

# Metro Ridership Snapshot

September 2023



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

# Table of Contents

- Rail Ridership
- Bus Ridership
- Parking Utilization
- [Online Ridership Data Portal](#)

Note: Percentage changes in this document represent year-over-year changes in ridership, compared to the same time, location, and day type **one year ago** unless noted as ‘pre-pandemic’ which then represents a comparison to four years ago. For more details, see [How to Use and Interpret Metro Ridership Data](#).

Bus ridership shown here is from Metro’s automatic passenger counters (APCs), in both current and baseline months. Beginning September 2023, Metro shifted the method for processing APC data that is shown in this report. All historical data was reprocessed, and reports going back to July 2023 have been restated with the updated data. For Metrorail ridership, prior to January 2023, Metro reported only tap ridership, which understated the total number of riders. The completion of the installation of new faregates in January 2023 enabled Metro to report total (tap and non-tap) ridership. Both tap and total ridership is presented here, however year-over-year comparisons on rail are made with tap only ridership. Parking utilization is from the farebox system.



# Overall Ridership in September

## Rail

- Ridership increased 36-37% compared to September 2022 on weekdays and Sundays and by 30% on Saturdays.

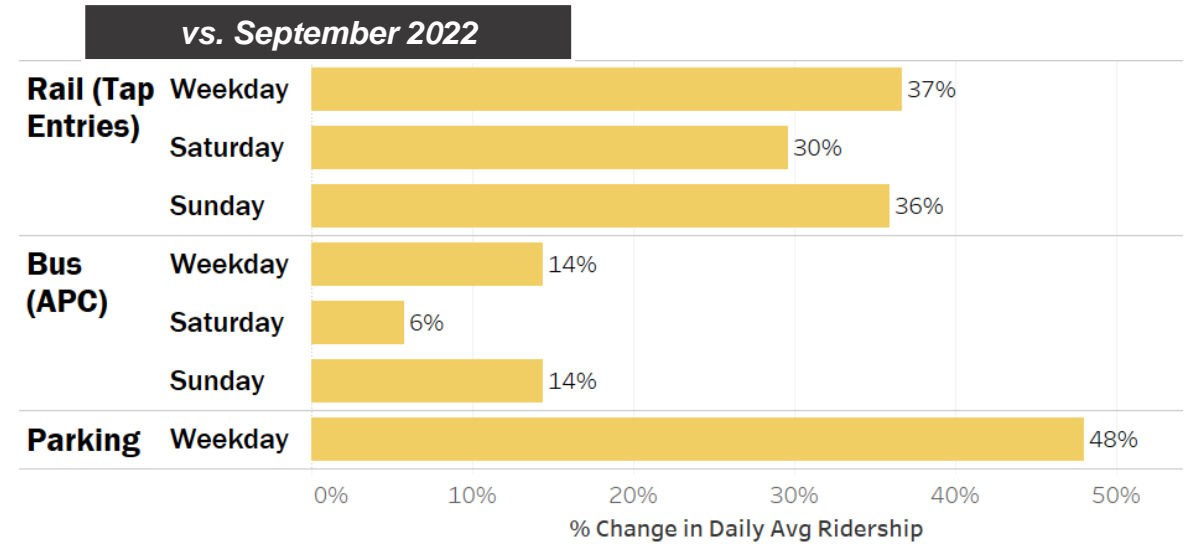
## Bus

- Ridership has increased by 14% on weekdays and Sundays compared to September 2022 and by 6% on Saturdays.

## Parking

- Usage has increased by 48% compared to September 2022.

