



TO: Board of Directors

DATE: February 19, 2020

FROM: Jim Derwinski, CEO/Executive Director *SDP*

SUBJECT: Ridership Trends Report – December 2019 and Annual Report 2019

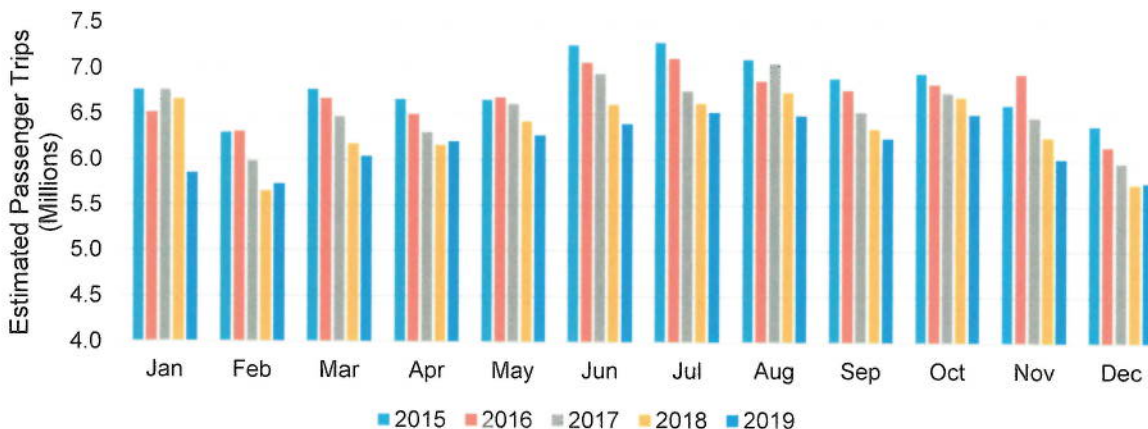
### RECOMMENDATION

Review Metra's December 2019 and Annual 2019 report on ridership trends (see Attachments A and B).

### BACKGROUND

Estimated passenger trips increased 0.4 percent in December 2019 compared to December 2018. December 2019 had one more weekday, one less Saturday, and the same number of Sundays/holidays compared to December 2018. Metra provided an estimated 74.0 million passenger trips in 2019, a 2.7 percent decrease compared to 2018. Metra ridership in 2019 was impacted by the lack of 10-Ride Ticket stockpiling compared to 2018 due to there being no fare increase; the Polar Vortex extreme winter weather event in January and February which caused significantly lower ridership and service disruptions; service changes and pilot service enhancements on the BNSF, MD-N, RI, and UP-NW lines; and free ride promotions on the weekend of February 16-17 and New Year's Eve.

Estimated Passenger Trips (thousands)



### ATTACHMENTS

A. Ridership Trends – December 2019

B. Ridership Trends – Annual Report 2019

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# **RIDERSHIP TRENDS**

**December 2019**



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## Executive Summary

Estimated passenger trips increased 0.4 percent in December 2019 compared to December 2018. December 2019 had one more weekday, one less Saturday, and the same number of Sundays/holidays compared to December 2018.

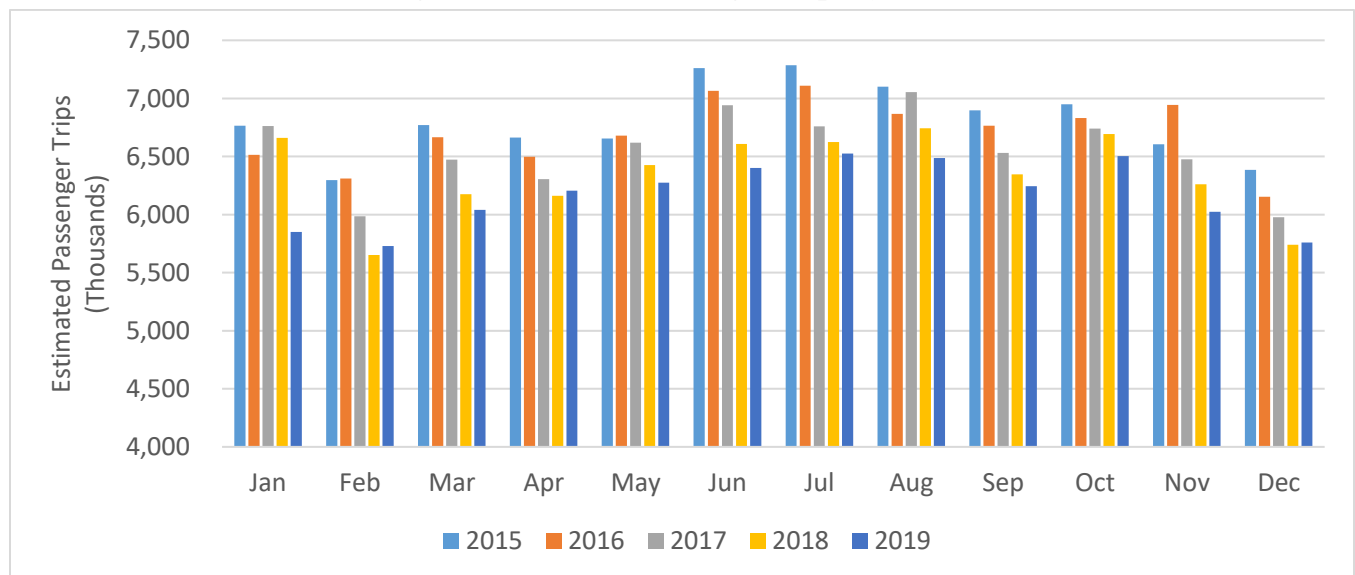
Estimated passenger trips decreased 2.2 percent in the last three months compared to 2018. Estimated passenger trips have decreased 2.7 percent in the last 12 months compared to the previous 12 months.

**Table 1: Estimated Passenger Trips by Month <sup>1</sup>**

Month	Estimated Passenger Trips (Thousands)					Change	
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015-2019	2018-2019
Jan	6,764	6,513	6,762	6,661	5,850	-13.5%	-12.2%
Feb	6,297	6,310	5,985	5,651	5,729	-9.0%	1.4%
Mar	6,770	6,666	6,474	6,176	6,040	-10.8%	-2.2%
Apr	6,663	6,497	6,305	6,162	6,205	-6.9%	0.7%
May	6,656	6,681	6,618	6,426	6,276	-5.7%	-2.3%
Jun	7,260	7,066	6,941	6,607	6,400	-11.8%	-3.1%
Jul	7,286	7,110	6,759	6,623	6,526	-10.4%	-1.5%
Aug	7,100	6,866	7,055	6,742	6,487	-8.6%	-3.8%
Sep	6,896	6,766	6,530	6,347	6,244	-9.5%	-1.6%
Oct	6,949	6,832	6,740	6,694	6,504	-6.4%	-2.8%
Nov	6,606	6,943	6,475	6,261	6,024	-8.8%	-3.8%
Dec	6,385	6,153	5,976	5,739	5,760	-9.8%	0.4%
<b>Last 3 Months</b>	<b>19,939</b>	<b>19,928</b>	<b>19,191</b>	<b>18,694</b>	<b>18,287</b>	<b>-8.3%</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>
<b>Last 12 Months</b>	<b>81,630</b>	<b>80,402</b>	<b>78,621</b>	<b>76,088</b>	<b>74,043</b>	<b>-9.3%</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded to the thousand. Change is calculated based on the unrounded values.

**Figure 1: Estimated Passenger Trips by Month**



For the 2019 budget year, Metra estimated total annual passenger trips to be 75.6 million. To track how well ridership is comparing to this budgeted amount, monthly estimates have been calculated by distributing the budgeted trips throughout the year based on the distribution in previous years. Unanticipated differences in holiday and special event travel are common explanations for variations between the monthly budget distribution and actual ridership. These effects are less pronounced at the quarterly and annual level. Table 2 shows the estimated monthly passenger trips compared to this distribution.

**Table 2: Estimated vs. Budget Passenger Trips <sup>1</sup>**

Month	Estimated Passenger Trips (Thousands)		Variance
	Budget (2019)	Actual (2019)	
Jan	6,400	5,850	-8.6%
Feb	5,700	5,729	0.5%
Mar	5,950	6,040	1.5%
<b>1st Quarter</b>	<b>18,050</b>	<b>17,619</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>
Apr	6,450	6,205	-3.8%
May	6,400	6,276	-1.9%
Jun	6,360	6,400	0.6%
<b>2nd Quarter</b>	<b>19,210</b>	<b>18,880</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>
Jul	6,830	6,526	-4.5%
Aug	6,490	6,487	0.0%
Sep	6,530	6,244	-4.4%
<b>3rd Quarter</b>	<b>19,850</b>	<b>19,257</b>	<b>-3.0%</b>
Oct	6,500	6,504	0.1%
Nov	5,970	6,024	0.9%
Dec	5,990	5,760	-3.8%
<b>4th Quarter</b>	<b>18,460</b>	<b>18,287</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,570</b>	<b>74,043</b>	<b>-2.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded to the thousand. Variance is calculated based on the unrounded values.

## **Ridership**

Estimated ridership figures are based on the number of ticket sales multiplied by a standard ridership factor unique to each ticket type, in addition to the number of RTA Ride Free Permit passenger trips reported by conductors.

### **Estimated Passenger Trips by Line**

Table 3 shows estimated passenger trips by line for the current month, the last three months, and the last 12 months. Estimated passenger trips decreased by 2.2 percent in the last three months compared to the previous year and decreased 2.7 percent in the last 12 months compared to the previous year.

**Table 3: Estimated Passenger Trips by Line**

Line	December			Last 3 Months			Last 12 Months		
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change
BNSF	1,171,105	1,186,538	1.3%	3,841,628	3,802,588	-1.0%	15,822,652	15,468,014	-2.2%
HC	53,444	56,895	6.5%	178,669	184,924	3.5%	728,467	734,098	0.8%
MD-N	504,880	513,936	1.8%	1,641,262	1,614,581	-1.6%	6,610,059	6,549,143	-0.9%
MD-W	459,410	458,340	-0.2%	1,499,731	1,451,183	-3.2%	6,143,996	5,904,808	-3.9%
ME	584,170	559,298	-4.3%	1,908,271	1,832,191	-4.0%	7,716,121	7,282,993	-5.6%
NCS	118,661	119,305	0.5%	399,974	388,791	-2.8%	1,640,984	1,589,905	-3.1%
RI	578,889	579,997	0.2%	1,858,949	1,805,459	-2.9%	7,578,330	7,338,133	-3.2%
SWS	184,239	178,873	-2.9%	598,385	580,275	-3.0%	2,420,921	2,356,767	-2.7%
UP-N	639,254	653,542	2.2%	2,122,596	2,112,703	-0.5%	8,689,776	8,552,117	-1.6%
UP-NW	825,010	828,630	0.4%	2,638,152	2,568,850	-2.6%	10,597,680	10,384,356	-2.0%
UP-W	620,323	624,760	0.7%	2,006,641	1,945,879	-3.0%	8,139,344	7,883,185	-3.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,739,384</b>	<b>5,760,110</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>18,694,256</b>	<b>18,287,422</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>	<b>76,088,329</b>	<b>74,043,516</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>

## Estimated Passenger Trips by Fare Zone Pair

Table 4 shows estimated passenger trips by fare zone pair for the current month, the last three months, and the last 12 months.

- The long-term decline in No Zone Pair passenger trips is expected to continue as data collection improvements and the shift to the Ventra App cause fewer trips to be reported without a zone pair.
- In July 2018, year-long testing of the zone consolidation policy began. All tickets for Zones K through M were capped to the price of Zone J tickets. This caused an increase in passenger trips for Zone A-J, and a decrease for passenger trips for Zones A-K and A-M. There are no stations in Zone L.

**Table 4: Estimated Passenger Trips by Fare Zone Pair <sup>1</sup>**

Zone Pair	December (Thousands)			Last 3 Months (Thousands)			Last 12 Months (Thousands)		
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change
A-A	16	19	23.4%	57	65	14.5%	237	252	6.0%
A-B	405	425	4.8%	1,379	1,387	0.6%	5,525	5,494	-0.5%
A-C	792	811	2.4%	2,599	2,603	0.2%	10,480	10,445	-0.3%
A-D	936	946	1.1%	3,103	3,060	-1.4%	12,672	12,403	-2.1%
A-E	1,218	1,217	-0.1%	3,994	3,936	-1.5%	16,152	16,053	-0.6%
A-F	698	695	-0.4%	2,376	2,267	-4.6%	9,793	9,267	-5.4%
A-G	431	429	-0.6%	1,447	1,405	-2.9%	5,916	5,789	-2.2%
A-H	357	363	1.6%	1,168	1,145	-2.0%	4,790	4,636	-3.2%
A-I	123	124	0.9%	402	386	-4.1%	1,637	1,561	-4.6%
A-J	53	55	3.5%	169	165	-2.6%	458	664	45.0%
A-K	-	-		-	-		177	-	-100.0%
A-M	-	-		-	-		43	-	-100.0%
A-J, K, & M	53	55	3.5%	169	165	-2.6%	678	664	-2.1%
Intermediate	163	159	-2.5%	562	531	-5.6%	2,312	2,174	-6.0%
No Zone Pair	547	518	-5.3%	1,438	1,339	-6.9%	5,897	5,306	-10.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,739</b>	<b>5,760</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>18,694</b>	<b>18,287</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>	<b>76,088</b>	<b>74,044</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded to the thousand. Change is calculated based on the unrounded values.

## Estimated Passenger Trips by Ticket Type

Table 5 shows estimated passenger trips by ticket type for the current month, the last three months, and the last 12 months. Special event tickets and other data irregularities can affect month-to-month comparisons of passenger trips by ticket type:

- Stockpiling of 10-Ride Tickets occurred in advance of the 2017 and 2018 fare increases. As a result, 10-Ride Ticket passenger revenue and ticket sales were overstated in January 2018 and understated in subsequent months. As there was no fare increase in 2019, February 10-Ride Ticket sales were not reduced by stockpiling in January 2019 as they have been in previous years.

**Table 5: Estimated Passenger Trips by Ticket Type <sup>1</sup>**

Ticket Type	December (Thousands)					Last 3 Months (Thousands)				
	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019
Monthly Pass	3,214	3,129	-2.7%	56.4%	54.7%	10,894	10,544	-3.2%	58.4%	57.9%
10-Ride Ticket	1,375	1,433	4.2%	24.1%	25.1%	4,515	4,462	-1.2%	24.2%	24.5%
One-Way Ticket	769	827	7.6%	13.5%	14.5%	2,353	2,353	0.0%	12.6%	12.9%
Weekend Pass	273	265	-3.1%	4.8%	4.6%	684	645	-5.8%	3.7%	3.5%
Special Passes	-	-		0.0%	0.0%	0	0	395.2%	0.0%	0.0%
RTA Ride Free Permit	66	66	-0.3%	1.2%	1.2%	218	213	-2.2%	1.2%	1.2%
<b>Total <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>5,698</b>	<b>5,720</b>	<b>0.4%</b>			<b>18,664</b>	<b>18,218</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>		

Ticket Type	Last 12 Months (Thousands)				
	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019
Monthly Pass	44,395	43,139	-2.8%	58.3%	58.3%
10-Ride Ticket	18,438	17,962	-2.6%	24.2%	24.3%
One-Way Ticket	9,512	9,452	-0.6%	12.5%	12.8%
Weekend Pass	2,801	2,527	-9.8%	3.7%	3.4%
Special Passes	90	84	-7.4%	0.1%	0.1%
RTA Ride Free Permit	882	857	-2.8%	1.2%	1.2%
<b>Total <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>76,119</b>	<b>74,021</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded to the thousand. Change and share are calculated based on the unrounded values.

<sup>2</sup> Passenger trip totals differ from those presented in other tables in this report, due to adjustments made for group sales, marketing sales, and refunds.



## Passenger Loads

Table 6 shows the average daily passenger loads by service period for the current month, the last three months, and the last 12 months, derived from conductor counts. Average peak-peak direction passenger loads decreased 2.1 percent in the current month, and average total weekday passenger loads decreased 1.9 percent in the same period.

**Table 6: Average Daily Passenger Loads <sup>1</sup>**

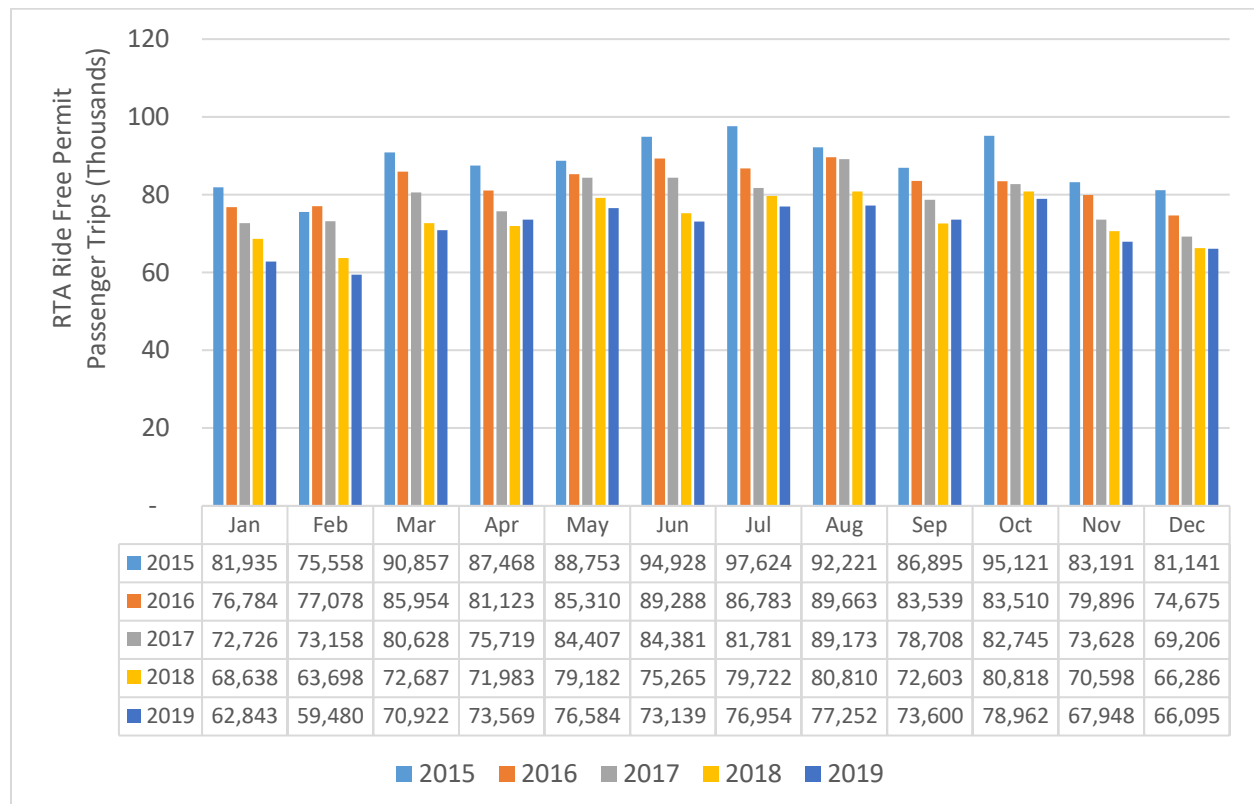
Service Period	December (Thousands)			Last 3 Months (Thousands)			Last 12 Months (Thousands)		
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change
Peak - Peak Direction	181	177	-2.1%	201	200	-0.6%	211	209	-1.2%
Peak - Reverse Direction	18	17	-1.9%	19	19	0.8%	20	19	-3.6%
Midday	32	32	-0.6%	32	32	0.1%	31	31	-1.9%
Evening	15	15	-1.3%	15	15	-1.3%	16	15	-4.2%
<b>Weekday</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>
Saturday	63	64	2.1%	58	58	0.5%	60	62	3.5%
Sunday	38	37	-2.8%	37	37	0.2%	38	38	-1.4%

<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded to the thousand. Change is calculated based on the unrounded values.

## RTA Ride Free Permit Free Trips

Figure 2 shows the number of RTA Ride Free Permit passenger trips for the last five years. Trips are included in ridership estimates because Metra is eligible for reimbursement for the number provided.

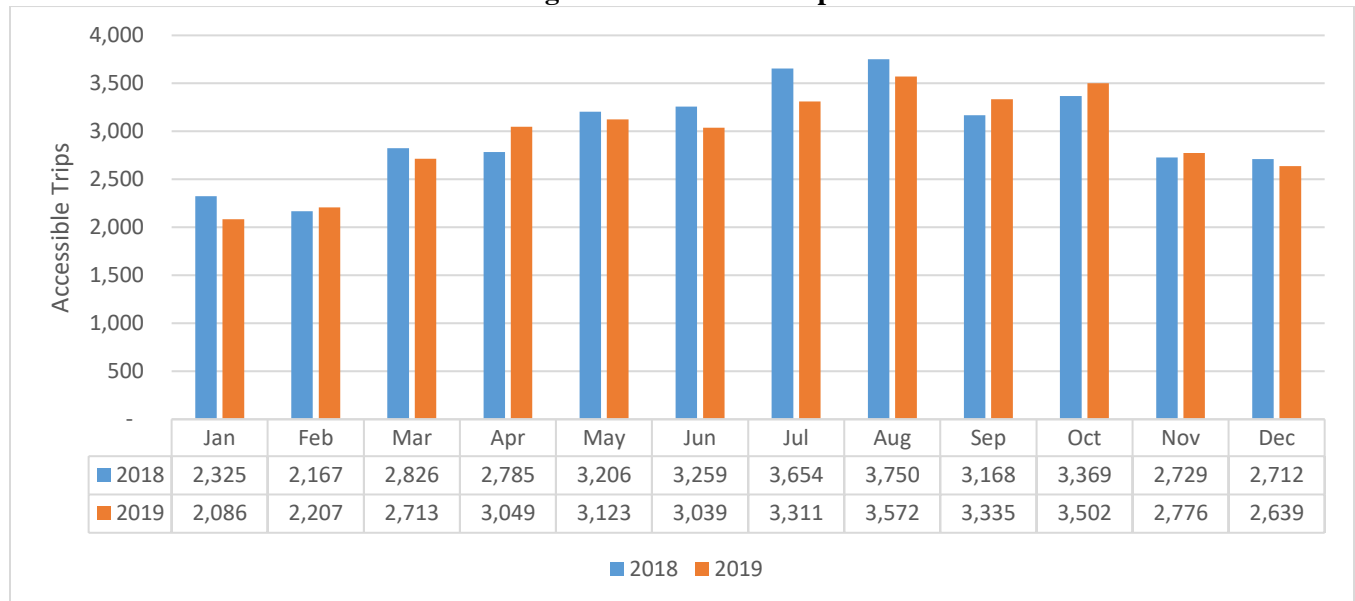
**Figure 2: RTA Ride Free Permit Passenger Trip**



## Accessible Trips

Figure 3 shows the number of trips provided using accessible equipment. Accessible equipment consists of bridge plates on the Metra Electric Line and wheelchair lifts on all other lines.

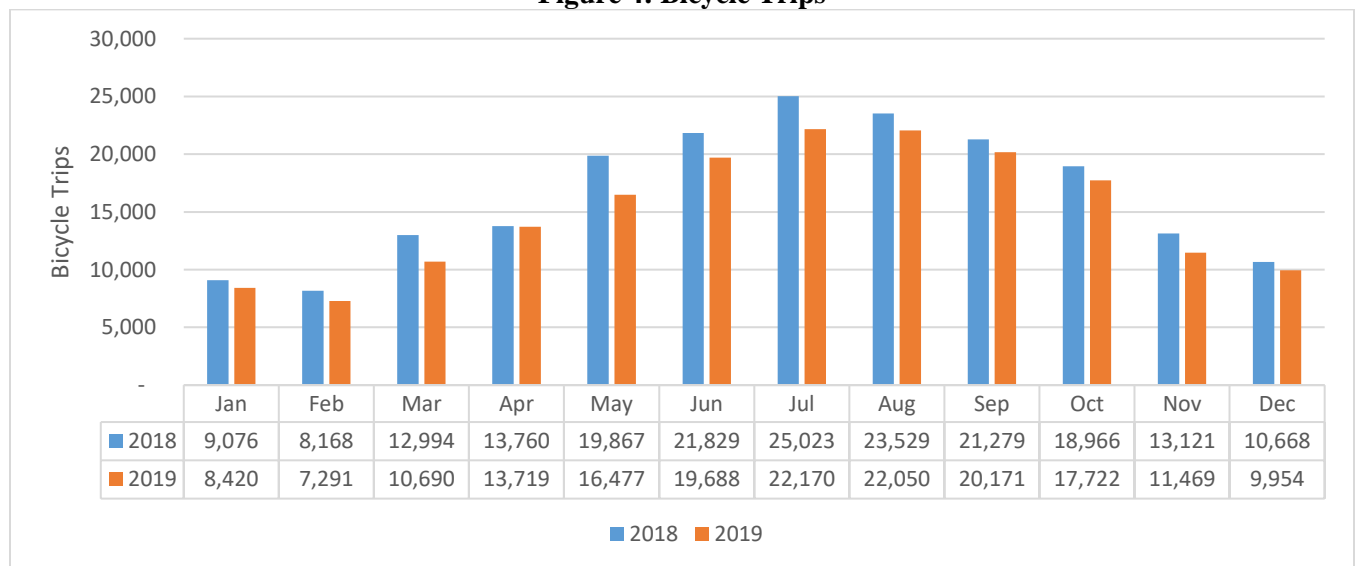
**Figure 3: Accessible Trips**



## Bicycle Trips

Figure 4 shows the number of trips provided where the passenger transported a bicycle.

**Figure 4: Bicycle Trips**



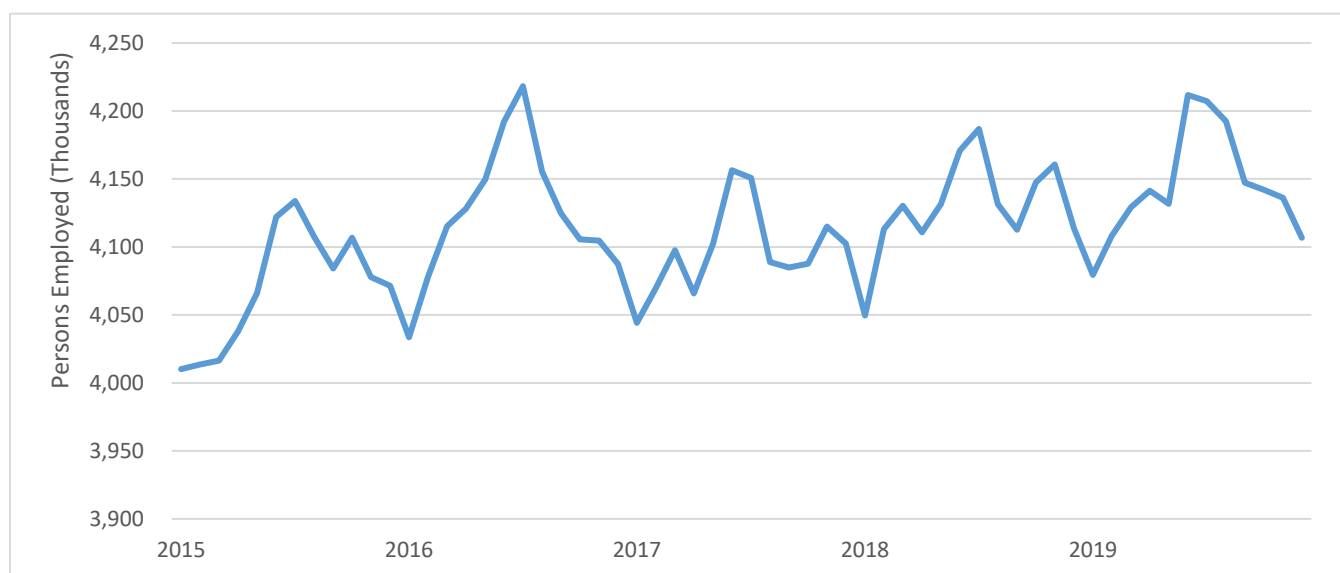
## Ridership Influences

Many different factors (such as the employment, gas prices, road construction, service changes, and special events) can influence ridership trends.

### **Employment**

Figure 5 shows the number of persons employed in the six-county Chicago Region. The number of persons employed decreased 0.2 percent in December 2019 compared to December 2018.

**Figure 5: Persons Employed in the Chicago Region <sup>1</sup>**



Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year-to-date Average
2015	4,010	4,014	4,016	4,038	4,066	4,122	4,134	4,108	4,084	4,107	4,078	4,072	4,071
2016	4,033	4,078	4,115	4,128	4,150	4,192	4,218	4,155	4,125	4,106	4,105	4,087	4,124
2017	4,044	4,070	4,098	4,066	4,102	4,156	4,151	4,089	4,085	4,088	4,115	4,102	4,097
2018	4,050	4,113	4,130	4,111	4,131	4,171	4,187	4,131	4,113	4,147	4,161	4,113	4,130
2019	4,079	4,108	4,129	4,141	4,132	4,212	4,207	4,193	4,146	4,136	4,136	4,107	4,144
Change 2018-2019	0.7%	-0.1%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	1.0%	0.5%	1.5%	0.8%	-0.3%	-0.6%	-0.2%	0.3%

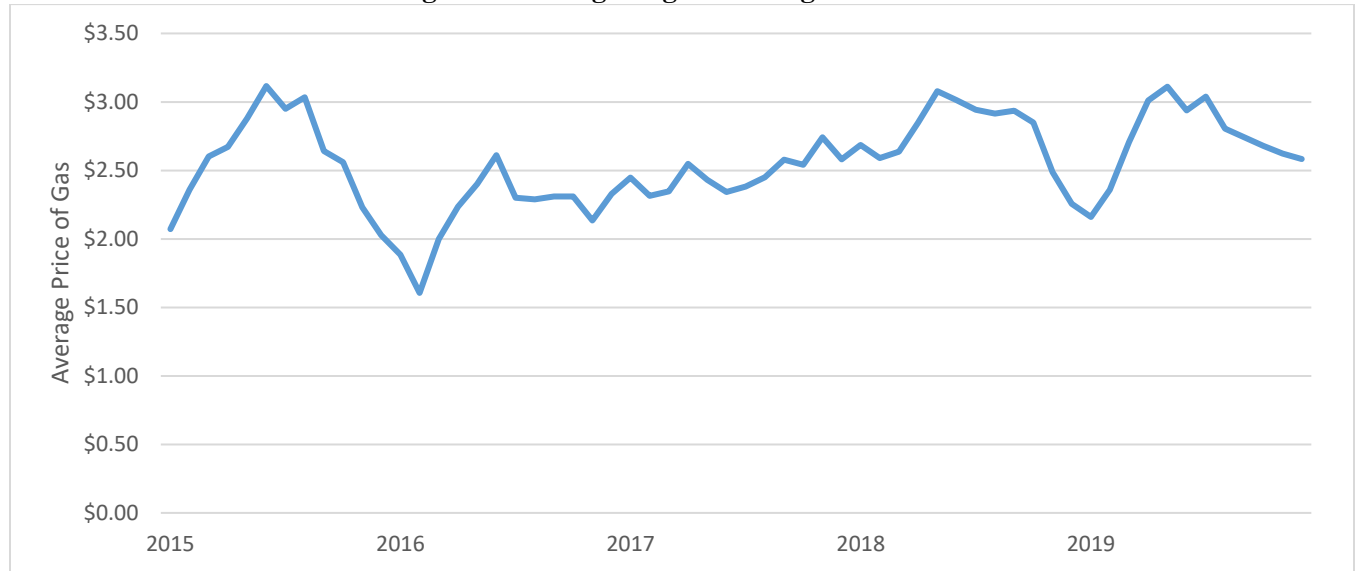
<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded to the thousand. Change is calculated based on the unrounded values.

