



United Nations
**Sustainable
Transport
Conference**

14-16
OCTOBER
2021
Beijing



FACT SHEET COVID-19

- COVID-19 could have long-term impacts on urban mobility and road safety.
- In many cities public transport—essential for sustainable and affordable mobility, including for essential workers—saw massive declines in ridership, with attendant financial stresses.
- In early April 2020, daily emissions were estimated to have fallen by 17% per cent, with cities experiencing large reductions in local air pollution.
- Since the outbreak of COVID-19, sexual violence against women and girls in transport has intensified.
- By the end of March 2020, road transport in regions with lockdowns in place had dropped by between 50% and 75%, with global average road transport activity falling to almost 50% of the 2019 level.
- Global average road transport in March 2020 fell to half of its level relative to the same period in 2019. Passenger air traffic demand fell by two-thirds in 2020 relative to 2019 and in many cities, public transport saw massive declines in ridership and revenue.
- Many cities have built more bicycle lanes and the private micro-mobility and shared micro-mobility industries are set to increase by 9% and 12% respectively.
- Greening the transport sector in the post COVID-19 recovery could create up to 15 million jobs worldwide.
- Merchandise trade was valued at 20 trillion in 2018. Global merchandise trade fell about 5 per cent in 2020 relative to 2021, reflected in falling freight.

- There was also an immediate impact on associated jobs and livelihoods from COVID-19. The loss to global GDP from the tourism sector, for example, was put at up to \$2.4 trillion in 2020, and 100–120 million direct tourism jobs are estimated to be at stake in 2021.
- Reduced transport activity also led to reductions in GHG emissions, pollution, urban traffic congestion, and traffic accidents. Studies suggest that the majority of global emission reductions were attributable to reduced transport.
- Air traffic demand, as measured in Revenue Passenger Kilometers, declined by 65.9% in 2020 compared with 2019.