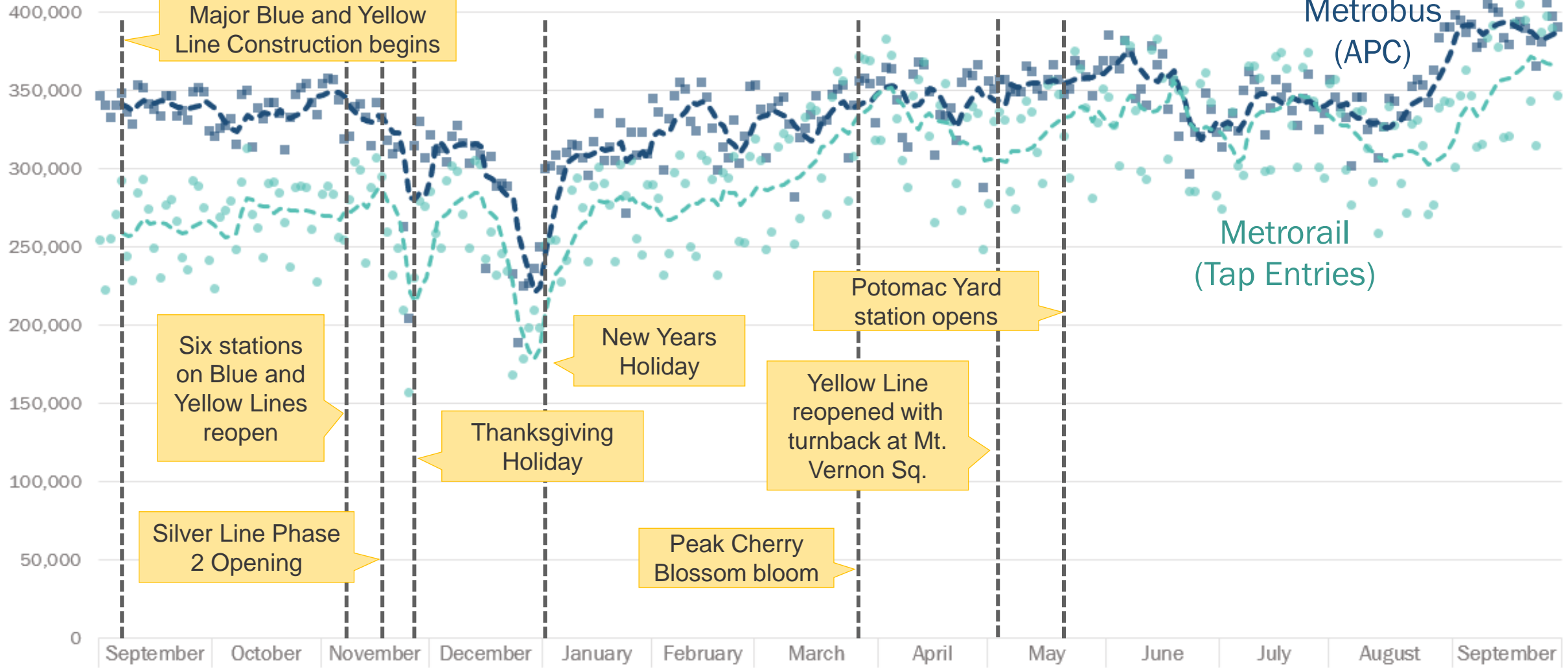
**Rail ridership grew throughout the month; bus ridership remained stable. Both bus and rail saw as much year-over-year ridership growth on Sundays as on weekdays.**



September 2023 Averages	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Rail (Tap Entries)	357,000	224,000	162,000
Rail (Total Entries)	398,000	254,000	188,000
Bus (APC)	389,000	224,000	187,000
Parking	18,000		
MetroAccess	5,000	2,100	1,900

# Ridership Trends Over the Past Year

Riders Per Weekday



Major Blue and Yellow Line Construction begins

Six stations on Blue and Yellow Lines reopen

Silver Line Phase 2 Opening

New Years Holiday

Thanksgiving Holiday

Peak Cherry Blossom bloom

Yellow Line reopened with turnback at Mt. Vernon Sq.

Potomac Yard station opens

Metrobus (APC)

Metrorail (Tap Entries)