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security

## Gas Prices

Figure 6 shows the average price of unleaded regular gas for the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area. The average price of a gallon of regular unleaded gas was \$2.58 in December 2019, a \$0.33 increase compared to December 2018.

**Figure 6: Chicago Region Average Gas Prices**



Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year-to-date Average
2015	\$3.45	\$3.52	\$3.83	\$3.95	\$3.86	\$3.99	\$3.71	\$3.57	\$3.61	\$3.30	\$3.00	\$2.57	\$3.53
2016	\$1.89	\$1.61	\$2.00	\$2.24	\$2.40	\$2.61	\$2.30	\$2.29	\$2.31	\$2.31	\$2.14	\$2.33	\$2.20
2017	\$2.45	\$2.32	\$2.35	\$2.55	\$2.43	\$2.34	\$2.38	\$2.45	\$2.58	\$2.54	\$2.74	\$2.58	\$2.48
2018	\$2.69	\$2.59	\$2.64	\$2.85	\$3.08	\$3.01	\$2.94	\$2.92	\$2.94	\$2.85	\$2.49	\$2.26	\$2.77
2019	\$2.16	\$2.36	\$2.71	\$3.01	\$3.11	\$2.94	\$3.04	\$2.81	\$2.74	\$2.68	\$2.62	\$2.58	\$2.73
<b>Change 2018-2019</b>	<b>-\$0.52</b>	<b>-\$0.23</b>	<b>\$0.07</b>	<b>\$0.16</b>	<b>\$0.03</b>	<b>-\$0.07</b>	<b>\$0.10</b>	<b>-\$0.11</b>	<b>-\$0.19</b>	<b>-\$0.17</b>	<b>\$0.14</b>	<b>\$0.33</b>	<b>-\$0.04</b>

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## **Road Construction**

No new roadway construction projects of regional significance began in December. The following projects are either under construction or were recently completed:

- Jane Byrne Interchange Reconfiguration – In 2015, work began on a major reconfiguration of the Jane Byrne Interchange. Work is expected to continue through 2022.

## **Service Changes**

On June 1, weekend service on the BNSF, Rock Island, and UP-NW lines was increased as part of a pilot project to increase weekend ridership. The pilot project was continued for the BNSF and UP-NW after September 3 with minor adjustments to run times and scheduled stops. The pilot project was discontinued for the Rock Island Line as of September 3, although one additional Saturday morning train was retained on the schedule.

A two-year reverse-commute pilot project began March 4 on the Milwaukee District-North. The Milwaukee District-North schedule was adjusted to add two outbound morning express trains between Union Station and Lake Forest, and one inbound evening train.

## **Special Events and Promotions**

Family Fares started Dec 21.

Metra offered \$10 unlimited ride passes for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, December 24 and 25.

For New Year's Eve (Dec 31), one additional outbound train was added to the Rock Island.

Free rides were offered for New Year's Eve (Dec 31) on any trains operating at 6 p.m. or later. An estimated 29,399 passengers boarded trains during this period, a 20 percent increase compared to 2018, when regular fares were in effect.

## **Passenger Revenue and Ticket Sales**

Changes in fares, ticket policies, and ticket sales channels can affect passenger revenue and ticket sales trends:

- In June 2018, Metra stopped selling Monthly Passes and 10-Ride Tickets from vending machines at 15 non-downtown stations on the Metra Electric Line.
- In June 2018, Metra ended its Ticket-by-Internet program.
- In July 2018, yearlong testing of the zone consolidation policy began. All tickets from Zone A to Zones K through M were capped at the price of Zone J tickets.
- In July 2018, select stations with perceived inconsistencies in distance from downtown were reassigned to closer zones. Ashland, Racine, West Pullman, Stewart Ridge and State Street stations moved from Zone D to C. On the Metra Electric mainline, the 83rd Street and 87th Street stations were moved from Zone C to B. On the Rock Island Beverly Branch, the 123rd Street Station was moved from Zone D to C.
- In December 2018, an update to the Ventra app ended the option for purchasing mobile tickets without creating a Ventra account.
- Customers on the Metra Electric Line received a 15 percent discount on their April 2019 Monthly Pass. The discount was offered as compensation for two weeks of service disruptions in January and February, including all or part of six days without any service, caused by unusually severe weather conditions and damage from the derailment of a CN train.
- On the weekend of February 16-17, 2019 Metra offered free rides on all trains. Ridership from the weekend of February 16-17 is not included in the quantity of Weekend Passes sold in February 2019 as passengers were not required to purchase a ticket.
- On June 1, 2019 Metra began allowing monthly pass holders to use their ticket to travel anywhere in the system on weekends, where previously travel was restricted to the zones on the ticket.

Special event tickets and other data irregularities can affect month-to-month comparisons of passenger revenue and ticket sales figures:

- Stockpiling of 10-Ride Tickets occurred in advance of the 2017 and 2018 fare increases. As a result, 10-Ride Ticket passenger revenue and ticket sales were overstated in January 2018 and understated in subsequent months. As there was no fare increase in 2019, May 10-Ride Ticket sales were not reduced by stockpiling in January 2019 as they have been in previous years.

## **Passenger Revenue**

Table 7 shows passenger revenue by line for the current month, the last three months, and the last 12 months.

**Table 7: Passenger Revenue by Line <sup>1</sup>**

Line	December (Thousands)			Last 3 Months (Thousands)			Last 12 Months (Thousands)		
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change
BNSF	\$5,922	\$6,035	1.9%	\$19,391	\$19,223	-0.9%	\$79,382	\$78,227	-1.5%
HC	\$280	\$299	6.7%	\$940	\$974	3.7%	\$3,808	\$3,860	1.4%
MD-N	\$2,569	\$2,642	2.8%	\$8,363	\$8,248	-1.4%	\$33,587	\$33,472	-0.3%
MD-W	\$2,313	\$2,319	0.3%	\$7,550	\$7,328	-2.9%	\$30,877	\$29,844	-3.3%
ME	\$2,619	\$2,534	-3.3%	\$8,555	\$8,206	-4.1%	\$34,540	\$32,566	-5.7%
NCS	\$676	\$688	1.8%	\$2,280	\$2,233	-2.0%	\$9,349	\$9,107	-2.6%
RI	\$2,727	\$2,747	0.7%	\$8,780	\$8,527	-2.9%	\$35,653	\$34,753	-2.5%
SWS	\$863	\$843	-2.3%	\$2,805	\$2,724	-2.9%	\$11,314	\$11,080	-2.1%
UP-N	\$2,890	\$2,962	2.5%	\$9,566	\$9,524	-0.4%	\$38,957	\$38,690	-0.7%
UP-NW	\$4,274	\$4,304	0.7%	\$13,616	\$13,254	-2.7%	\$54,583	\$53,699	-1.6%
UP-W	\$3,113	\$3,150	1.2%	\$10,052	\$9,753	-3.0%	\$40,601	\$39,573	-2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,247</b>	<b>\$28,523</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>\$91,898</b>	<b>\$89,995</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>	<b>\$372,652</b>	<b>\$364,871</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded to the thousand. Change is calculated based on the unrounded values.

Table 8 shows passenger revenue by ticket type for the current month, the last three months, and the last 12 months.

**Table 8: Passenger Revenue by Ticket Type <sup>1</sup>**

Ticket Type	December (Thousands)					Last 3 Months (Thousands)				
	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019
Monthly Pass	\$13,990	\$13,581	-2.9%	49.7%	47.7%	\$47,535	\$45,875	-3.5%	51.7%	51.1%
10-Ride Ticket	\$8,214	\$8,544	4.0%	29.2%	30.0%	\$26,815	\$26,512	-1.1%	29.2%	29.5%
One-Way Ticket	\$4,879	\$5,267	8.0%	17.3%	18.5%	\$14,806	\$14,845	0.3%	16.1%	16.5%
Weekend Pass	\$1,092	\$1,058	-3.2%	3.9%	3.7%	\$2,736	\$2,579	-5.8%	3.0%	2.9%
Special Passes	-	-		0.0%	0.0%	\$0	\$1	395.2%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Total <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$28,175</b>	<b>\$28,450</b>	<b>1.0%</b>			<b>\$91,894</b>	<b>\$89,812</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>		

Ticket Type	Last 12 Months (Thousands)				
	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019
Monthly Pass	\$193,277	\$188,027	-2.7%	51.8%	51.5%
10-Ride Ticket	\$108,554	\$106,938	-1.5%	29.1%	29.3%
One-Way Ticket	\$59,617	\$59,404	-0.4%	16.0%	16.3%
Weekend Pass	\$11,046	\$10,099	-8.6%	3.0%	2.8%
Special Passes	\$506	\$401	-20.6%	0.1%	0.1%
<b>Total <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$373,000</b>	<b>\$364,870</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded to the thousand. Change and share are calculated based on the unrounded values.

<sup>2</sup> Passenger revenue totals differ from those presented in other tables in this report, due to adjustments made for group sales, marketing sales, and refunds.

Table 9 shows passenger revenue by ticket type and sales channel for the current month 2018 and 2019.

**Table 9: Passenger Revenue by Ticket Type and Sales Channel (Current Month) <sup>1</sup>**

Sales Channel	Monthly Pass (Thousands)					10-Ride Ticket (Thousands)				
	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019
Commuter Benefit	\$4,819	\$4,498	-6.7%	34.4%	33.1%	\$623	\$603	-3.3%	7.6%	7.1%
Conductor	-	-		0.0%	0.0%	-	-		0.0%	0.0%
Ticket Agent	\$4,289	\$3,784	-11.8%	30.7%	27.9%	\$2,252	\$2,146	-4.7%	27.4%	25.1%
Vending Machine	\$486	\$415	-14.6%	3.5%	3.1%	\$362	\$285	-21.5%	4.4%	3.3%
Ventra App	\$4,396	\$4,883	11.1%	31.4%	36.0%	\$4,977	\$5,511	10.7%	60.6%	64.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,990</b>	<b>\$13,581</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>			<b>\$8,214</b>	<b>\$8,544</b>	<b>4.0%</b>		
Sales Channel	One-Way Ticket (Thousands)					Weekend, Special, Ravinia Passes (Thousands)				
	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019
Commuter Benefit	-	-		0.0%	0.0%	-	-		0.0%	0.0%
Conductor	\$974	\$889	-8.7%	20.0%	16.9%	\$529	\$522	-1.4%	51.8%	49.3%
Ticket Agent	\$1,358	\$1,317	-3.0%	27.8%	25.0%	\$99	\$81	-18.6%	9.7%	7.6%
Vending Machine	\$172	\$147	-14.7%	3.5%	2.8%	\$38	\$27	-28.5%	3.7%	2.5%
Ventra App	\$2,375	\$2,914	22.7%	48.7%	55.3%	\$356	\$429	20.3%	34.9%	40.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,879</b>	<b>\$5,267</b>	<b>8.0%</b>			<b>\$1,022</b>	<b>\$1,058</b>	<b>3.5%</b>		

Sales Channel	All Ticket Types (Thousands)				
	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019
Commuter Benefit	\$5,443	\$5,101	-6.3%	19.4%	17.9%
Conductor	\$1,503	\$1,411	-6.1%	5.3%	5.0%
Ticket Agent	\$7,998	\$7,328	-8.4%	28.5%	25.8%
Vending Machine	\$1,058	\$873	-17.5%	3.8%	3.1%
Ventra App	\$12,104	\$13,736	13.5%	43.1%	48.3%
<b>Total <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$28,105</b>	<b>\$28,450</b>	<b>1.2%</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded to the thousand. Change and share are calculated based on the unrounded values.

<sup>2</sup> Passenger revenue totals differ from those presented in other tables in this report, due to adjustments made for group sales, marketing sales, and refunds



## Ticket Sales

Table 10 shows ticket sales by ticket type for the current month, the last three months, and the last 12 months. Monthly Pass sales decreased by 2.7 percent in the current month compared to the previous year, and 10-Ride Ticket sales increased by 4.2 percent in the same period.

**Table 10: Ticket Sales by Ticket Type <sup>1</sup>**

Ticket Type	December (Thousands)					Last 3 Months (Thousands)				
	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019
Monthly Pass	75	73	-2.7%	6.9%	6.3%	253	245	-3.2%	7.6%	7.4%
10-Ride Ticket	137	143	4.2%	12.6%	12.5%	451	446	-1.2%	13.6%	13.5%
One-Way Ticket	769	827	7.6%	70.5%	72.0%	2,353	2,353	0.0%	70.6%	71.3%
Weekend Pass	109	106	-3.1%	10.0%	9.2%	274	258	-5.8%	8.2%	7.8%
Special Passes	-	-		0.0%	0.0%	0	0	381.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>5.4%</b>			<b>3,331</b>	<b>3,303</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>		

Ticket Type	Last 12 Months (Thousands)				
	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019
Monthly Pass	1,032	1,003	-2.8%	7.6%	7.5%
10-Ride Ticket	1,844	1,796	-2.6%	13.6%	13.5%
One-Way Ticket	9,512	9,452	-0.6%	70.2%	71.1%
Weekend Pass	1,120	1,011	-9.8%	8.3%	7.6%
Special Passes	40	36	-8.7%	0.3%	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,548</b>	<b>13,299</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded to the thousand. Change and share are calculated based on the unrounded values.

Tables 11 details ticket sales by line and ticket type.

**Table 11: Ticket Sales by Ticket Type and Line (Current Month)**

Monthly Pass				10-Ride Ticket			
Line	2018	2019	Change	Line	2018	2019	Change
BNSF	16,308	16,039	-1.6%	BNSF	29,547	30,881	4.5%
HC	910	941	3.4%	HC	1,113	1,321	18.7%
MD-N	5,839	5,707	-2.3%	MD-N	13,853	14,894	7.5%
MD-W	5,939	5,692	-4.2%	MD-W	9,353	9,645	3.1%
ME	7,682	7,317	-4.8%	ME	10,851	10,882	0.3%
NCS	1,635	1,589	-2.8%	NCS	3,050	3,222	5.6%
RI	8,862	8,632	-2.6%	RI	10,547	10,762	2.0%
SWS	2,887	2,721	-5.7%	SWS	3,782	3,917	3.6%
UP-N	6,953	6,930	-0.3%	UP-N	20,142	21,020	4.4%
UP-NW	10,051	9,750	-3.0%	UP-NW	19,810	20,219	2.1%
UP-W	7,685	7,448	-3.1%	UP-W	15,450	16,549	7.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,751</b>	<b>72,766</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>137,498</b>	<b>143,312</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
One-Way Ticket (Mobile & Station)				One-Way Ticket (Conductor)			
Line	2018	2019	Change	Line	2018	2019	Change
BNSF	103,290	118,059	14.3%	BNSF	16,253	14,370	-11.6%
HC	2,757	2,909	5.5%	HC	319	199	-37.6%
MD-N	56,420	65,927	16.9%	MD-N	17,332	14,228	-17.9%
MD-W	52,057	59,217	13.8%	MD-W	17,167	15,369	-10.5%
ME	78,569	85,338	8.6%	ME	20,756	17,929	-13.6%
NCS	10,229	11,682	14.2%	NCS	4,692	3,750	-20.1%
RI	52,206	57,361	9.9%	RI	11,424	13,047	14.2%
SWS	13,408	14,953	11.5%	SWS	3,738	3,183	-14.8%
UP-N	69,046	78,042	13.0%	UP-N	29,723	26,767	-9.9%
UP-NW	96,715	109,177	12.9%	UP-NW	26,491	23,537	-11.2%
UP-W	68,401	77,291	13.0%	UP-W	18,022	15,059	-16.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>603,098</b>	<b>679,956</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>165,917</b>	<b>147,438</b>	<b>-11.1%</b>
Weekend, Special, Ravinia Passes (Mobile & Station)				Weekend, Special, Ravinia Passes (Conductor)			
Line	2018	2019	Change	Line	2018	2019	Change
BNSF	11,147	10,654	-4.4%	BNSF	5,835	5,983	2.5%
HC	-	-		HC	-	-	
MD-N	6,807	6,201	-8.9%	MD-N	6,223	6,200	-0.4%
MD-W	5,337	5,411	1.4%	MD-W	6,378	6,106	-4.3%
ME	6,353	5,095	-19.8%	ME	2,398	2,201	-8.2%
NCS	-	-		NCS	-	-	
RI	3,272	3,325	1.6%	RI	3,470	4,391	26.5%
SWS	249	177	-28.9%	SWS	493	270	-45.2%
UP-N	4,887	4,406	-9.8%	UP-N	6,398	6,428	0.5%
UP-NW	10,889	11,517	5.8%	UP-NW	13,243	13,500	1.9%
UP-W	7,373	6,924	-6.1%	UP-W	8,486	7,111	-16.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,314</b>	<b>53,710</b>	<b>-4.6%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>52,924</b>	<b>52,190</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>

Tables 12 and 13 show ticket sales by ticket type, sales channel, and tender type for the current month and year-to-date 2018 and 2019. Tables 14 and 15 show total ticket sales by sales channel and tender type for the current month and year-to-date 2018 and 2019.

**Table 12: Ticket Sales by Ticket Type, Sales Channel, and Tender Type (Current Month)**<sup>1, 2</sup>

Sales Channel	Monthly Pass (Thousands)					10-Ride Ticket (Thousands)				
	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019
Commuter Benefit	25	24	-6.5%	33.7%	32.3%	10	9	-3.7%	7.1%	6.6%
Conductor	-	-				-	-			
Ticket Agent	23	21	-11.3%	31.3%	28.5%	39	38	-4.3%	28.6%	26.3%
<i>Cash &amp; Other</i>	4	3	-23.7%			6	5	-14.0%		
<i>Credit Card</i>	20	18	-9.0%			33	33	-2.5%		
Vending Machine	3	2	-14.5%	3.5%	3.1%	6	5	-21.1%	4.3%	3.3%
Ventra App	24	26	11.5%	31.5%	36.1%	82	92	11.2%	59.9%	63.9%
<i>Credit Card</i>	22	25	14.6%			78	87	11.4%		
<i>Mixed &amp; Other</i>	1	0	-70.3%			1	0	-63.5%		
<i>Ventra</i>	1	1	29.7%			3	4	23.8%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>-2.6%</b>			<b>137</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>4.3%</b>		
Sales Channel	One-Way Ticket (Thousands)					Weekend, Special, Ravinia Passes (Thousands)				
	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019
Commuter Benefit	-	-				-	-			
Conductor	166	147	-11.1%	21.6%	17.8%	53	52	-1.4%	48.4%	49.3%
Ticket Agent	208	203	-2.4%	27.1%	24.6%	10	8	-17.6%	9.1%	7.7%
<i>Cash &amp; Other</i>	115	107	-7.7%			5	4	-20.8%		
<i>Credit Card</i>	93	97	4.3%			5	4	-14.1%		
Vending Machine	26	22	-15.4%	3.4%	2.7%	4	3	-28.5%	3.4%	2.5%
Ventra App	369	454	23.3%	47.9%	54.9%	43	43	0.5%	39.1%	40.5%
<i>Credit Card</i>	336	418	24.1%			40	41	1.4%		
<i>Mixed &amp; Other</i>	2	1	-23.8%			0	0	-27.8%		
<i>Ventra</i>	30	35	17.1%			2	2	-13.7%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>7.6%</b>			<b>109</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded to the thousand. Change and share are calculated based on the unrounded values.

<sup>2</sup> As of July 1, 2019, the Mixed & Other category no longer includes transactions with multiple credit cards. These transactions are now included in "Credit Card".

**Table 13: Ticket Sales by Ticket Type, Sales Channel, and Tender Type (Year-to-date) <sup>1</sup>**

Sales Channel	Monthly Pass (Thousands)					10-Ride Ticket (Thousands)				
	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019
Commuter Benefit	321	301	-6.0%	31.1%	30.0%	125	118	-5.3%	6.8%	6.6%
Conductor	-	-				-	-			
Internet	17	-	-100%	1.6%		7	-	-100%	0.4%	
Ticket Agent	325	305	-6.3%	31.5%	30.4%	559	484	-13.4%	30.3%	26.9%
<i>Cash &amp; Other</i>	54	41	-24.2%			89	70	-22.0%		
<i>Credit Card</i>	271	264	-2.7%			470	415	-11.8%		
Vending Machine	38	32	-15.8%	3.6%	3.1%	86	67	-22.1%	4.7%	3.7%
Ventra App	332	366	10.1%	32.2%	36.4%	1,067	1,127	5.6%	57.9%	62.8%
<i>Credit Card</i>	303	342	12.9%			1,011	1,071	6.0%		
<i>Mixed &amp; Other</i>	19	9	-50.9%			13	7	-45.5%		
<i>Ventra</i>	10	14	38.5%			43	49	13.9%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>			<b>1,844</b>	<b>1,796</b>	<b>-2.6%</b>		
Sales Channel	One-Way Ticket (Thousands)					Weekend, Special, Ravinia Passes (Thousands)				
	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019	2018	2019	Change	Share 2018	Share 2019
Commuter Benefit	-	-				-	-			
Conductor	2,153	1,815	-15.7%	22.6%	19.2%	584	476	-18.5%	50.3%	45.2%
Internet	-	-				-	-			
Ticket Agent	2,704	2,384	-11.8%	28.4%	25.2%	155	127	-18.4%	13.4%	12.1%
<i>Cash &amp; Other</i>	1,510	1,288	-14.7%			79	63	-20.7%		
<i>Credit Card</i>	1,194	1,096	-8.2%			77	64	-16.0%		
Vending Machine	340	275	-18.9%	3.6%	2.9%	34	25	-26.7%	2.9%	2.4%
Ventra App	4,315	4,978	15.4%	45.4%	52.7%	388	425	9.6%	33.4%	40.4%
<i>Credit Card</i>	3,881	4,542	17.0%			361	401	11.0%		
<i>Mixed &amp; Other</i>	30	20	-33.3%			3	2	-32.3%		
<i>Ventra</i>	404	416	2.8%			24	22	-7.1%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,512</b>	<b>9,452</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>			<b>1,161</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>-9.3%</b>		

<sup>1</sup> As of July 1, 2019, the Mixed & Other category no longer includes transactions with multiple credit cards. These transactions are now included in "Credit Card".

**Table 14: Total Ticket Sales by Sales Channel and Tender Type (Current Month)** <sup>1, 2</sup>

Sales Channel	All Ticket Types (Thousands)			Share	Share
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019
Commuter Benefit	35	33	-5.7%	3.2%	2.9%
Conductor	219	200	-8.8%	20.1%	17.4%
Ticket Agent	281	270	-3.9%	25.8%	23.5%
<i>Cash &amp; Other</i>	130	119	-9.0%		
<i>Credit Card</i>	151	151	0.5%		
Vending Machine	39	32	-17.5%	3.5%	2.8%
Ventra App	517	615	18.9%	47.4%	53.5%
<i>Credit Card</i>	476	570	19.7%		
<i>Mixed &amp; Other</i>	4	2	-44.5%		
<i>Ventra</i>	37	43	16.2%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>5.4%</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded to the thousand. Change and share are calculated based on the unrounded values.

<sup>2</sup> As of July 1, 2019, the Mixed & Other category no longer includes transactions with multiple credit cards. These transactions are now included in “Credit Card”.

**Table 15: Total Ticket Sales by Sales Channel and Tender Type (Year-to-date)** <sup>1, 2</sup>

Sales Channel	All Ticket Types (Thousands)			Share	Share
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019
Commuter Benefit	445	419	-5.8%	3.3%	3.2%
Conductor	2,737	2,291	-16.3%	20.2%	17.2%
Internet	23	-	-100%	0.2%	
Ticket Agent	3,744	3,300	-11.9%	27.6%	24.8%
<i>Cash &amp; Other</i>	1,732	1,461	-15.7%		
<i>Credit Card</i>	2,012	1,839	-8.6%		
Vending Machine	497	399	-19.8%	3.7%	3.0%
Ventra App	6,102	6,896	13.0%	45.0%	51.8%
<i>Credit Card</i>	5,556	6,357	14.4%		
<i>Mixed &amp; Other</i>	65	38	-41.0%		
<i>Ventra</i>	481	500	4.1%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,549</b>	<b>13,305</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded to the thousand. Change and share are calculated based on the unrounded values.

<sup>2</sup> As of July 1, 2019, the Mixed & Other category no longer includes transactions with multiple credit cards. These transactions are now included in “Credit Card”.

### *Link-Up and PlusBus Sales*

Sales of CTA Link-Up passes decreased by 9.1 percent in the current month compared to the previous year, and sales of Pace PlusBus passes decreased by 2.5 percent in the same period. Table 16 shows Link-Up and PlusBus sales by month for 2018 and 2019.

**Table 16: Link-Up and PlusBus Sales**

Month	2018		2019		Change		Mobile Share (2019)	
	Link-Up	PlusBus	Link-Up	PlusBus	Link-Up	PlusBus	Link-Up	PlusBus
Jan	3,090	1,177	2,836	1,057	-8.2%	-10.2%	27.5%	23.4%
Feb	3,120	1,155	2,867	1,046	-8.1%	-9.4%	29.0%	23.6%
Mar	3,109	1,188	2,873	1,062	-7.6%	-10.6%	29.1%	24.1%
Apr	3,051	1,148	2,843	1,053	-6.8%	-8.3%	27.6%	24.7%
May	2,964	1,107	2,759	1,012	-6.9%	-8.6%	28.1%	24.7%
Jun	2,908	1,068	2,658	1,020	-8.6%	-4.5%	27.5%	24.6%
Jul	2,812	1,038	2,636	965	-6.3%	-7.0%	29.5%	24.5%
Aug	2,820	1,060	2,668	998	-5.4%	-5.8%	29.5%	25.9%
Sep	2,798	1,063	2,615	998	-6.5%	-6.1%	29.7%	25.4%
Oct	2,899	1,111	2,641	1,020	-8.9%	-8.2%	30.3%	26.9%
Nov	2,925	1,070	2,707	1,011	-7.5%	-5.5%	31.3%	27.0%
Dec	2,699	922	2,454	899	-9.1%	-2.5%	31.6%	26.9%
<b>Last 3 Months</b>	<b>8,523</b>	<b>3,103</b>	<b>7,802</b>	<b>2,930</b>	<b>-8.5%</b>	<b>-5.6%</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>36.9%</b>
<b>Last 12 Months</b>	<b>35,195</b>	<b>13,107</b>	<b>32,557</b>	<b>12,141</b>	<b>-7.5%</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>	<b>29.2%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>

### Reduced Fare Sales

Seniors, some Medicare recipients, some persons with disabilities, primary and secondary school students, children, and military personnel are eligible for reduced fares on Metra. Table 17 shows the number of reduced fare tickets sold by month for 2018 and 2019.

