covid crisis can still be seen in railway activity in Europe, with volume and revenue losses continuing.

- **PASSENGER volumes** down by almost **-25% in March 2022** (compared to March 2019)
- **FREIGHT volumes** down by almost **-10% in March 2022** (compared to March 2019)

PASSENGER services

Following a downturn in both revenue and volume, between October 2021 and January 2022, passenger volumes picked up in February, reaching their highest level in March 2022 since the beginning of the crisis.

However, **revenues** were still down by **-20%** and **volumes** by **-24%** compared to the same period of 2019.

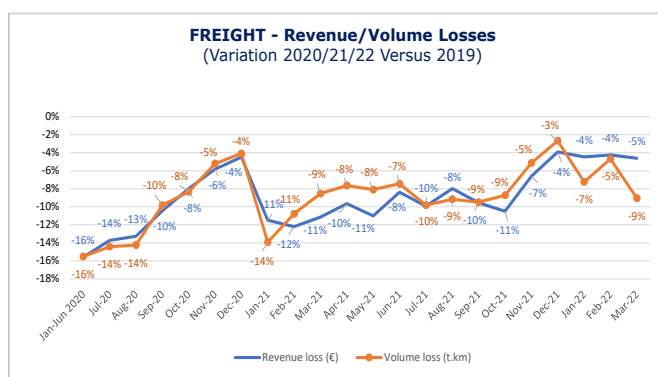


In some countries (particularly in Eastern Europe), while passenger-kilometres increased in March, revenues continued to remain low. This may be linked to the influx of Ukrainian refugees permitted free travel on their migration path towards the West. Railways across Europe have issued more than 3.5 million free tickets to ease these difficult voyages to safety. The European rail community remains committed to expressing its solidarity towards Ukraine and its people and continues to support the ongoing international aid efforts in close cooperation with local, regional, national, and EU-level authorities as well as with fellow rail companies and other transport actors.

FREIGHT Services

Although volumes almost reached pre-crisis levels in December, they dropped again in March to **-9%**. Revenues however almost stabilised to their pre-crisis level between December 2021 and March 2022.

Sustained revenues in a context of decreasing volumes may however hide the repercussions of increasing energy costs on final prices (partly to the detriment of operators' margins).



CER Executive Director Alberto Mazzola said: "While it is encouraging to see that rail traffic is growing, with a strong increase in private long-distance rail passenger traffic, commuter services and business travel remain quite low compared to before the Covid crisis. Rail companies continue to accumulate losses in these fields and further evolution is important for the provision of public services. At the same time, the European rail community continues to express its solidarity towards the people of Ukraine and to support ongoing international and European aid efforts."

More information as well as previous reports are available on the CER website [here](https://www.cer.be).

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About CER

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together around 70 railway undertakings, their national associations as well as infrastructure managers and vehicle leasing companies. The membership is made up of long-established bodies, new entrants and both private and public enterprises, representing 79% of the rail network length, 77% of the rail freight business and about 90% of rail passenger operations in EU, EFTA and EU accession countries. CER represents the interests of its members towards EU policymakers and transport stakeholders, advocating rail as the backbone of a competitive and sustainable transport system in Europe. For more information, visit www.cer.be or follow us on Twitter [@CER_railways](https://twitter.com/CER_railways) or [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cer).