2022

2023

■ Metrobus    ● Metrorail    - - - Weekly Average    - - - Weekly Average





# Silver Line Phase 2 Opening

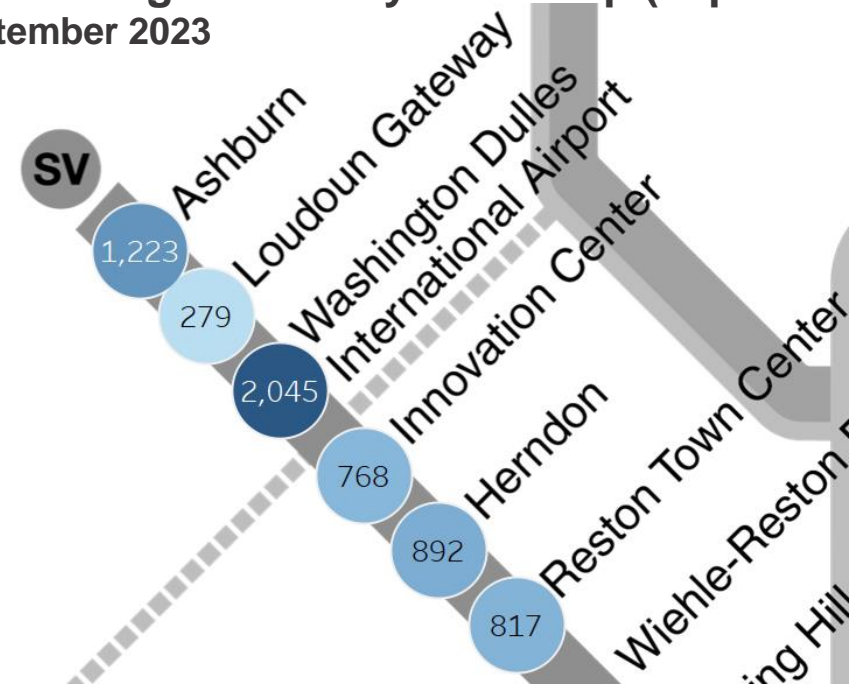
## Ridership

- Compared to August 2023, average weekday and weekend tap ridership in September 2023 is up 5%.

## Parking

- In September 2023, the most popular stations for weekday parking among Silver