**Table 17: Reduced Fare Ticket Sales**

Month	2018				2019			
	Monthly Pass	10-Ride Ticket	One-Way Ticket Mobile & Station	Conductor	Monthly Pass	10-Ride Ticket	One-Way Ticket Mobile & Station	Conductor
Jan	2,771	18,132	40,528	20,183	2,752	11,168	42,613	19,183
Feb	2,897	9,165	36,638	18,463	2,838	10,771	33,924	14,399
Mar	3,007	11,429	64,010	24,568	2,940	11,587	63,580	21,353
Apr	3,006	12,195	43,755	22,532	2,991	11,919	47,792	17,705
May	3,039	13,026	55,248	27,998	2,972	12,896	59,546	26,328
Jun	2,875	12,742	73,733	34,342	2,809	12,175	76,946	33,644
Jul	2,841	12,374	88,996	34,797	2,780	12,334	91,136	35,997
Aug	2,703	12,919	82,500	32,105	2,627	12,208	87,632	29,854
Sep	3,154	12,430	49,190	24,220	3,154	12,687	52,159	22,283
Oct	3,318	14,436	52,359	25,649	3,265	13,586	56,308	22,069
Nov	3,122	12,216	53,685	22,797	3,044	11,695	58,922	20,528
Dec	2,675	11,029	57,839	24,766	2,611	11,358	71,444	25,662
<b>Last 3 Months</b>	<b>9,115</b>	<b>37,681</b>	<b>163,883</b>	<b>73,212</b>	<b>8,920</b>	<b>36,639</b>	<b>186,674</b>	<b>68,259</b>
<b>Last 12 Months</b>	<b>35,408</b>	<b>152,093</b>	<b>698,481</b>	<b>312,420</b>	<b>34,783</b>	<b>144,384</b>	<b>742,002</b>	<b>289,005</b>

Month	Change			
	Monthly Pass	10-Ride Ticket	One-Way Ticket Mobile & Station	Conductor
Jan	-0.7%	-38.4%	5.1%	-5.0%
Feb	-2.0%	17.5%	-7.4%	-22.0%
Mar	-2.2%	1.4%	-0.7%	-13.1%
Apr	-0.5%	-2.3%	9.2%	-21.4%
May	-2.2%	-1.0%	7.8%	-6.0%
Jun	-2.3%	-4.4%	4.4%	-2.0%
Jul	-2.1%	-0.3%	2.4%	3.4%
Aug	-2.8%	-5.5%	6.2%	-7.0%
Sep	0.0%	2.1%	6.0%	-8.0%
Oct	-1.6%	-5.9%	7.5%	-14.0%
Nov	-2.5%	-4.3%	9.8%	-10.0%
Dec	-2.4%	3.0%	23.5%	3.6%
<b>Last 3 Months</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>-6.8%</b>
<b>Last 12 Months</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>	<b>-5.1%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>-7.5%</b>

# **RIDERSHIP TRENDS**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2019**



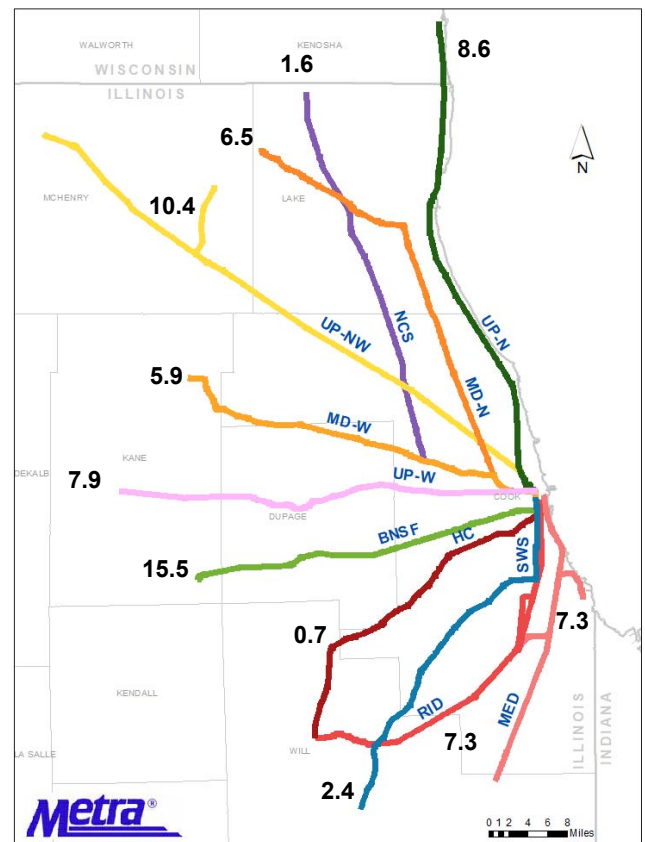


## I. OVERVIEW

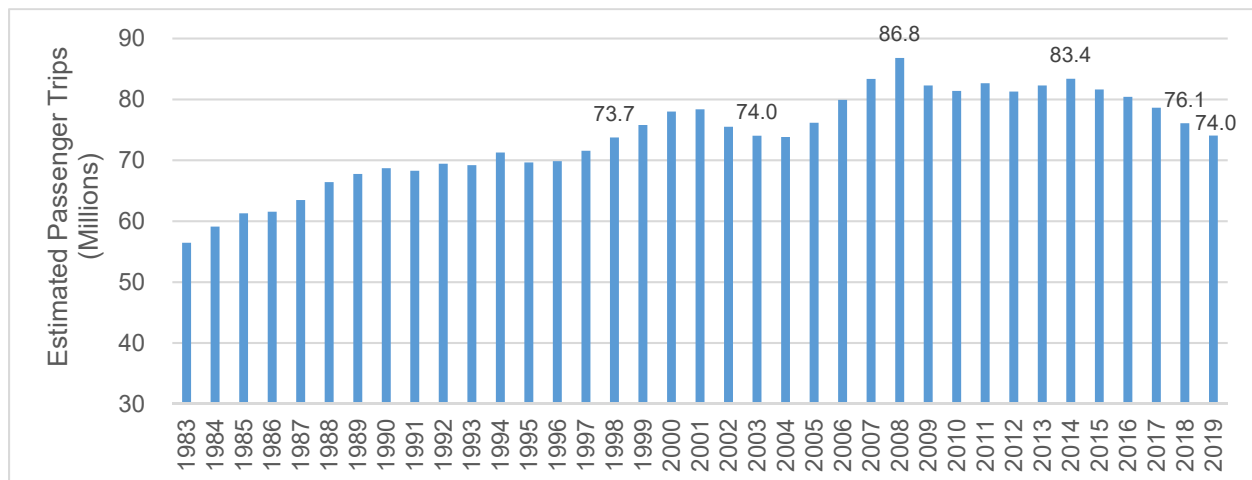
This report details the trends that influenced Metra system ridership in 2019. Metra is the Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority and provides commuter rail passenger service on eleven service lines throughout metropolitan Chicago (see Figure 1). Ridership is estimated on a monthly basis based on the number and types of tickets sold. These tickets are assumed to be used during the month of purchase or for the valid month in the case of monthly passes.

Metra provided 74.0 million passenger trips in 2019, which is 2.0% unfavorable to the budgeted forecast of 75.6 million passenger trips. When compared to 2018, ridership decreased 2.7 percent. The 74.0 million passenger trips reported in 2019 is comparable to ridership in 2003 and 1998.

**Figure 1: 2019 Passenger Trips by Line (Millions of Trips)**



**Figure 2: Metra System Annual Ridership**



## II. 2019 RIDERSHIP TRENDS

In 2019 estimated passenger trips were 74,043,516, a decrease of 2,044,813 (2.7 percent) and 2.0 percent unfavorable to budget.

**Table 1: Estimated Passenger Trips Actual Compared to Budget**

Month	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	Variance
Jan	6,660,551	6,400,000	5,850,211	-8.6%
Feb	5,651,237	5,700,000	5,728,794	0.5%
Mar	6,175,822	5,950,000	6,039,955	1.5%
Apr	6,162,072	6,450,000	6,204,717	-3.8%
May	6,426,184	6,400,000	6,275,574	-1.9%
Jun	6,606,512	6,360,000	6,399,941	0.6%
Jul	6,623,079	6,830,000	6,525,517	-4.5%
Aug	6,742,099	6,490,000	6,487,306	0.0%
Sep	6,346,519	6,530,000	6,244,080	-4.4%
Oct	6,693,984	6,500,000	6,503,633	0.1%
Nov	6,260,889	5,970,000	6,023,680	0.9%
Dec	5,739,384	5,990,000	5,760,110	-3.8%
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>76,088,329</b>	<b>75,570,000</b>	<b>74,043,516</b>	<b>-2.0%</b>

### Ridership by Quarter

Estimated passenger trips decreased during all four quarters of 2019. Table 2 shows the changes in ridership between 2018 and 2019.

**Table 2: Estimated Passenger Trips by Quarter**

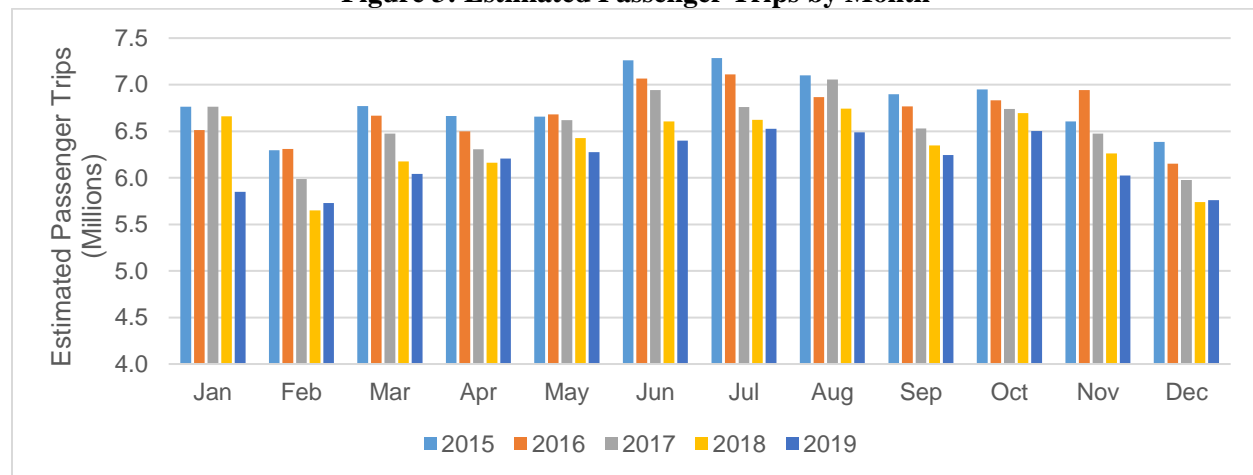
Quarter	2018	2019	Change
1st	18,487,610	17,618,960	-4.7%
2nd	19,194,767	18,880,232	-1.6%
3rd	19,711,697	19,256,902	-2.3%
4th	18,694,256	18,287,422	-2.2%
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>76,088,329</b>	<b>74,043,516</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>

### **Ridership by Month**

Estimated passenger trips were lower in 9 of 12 months in 2019 compared to 2018. January was particularly low due to a polar vortex event, and a federal government shutdown. February saw an increase in passenger trips despite a partial shutdown of the Metra Electric Line. April and December also saw increases in passenger trips, with an additional weekday in each month.

The trend of ridership peaking in the summer and falling in the winter remained consistent. There was no fare increase in 2019. Fare increases typically lead to 10-ride ticket stockpiling in January, followed by a decrease in 10-ride sales through April. This trend was not present in 2019; as such, 10-ride ticket sales are more accurately represented in the months in which they occurred.

**Figure 3: Estimated Passenger Trips by Month**



### **Ridership by Line**

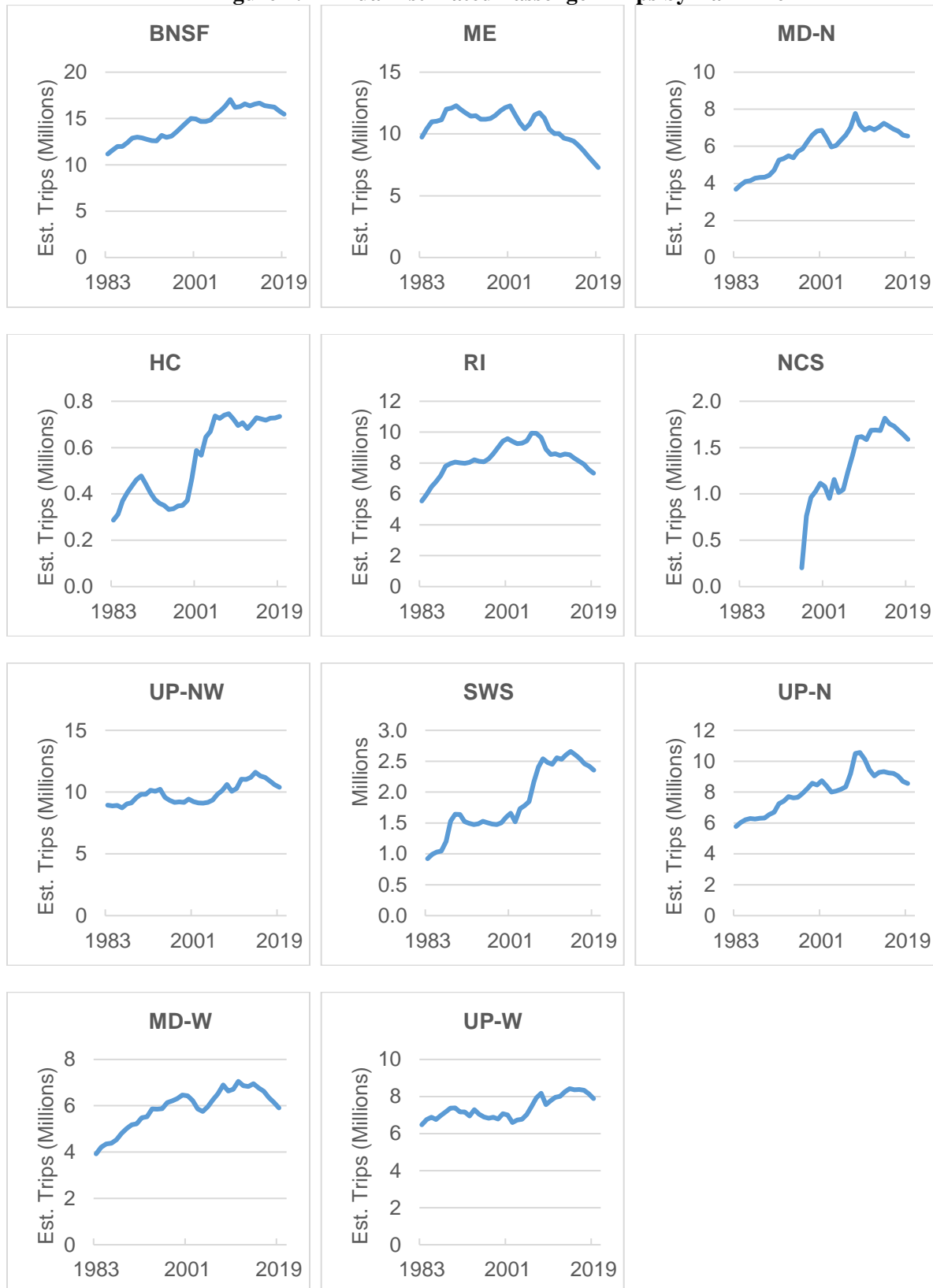
Ten of the eleven rail lines experienced decreases in ridership in 2019 compared to 2018. Ridership on the Heritage Corridor Line (HC) increased 0.3 percent. The Metra Electric Line (ME) declined for its 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Table 3 shows estimated passenger trips by line for the last five years.

**Table 3: Estimated Passenger Trips by Rail Line**

Line	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change '15-'19	Change '18-'19
BNSF	16,400,290	16,325,320	16,235,817	15,822,652	15,468,014	-5.7%	-2.2%
ME	9,054,649	8,642,365	8,149,977	7,716,121	7,282,993	-19.6%	-5.6%
HC	723,803	718,015	727,202	728,467	734,098	1.4%	0.8%
MD-N	7,094,564	6,934,684	6,818,808	6,610,059	6,549,143	-7.7%	-0.9%
MD-W	6,771,637	6,621,104	6,349,963	6,143,996	5,904,808	-12.8%	-3.9%
NCS	1,758,118	1,730,494	1,684,357	1,640,984	1,589,905	-9.6%	-3.1%
RI	8,305,273	8,112,784	7,923,588	7,578,330	7,338,133	-11.6%	-3.2%
SWS	2,604,292	2,538,273	2,457,418	2,420,921	2,356,767	-9.5%	-2.7%
UP-N	9,248,834	9,220,477	9,030,120	8,689,776	8,552,117	-7.5%	-1.6%
UP-NW	11,301,755	11,183,739	10,910,882	10,597,680	10,384,356	-8.1%	-2.0%
UP-W	8,367,264	8,375,067	8,332,483	8,139,344	7,883,185	-5.8%	-3.1%
Annual Total	81,630,476	80,402,319	78,620,612	76,088,329	74,043,516	-9.3%	-2.7%

Figure 4 shows the ridership by rail line since 1983.

**Figure 4: Annual Estimated Passenger Trips by Rail Line**



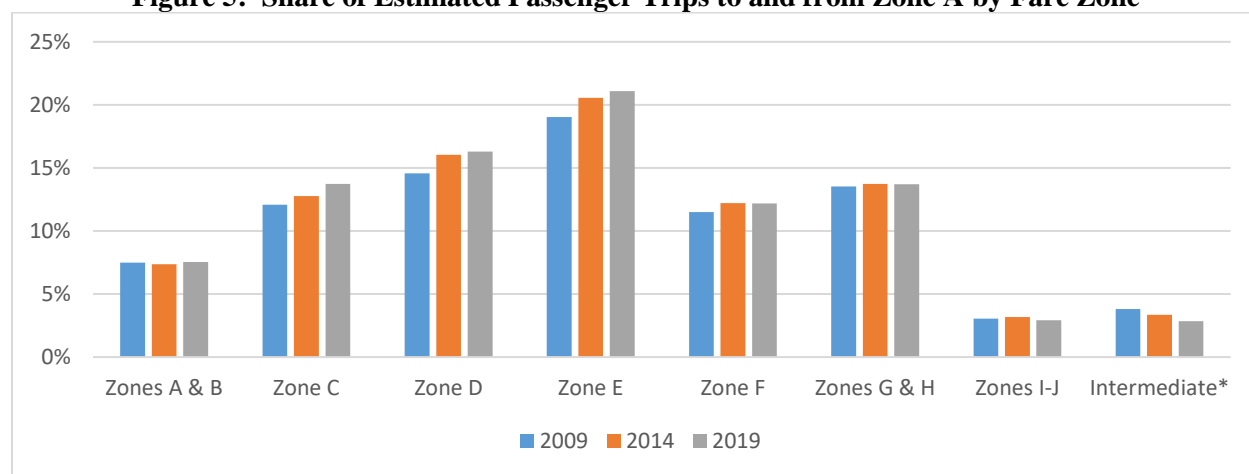
### **Ridership by Fare Zone**

The share of system ridership by fare zone remained mostly unchanged when compared to 2009 and 2014. Zone E remained the largest while intermediate and outer zone trips remained relatively small.

There has been a sizeable and continued decrease in on-board ticket sales without zone pair data and an increase in mobile one-way ticket sales which do have zone pair data. For this reason, zone pairs from historically strong markets are higher in 2019.

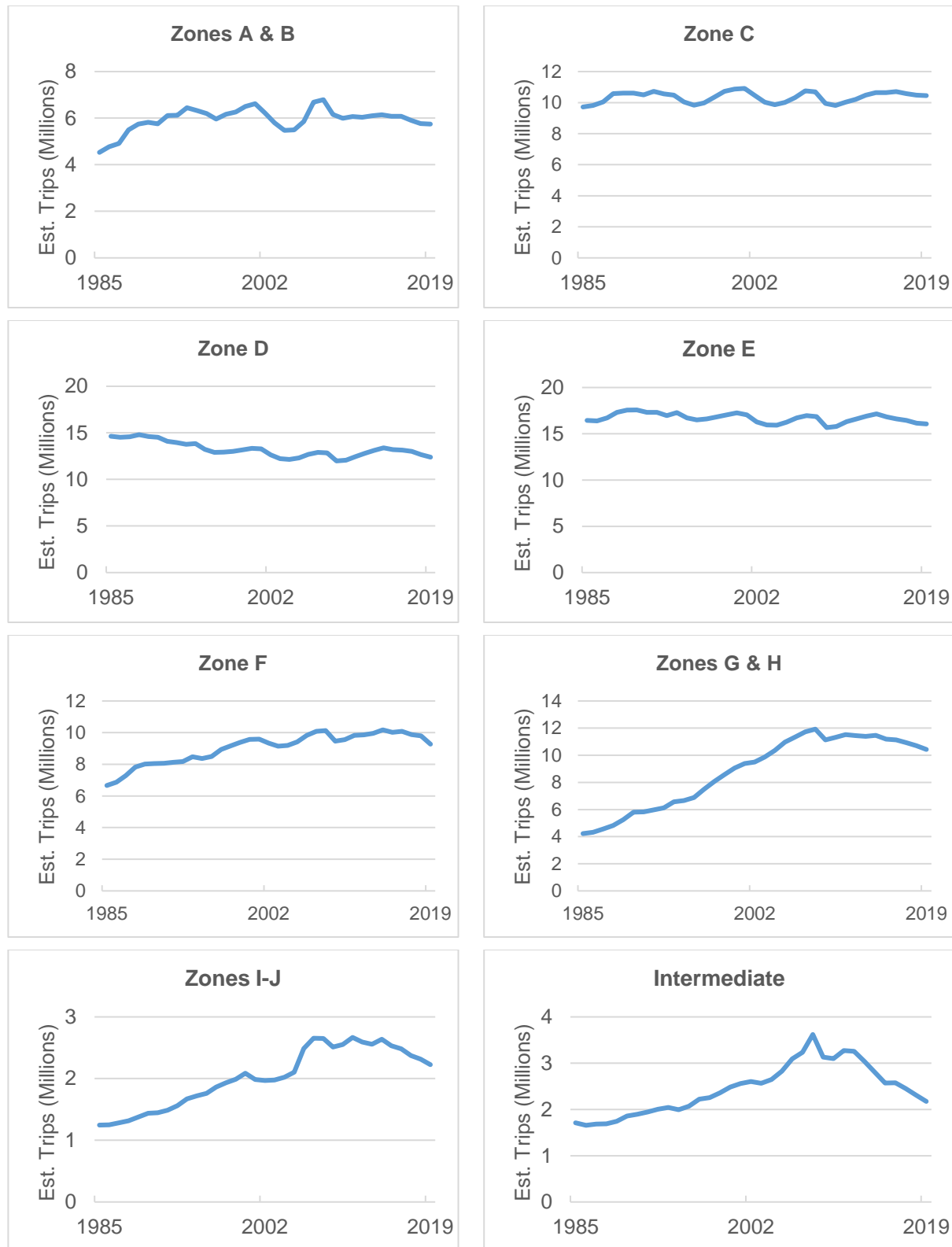
In July 2018, Metra implemented two pilot programs resulting from the 2017-2018 Fare Structure Study. Fare Zones K-M (Woodstock, McHenry, Harvard, Antioch, and Kenosha stations) were consolidated into Fare Zone J. 83rd St. and 87th St. (ME-ML) and 123rd St. (RI-Beverly) stations were reassigned from Zone C to B; State St. through Ashland stations (ME-BI) were reassigned from Zone D to C.

**Figure 5: Share of Estimated Passenger Trips to and from Zone A by Fare Zone**



\*Intermediate trips do not begin or end in Zone A

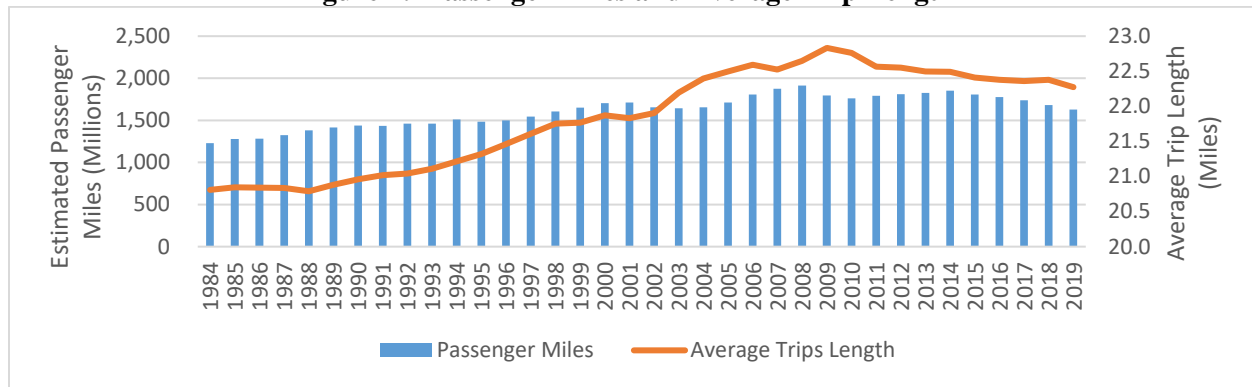
**Figure 6: Estimated Passenger Trips to and From Zone A by Fare Zone**



## Passenger Miles

Each year, Metra calculates the number of passenger miles traveled and the average trip length by line. The total number of passenger miles decreased by 3.1 percent in 2019 when compared to 2018. Average trip length decreased by 0.1 miles to 22.3 miles in 2019 compared to 2018.

**Figure 7: Passenger Miles and Average Trip Length\***



\*Free RTA Ride Free Permit rides are not included.

## Passenger Loads by Service Period

Peak period/peak direction remained Metra's largest market, accounting for about 76 percent of weekday trips. Figure 8 shows average daily passenger loads by service period for the last five years. All service periods except for Saturday were slightly down when compared to five years ago.

**Figure 8: Average Daily Passenger Loads by Period**

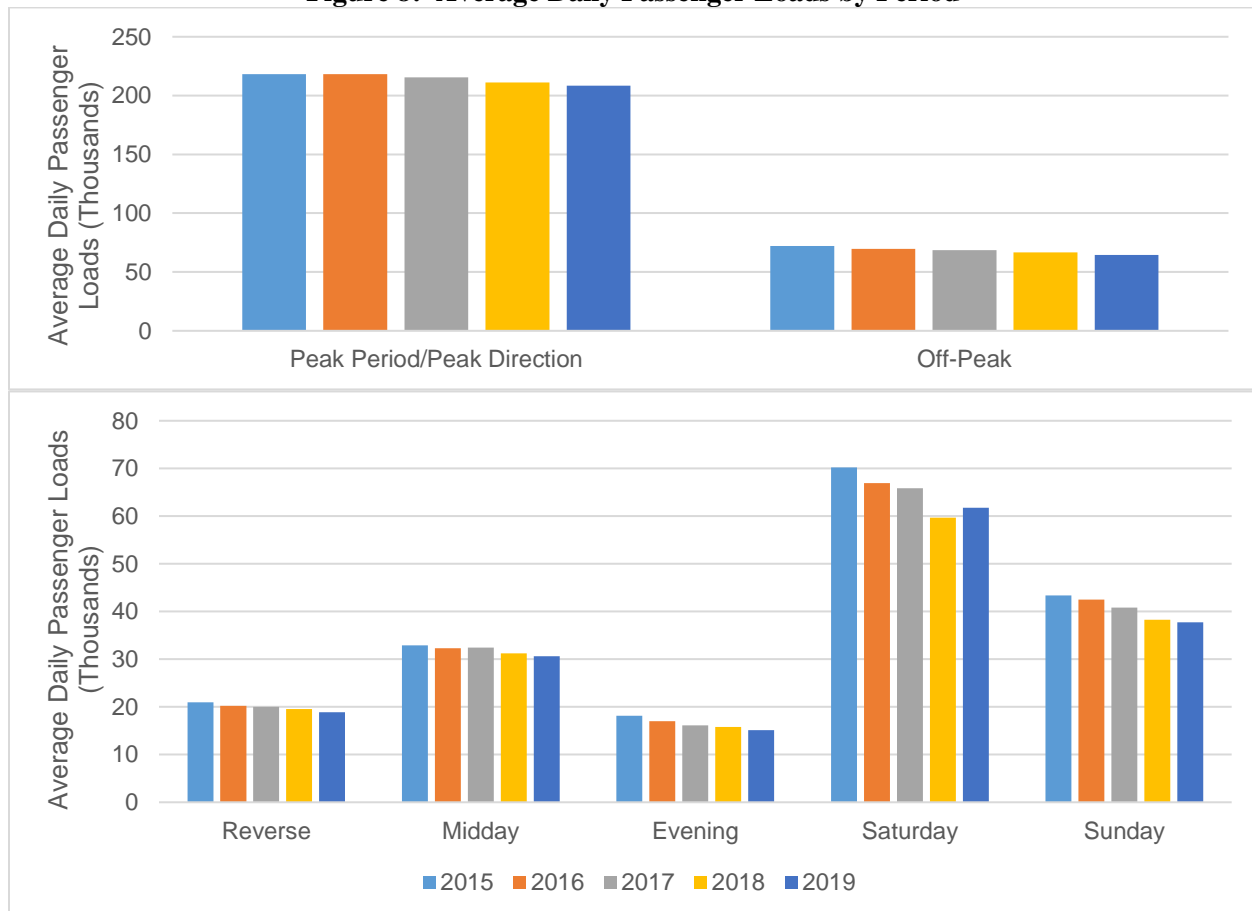
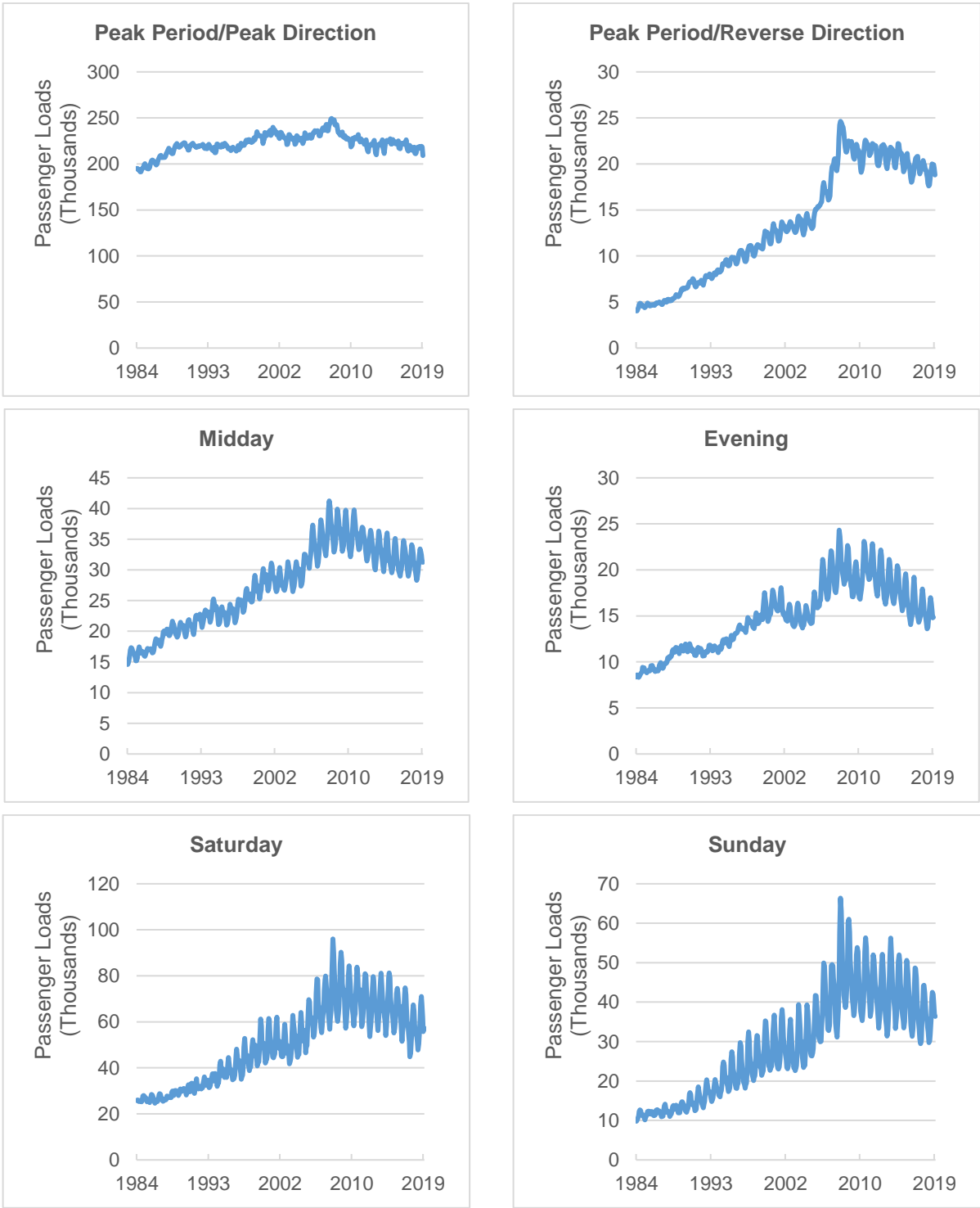


Figure 9 shows a rolling three-month average of daily passenger loads by service period since 1984.

**Figure 9: Passenger Loads by Service Period (3 Month Rolling Average)**





**RTA Ride Free Program**

Senate Bill 1920 was signed into law in September 2008 granting free trips to riders with an issued Circuit Permit as part of the new People with Disabilities Ride Free Program. The legislation required free trips on fixed-route and regularly scheduled transit in the RTA's service region be made available to any Illinois resident who enrolled as a person with a disability in the Illinois Circuit Breaker Program. The People with Disabilities Ride Free Program officially began on October 24, 2008. As of September 6, 2011, the number of Circuit-Permit trips also included the low-income seniors who qualified for the program. Effective January 1, 2013, the state changed the name of the Circuit Breaker Program to the Benefit Access Program. The program is now referred to as the RTA Ride Free Program. This program grew rapidly from 2,431 trips in 2008 to over 1 million passenger trips in 2013 and 2014. In 2014, the rate of growth slowed; and in 2019 the number of free trips provided under this program was 2.8 percent lower than 2018.

**Table 4: RTA Ride Free Permit Trips (2008-2019)**

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jan		1,280	25,617	40,109	69,123	76,802	73,543	81,935	76,784	72,726	68,638	62,843
Feb		1,228	27,086	38,444	70,491	73,179	73,647	75,558	77,078	73,158	63,698	59,480
Mar		4,645	30,888	52,742	78,307	78,710	84,896	90,857	85,954	80,628	72,687	70,922
Apr		10,594	38,244	50,594	76,694	84,089	90,296	87,468	81,123	75,719	71,983	73,569
May		13,755	39,701	54,803	78,507	88,367	92,746	88,753	85,310	84,406	79,182	76,584
Jun		19,380	45,689	54,159	81,498	90,828	94,934	94,928	89,288	84,381	75,265	73,139
Jul		22,444	48,446	56,404	79,551	96,166	99,638	97,624	86,783	81,781	79,722	76,954
Aug		25,718	49,861	67,873	86,543	95,616	97,153	92,221	89,663	89,173	80,810	77,252
Sep		27,273	48,334	86,219	83,034	90,054	97,329	86,895	83,539	78,708	72,603	73,600
Oct	88	30,387	51,927	86,297	90,053	94,499	105,618	95,121	83,510	82,745	80,818	78,962
Nov	474	28,796	46,085	73,961	81,871	85,149	84,953	83,191	79,896	73,628	70,598	67,948
Dec	1,869	27,800	41,654	73,917	74,816	80,425	90,641	81,141	74,675	69,206	66,286	66,095
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,431</b>	<b>213,300</b>	<b>493,532</b>	<b>735,522</b>	<b>950,488</b>	<b>1,033,884</b>	<b>1,085,394</b>	<b>1,055,692</b>	<b>993,603</b>	<b>946,259</b>	<b>882,290</b>	<b>857,348</b>

### **Police Officer and Firefighter Free Rides**

Chicago-area uniformed police officers from any municipality, including sheriff's deputies, bailiffs, corrections officers, and Chicago firefighters are allowed free transportation on Metra. These free trips are not reimbursed by the State of Illinois. Conductors began recording the number of free trips taken by these uniformed police officers and firefighters as of April 2012. The number has increased by 1.8 percent from 2018 to 2019.

**Table 5: Total Police Officers and Firefighters in Uniform Riding Free**

<b>Line</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
BNSF	7,830	14,066	15,753	12,235	11,363	9,450	8,677	8,570
ME	11,559	21,836	19,023	19,183	17,212	14,705	13,627	11,474
HC	1,392	1,346	971	760	544	600	918	1,055
MD-N	2,138	1,229	1,365	1,608	1,137	1,123	716	633
MD-W	3,690	4,590	3,776	2,936	2,481	2,576	2,175	2,108
NCS	520	316	182	154	272	243	177	237
RI	16,593	20,727	17,438	17,420	18,109	19,174	19,100	22,680
SWS	943	1,021	1,243	2,631	2,832	4,058	5,886	5,498
UP-N	88	302	300	73	103	149	16	19
UP-NW	90	199	309	121	91	129	40	12
UP-W	83	182	143	94	135	346	22	4
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>44,926</b>	<b>65,814</b>	<b>60,503</b>	<b>57,215</b>	<b>54,279</b>	<b>52,553</b>	<b>51,354</b>	<b>52,290</b>

### **Reduced Fare Trips**

In collaboration with the Regional Transportation Authority's Reduced Fare Permit Program, Metra allows qualified users to ride Metra at a reduced rate. The following types of users are eligible to receive a reduced-fare permit through the RTA's Reduced Fare Permit Program. Metra is eligible for reimbursement of the lost revenue by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

- All senior citizens who are within three weeks of their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday or older
- Medicare card recipients receiving Social Security benefits
- People with disabilities who receive Social Security benefits
- Veterans with disabilities who receive Service-connected disability benefits
- People with disabilities whose doctors validate their disability
- Full-time students enrolled in an accredited grade school or high school with a valid letter of certification from their school (on school stationery) or a valid school I.D. bearing the student's name, school name and authorized signature.

Metra also offers reduced-fare tickets to children ages 7 to 11 (saves 50 percent over one-way fares) and to U.S. military personnel (may purchase one-way or ten-ride tickets at a reduced fare provided they present proper military identification indicating they are on active duty). Prior to the fare change effective February 1, 2012, young adults (ages 12-17) were eligible for reduced fares on weekends and holidays. Table 6 shows all reduced-fare passenger trips (eligible and ineligible for reimbursement) by year for 2007 through 2017. In 2008, state legislation required Metra to provide free rides to seniors under the Seniors Ride Free Program. This caused a -39.9 percent drop in the number of reduced fare passenger trips in that year. This decision was reversed in September 2011 and the use of the reduced fare tickets surged 50.2 percent.

There were an estimated 3.7 million reduced fare passenger trips in 2019, a 4.0 percent decrease compared to 2018.

**Table 6: Reduced Fare Passenger Trips by Year\***

<b>Year</b>	<b>Estimated Passenger Trips</b>	<b>Change</b>
2007	3,033,277	
2008	1,822,246	-39.9%
2009	1,423,241	-21.9%
2010	1,565,633	10.0%
2011	2,352,122	50.2%
2012	3,736,638	58.9%
2013	3,677,516	-1.6%
2014	3,591,620	-2.3%
2015	3,649,846	1.6%
2016	3,809,102	4.4%
2017	3,835,018	0.7%
2018	3,741,955	-1.8%
2019	3,681,511	-4.0%

\*Includes all eligible and ineligible reduced-fare rides for reimbursement and does not include conductor or group sales

Table 7 shows total free trips and all reduced fare passenger trips by month.

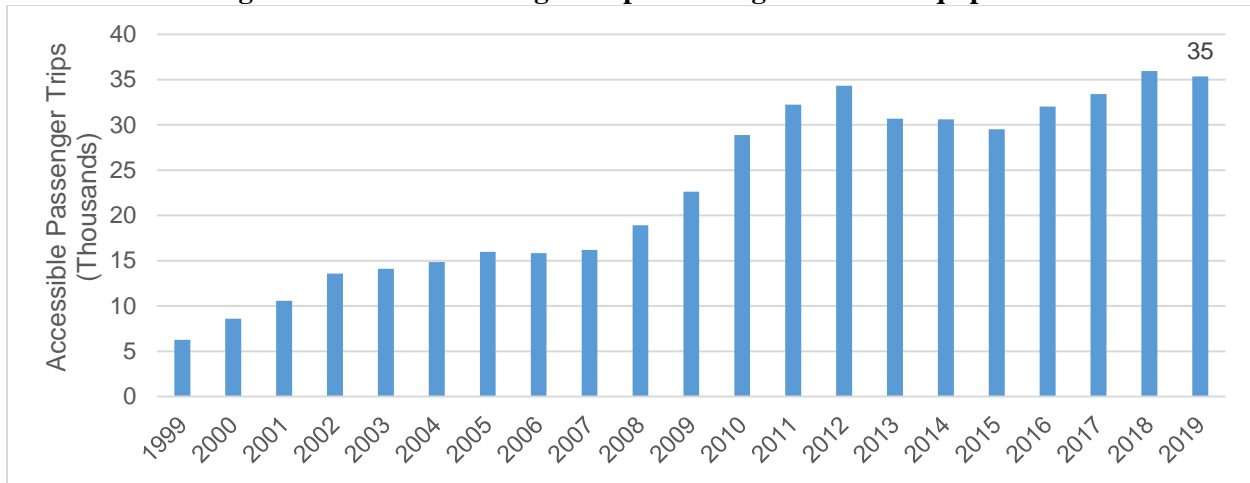
**Table 7: Estimated Reduced Fare Passenger Trips by Month**

	<b>2018</b>			<b>2019</b>		
	<b>Free</b>	<b>Reduced</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>Reduced</b>	<b>Total</b>
Jan	68,638	341,001	409,639	62,843	272,629	335,472
Feb	63,698	252,859	316,557	59,480	263,668	323,148
Mar	72,687	307,601	380,288	70,922	305,870	376,792
Apr	71,983	294,963	366,946	73,569	295,595	369,164
May	79,182	316,185	395,367	76,584	316,302	392,886
Jun	75,265	324,778	400,043	73,139	319,483	392,622
Jul	79,722	334,899	414,621	76,954	334,016	410,970
Aug	80,810	327,919	408,729	77,252	322,673	399,925
Sep	72,603	309,112	381,715	73,600	314,651	388,251
Oct	80,818	339,393	420,211	78,962	332,563	411,525
Nov	70,598	310,091	380,689	67,948	306,764	374,712
Dec	66,286	283,154	349,440	66,095	297,297	363,392
<b>Total</b>	<b>882,290</b>	<b>3,741,955</b>	<b>4,624,245</b>	<b>857,348</b>	<b>3,681,511</b>	<b>4,538,859</b>

### Accessible Equipment Usage

Metra's trains became fully accessible in April 1998, providing at least one accessible car per train consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). On a typical weekday, over 95 percent of boardings occur at fully or partially accessible stations. In 2019, Metra provided approximately 35,000 passenger trips that utilized ADA equipment. Figure 10 shows the annual number of passenger trips utilizing the accessible equipment since 1999.

**Figure 10: Annual Passenger Trips Utilizing Accessible Equipment**

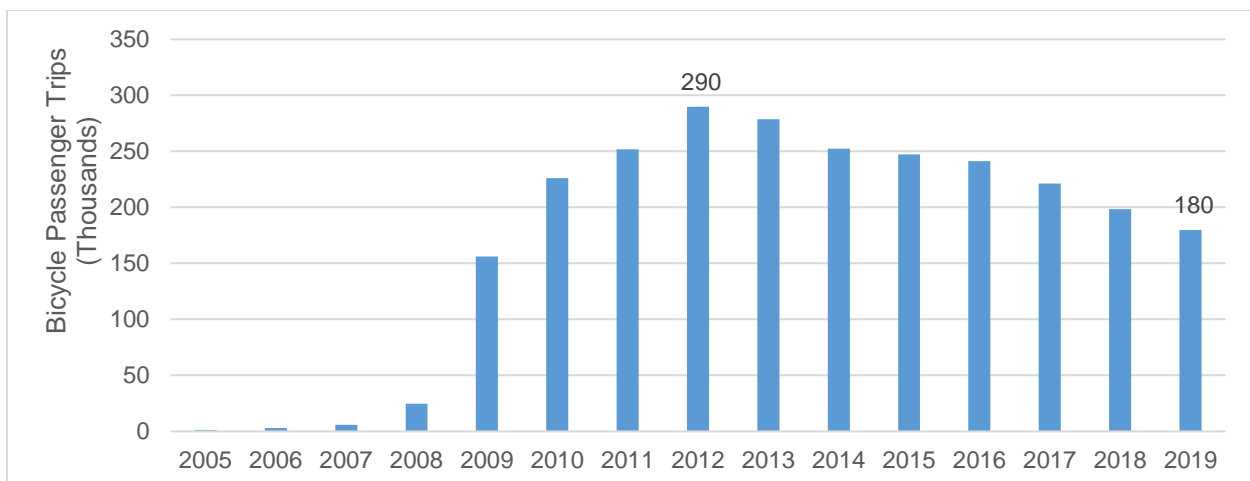


### Bikes on Trains Program

Beginning in June 2005, Metra implemented the Bikes-on-Trains program, permitting a limited number of bicycles in each passenger car during weekday off-peak and weekend service periods. Since October 2014, bicycles have also been permitted on weekday inbound trains that arrive downtown before 6:30 a.m. and during special events at the discretion of the conductors. In 2019, Metra conductors reported about 180,000 bicycles brought onto Metra trains (see Figure 11).

Divvy bikeshare stations were first installed in downtown in June 2013. Since then, their use has continued to climb and docking stations were installed in Evanston in 2016. The valet docking service provided by Divvy at Union Station and Ogilvie Transportation Center suggests the growing demand for bicycles on Metra has been partially met by bikeshare. Increasing availability of e-scooters and e-skateboards may also be helping to meet last-mile demands.

**Figure 11: Bikes on Trains Program Usage**



### III. 2019 RIDERSHIP INFLUENCES

Metra provided about 74.0 million passenger trips in 2019, a 2.7 percent decrease compared to 2018. Many factors contribute to year-over-year ridership changes. Some of these factors are under Metra's control (fare and service changes) while others are not (changes in employment and fuel prices).

#### Winter Weather

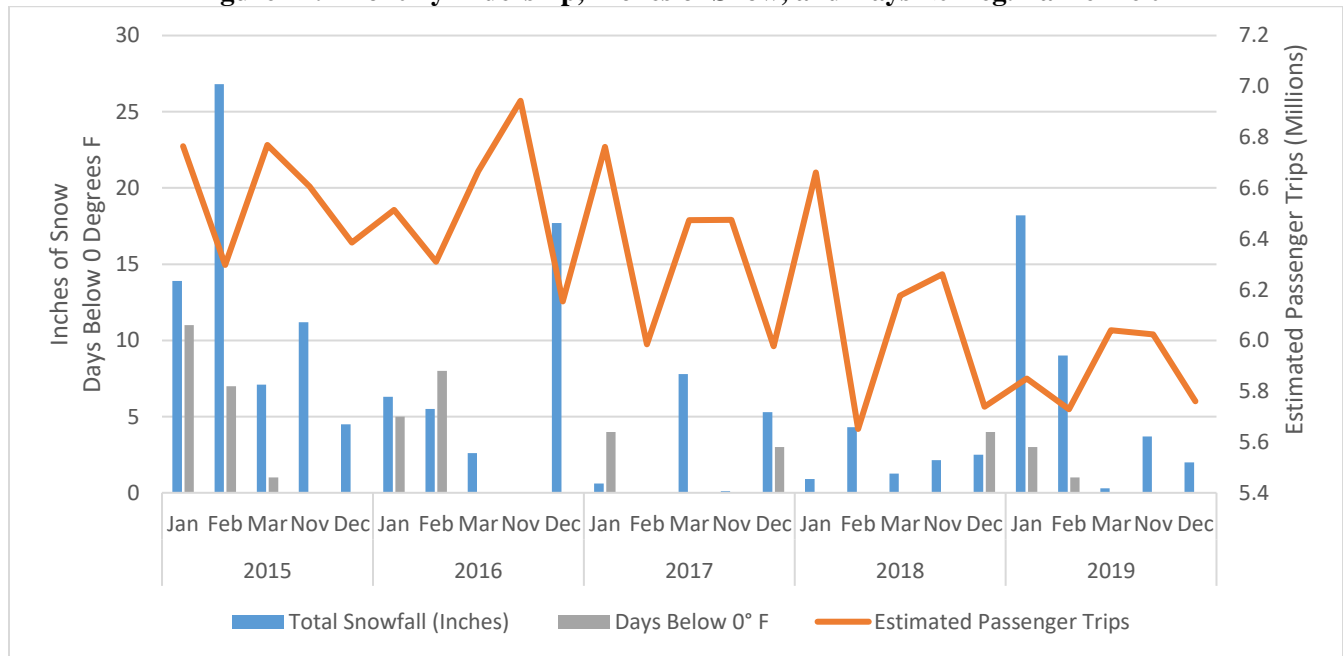
Metra ridership is generally impacted during times of severe winter weather as commuters choose whether or not to ride Metra depending on driving conditions and/or school closures. Table 8 shows total snowfall by month for the past five winter seasons (Nov-Mar). January 2019 had 6 days with below zero temperatures due to a polar vortex event. Service on the Metra Electric Line (ME) was suspended Jan 30 to Feb 2 following a Canadian National freight train derailment and ice damage. The ME operated on a modified schedule Feb 3 to 10 while repairs were completed. Service was suspended again after a second ice storm on February 12.

**Table 8: Chicago Snowfall (inches)**

Season	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov-Mar	Difference from 30-year Average
2014-15	2.8	0	13.9	26.8	7.1	50.6	13.0
2015-16	11.2	4.5	6.3	5.5	2.6	30.1	-7.5
2016-17	0	17.7	0.6	0	7.8	26.1	-11.5
2017-18	0.1	5.3	0.9	4.3	1.3	11.9	-25.7
2018-19	2.2	2.5	18.2	9	0.3	32.2	-5.4
2019-20	3.7	2					
<b>30-year Average</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>37.6</b>	

Figure 12, shows that high snow accumulations and cold temperatures contributed to lower ridership in February 2015, December 2016, December 2017, and January 2019.

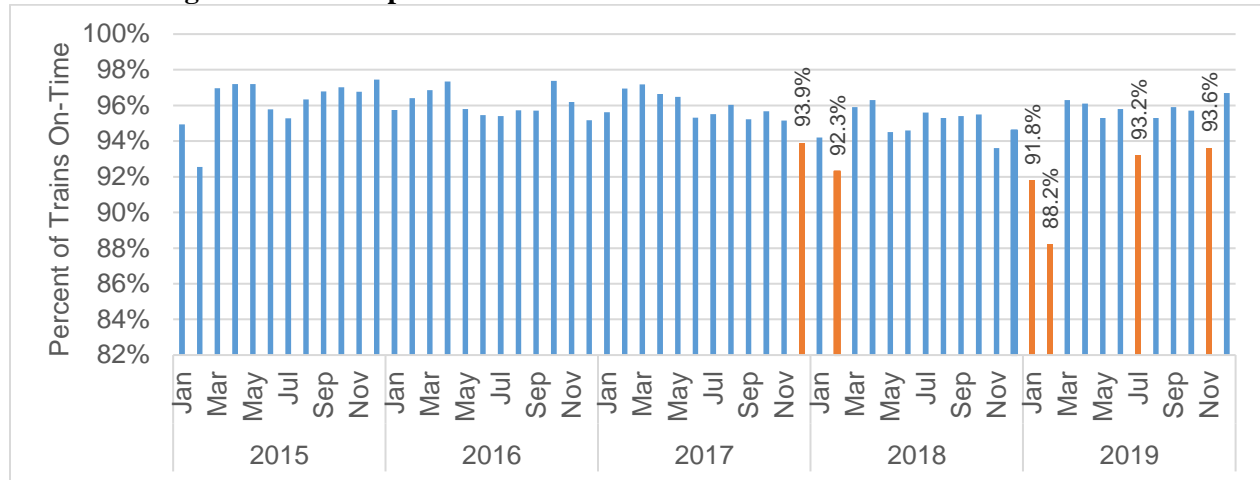
**Figure 12: Monthly Ridership, Inches of Snow, and Days <0 Deg. Fahrenheit**



## **On-Time Performance**

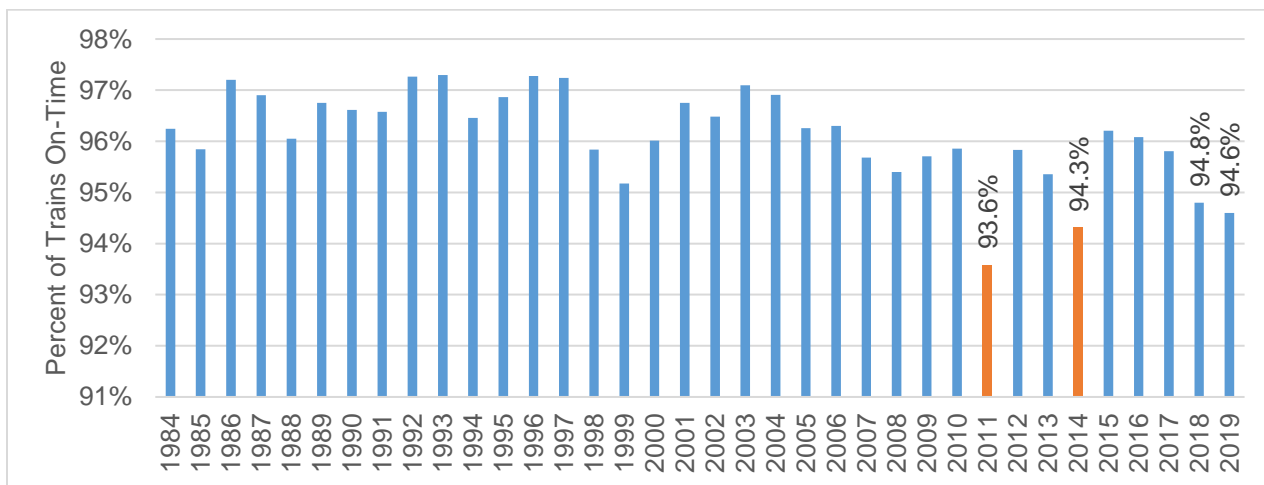
The on-time performance of the system is the percentage of scheduled trains that arrived on-time each month. Metra considers a train late if it arrives six minutes or more after its scheduled arrival at its last stop. Metra system reliability over the past several years has tracked at a very high level, usually exceeding 95 percent on-time performance in any given month. Metra met its on-time performance goal in 8 of 12 months in 2019. Figure 13 shows the effects of heavy snowfall and frigid temperatures in 2015-2019.

**Figure 13: The Impacts of Severe Winter Weather on On-Time Performance**



In 2019, on-time performance averaged 94.6 percent, which is the lowest annual average since 2014. In Figure 14, 2011 and 2014 are highlighted to indicate the impact of the Groundhog Day Blizzard and Polar Vortex, respectively.

**Figure 14: Annual On-Time Performance**



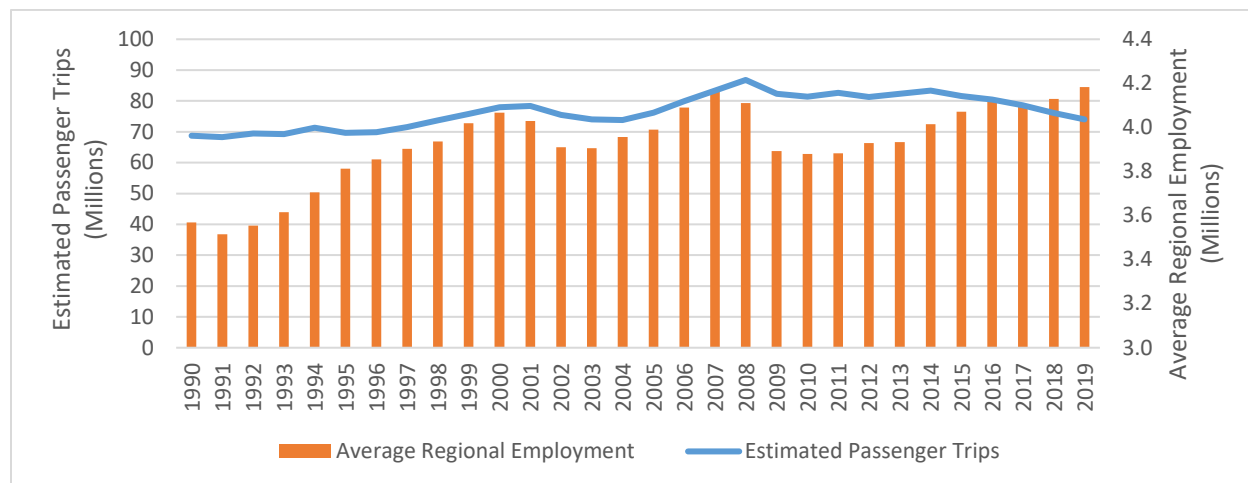
Metra's on-time performance in 2019 was adversely affected by significant increases in the number of delays due to signal/switch failures, interference from freight trains, and weather. A total of 2,112 trains were delayed due to signal/switch failures which is an increase of 21% since 2018. A total of 1,084 trains were delayed due to interference from freight trains which is a decrease of 40% since 2018. A total of 1,676 trains were delayed due to weather-related issues which is an increase of 59% since 2018. For the year, Metra missed its 95% on-time performance goal with an annual percentage of 94.6%. Metra achieved its on-time performance goal 8 out of the 12 months of the year, with a low of 88.2% in February.

## **Employment**

Since approximately 90% of passenger trips taken on Metra are for work, the health of the regional economy, especially in terms of employment levels, greatly influences Metra ridership (see Figure 15). Regional employment has generally grown since 1990. The economic downturn following the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks and the 2007 to 2009 economic recession (affecting 2008 through 2010 employment averages) are the exceptions. Average regional employment for 2019 was 0.4% higher compared to 2018. Employment slightly exceeded pre-recession levels. In 2019, approximately 4.2 million persons

were employed in the Chicago region. This is the highest regional employment in Metra history. The US federal government was partially shut down from December 22, 2018 to January 25, 2019, reducing passenger trips in that time period.

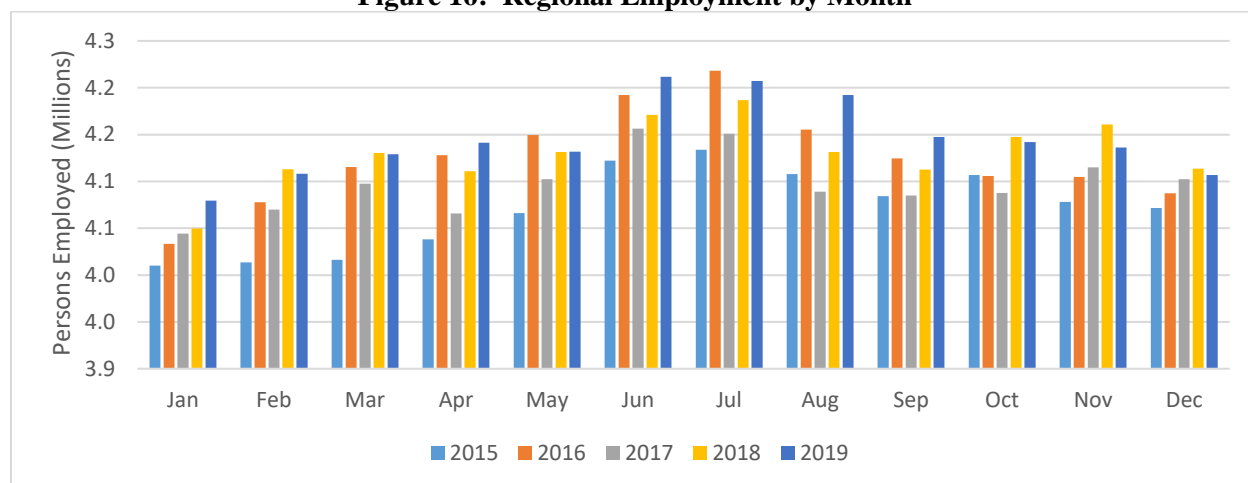
**Figure 15: Annual Average Regional Employment**



Source: Illinois Department of Economic Security. Includes employees covered under the State's Unemployment Insurance Act. Includes employment figures for Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will County. Government workers are not included in these estimates.

Figure 16 shows regional employment by month for 2015 through 2019. In 2019, regional employment grew in 6 of 12 months. Gains in January, April, June, July, August, and September were large enough to offset losses in other months.

**Figure 16: Regional Employment by Month**



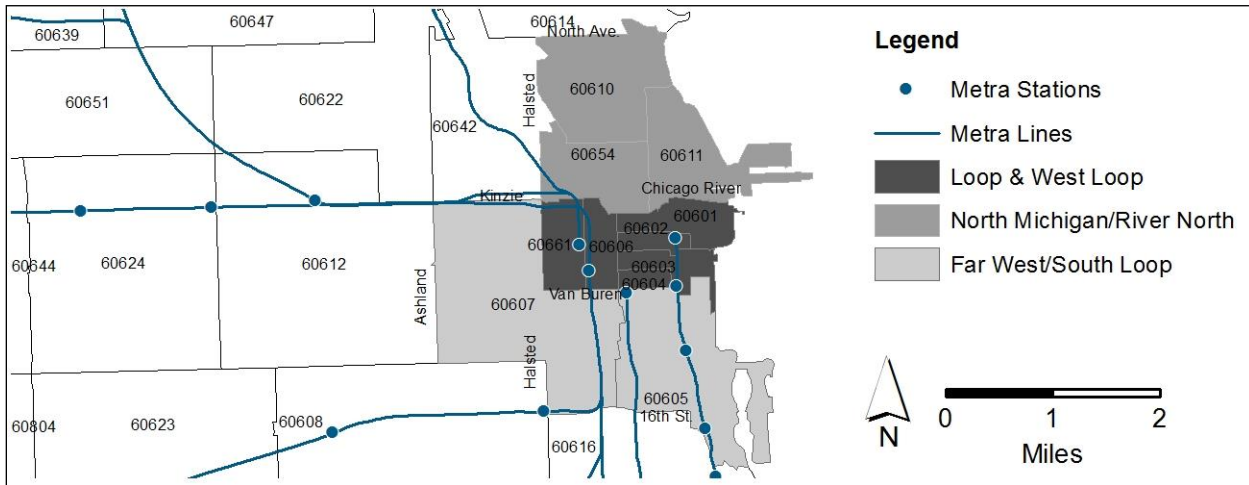
Source: Illinois Department of Economic Security. Includes employees covered under the State's Unemployment Insurance Act. Government workers are not included.