Line Phase II stations were Wiehle and Ashburn at 22% and 20% utilization respectively (utilization = average daily transactions / parking capacity).
  - Loudoun Gateway – 8% utilization
  - Herndon – 7% utilization

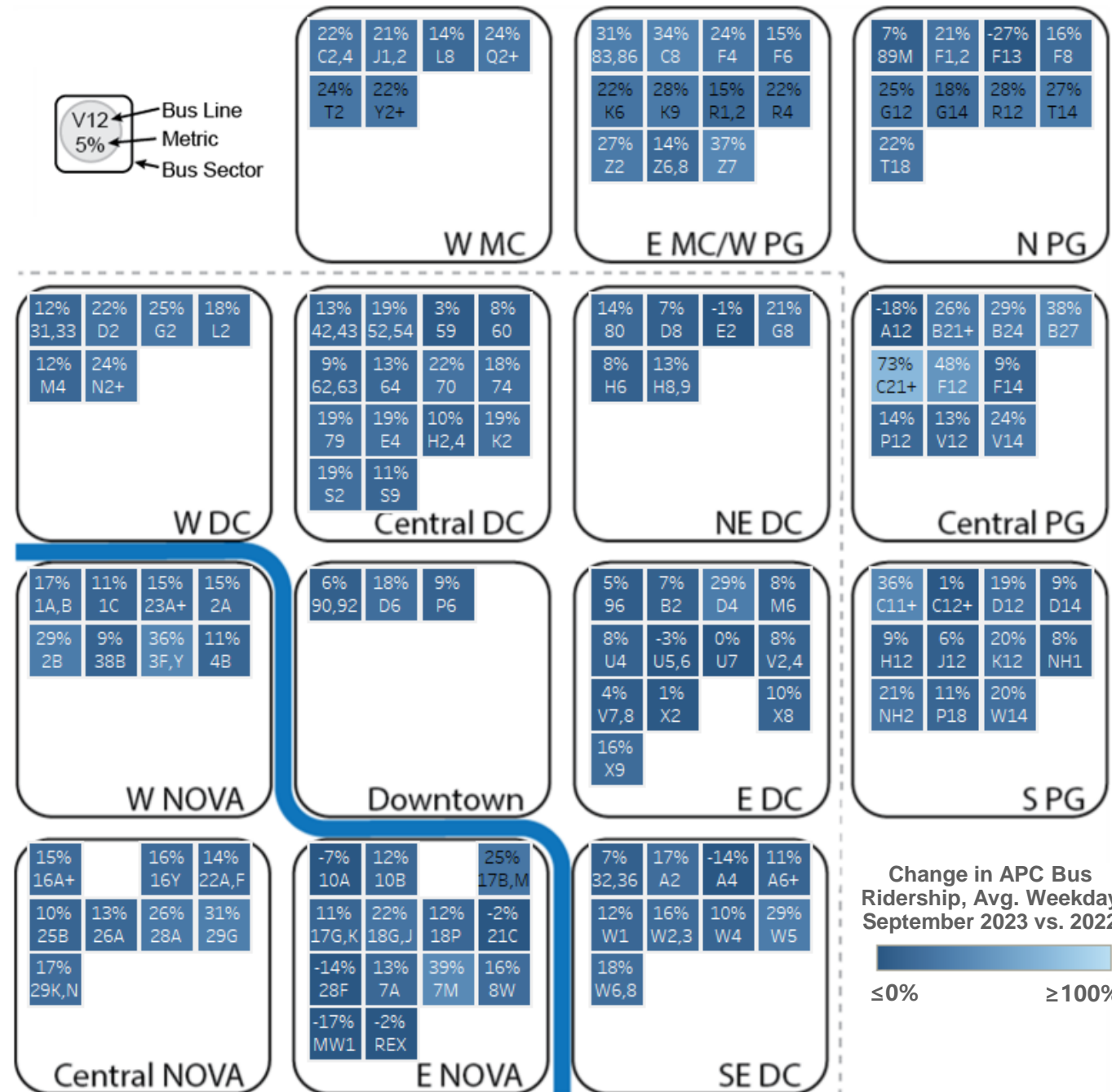
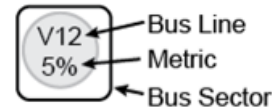
**SVII Average Weekday Ridership (Tap Entries)  
September 2023**