### **Employment in Downtown Chicago**

As all of Metra's terminals are located in downtown Chicago, changes in downtown employment influence ridership more than regional trends. The Illinois Department of Economic Security publishes employment statistics by ZIP code in the Chicago region each year for the month of March. In March of 2019, non-government employment in the ZIP codes that make up downtown was 619,991, up 1.2% from 612,914 in 2018. For the fifth consecutive year, this is the highest amount recorded since these statistics have been calculated.

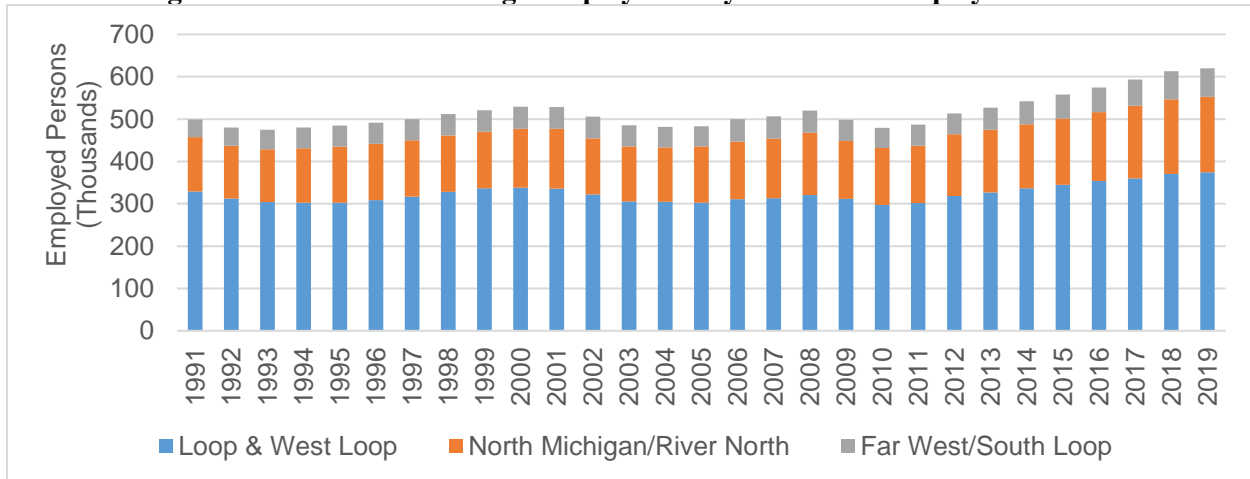
The ZIP codes for the Loop, West Loop, North Michigan/River North, Far West/South Loop areas are shown in Figure 17. The Loop & West Loop is bordered by Halsted Street in the west, Lake Michigan in the east, Van Buren Street in the south, and the Chicago River in the north. The Far West/South Loop is from Ashland Avenue in the west to Halsted Street and then Lake Michigan between 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Van Buren Street. North Michigan/River North is from Halsted Street in the west to Lake Michigan in the east between the Chicago River and Kinzie Street in the south and North Avenue in the north.

**Figure 17: Downtown Chicago Employment Zones by ZIP Code**



Employment was higher in 2019 than 2018 in all three downtown employment zones (See Figure 18). Downtown as a whole had 7,077 more jobs in 2019 than 2018. The Loop & West Loop gained 3,476 jobs, the North Michigan/River North area gained 2,964 jobs, and the Far West/South Loop gained 637 jobs.

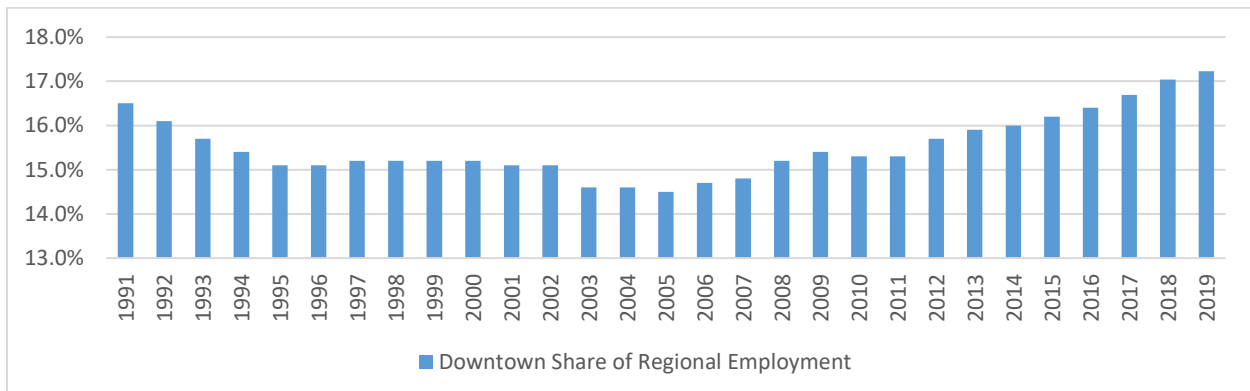
**Figure 18: Downtown Chicago Employment by Downtown Employment Zone**



Source: Illinois Department of Economic Security. Includes employees covered under the State's Unemployment Insurance Act. Government workers are not included.

The percentage of regional jobs located in downtown grew from a low of 14.5 percent in 2005 to 17.2 percent in 2019. This is the highest percentage recorded since 1991 (16.5 percent) continuing a trend that began in 2011 (see Figure 19).

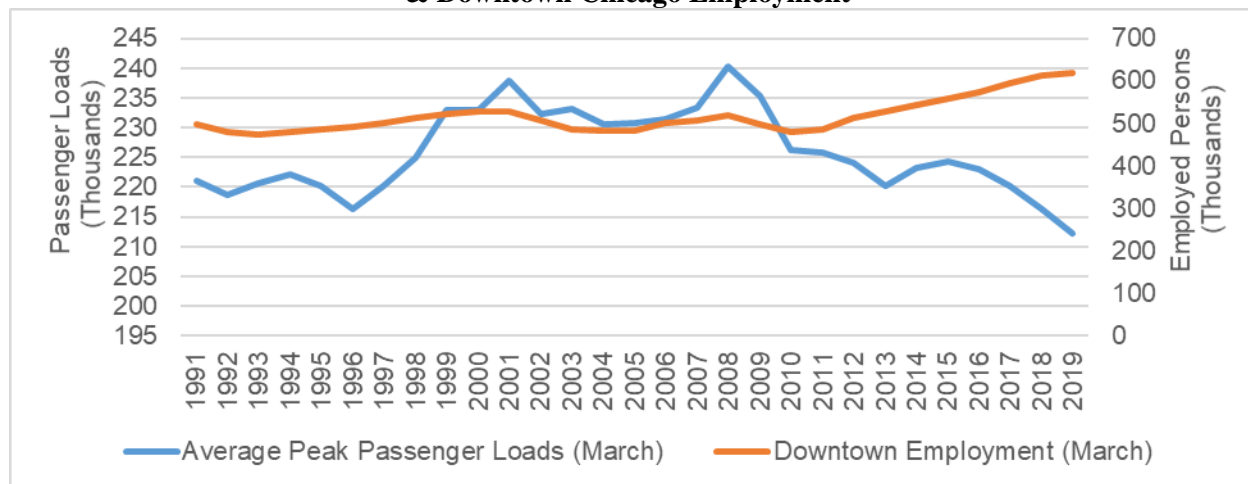
**Figure 19: Downtown Share of Regional Employment**





Approximately 96% of Metra’s morning peak passenger trips are destined for the six stations located downtown (Union Station, Ogilvie Transportation Center, LaSalle Street, Museum Campus/11<sup>th</sup> St., Van Buren, and Millennium). Metra’s peak-period/peak-direction (AM Peak inbound trains and PM Peak outbound trains) average weekday ridership has historically followed trends in non-government employment downtown. As employment downtown rose in the 1990s and dropped between 2008 and 2010, passenger loads followed suit (see Figure 20). In the last few years, steady increases in the number of downtown jobs have occurred while ridership has decreased.

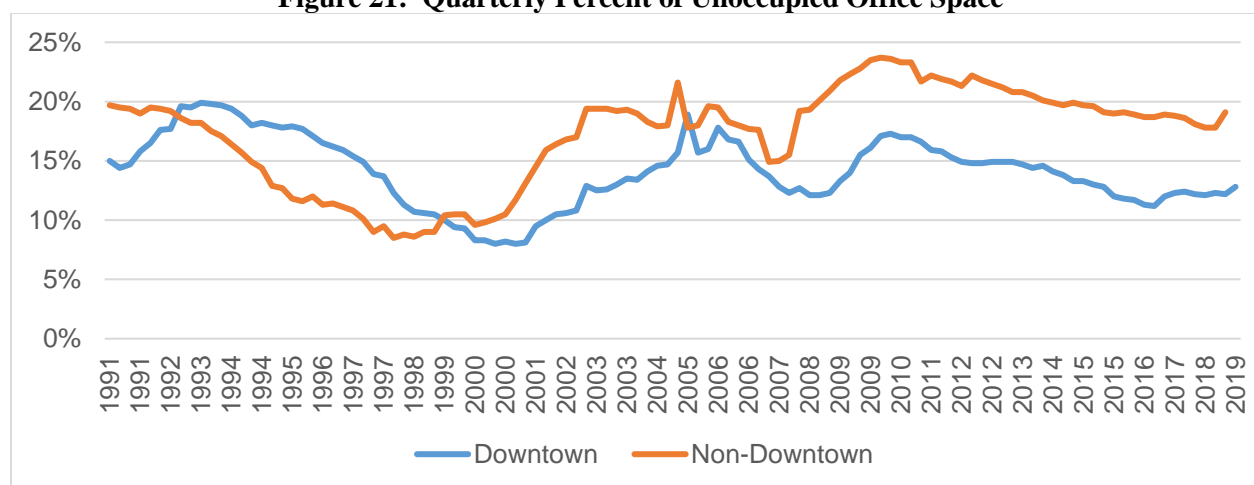
**Figure 20: Average Peak Hour and Peak Direction Weekday Passenger Loads in March & Downtown Chicago Employment\***



\*Note: Data for current year is preliminary and subject to change

The shift in the share of total employment towards downtown Chicago is evident in office occupancy rates (see Figure 21). Downtown Chicago office occupancy rates remained constant near 85.1 percent between the First Quarter of 2012 through the first half of 2013. Beginning in the Third Quarter of 2013, the occupancy rate began to climb. By the Fourth Quarter of 2016, the rate had gone up to 89 percent. Occupancy rates dropped slightly to 87.8 percent by the Fourth Quarter of 2017. Office occupancy rates outside of downtown were relatively unchanged in 2017 compared to 2016. The Fourth Quarter of 2016 was 81.3 percent and the Fourth Quarter of 2017 was 81.4 percent. In the Fourth Quarter of 2019, the downtown office occupancy rate was 86.2 percent, and the suburban rate was 80.4 percent. The difference between downtown and outside-of-downtown occupancy has been steady since the Second Quarter of 2008 (see Figure 21).

**Figure 21: Quarterly Percent of Unoccupied Office Space**



Source: CB Richard Ellis

## Regional Population

Total demand for transportation services can be broadly measured by population. Northeastern Illinois' regional population increased by 2.8 percent between 2000 and 2010, with Cook County decreasing in population and the collar counties steadily growing, as shown in Table 9. In the last eight years, Kane County has seen the highest percentage growth.

**Table 9: Northeastern Illinois Regional Population Growth**

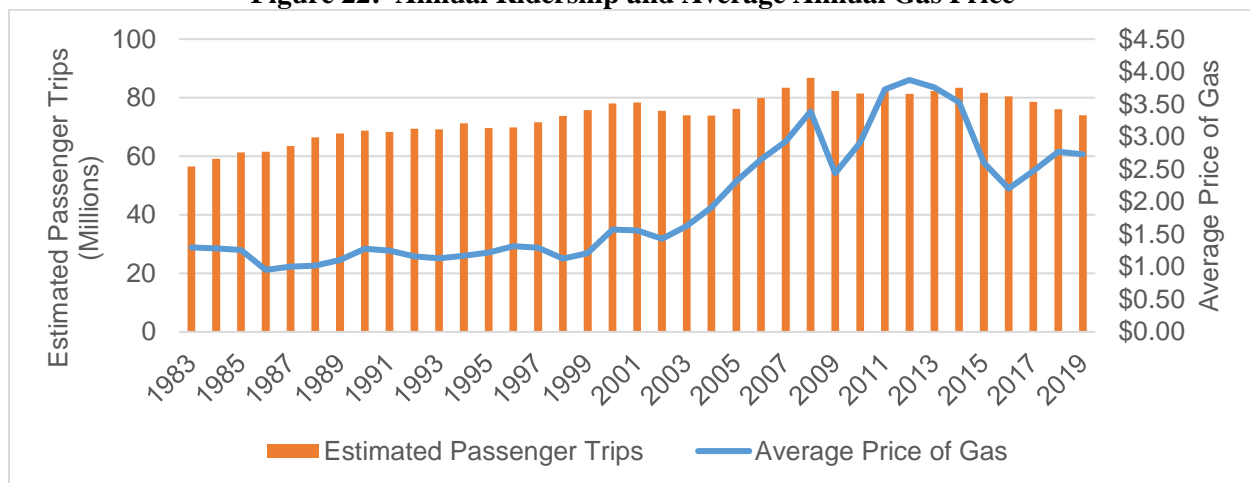
	2000	2010	2018 Est.	00 vs. 10	10 vs. 18	2050 Projections	% Change (2010-2050)
Cook County	5,376,741	5,194,675	5,223,719	-3.4%	0.6%	6,080,680	17%
City of Chicago	2,896,016	2,695,598	2,718,555	-6.9%	0.9%	3,113,476	16%
Other	2,480,725	2,499,077	2,505,164	0.7%	0.2%	2,967,204	19%
DuPage County	904,161	916,924	931,743	1.4%	1.6%	1,081,213	18%
Kane County	404,119	515,269	530,839	27.5%	3.0%	780,678	52%
Lake County	644,356	703,462	703,619	9.2%	0.0%	882,584	25%
McHenry County	260,077	308,760	307,789	18.7%	-0.3%	473,471	53%
Will County	502,266	677,560	688,697	34.9%	1.6%	1,056,213	56%
NE Illinois Region	8,091,720	8,316,650	8,386,406	2.8%	0.8%	10,354,839	25%
City Share	35.80%	32.40%	32.4%			30.1%	
Suburban Share	64.20%	67.60%	67.6%			69.9%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Projections from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning October 2018 Updates.

## Automobile Operation Costs

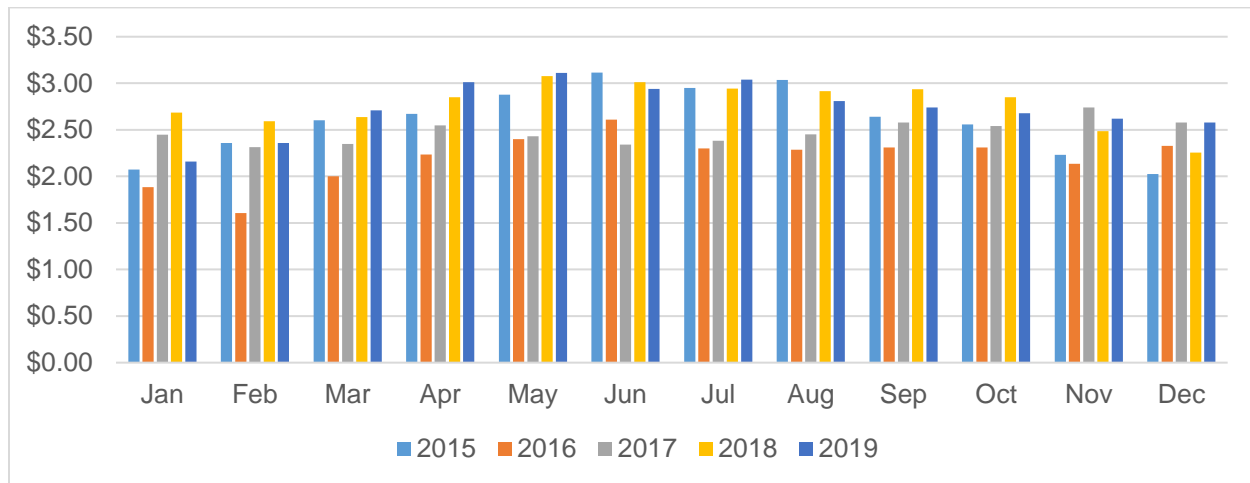
Congestion, highway tolls, parking rates, and the cost of automobile ownership and operation are factors that people consider as they choose to travel throughout the Chicago region. Metra ridership historically trended along with the average gasoline price as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for Regular Gasoline sold in the greater Chicago-Naperville-Elgin region (see Figure 22). The average annual gas price in 2019 (\$2.73 per gallon) was \$0.04 lower than in 2018 (\$2.77 per gallon).

**Figure 22: Annual Ridership and Average Annual Gas Price**



At the beginning of the decade, gas prices fluctuated between \$3.50 and \$4.00 per gallon. In 2014, a dramatic drop in gas prices at the end of the year did not lead to a corresponding drop in Metra ridership. In 2015 and 2016, lower ridership appears to correlate with sustained lower gas prices. In July 2019 the State of Illinois raised the gas tax to 38 cents per gallon. Effective January 1, 2020, the State of Illinois implemented a Parking Excise Tax of 9 percent on monthly or annual spaces, and 6 percent on hourly, daily, and weekly spaces.

**Figure 23: Average Monthly Gas Price (2015-2019)**



### **Major Construction Projects**

Metra provides a reliable option for many of its riders, enabling them to avoid chronically congested roadways and to ride transit when other services are disrupted. When Metra’s transportation partners undertake construction on any of the region’s major transportation facilities, Metra service can play an important role in mitigating construction disruptions. Many who use Metra during construction revert back to their previous travel patterns after construction. As such, the timing of major construction projects can significantly influence Metra’s annual ridership estimates one way or the other.

Table 10 lists all major construction projects that have occurred since 2000. The shaded projects were ongoing in 2019.

**Table 10: Major Roadway Construction Projects**

Major Roadway	Affected Lines	Years
Congress Pkwy	Milw-W, UP-W, BNSF	2010-2012
Dan Ryan	Elec, RI, So. Shore	1988-1989, 2003-2007
Edens	UP-N, Milw-N	1979, 2007-2008
Edens Spur	UP-N, Milw-N	2010
Eisenhower	Milw-W, UP-W, BNSF	1984-1985, 2010
Hillside Strangler	BNSF, Milw-W, UP-W	2000-2001
I-355	Milw-W, UP-W, BNSF	2010
I-57 Rehab	Elec, RI	2002-2003
I-90 Jane Addams Tollway	Milw-W, UP-NW	2013-2016
IL Route 59	BNSF	2013-2015
Jane Byrne Interchange	Elec., RI, BNSF, Heritage, SWS, Milw-N, Milw-W, NCS, UP-N, UP-NW, UP-W	2015-2022
Kennedy	UP-N, Milw-N, UP-NW	1992-1994
Lake Shore Drive	Elec	1996
Stevenson	BNSF, Heritage, SWS	1998-2000
South Lake Shore Drive	Elec	2001-2004
Wacker Drive	BNSF, Heritage, SWS, Milw-N, Milw-W, NCS, UP-N, UP-NW, UP-W	2010-2012

**Jane Byrne Interchange Reconfiguration** – In March 2015, work began on a major reconfiguration of the Jane Byrne Interchange. During the first phase of the construction, the number of lanes was reduced on several ramps and the inbound Dan Ryan Expressway, and access to Congress Parkway from the Dan Ryan was via a detour. In December 2016, a new flyover linking the inbound Dan Ryan Expressway to the outbound Eisenhower Expressway was completed. Work

completed in 2017 enabled improvements to be made on the section that connects to Interstate 290 in 2018. The project will continue through 2022.

## **Marketing**

Metra markets its services to a wide variety of audiences. Its customer base includes traditional commuters and reverse commuters as well as recreational customers, weekend riders and occasional users, all of which represent important market segments for future ridership growth. Metra uses a proactive, customer-driven marketing approach to build on successful programs to meet passenger travel needs. While some of the marketing is tailored to specific market segments, other efforts are geared toward the general population to reinforce brand identity throughout the region while sending a call to action that resonates with all potential customers.

In 2019, Marketing's goal was to create additional opportunities to engage with riders and non-riders. In addition, Marketing established relationships with different organizations to create more partnerships in the future:

- Created an online summer calendar on Metra's website to promote events near Metra stations. Worked with Tourism agencies across various counties to develop this list.
- Partnered with the City of Chicago's Department of Aviation to promote the service to O'Hare Airport on the NCS Line.
- Promoted Rail Safety Week with the help of the Chicago White Sox with video in the stadiums and with Bruce Marcheschi answering questions about Rail Safety Week on the field.
- Special event tickets were promoted through social media channels and website to support large ridership events including the Lollapalooza music festival.
- Worked with RTA, CTA, and PACE to encourage riders to use all the systems while traveling to and from Chicago during the Holiday Lights festival and the remainder of the Holiday season.

For 2020, the Marketing Department will expand upon these initiatives and continue to develop creative and engaging ways to maintain the Metra brand and ultimately support Metra's efforts to stabilize and ultimately grow ridership. Marketing's aim is to encourage riders to use the system for various events outside of their commute to and from work. In addition, Marketing hopes to secure more sponsorships with corporate advertisers and create new digital content for our riders.

## **Business Development**

Working with a range of civic and business partners, Metra continuously strives to cultivate new riders across all market segments. One-to-one outreach efforts are directed to human resources managers, trade groups such as the Transportation Management Association (TMA) of Lake-Cook, chambers of commerce and others. Promoting Metra as a preferred option for both traditional and reverse commuters, Metra works with these civic groups, commercial property managers, and employers throughout the region to identify needs for connecting services. Metra then worked with Pace and/or an assortment of other providers, including Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), TMAs, local chambers and municipalities, to support both public transportation and innovative connecting services.

Metra continued to be directly involved in the support of a network of 11 Pace shuttles serving the Lake-Cook Corridor, and helped promote ridership on a number of other shuttle projects, including Conway Park businesses in Lake Forest, Esplanade office complex in Downers Grove, HSBC in Rolling Meadows, and more.

Throughout Metra's system, Metra has promoted (and continues to promote) transit benefits as a means for commuters to save on their transportation costs. In so doing, Metra champions all product offerings, while stressing the value of the RTA's program, which is offered at the lowest cost of any provider in the region. In support of this IRS-approved benefit, Metra maintains a transit benefit info page on metrarail.com and periodically e-blasts info to chambers and others. Beyond the commute markets, Metra works with meeting planners, convention staff, residential and hotel property managers, as well as concierges and other tourism related entities to promote Metra as a preferred mode for accessing cultural, recreational, sporting, entertainment and conference/convention venues.

Metra also seeks to expand its partnership with McCormick Place. Over the past few years, Metra has worked with various conferences held at McCormick Place to provide their attendees with unlimited rides on the Metra Electric between

Millennium and McCormick Place Stations. The show pays for each ride in addition to a fixed fee for additional Sunday Service. In 2020, Marketing wants to acquire new conference partners and provide additional services to existing partners.

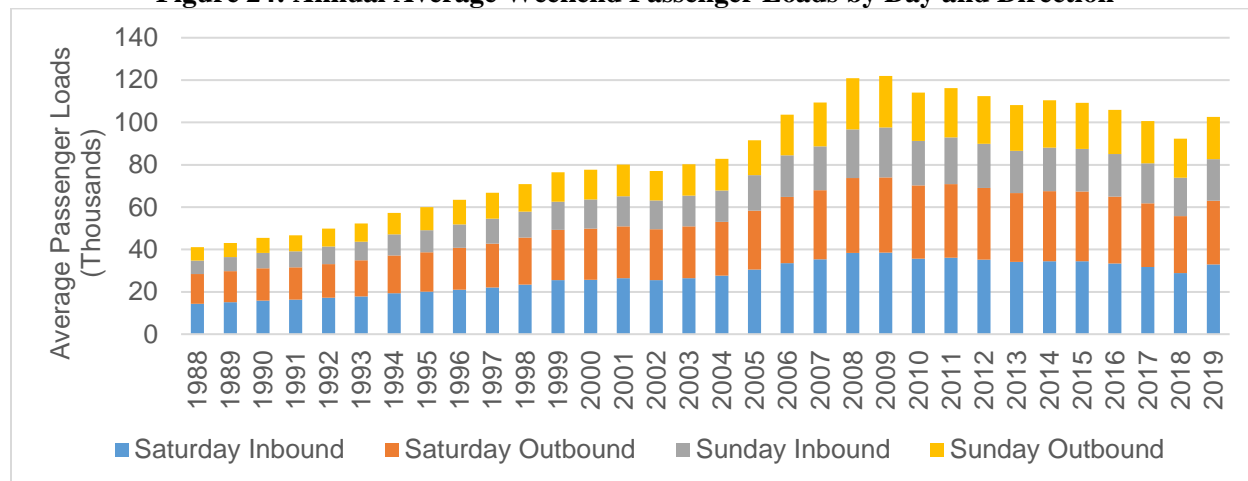
### **Cultural Attractions**

Metra provides direct access to many of the region's top cultural attractions. The downtown area is home to internationally renowned museums, world-class theaters and music venues, award winning restaurants, and is one of the premier shopping destinations in North America. Chicago-area residents and many travelers from outside the region use Metra as it provides direct access to these attractions without the need to navigate the region's congested highways, and without the need to locate and pay for parking.

Beyond the immediate downtown area, several of Metra's outlying stations are close to a number of popular attractions such as the Ravinia Festival, Chicago Botanic Garden, Brookfield Zoo, Museum of Science and Industry, Arlington Park Race Track, Schaumburg Boomers Stadium, Joliet Slammers Silver Cross Field, and Guaranteed Rate Field to name a few.

Metra's direct access to many of Chicago's cultural attractions causes Metra's weekend train loads to be heavy at times. Average weekend passenger loads climbed from approximately 80,000 per weekend to 120,000 per weekend between 2004 and 2008 (see Figure 24). This volume has dropped since 2009. In 2019, weekend loads returned to above 100,000 after additional weekend service was added.

**Figure 24: Annual Average Weekend Passenger Loads by Day and Direction**



### **Special Events**

Special events often bring large crowds into Chicago during off-peak hours. Metra provided additional service or added capacity for the following events in 2019:

- Chicago Auto Show weekends (February 9-10 and 16-17)
- South Side Irish Parade (March 17)
- St. Patrick's Day Parade (March 16)
- Spring Awakening (June 7-9)
- Chicago Pride Parade (June 30)
- Taste of Chicago (July 10-14)
- Lollapalooza (August 1-4)
- Chicago Air and Water Show (August 15-16)
- Bank of America Chicago Marathon (October 13)
- BMO Harris Bank Magnificent Mile Lights Festival (November 23)
- Black Friday (November 29)
- New Year's Eve (December 31)

### **Fares**

There were no fare increases in 2019. Table 11 lists the effective changes to commuter rail fares since 1981.

Following particularly low January ridership, Metra offered free rides on the weekend of February 16-17.

Following service disruptions on the Metra Electric in January and February, Monthly ticket holders for that line were offered a 15 percent discount on their April Monthly Pass.

On June 1, Metra began allowing monthly pass holders to use their ticket to travel anywhere in the system on weekends. Previously, weekend travel was restricted to the zones listed on the ticket.

On December 31, Metra offered free rides across its system after 6 pm for New Year's Eve.

In July 2018, Metra implemented two pilot programs resulting from the 2017-2018 Fare Structure Study. Fare Zones K-M (Woodstock, McHenry, Harvard, Antioch, and Kenosha stations) were consolidated into Fare Zone J. 83rd St. and 87th St. (ME-ML) and 123rd St. (RI-Beverly) stations were reassigned from Zone C to B; State St. through Ashland stations (ME-BI) were reassigned from Zone D to C.

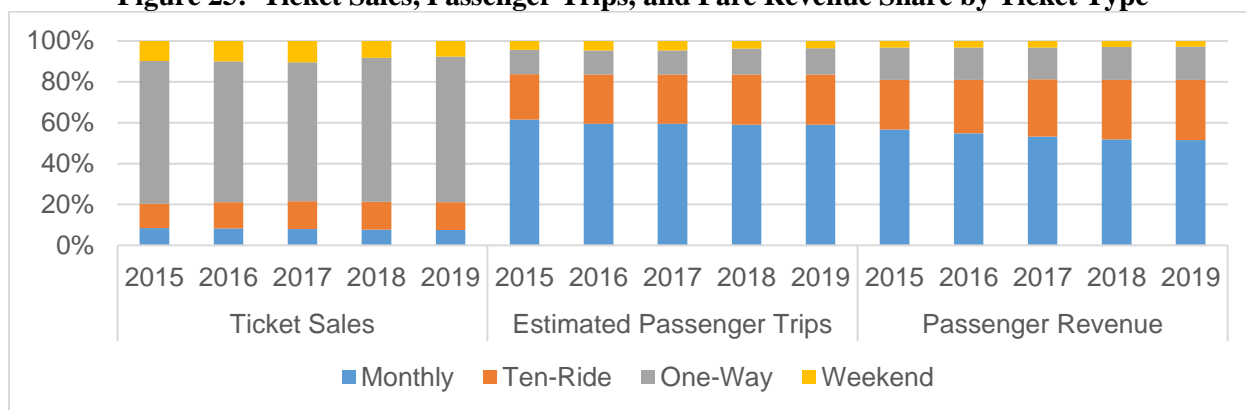
**Table 11: Fare Changes over Time**

Date	Action
Jan-81	across-the-board 33% increase
Jul-81	across-the-board 12.5% increase plus 40% surcharge
Oct-81	surcharge reduced to 33% (average -5%)
Feb-84	across-the-board 10% reduction (by Interim RTA Board)
Aug-85	discount ten-ride tickets by 15%; reduce Zone B fares by 18%; Family Fares
Feb-86	across-the-board 5% increase
Feb-89	across-the-board 5% increase (Capital Farebox Financing program)
Apr-90	raise on-train cash fare penalty from 50¢ to \$1.00
May-91	introduce Weekend \$5 Ticket
Feb-96	across-the-board increase, 20¢ per zone, +5½% overall
Jun-02	across-the-board 5% increase; raise on-train cash fare penalty from \$1.00 to \$2.00
Feb-06	across-the-board 5% increase
Feb-08	across-the-board 10% increase
Feb-10	increase one-way tickets by 6%, quarter-rounded; raise on-train cash fare penalty from \$2.00 to \$3.00; raise Weekend Ticket from \$5.00 to \$7.00
Feb-12	25.1% average fare increase (15.7% one-way; 30% ten-ride; 29.4% monthly); one-way tickets valid for 14 days from date of purchase and not eligible for refunds; monthly tickets valid only for the month issued and refunds subject to a \$5 handling fee
Feb-13	increase price of full-fare ten-ride ticket from 9.0 to 10.0 equivalent one-way fares (11.1% increase)
Feb-15	10.8% average fare increase; discount for full- and reduced-fare ten-ride tickets (priced at 9.0 equivalent one-way fares); weekend ticket increase from \$7 to \$8; on-train cash fare penalty increase from \$3 to \$5 (implemented in 2016); various fare policy changes including extension of one-way valid period from 14 to 90 days, extension of monthly valid period to noon on 1st business day following valid month, and elimination of all refunds except by discretion of CEO
Feb-16	Increase One-Way Fares by \$0.25; Increase Full-Fare Ten-Ride by \$1.75, Full-Fare Monthly Fares by \$2.50, Reduced Ten-Ride by \$0.75, and Reduced Monthly by \$1.25, on-train cash fare penalty increase from \$3 to \$5 (adopted in 2015) was implemented.
Feb-17	Increase One-Way Fares by \$0.25, Full-Fare Ten-Ride by \$2.75, Full-Fare Monthly Fares by \$11.75, Reduced One-Way by \$0.25, Reduced Ten-Ride by \$1.50, and Reduced Monthly by \$7.50
Feb-18	Increase Adult One-Way fares by \$0.25; increase Reduced One-Way fares \$0.00-\$0.25; increase Adult 10-Ride to 9.5 Adult One-Ways; increase Reduced 10-Ride to 9.5 Reduced One-Ways; increase Adult Monthly multiplier to 29.0 Adult One-Ways; maintain Reduced Monthly multiplier at 35.0 Reduced One-Ways; increase Weekend Pass by \$2
Jul-18	Zone Consolidation Pilot: consolidate Fare Zones K-M into Fare Zone J; Station Zone Reassignment Pilot: 83rd St. and 87th St. (ME-ML) and 123rd St. (RI-Beverly) stations reassigned from Zone C to B; State St. through Ashland stations (ME-BI) reassigned from Zone D to C
Jun-19	Monthly pass holders allowed to use their ticket to travel anywhere in the system on weekends. Previously, weekend travel was restricted to the zones listed on the ticket.

## February 2013, 2015, and 2018 10-Ride Fare Policy Change - Impact on Other Ticket Types

The change in the 10-ride ticket policy had an effect on the share of ticket sales, passenger trips, and fare revenue by ticket type. Figure 25 shows the share of ticket sales, passenger trips, and fare revenue by ticket type for 2012 through 2016. Because Metra estimates ridership based on ticket sales, small shifts in the share of the type of ticket sold can result in larger shifts in the share of passenger trips attributable to each ticket type. When the price of the 10-ride ticket was increased to equal the price of 10 one-way tickets in February 2013, the share of trips attributable to monthly ticket holders increased while the share of 10-ride trips decreased. In 2015, when the price of a 10-ride ticket was reduced to the price of a nine one-way tickets, the share of passenger trips attributable to monthly tickets decreased while the share for 10-ride tickets increased. This trend continued into 2018, abating after the price of 10-ride tickets was raised to 9.5-times the one-way fare on February 1, 2018.

**Figure 25: Ticket Sales, Passenger Trips, and Fare Revenue Share by Ticket Type**



## Average Fare

Each year, Metra calculates the average fare paid by fare-paying passengers (the average fare calculation does not include RTA Ride Free Permit rides). In 2019, the average fare increased 0.8% compared to 2018 from \$4.96 to \$4.99 (see Figure 26).

**Figure 26: Average Fare and Annual Paid Trips**





Table 12 illustrates the change in average fare paid and average miles traveled in 2018 and 2019 for each rail line.

**Table 12: Average Fare Paid and Miles Traveled by Line**

Line	2018		2019		% Change	
	Fare	Avg. Miles	Fare	Avg. Miles	Fare	Avg. Miles
BNSF	\$5.05	23.5	\$5.10	23.5	0.9%	-0.2%
ME	\$4.60	19.8	\$4.58	19.4	-0.2%	-2.1%
HC	\$5.24	27.5	\$5.27	27.3	0.6%	-0.8%
MD-N	\$5.13	23.0	\$5.16	22.9	0.5%	-0.7%
MD-W	\$5.11	24.6	\$5.14	24.6	0.6%	-0.3%
NCS	\$5.73	31.4	\$5.76	31.3	0.5%	-0.2%
RI	\$4.76	21.4	\$4.78	21.4	0.6%	0.1%
SWS	\$4.71	19.0	\$4.74	18.9	0.7%	-1.0%
UP-N	\$4.56	16.8	\$4.60	16.8	0.8%	0.0%
UP-NW	\$5.19	25.0	\$5.22	24.9	0.4%	-0.8%
UP-W	\$5.02	22.4	\$5.05	22.4	0.7%	-0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4.96</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>\$4.99</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>

### **Level of Service**

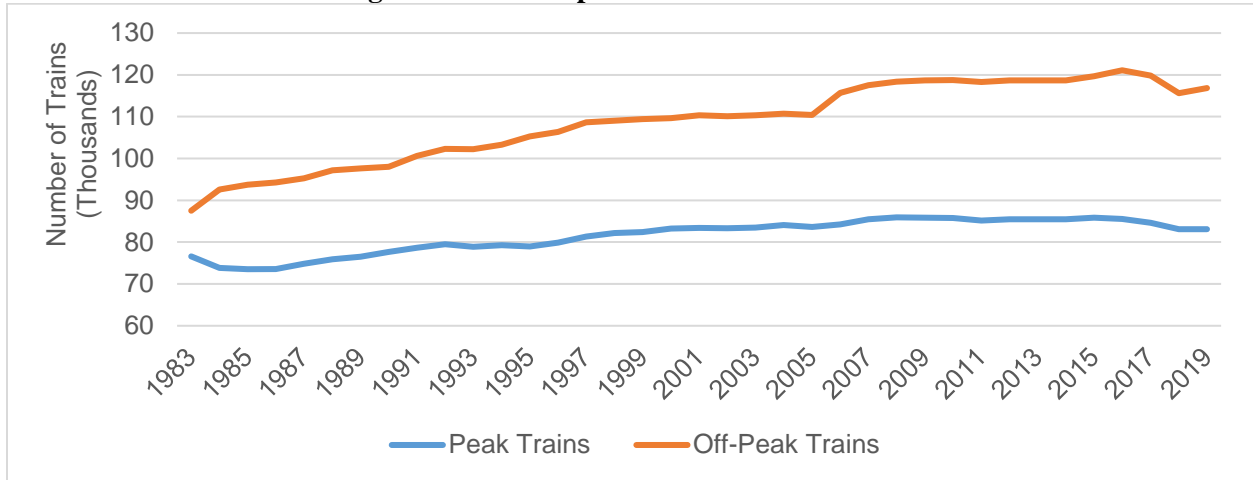
At the beginning of 2019, Metra operated 686 trains each weekday, 260 trains on Saturday, and 173 trains on Sunday. In January 2019, the level of service on weekdays was increased from 686 trains to 687, with no change in the level of service on Saturdays or Sundays. This change was made on the Rock Island Line, on which the number of weekday trains was increased by 1, from 67 to 68. In March 2019, the level of service on weekdays increased from 687 trains to 690 trains. This change was made under a two-year pilot program on the Milwaukee District North Line, on which the total number of weekday trains increased by 3, from 60 to 63.

In June 2019, the level of service on weekdays was increased from 690 to 692 trains, on Saturdays from 260 to 284 trains, and on Sundays from 173 to 181 trains. Weekend changes were made on the BNSF, Rock Island and Union Pacific Northwest lines under a weekend summer pilot project. On the BNSF Line, the total number Saturday trains increased by 2, from 28 to 30, and the total number of Sunday trains increased by 2, from 18 to 20. On the Rock Island Line, the total number of Saturday trains increased by 12, from 32 to 44. On the Union Pacific Northwest Line, the total number Saturday trains increased by 10, from 24 to 34, and the total number of Sunday trains increased by 6, from 15 to 21. Weekday changes were made on the BNSF Line, on which the number of trains increased by 2, from 95 to 97.

In September 2019, the level of service on Saturdays was reduced from 284 trains to 273. This change was made on the Rock Island Line, on which the total number of Saturday trains was reduced by 11, from 44 to 33, which was due to discontinuation of the weekend summer pilot project on this line.

As a result of these changes, the total number of peak service period trains (weekday a.m. and p.m. peak trains) operated by Metra each day in 2019 was increased 0.9 percent from 326 to 329 and the total number of off-peak trains (weekday off-peak, Saturday and Sunday trains) was increased 3.0 percent from 793 to 817. Figure 27 shows the number of peak and off-peak trains on an annual basis since 1984. Since 1984, service has increased +13 percent in the peak period and +26 percent in the off-peak period.

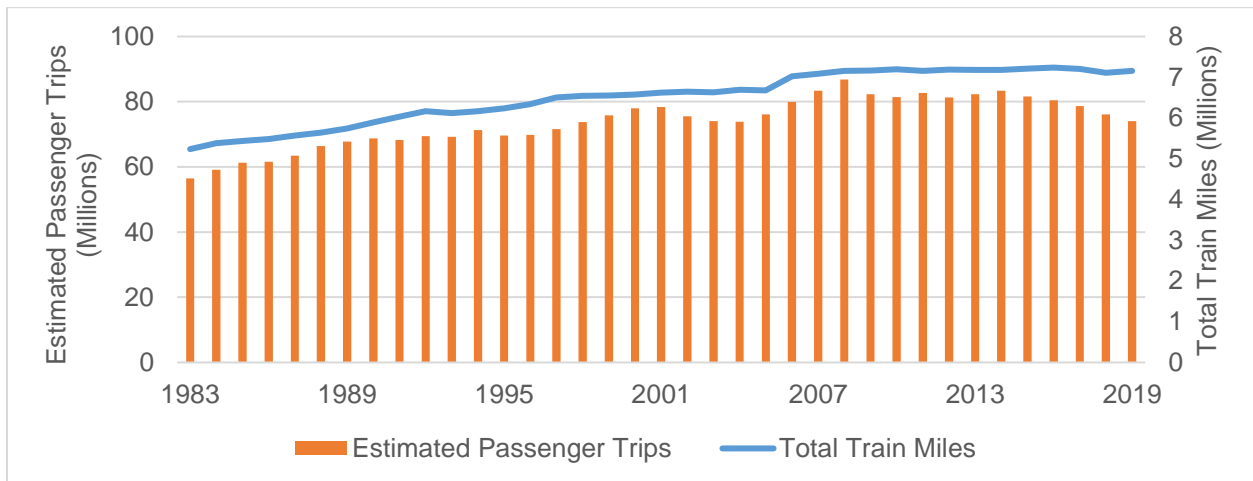
**Figure 27: Trains per Year Peak vs. Off-Peak**



### **Total Train Miles**

Total train miles (revenue and non-revenue) are a useful measure of the quantity of service offered. Figure 28, combines annual train miles with ridership (including free trips) for the system, and illustrates the importance of service levels to the amount of passenger use. In 2019, the total number of train miles increased 0.7 percent compared to 2018. Since 1984, train miles have increased 36.7 percent, while passenger trips have increased 31.2 percent.

**Figure 28: Annual Ridership vs. Annual Train Miles**



## Stations

Since Metra began in 1984, 32 stations have been opened and 15 stations have been closed (see Table 13 and Table 14). The opening of stations tends to have a positive impact on Metra ridership as Metra becomes more accessible to commuters.

**Table 13: Stations Opened Since 1984**

Opened Station	Line	Year	Opened Station	Line	Year
Big Timber	MD-N	1986	Antioch	NCS	1996
Route 59	BNSF	1989	Glen/N. Glenview	MD-N	2001
Orland Park/153 <sup>rd</sup>	SWS	1990	Prairie Crossing/Libertyville	MD-N	2004
Hickory Creek	RI	1993	Palos Heights	SWS	2004
Orland Park/179 <sup>th</sup>	SWS	1995	Pingree Road	UP-NW	2005
Lake Cook Rd.	MD-N	1996	Manhattan	SWS	2006
O'Hare Transfer	NCS	1996	La Fox	UP-W	2006
Prospect Heights	NCS	1996	Elburn	UP-W	2006
Wheeling	NCS	1996	Franklin Park/Belmont Ave.	NCS	2006
Buffalo Grove	NCS	1996	Schiller Park	NCS	2006
Prairie View	NCS	1996	Rosemont	NCS	2006
Vernon Hills	NCS	1996	Grayslake/Washington St.	NCS	2006
Mundelein	NCS	1996	Laraway Rd.	SWS	2006
Prairie Crossing/Libertyville	NCS	1996	Grand/Cicero	MD-N	2006
Round Lake Beach	NCS	1996	35 <sup>th</sup> Street/"Lou" Jones	RI	2011
Lake Villa	NCS	1996	Romeoville	HC	2018

**Table 14: Stations Closed Since 1984**

Closed Station	Line	Year	Closed Station	Line	Year
67 <sup>th</sup> Street	ME	1984	Longwood/99 <sup>th</sup>	RI	1985
Halsted	HC	1984	Abbott Platform	UP-N	1986
Brighton Park	HC	1984	Lockport/5 <sup>th</sup>	HC	1988
Rondout	MD-N	1984	Glenn	HC	1989
Wilson Road	MD-N	1984	Hermosa	MD-W	2006
Western Ave.	MD-N	1984	Cragin	MD-W	2006
Hartland	UP-NW	1984	Clyde	BNSF	2007
Givens	RI	1984			

### **Parking Utilization**

Since a majority of Metra riders drive to stations, parking utilization rates are usually consistent with changes in ridership. In 2019, the number of used parking spaces decreased by 2.9 percent compared to 2018 (see Table 15).

Over 37,000 net parking spaces have been added to the system since 1987. In 2019, some commuter parking was lost due to either lot reconfigurations with spaces reduced or municipal conversion of some spaces to local short-term parking. The lost spaces were replaced in greater number, but not necessarily in the same locales, by either new lots built by Metra or the designation of existing parking for commuters by municipalities. Such annual gains and losses of commuter spaces is a normal occurrence. System-wide, 348 net spaces were lost in total parking capacity.

**Table 15: Metra Commuter Parking**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Used</b>	<b>Empty</b>	<b>% Used</b>
1987	52,602	46,138	6,464	87.7%
1991	61,952	54,175	7,777	87.4%
1994	67,480	58,233	9,247	86.3%
1997	72,104	60,887	11,217	84.4%
1999	72,265	63,826	8,439	88.3%
2001	75,724	67,038	8,686	88.5%
2003	78,086	67,405	10,681	86.3%
2005	81,996	68,212	13,784	83.2%
2006	85,956	70,499	15,457	82.0%
2007	88,675	71,368	17,307	80.5%
2008	88,628	71,860	16,768	81.1%
2009	89,090	67,852	21,238	76.2%
2010	90,238	67,183	23,055	74.5%
2011	89,982	68,341	21,641	75.9%
2012	90,020	66,513	23,507	73.9%
2013	90,257	67,200	23,057	74.5%
2014	90,634	68,450	22,184	75.5%
2015	90,776	67,588	23,191	74.5%
2016	91,175	67,980	23,195	74.6%
2017	90,746	66,590	24,156	73.4%
2018	90,626	67,754	22,872	74.8%
2019	90,278	65,776	24,502	72.9%
<b>Difference (net)</b>				
<b>'87-'19</b>	<b>37,676</b>	<b>19,638</b>	<b>18,038</b>	

### **Telecommuting, Flextime, and Compressed or Alternate Work Schedules**

Human resources practices such as telecommuting, flextime, and compressed or alternate work schedules have gained momentum at many Chicago area employers. According to the 2006-2010 American Community Survey, Chicago ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in telecommuting among major metro areas with 3.99 percent of employees working primarily from home.

These changes in traditional five-day workdays have several potential implications for Metra ridership. First, riders commuting to work less than five days a week may opt to use ten-ride tickets instead of monthly passes. Second, Metra's service is heavily concentrated during peak periods. Riders commuting to work on flexible hours outside of the peak period may find Metra's off-peak service inconvenient, and therefore may opt to commute using an alternate mode.

According to Metra's 2019 Origin-Destination Study, over half of Metra's respondents (56 percent) reported telecommuting at least one day per month. Of those, 46 percent say they commute 1 to 4 times a month.

### **Calendar Differences**

Since Metra's heaviest passenger loads are during the weekday commute hours, ridership is impacted by the number of weekdays in the year. As shown in Table 16, 2019 had the same number of weekdays, the Saturdays, and Sundays/holidays compared to 2018. Metra operates Sunday schedules on major holidays.

**Table 16: Calendar Differences between 2018 and 2019**

	Weekday			Saturday		
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change
Jan	22	22	0	4	4	0
Feb	20	20	0	4	4	0
Mar	22	21	-1	5	5	0
Apr	21	22	1	4	4	0
May	22	22	0	4	4	0
Jun	21	20	-1	5	5	0
Jul	21	22	1	4	4	0
Aug	23	22	-1	4	5	1
Sep	19	20	1	5	4	-1
Oct	23	23	0	4	4	0
Nov	21	20	-1	4	5	1
Dec	20	21	1	5	4	-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>
	Sunday/Holiday			All Days		
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change
Jan	5	5	0	31	31	0
Feb	4	4	0	28	28	0
Mar	4	5	1	31	31	0
Apr	5	4	-1	30	30	0
May	5	5	0	31	31	0
Jun	4	5	1	30	30	0
Jul	6	5	-1	31	31	0
Aug	4	4	0	31	31	0
Sep	6	6	0	30	30	0
Oct	4	4	0	31	31	0
Nov	5	5	0	30	30	0
Dec	6	6	0	31	31	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>0</b>

#### IV. 2019 TICKET SALES

Metra offers monthly passes, 10-ride tickets, one-way tickets, and weekend passes. The total number of tickets bought in 2019 declined by 1.8 percent compared to 2018 (see Table 17).

In 2019, 10-ride ticket sales decreased 2.6 percent, monthly pass sales decreased 2.8 percent, one-way ticket sales decreased 0.6 percent, and weekend and special event passes decreased 9.8 percent.

**Table 17: Ticket Sales by Type**

<b>Ticket Type</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Change 2014- 2019</b>	<b>Change 2018- 2019</b>
Monthly Pass	1,179,231	1,133,464	1,072,941	1,032,447	1,003,227	-14.9%	-2.8%
10-Ride Ticket	1,656,461	1,753,264	1,866,371	1,843,794	1,796,191	8.4%	-2.6%
One-Way Ticket	9,706,366	9,457,638	9,209,144	9,511,730	9,452,397	-2.6%	-0.6%
<i>Mobile &amp; Station</i>	5,771,648	6,568,058	6,817,656	7,358,535	7,637,086	32.3%	3.8%
<i>Conductor</i>	3,934,718	2,889,580	2,391,488	2,153,195	1,815,311	-53.9%	-15.7%
Weekend and Special Event Pass	1,484,020	1,495,940	1,470,765	1,160,103	1,046,856	-29.5%	-9.8%
<i>Mobile &amp; Station</i>	442,366	602,702	693,550	576,127	570,747	29.0%	-0.9%
<i>Conductor</i>	1,041,654	893,238	777,215	583,976	476,109	-54.3%	-18.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,026,078</b>	<b>13,840,306</b>	<b>13,619,221</b>	<b>13,548,074</b>	<b>13,298,671</b>	<b>-5.2%</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>

Table 18 shows the percent share of tickets, passenger trips, and revenue by ticket type for the last five years.

As a result of the price of the 10-ride ticket being decreased to the cost of nine one-way tickets in 2015, the percentage of ten-ride tickets had increased from 9.6 percent in 2014 to 13.8 in 2017.

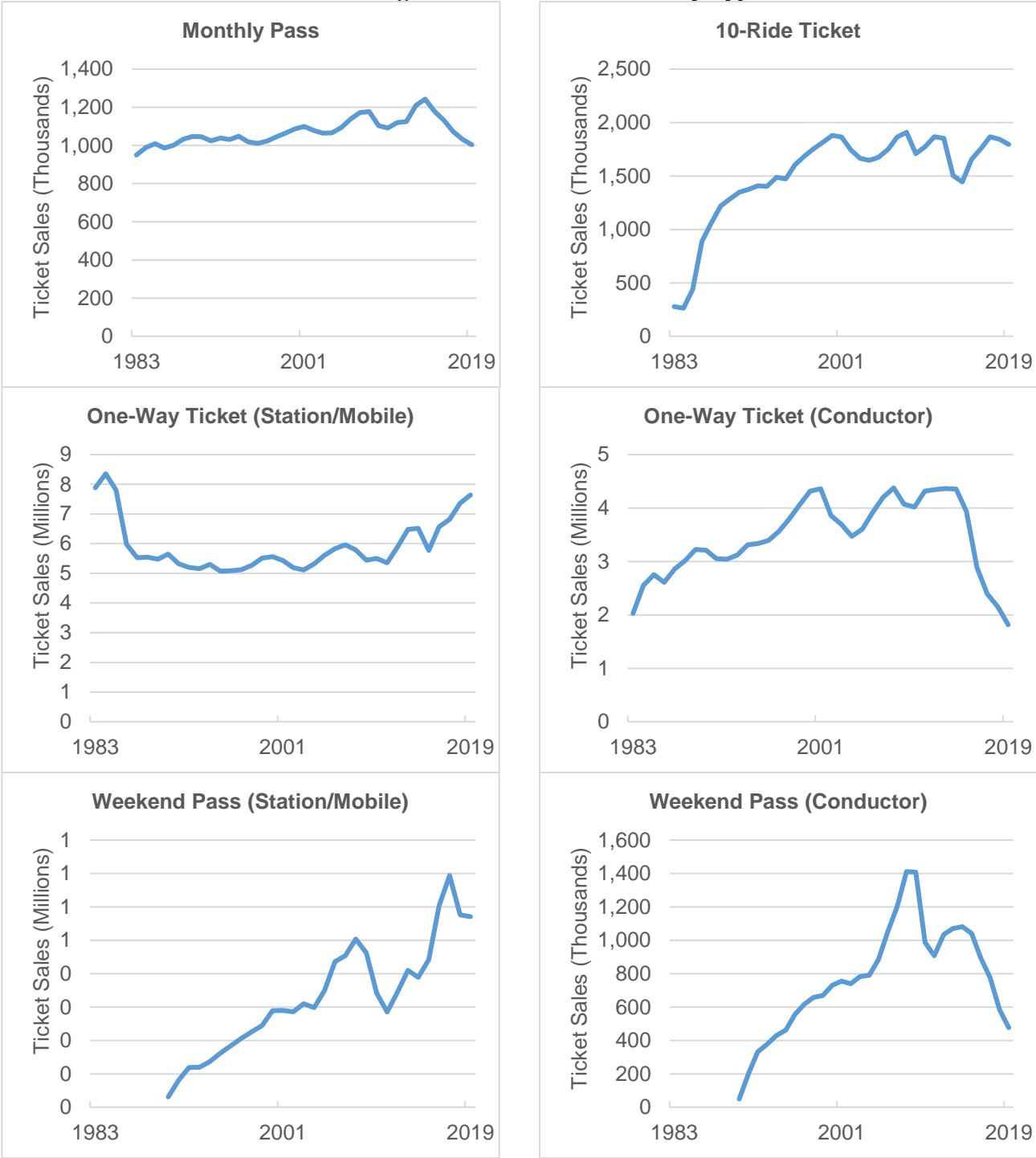
There was no fare increase in 2019, so this percentage shift in ticket sales by type translates into 10-ride ticket trips now making up 24.6 percent of estimated passenger trips, compared to 17.5 percent in 2014.

**Table 18: Percent Share by Ticket Type**

Ticket Type	Ticket Sales					Estimated Passenger Trips				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Monthly Pass	8.5%	8.3%	7.9%	7.6%	7.6%	61.6%	59.5%	59.5%	59.1%	59.0%
10-Ride Ticket	11.9%	12.8%	13.8%	13.6%	13.5%	22.2%	24.1%	24.1%	24.5%	24.6%
One-Way Ticket	69.8%	69.0%	67.9%	70.4%	71.3%	12.0%	11.9%	11.9%	12.7%	12.9%
Weekend Pass	9.8%	9.9%	10.4%	8.3%	7.6%	4.3%	4.6%	4.6%	3.7%	3.5%
	Passenger Revenue									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019					
Monthly Pass	56.7%	54.9%	53.2%	51.9%	51.6%					
10-Ride Ticket	24.3%	26.1%	28.1%	29.1%	29.3%					
One-Way Ticket	15.9%	15.9%	15.5%	16.0%	16.3%					
Weekend Pass	3.2%	3.1%	3.2%	3.0%	2.8%					

Figure 29 shows the total numbers of tickets by ticket type sold since 1984. A large decrease in the number of monthly tickets sold corresponds with a large increase in the number of 10-rides sold in 2015 compared to 2014. This continued in 2016 and 2017 before leveling off in 2018. The shift to the Ventra App is evident in the decrease in one-way ticket and weekend pass conductor sales, and corresponding increase in mobile & station sales.

Figure 29: Total Ticket Sales by Type

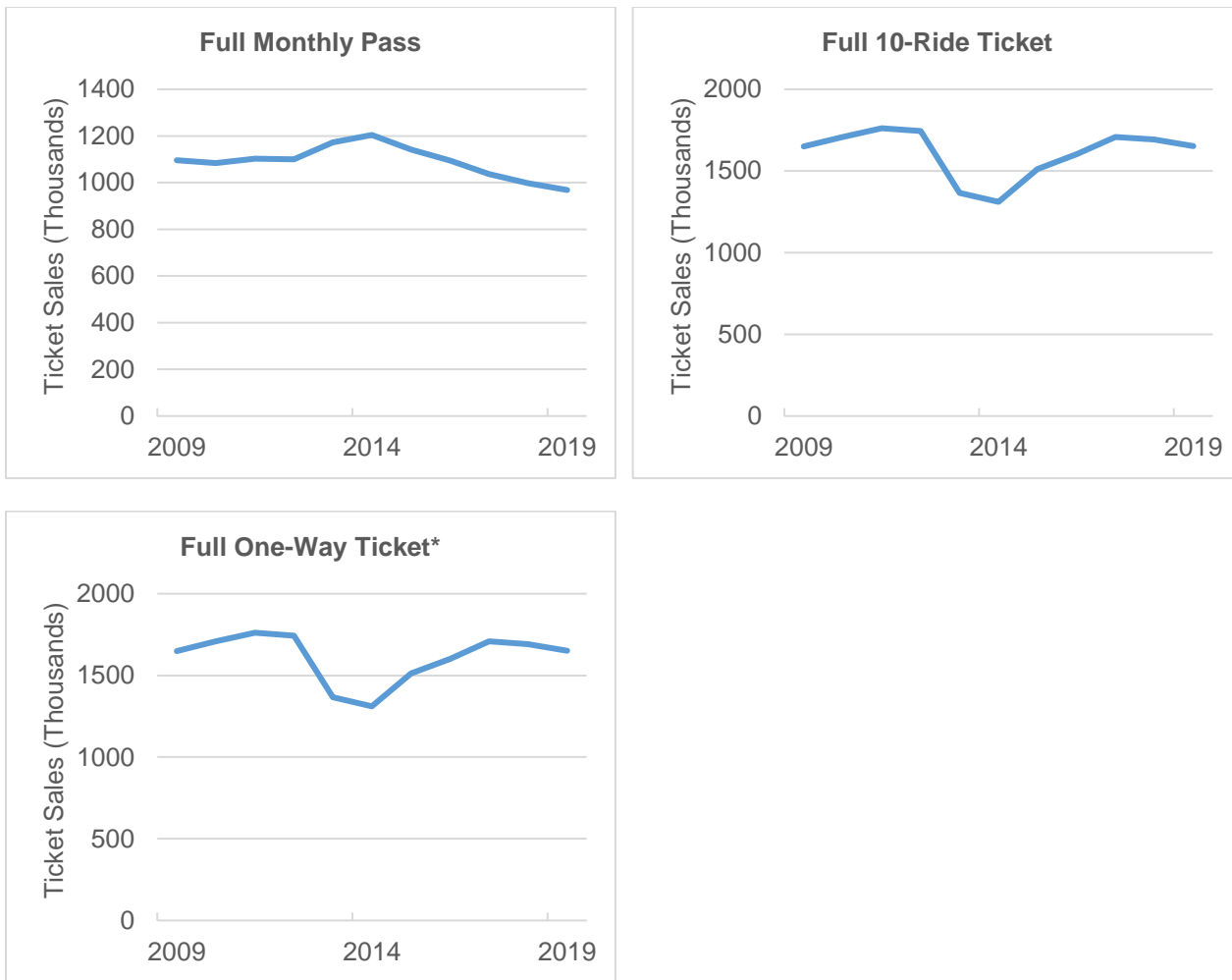




## **Full Fare Sales**

Figure 30 shows the total number of full fare tickets by ticket type since 2009.