September 2023 SVII Averages	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Rail (Tap Entries)	6,000	4,900	4,200
Parking	700		

# Metrobus Ridership

- Ridership is up 14% on weekdays and Sundays and up 6% on Saturdays compared to September 2022.
- About 5% of stop events were above crowding thresholds with more crowding on weekdays.
- There were approximately 13,000 total shuttle rides made in September 2023, serving customers for the last two days of the Green Line shutdown 9/1 – 9/2 and for a weekend track work shutdown from Shady Grove – Bethesda 9/16 – 9/17. Shuttle rides are not counted in total bus ridership.
- Notes:
  - In September 2022, bus service levels were around 93% of pre-Covid levels on weekdays, 110-125% on weekends. Current bus service levels are 101% of pre-Covid levels on weekdays, 117-133% on weekends.



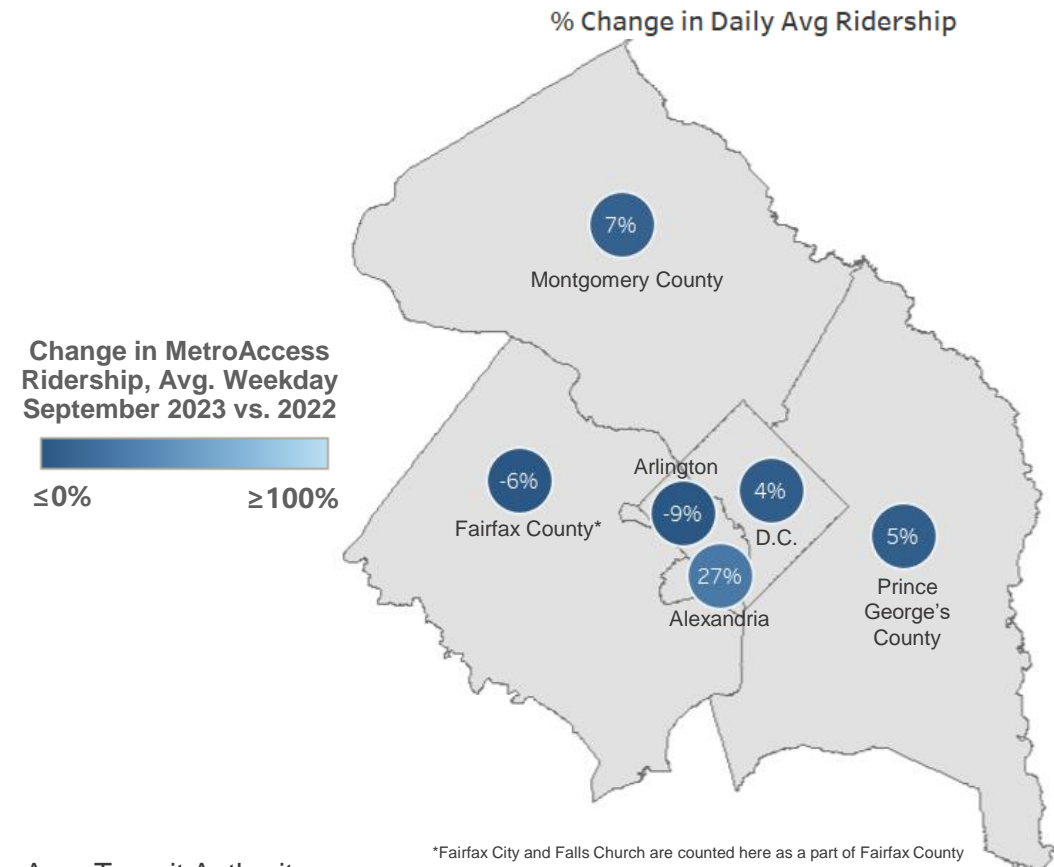
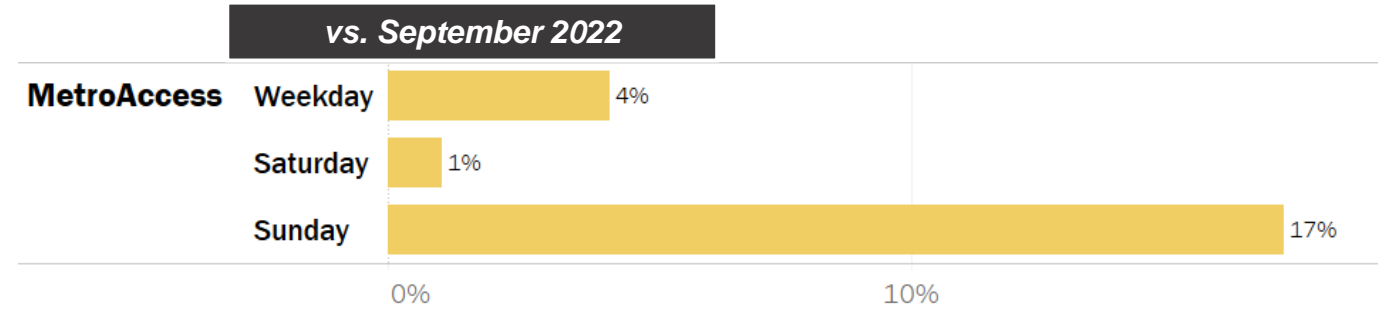
Change in APC Bus Ridership, Avg. Weekday September 2023 vs. 2022



For more nuanced bus line information, additional data can be found on the [WMATA Ridership Data Portal](#). Bus ridership based on Automatic Passenger Counter data.

# MetroAccess Ridership

- In September 2023 MetroAccess provided on average 5,000 paratransit rides on weekdays, 2,100 on Saturdays, and 1,900 on Sundays.
- Ridership is up 4% on weekdays, 1% on Saturdays, and 17% on Sundays compared to September 2022.
- Notes:
  - This slide shows only rides made via our MetroAccess paratransit service. Trips provided through our Abilities-Ride program are not reflected in these numbers. MetroAccess-eligible customers' rail and bus rides are counted in overall rail and bus ridership.



For more nuanced station information, additional data can be found on the [WMATA Ridership Data Portal](#).