**Figure 30: Full Fare Ticket Sales by Type**



\*Does not include conductor or group sales

### **Reduced Fare Sales**

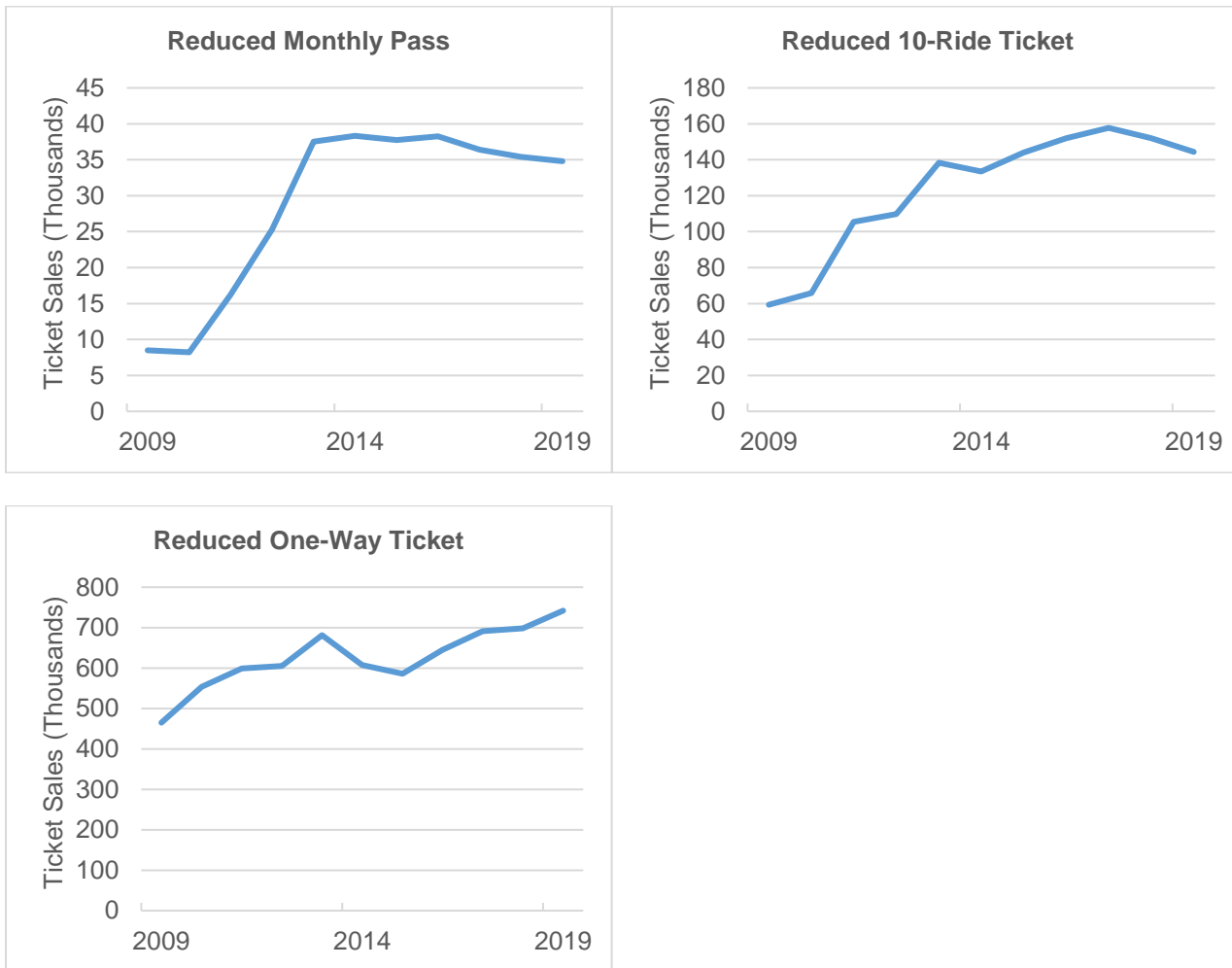
Monthly and 10-Ride reduced fare ticket types continued to see a decrease in sales in 2019. Table 19 shows all reduced-fare ticket sales by month for 2018 and 2019. Reduced fare monthly pass sales decreased 1.8 percent, reduced fare 10-ride ticket sales decreased 5.1 percent. Collectively, One-Way and conductor sales increased 2.0 percent.

**Table 19: Reduced-Fare Ticket Sales**

	<b>2018</b>				<b>2019</b>			
	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>10-Ride</b>	<b>One-Way</b>	<b>Conductor</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>10-Ride</b>	<b>One-Way</b>	<b>Conductor</b>
Jan	2,771	18,132	40,528	20,183	2,752	11,168	42,613	19,183
Feb	2,897	9,165	36,638	18,463	2,838	10,771	33,924	14,399
Mar	3,007	11,429	64,010	24,568	2,940	11,587	63,580	21,353
Apr	3,006	12,195	43,755	22,532	2,991	11,919	47,792	17,705
May	3,039	13,026	55,248	27,998	2,972	12,896	59,546	26,328
Jun	2,875	12,742	73,733	34,342	2,809	12,175	76,946	33,644
Jul	2,841	12,374	88,996	34,797	2,780	12,334	91,136	35,997
Aug	2,703	12,919	82,500	32,105	2,627	12,208	87,632	29,854
Sep	3,154	12,430	49,190	24,220	3,154	12,687	52,159	22,283
Oct	3,318	14,436	52,359	25,649	3,265	13,586	56,308	22,069
Nov	3,122	12,216	53,685	22,797	3,044	11,695	58,922	20,528
Dec	2,675	11,029	57,839	24,766	2,611	11,358	71,444	25,662
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,408</b>	<b>152,093</b>	<b>698,481</b>	<b>312,420</b>	<b>34,783</b>	<b>144,384</b>	<b>742,002</b>	<b>289,005</b>

Figure 31 shows the total number of reduced fare tickets by ticket type (monthly, 10-ride, and one-way excluding conductor) sold since 2008.

**Figure 31: Reduced Fare Ticket Sales by Type\***

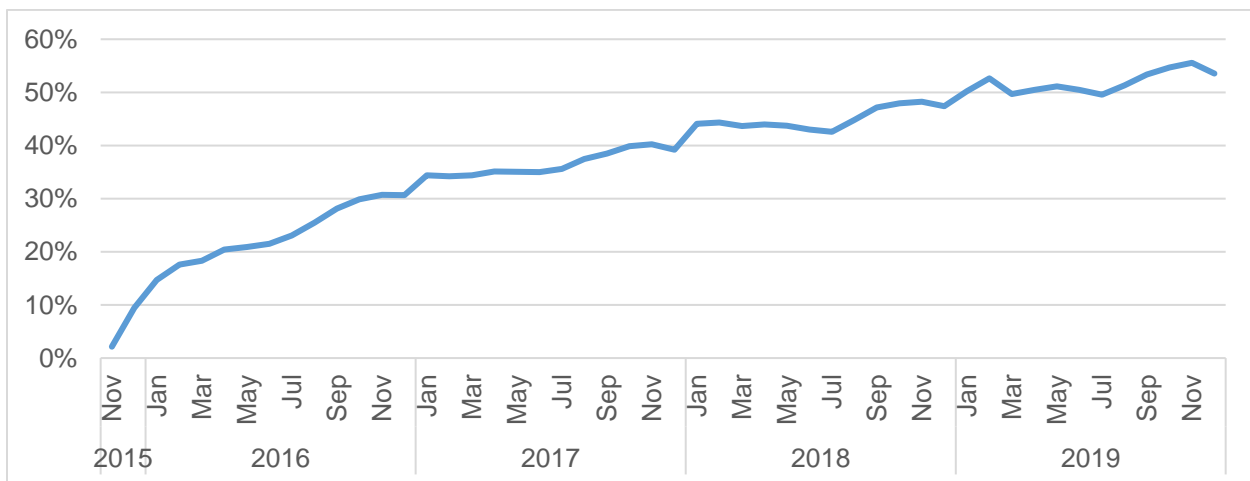


\*Includes all eligible and ineligible reduced-fare rides for reimbursement and does not include conductor or group sales

### **Mobile Ticketing Adoption**

The Ventra App was launched in November 2015. Figure 32 shows the percentage of total tickets purchased using the app. Table 20 shows mobile ticketing adoption by ticket type.

**Figure 32: Mobile Ticketing Adoption (% of total ticket sales)**



**Table 20: Mobile Ticket Sales by Ticket Type (2019)**

Month	Monthly Pass	10-Ride Ticket	One-Way Ticket	Weekend/Special Event Pass
Jan	27,644	91,221	319,564	20,033
Feb	29,932	85,215	298,346	15,508
Mar	29,831	84,968	357,380	36,058
Apr	30,912	93,051	360,284	23,418
May	30,026	95,772	421,241	31,363
Jun	30,725	94,722	471,052	46,481
Jul	29,964	103,002	502,282	46,976
Aug	30,387	98,262	509,830	59,110
Sep	32,687	97,274	423,530	34,886
Oct	35,011	103,677	449,848	28,653
Nov	32,255	88,552	410,160	39,451
Dec	26,285	91,577	454,401	42,870
<b>Total</b>	<b>365,659</b>	<b>1,127,293</b>	<b>4,977,918</b>	<b>424,807</b>

**Table 21: Mobile Adoption: Percent of Ticket Sales by Ticket Type (2019)**

Month	Monthly	10-Ride	One-Way	Weekend/ Special Event	All Tickets	All Rides
Jan	33.4%	62.5%	51.3%	32.9%	50.2%	43.3%
Feb	35.5%	60.6%	53.8%	43.7%	52.6%	44.1%
Mar	35.1%	61.2%	50.4%	40.0%	49.7%	44.2%
Apr	35.1%	62.0%	51.0%	37.8%	50.5%	44.3%
May	35.4%	62.1%	51.8%	39.8%	51.1%	45.2%
Jun	36.5%	62.5%	50.6%	43.5%	50.5%	46.3%
Jul	36.6%	63.4%	49.9%	37.2%	49.6%	46.8%
Aug	36.9%	63.5%	51.9%	42.0%	51.3%	47.4%
Sep	38.3%	64.2%	54.7%	38.3%	53.4%	47.8%
Oct	39.5%	64.0%	55.6%	41.0%	54.7%	48.6%
Nov	38.5%	62.8%	57.2%	46.8%	55.6%	47.8%
Dec	36.1%	63.9%	54.9%	40.5%	53.5%	47.4%
<b>2019 Average</b>	<b>36.4%</b>	<b>62.8%</b>	<b>52.7%</b>	<b>40.4%</b>	<b>51.8%</b>	<b>46.1%</b>

Table 21 shows total ticket sales of all types by sales channel and tender type. In 2019, 51.8 percent of all ticket sales were made through the Ventra App: the app remains the largest sales channel by number of ticket sales.

**Table 22: Total Ticket Sales by Sales Channel and Tender Type**

<b>Sales Channel</b>	<b>2017 (Thousands)</b>	<b>2018 (Thousands)</b>	<b>2019 (Thousands)</b>	<b>Change (‘18 to ‘19)</b>	<b>2018 Share</b>	<b>2019 Share</b>
Commuter Benefit	470	445	419	-5.8%	3.3%	3.2%
Conductor	3,169	2,737	2,291	-16.3%	20.2%	17.2%
Internet	46	23	-	-100%	0.2%	0.0%
Mail	17	-	-			
Ticket Agent	4,259	3,744	3,300	-11.9%	27.6%	24.8%
<i>Cash &amp; Other</i>	2,075	1,732	1,461	-15.7%		
<i>Credit Card</i>	2,184	2,012	1,839	-8.6%		
Vending Machine	629	497	398	-19.8%	3.7%	3.0%
<i>Cash</i>	56	-	-			
<i>Credit Card</i>	967	497	398	-19.8%		
Ventra Mobile App	5,030	6,102	6,896	13.0%	45.0%	51.8%
<i>Credit Card</i>	4,503	5,556	6,357	14.4%		
<i>Mixed &amp; Other</i>	72	65	38	-41.0%		
<i>Ventra</i>	454	481	500	4.1%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,840</b>	<b>13,549</b>	<b>13,305</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>		

Changes in ticket sales channels can affect passenger revenue and ticket sales trends:

- The Ventra App was introduced in November 2015, causing a long-term shift from ticket agent and conductor sales to sales through the app.
- Cash vending machines (previously present only on the Metra Electric Line) were eliminated in May 2017, causing a shift toward conductor sales on the Metra Electric Line.
- The Ticket by Mail program was eliminated in July 2017.
- Metra stopped selling Monthly Passes and 10-Ride Tickets from vending machines at 15 non-downtown stations on the Metra Electric Line in June 2018.
- The Ticket-by-Internet program was eliminated in June 2018.
- In December 2018, an update to the Ventra app ended the option for purchasing mobile tickets without creating a Ventra account.



# **Ridership Trends Annual Report 2019**

Metra Board of Directors

February 19, 2020

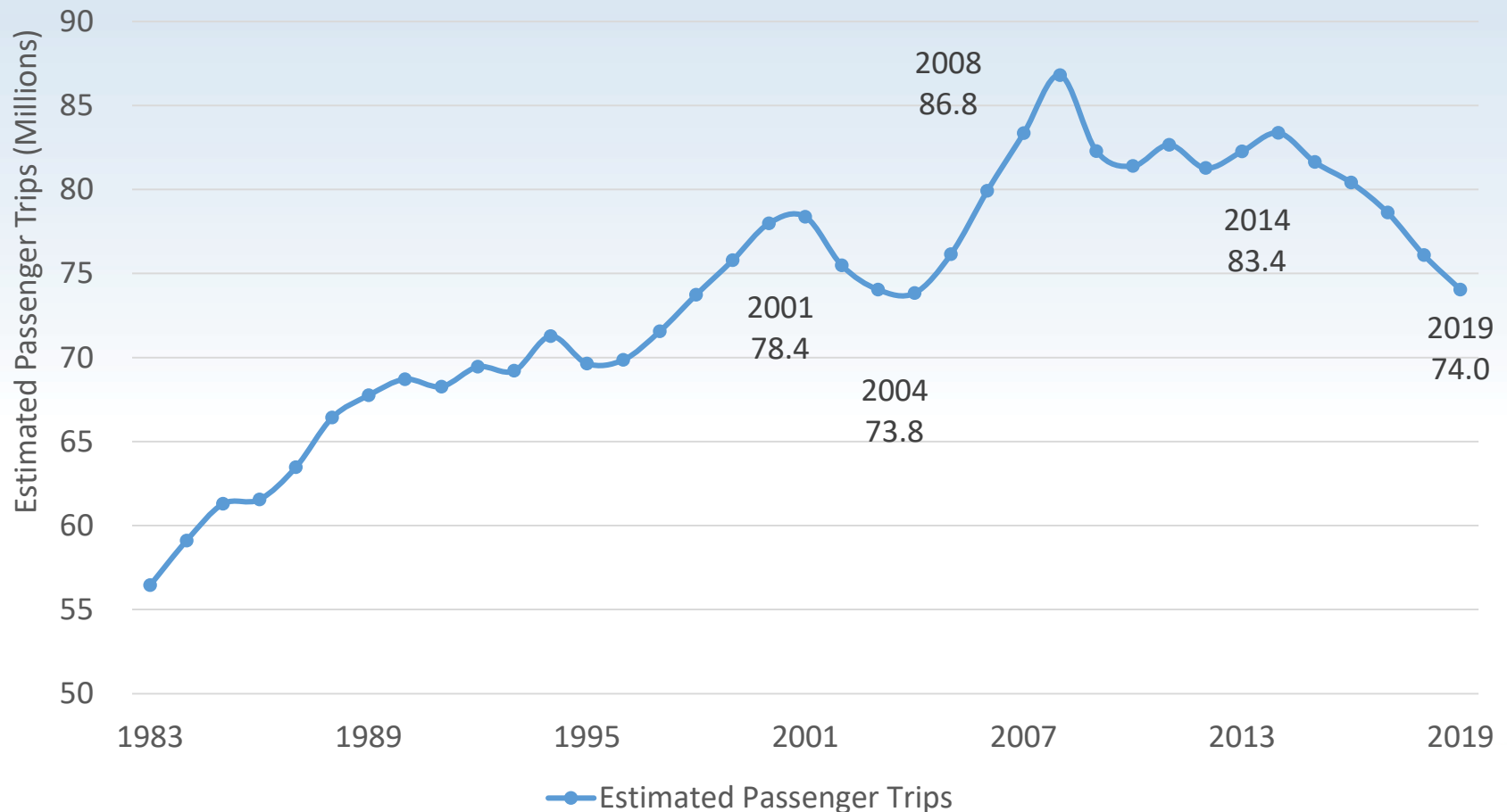
Presented by Lynnette Ciavarella

Senior Division Director, Strategic Capital Planning

# Ridership by Year

Estimated Passenger Trips are down ▼ 2.7% compared to last year

Estimated Passenger Trips by Year (1983-2019)



# Ridership by Line

Estimated Passenger Trips by Line (2015-2019)



Five-year  
change:

↓6%

↓20%

↑1%

↓8%

↓13%

↓10%

↓12%

↓10%

↓8%

↓8%

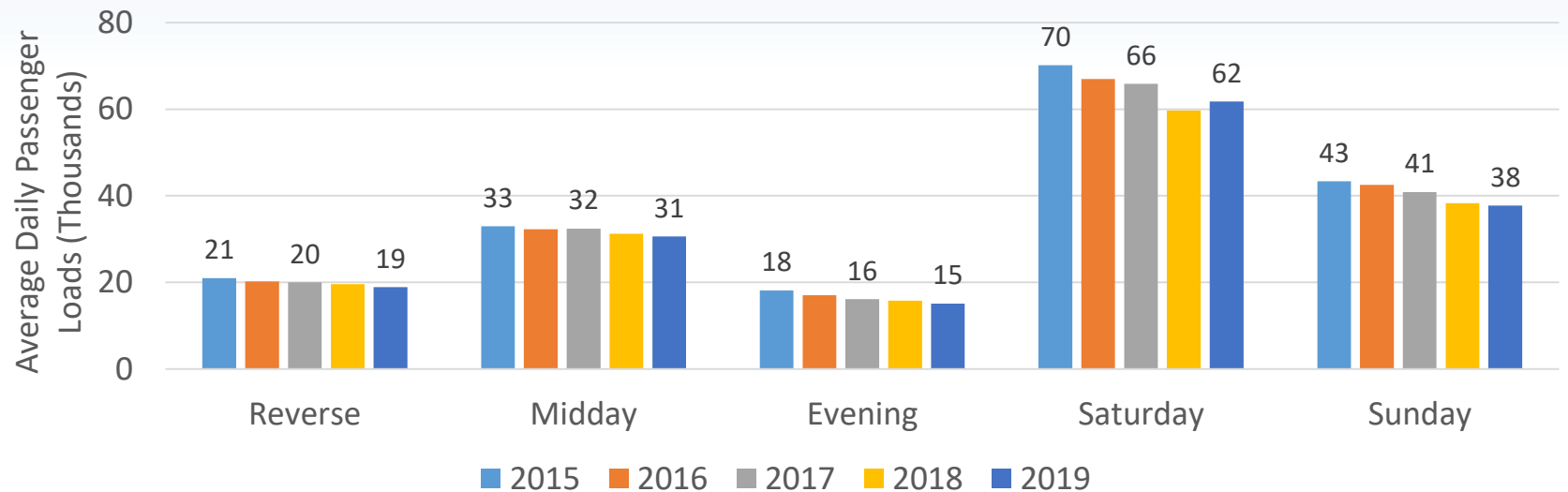
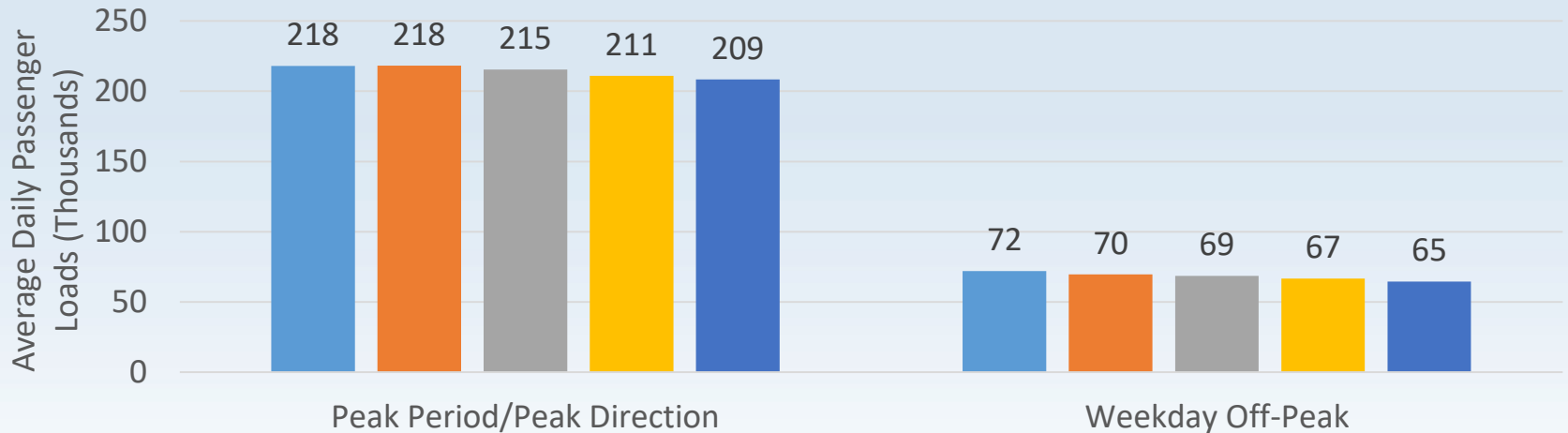
↓6%

■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019



# Ridership by Service Period

Average Daily Passenger Load by Service Period (2015-2019)



# Ridership Influences

## Factors Within Metra's Control:

- **Fares and Fare Policies**
- **Service Changes**
- Station Openings and Closings

## Factors Partially Within Metra's Control:

- Service Reliability
- **Technology-enabled Travel Information**

## Factors Outside of Metra's Control:

- **Employment**
- Gas Prices
- Special Events
- **Weather**
- Competition from Innovators

# Polar Vortex

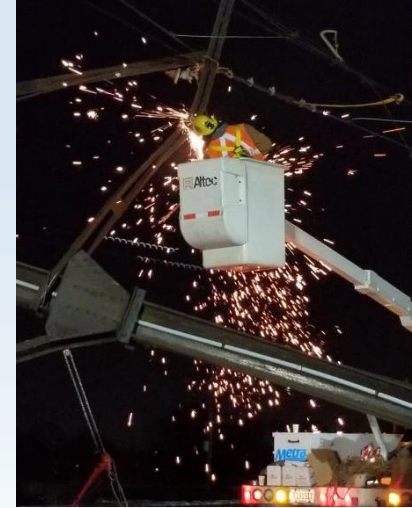
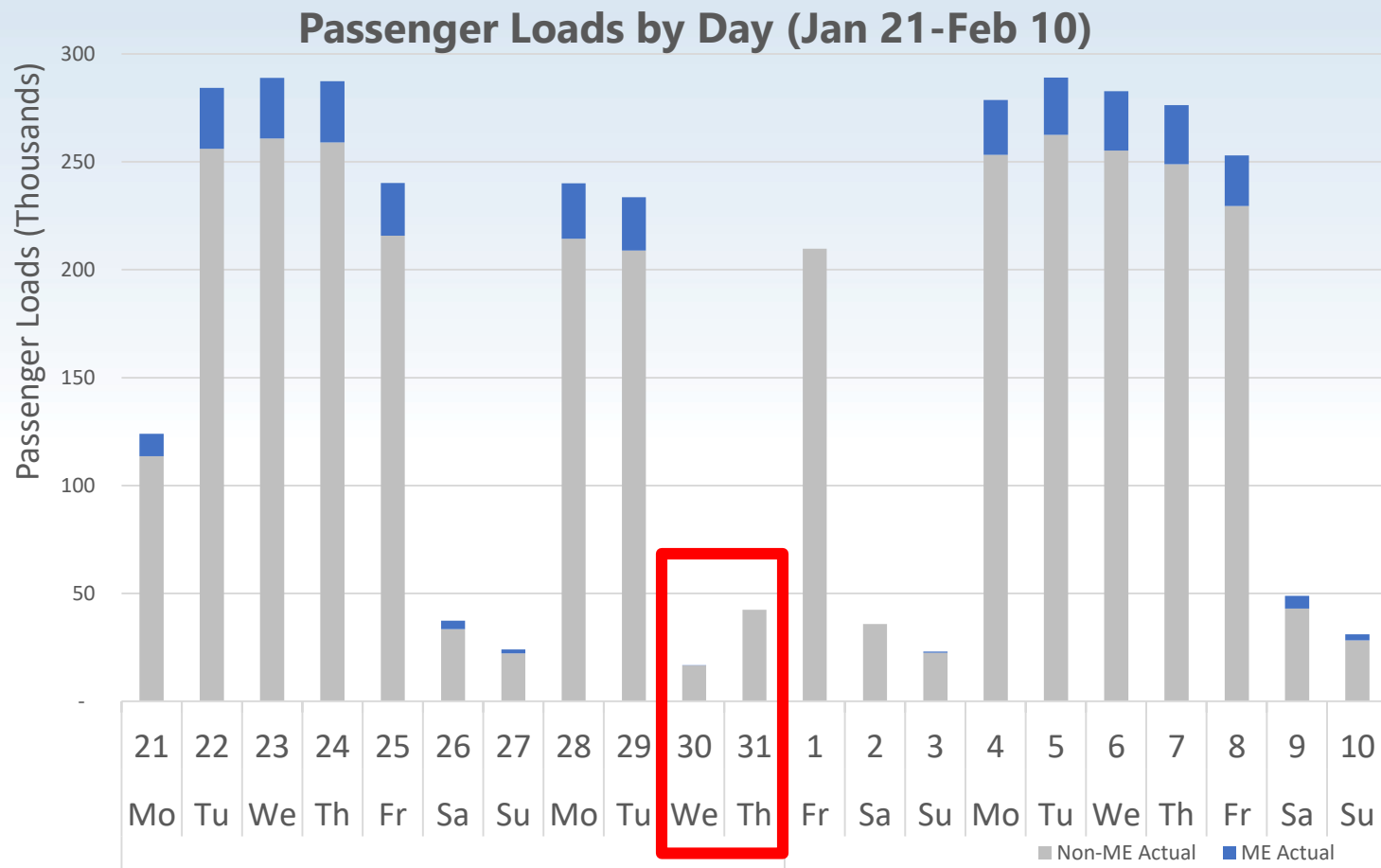


Photo: Kiichiro Sato/AP

# Polar Vortex

Passenger loads on during Polar Vortex similar to weekend

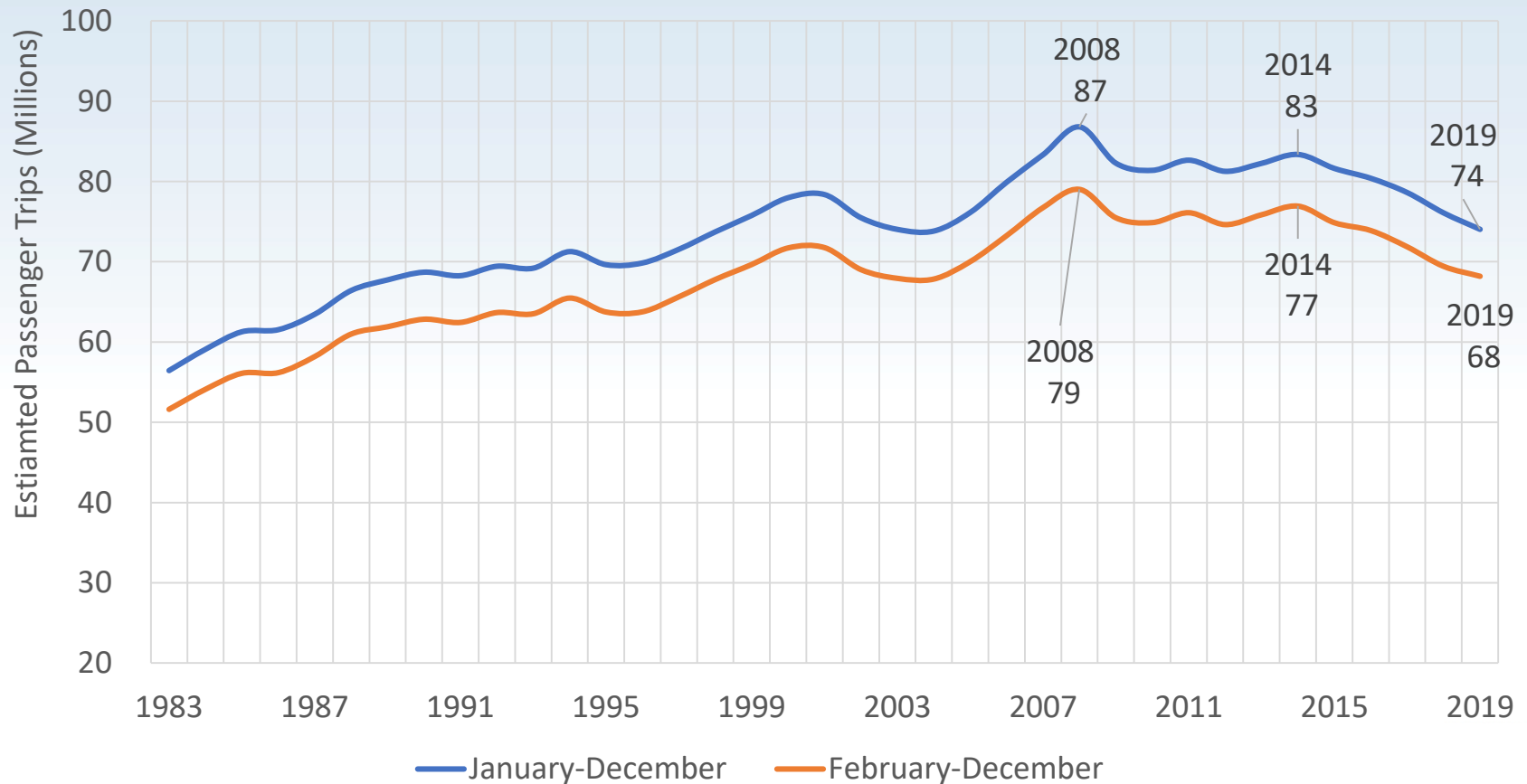


# Ridership by Year

January-December Estimated Passenger Trips were down ↓ 2.7% compared to 2018

February-December Estimated Passenger Trips were down ↓ 1.8% compared to 2018

Partial-Year Estimated Passenger Trips (1983-2019)

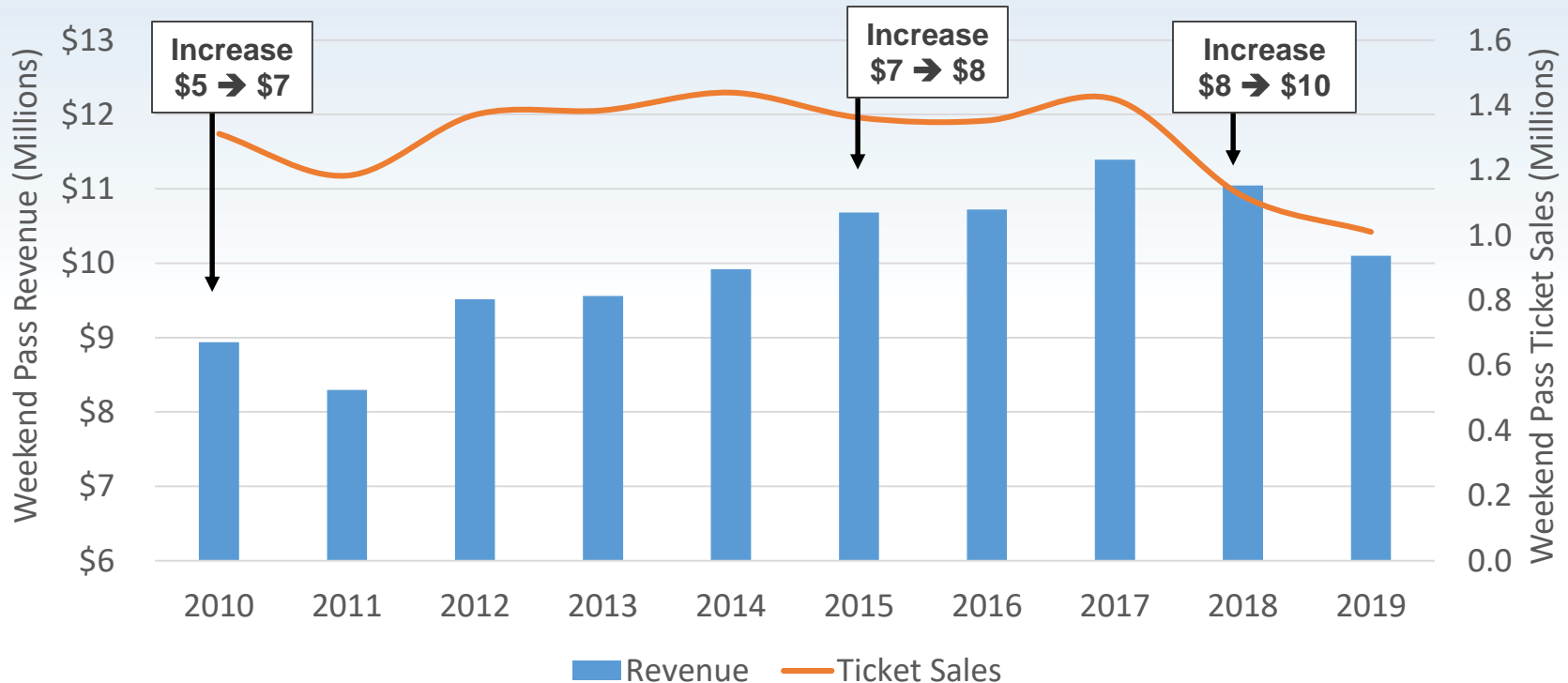


# Ridership Influences: Weekend Pass

The increase in price from \$8 to \$10 caused the growth in Weekend Pass revenue to reverse in 2018.

In 2019 Weekend Pass revenue fell (↓ \$947,000) and Weekend Pass sales declined (↓ 110,000) compared to 2018.

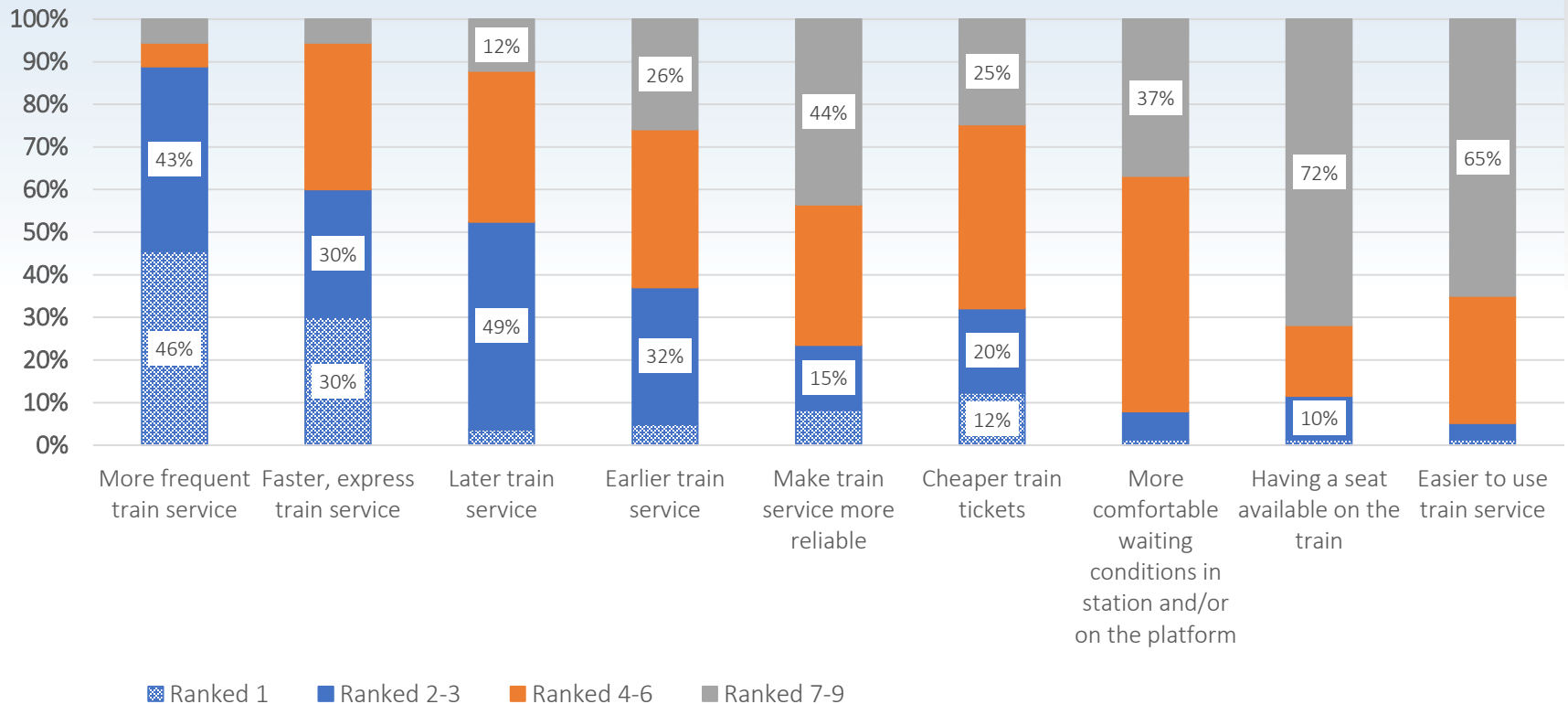
Weekend Pass Revenue and Ticket Sales (2010-2019)



# Ridership Influences: Weekends

2019 Weekend Rider Survey asked non-riders to rank the improvements that would get them to ride more frequently. Most riders ranked more frequent train service as the top priority

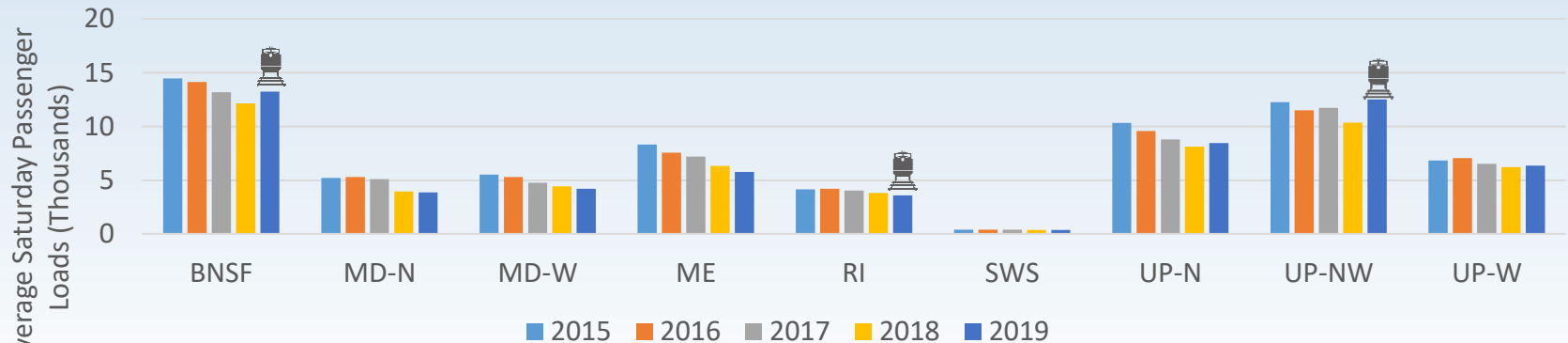
## Non-Weekend Riders: Which improvements would cause you to use Metra on the weekends more frequently?



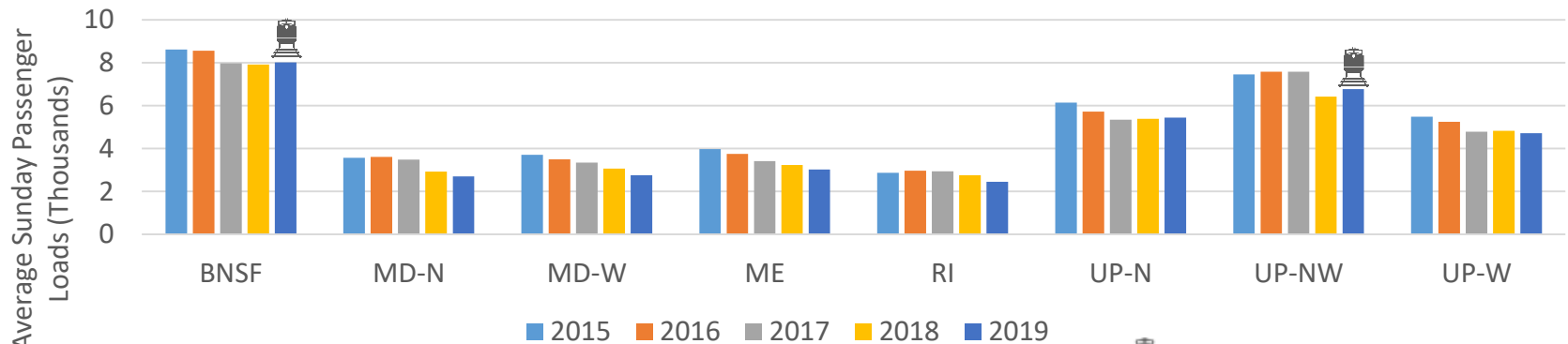
# Ridership Influences: Weekends

Weekend passenger loads increased by an average of ↑ **4.0%** on Saturdays and fell ↓ **2.1%** on Sundays compared to 2018

Average Saturday Passenger Loads (2015-2019)



Average Sunday Passenger Loads (2015-2019)

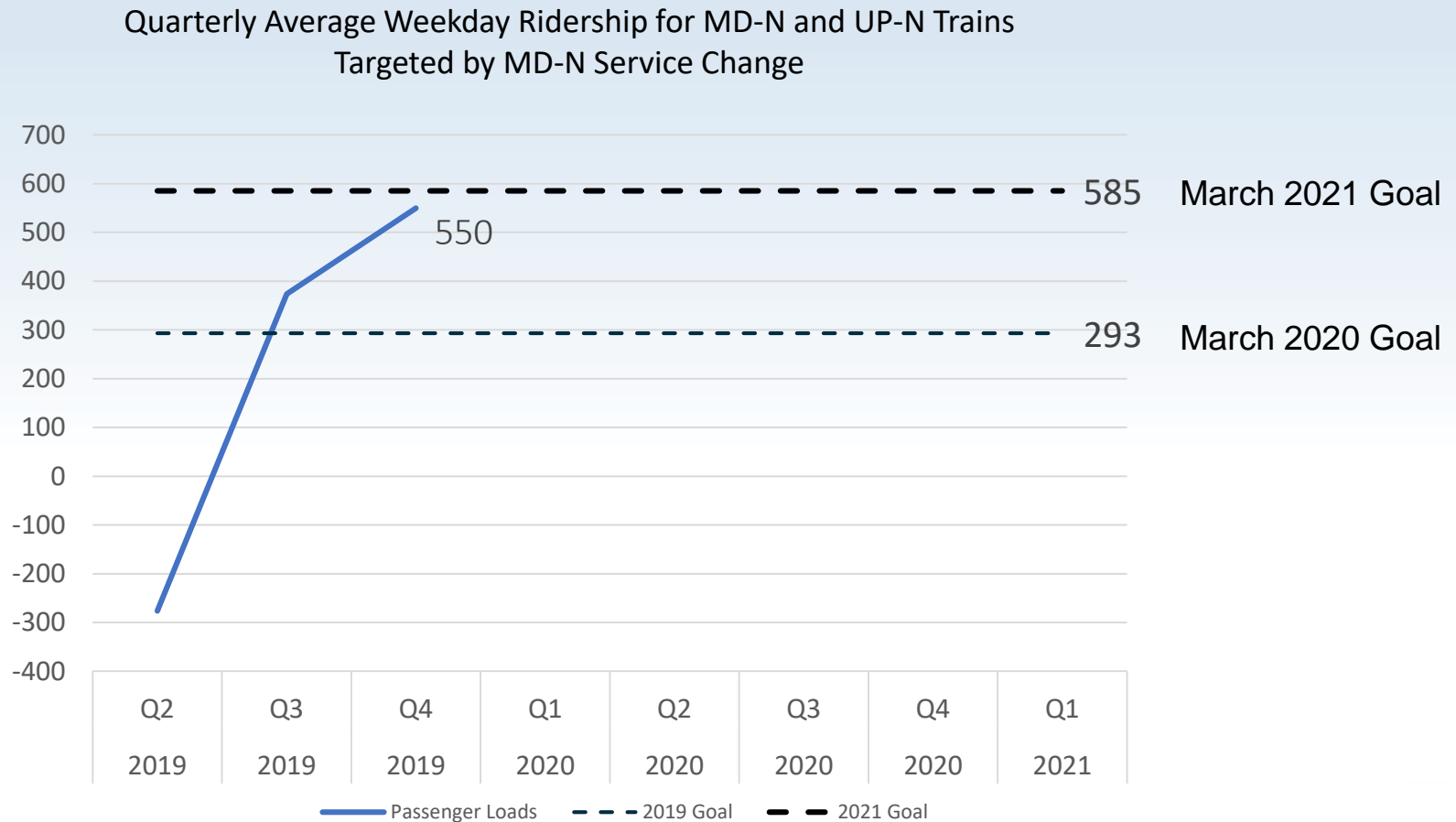


 = Additional Weekend Service



# MD-N Pilot

On March 4, 2019 Pilot added new AM Peak, AM Reverse Peak, and PM Reverse Peak Trains and modified some other train schedules.



# Ridership Influences: Fare Structure Study Pilot Programs

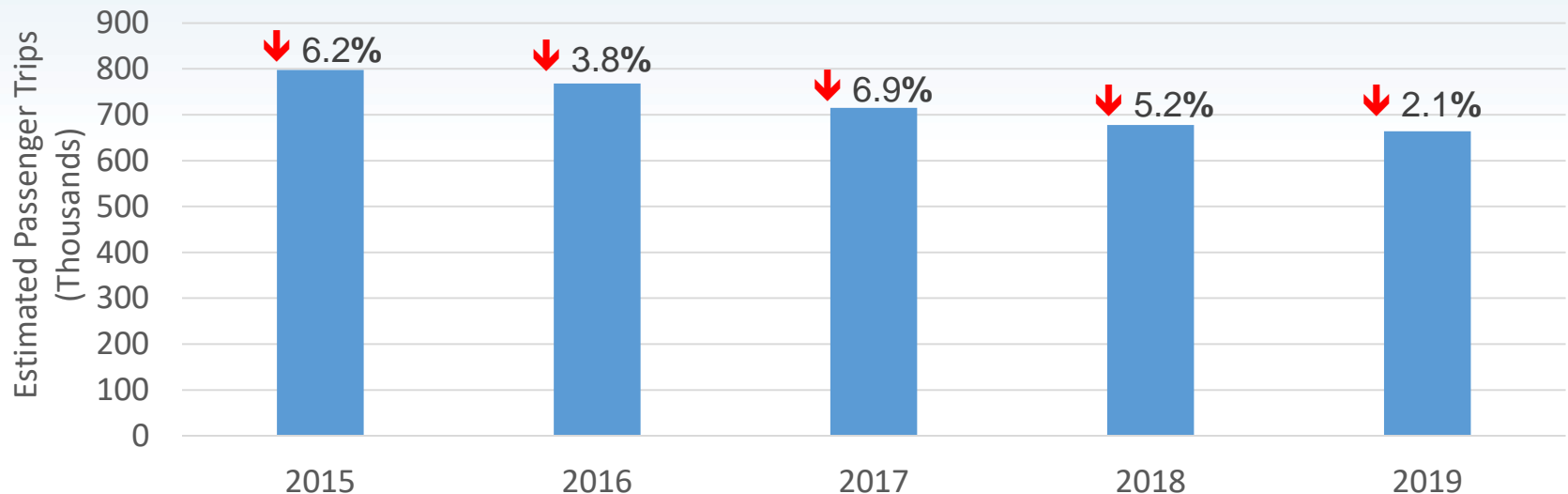
## Two pilot programs began on July 15, 2018

Seven stations on the Metra Electric Line and one station on the Rock Island Line were moved one zone closer to Zone A.

Fares were capped for trips that exceed 45 miles – Zones K, L, and M were merged with Zone J.

For 2019, ridership loss in these zones was 2.1%, performing better than the system average

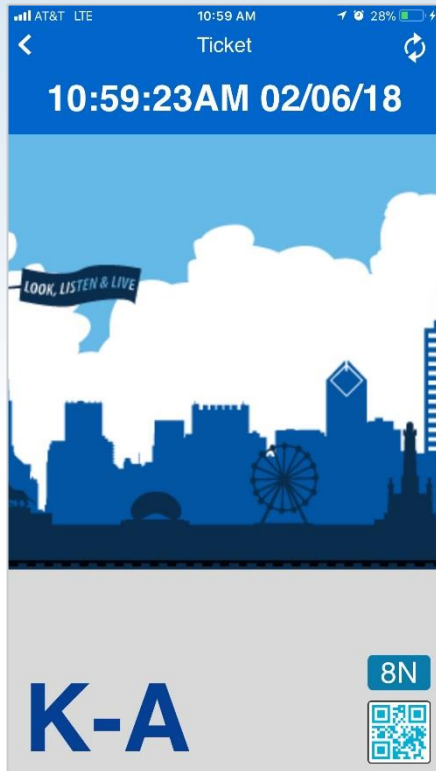
**Estimated Passenger Trips for Zones J, K, and M  
(2015-2019)**



# Ridership Influences: Technology

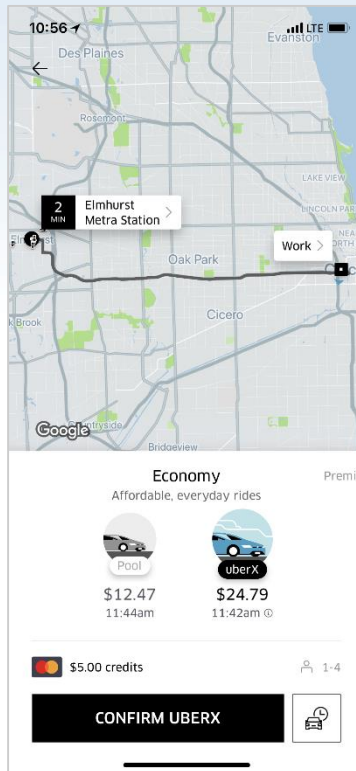
## Ventra App:

Metra mobile tickets and real-time information



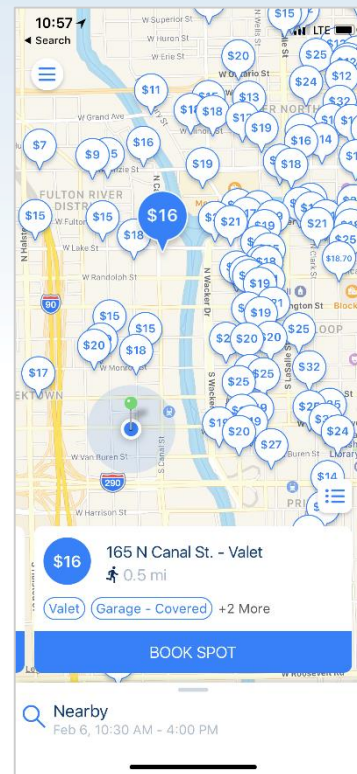
## Rideshare:

Apps like Uber and Lyft have introduced carpool features – reducing cost to riders



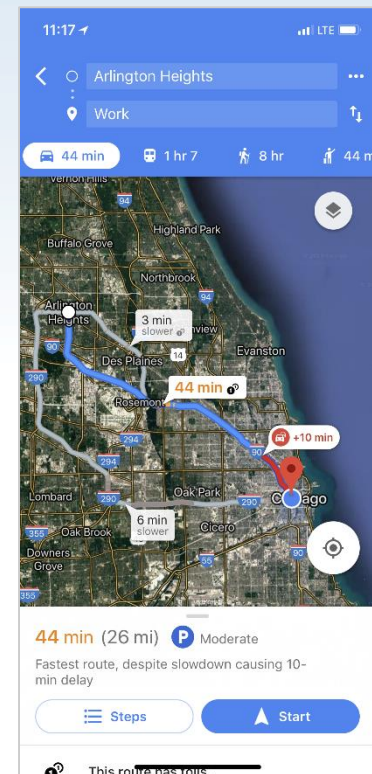
## Parking:

Apps like SpotHero make parking easy to find and provide predictable pricing



## Travel Times:

Apps like Google Maps and Waze take the unpredictability out of driving



# Ticket Sales by Ticket Type

**Ticket Sales by Ticket Type (Thousands)**

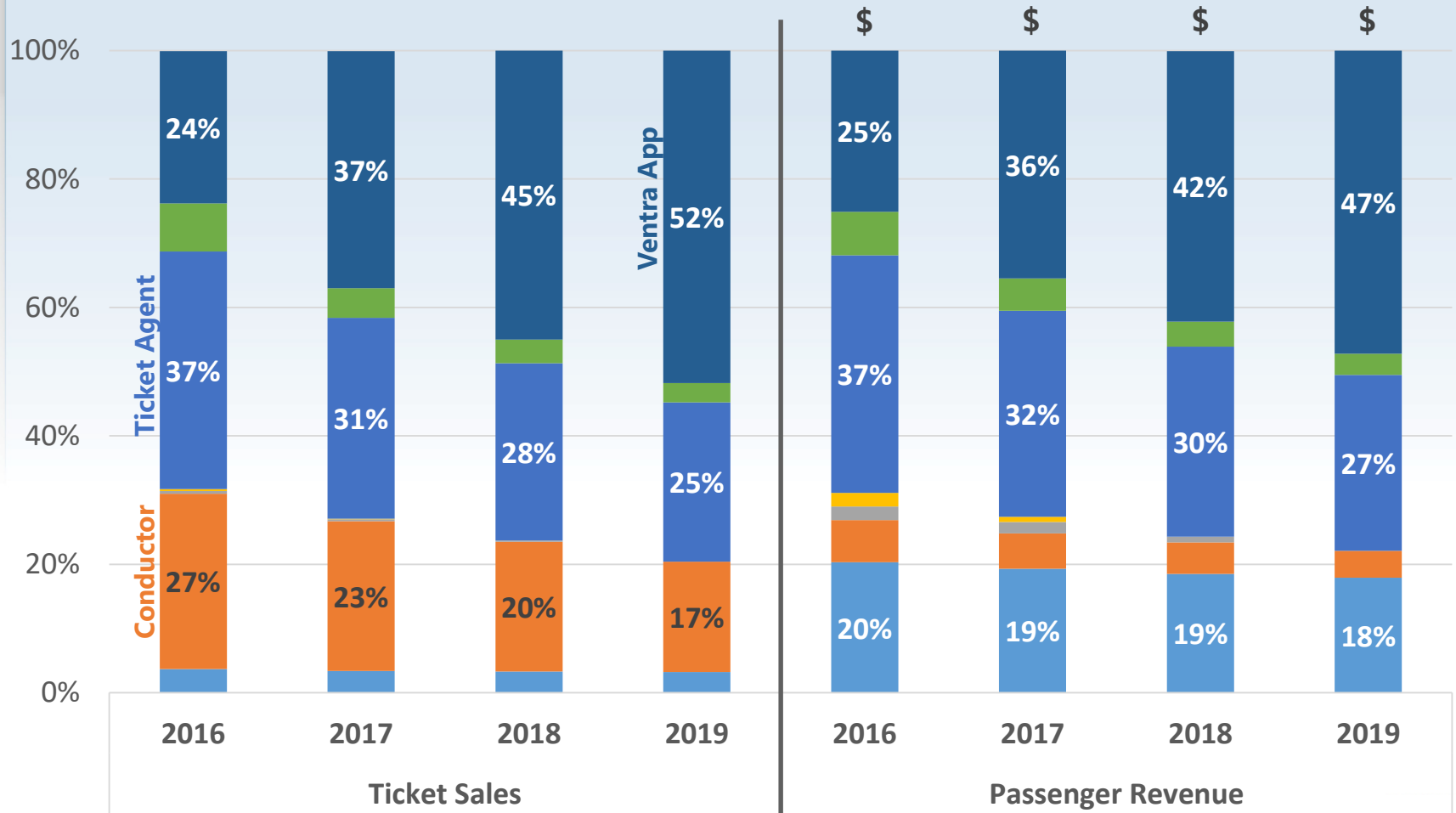
Ticket Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change 2015-2019	Change 2018-2019
Monthly Pass	1,179	1,133	1,073	1,032	1,003	↓ 15%	↓ 3%
10-Ride Ticket	1,656	1,753	1,866	1,844	1,796	↑ 8%	↓ 3%
One-Way Ticket	9,706	9,458	9,209	9,512	9,452	↓ 3%	↓ 1%
Weekend and Special Event Pass	1,484	1,496	1,471	1,160	1,047	↓ 29%	↓ 10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,026</b>	<b>13,840</b>	<b>13,619</b>	<b>13,548</b>	<b>13,298</b>	<b>↓ 5%</b>	<b>↓ 2%</b>



Photo: Pixel Factory

# Ticket Sales by Sales Channel

Ticket Sales and Passenger Revenue Share by Sales Channel (2016-2019)

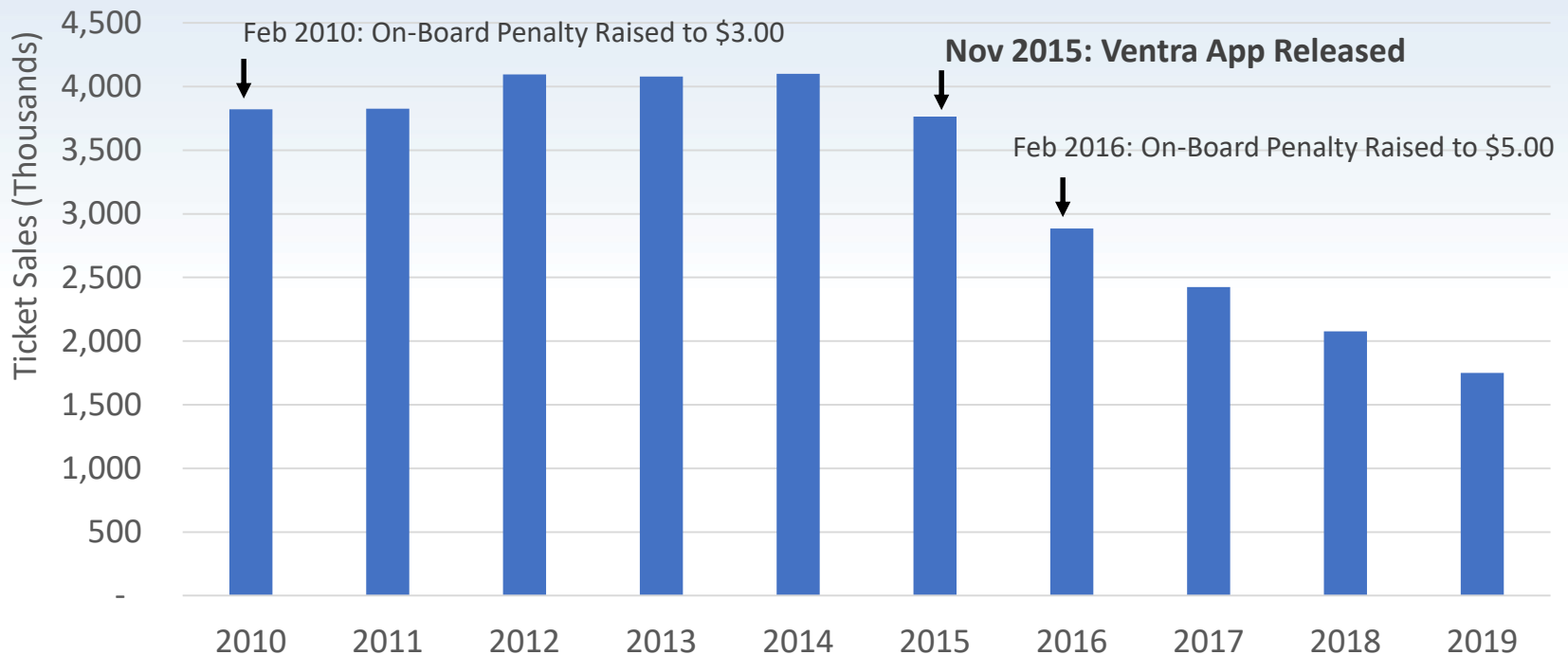


Commuter Benefit Conductor Internet Mail Ticket Agent Vending Machine Ventra App

# On-Board Ticket Sales

The Ventra App has significantly reduced the number of on-board ticket sales: In 2019 year-to-date, on-board ticket sales have **decreased 57%** compared to 2014.

Partial Year (January-September) On-Board Ticket Sales



# Factors to Watch in 2020

- Improved Winter Weather (to date)
- Introduction of Round Trip Plus ticket
- Metra Electric Line ridership
- Effects of no fare increase
- Milwaukee District North Pilot Program
- Ventra App changes
- Weekend ridership and Weekend Pass sales
- Schedule Changes

The Metra logo is displayed in a bold, blue, italicized sans-serif font. The word "Metra" is underlined with a thick blue line that extends to the right. The logo is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the slide, below a decorative orange and yellow curved banner.

***Metra***