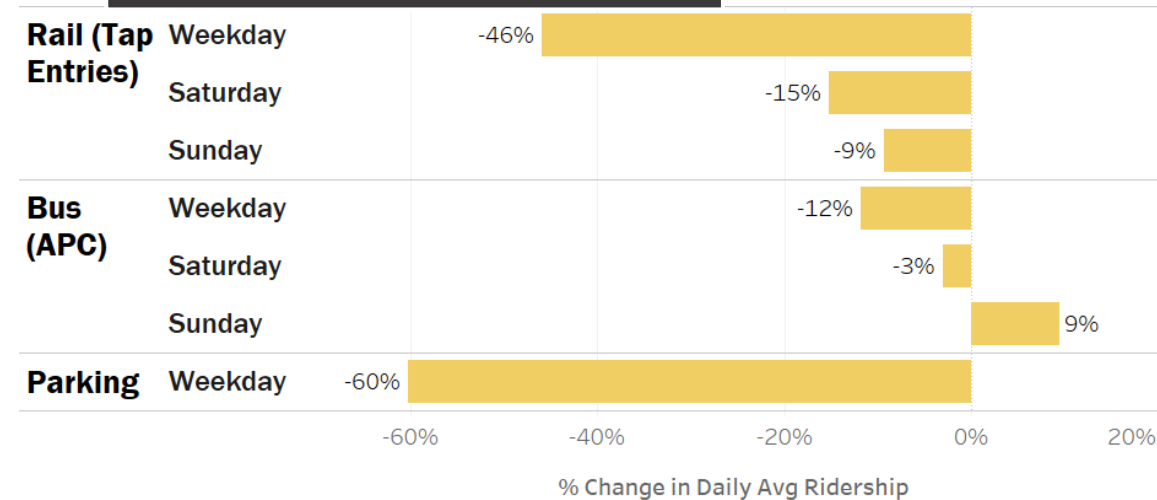


# Pre-Pandemic Ridership Comparison

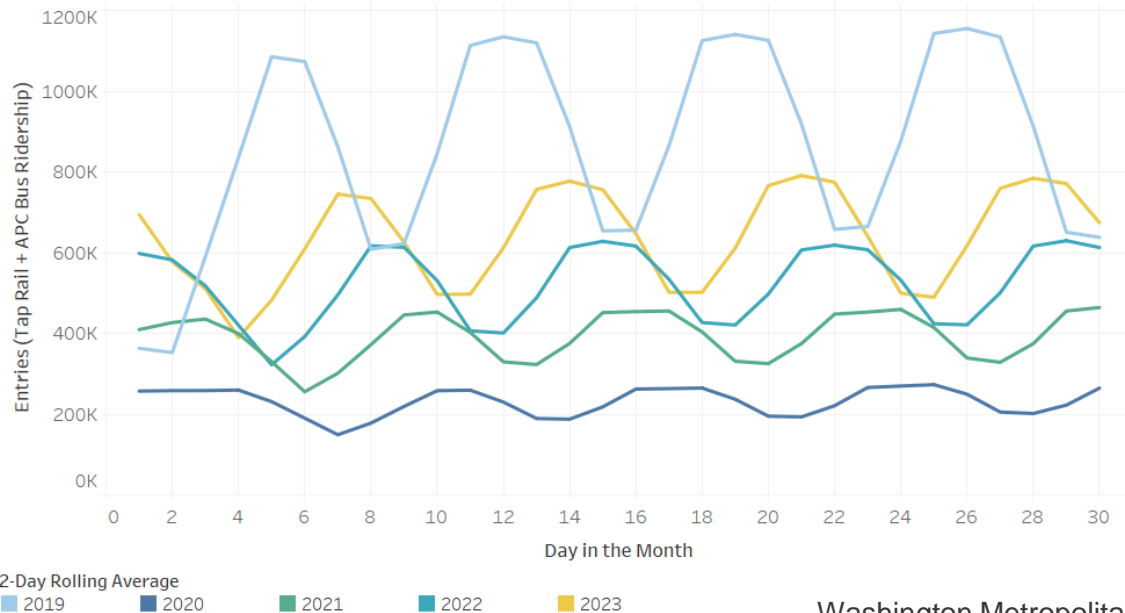
## Current vs. pre-pandemic levels (September 2023 vs. September 2019):

- **Rail** tap ridership was at 54% of pre-pandemic levels on weekdays, 85% of pre-pandemic levels on Saturdays, and 91% of pre-pandemic levels on Sundays.
- **Bus** ridership was at 88% of pre-pandemic levels on weekdays, 97% of pre-pandemic levels on Saturdays, and 9% *above* pre-pandemic levels on Sundays.
- **Parking** usage was at about 40% of pre-pandemic levels.

## vs. September 2019 (pre-pandemic)



September Ridership over the Past Five Years



September 2019 Averages	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Rail (Tap Entries)	660,000	264,000	179,000
Bus (APC)	442,000	231,000	171,000
Parking	45,000		
MetroAccess	8,300	2,900	2,600

