

# **Metro Ridership Snapshot**

**December 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 December

## Total Ridership

- Compared to December 2022, ridership increased by 17% overall, 12% on weekdays, 23% on Saturdays, and 26% on Sundays.

## Rail

- Compared to December 2022, ridership increased by 17% overall, 21% on weekdays, 42% on Saturdays, and 16% on Sundays.

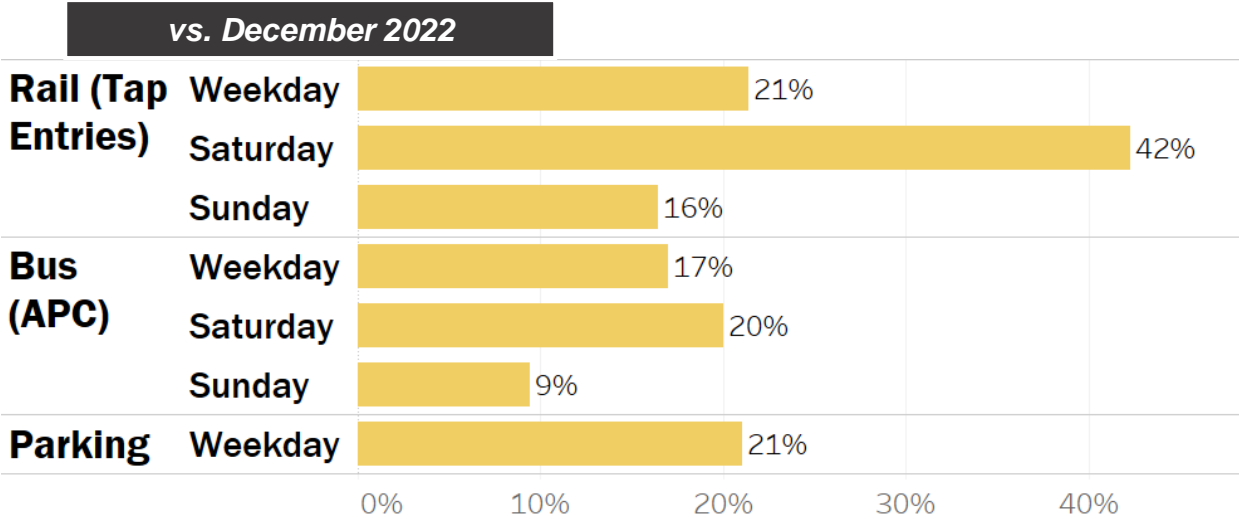
## Bus

- Weekday and Saturday ridership has increased by 17-20% and Sunday ridership has increased 9% compared to December 2022.

## Parking

- Usage has increased by 21% compared to December 2022.

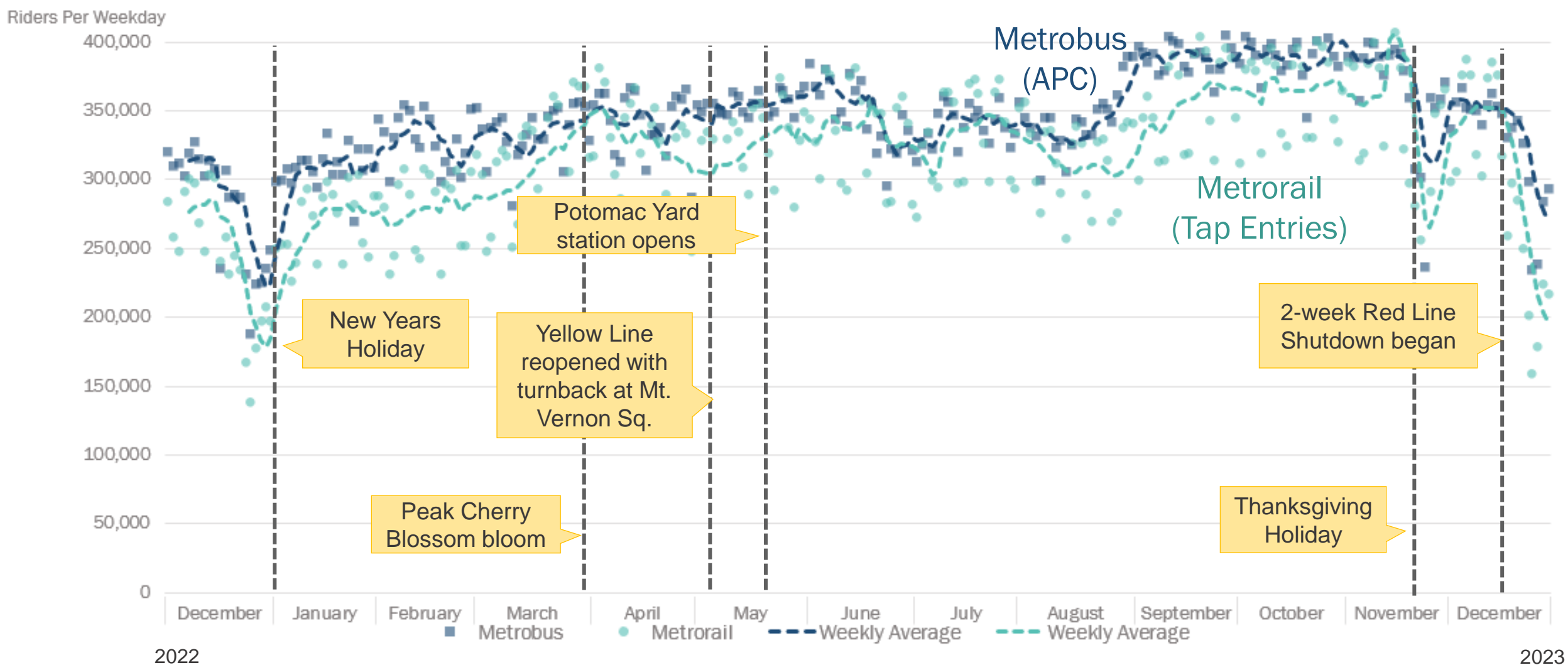
Rail and bus ridership was stable through most of the month with a dip around the Christmas holiday. Rail and Bus saw the most year-over-year ridership growth on Saturdays.



December 2023 Averages	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday	Total Ridership
Rail (Tap Entries)	295,000	204,000	115,000	7,613,000
Rail (Total Entries)	331,000	232,000	135,000	8,586,000
Bus (APC)	329,000	211,000	152,000	8,526,000
Parking	15,000			320,000
MetroAccess	4,700	2,100	1,700	114,000

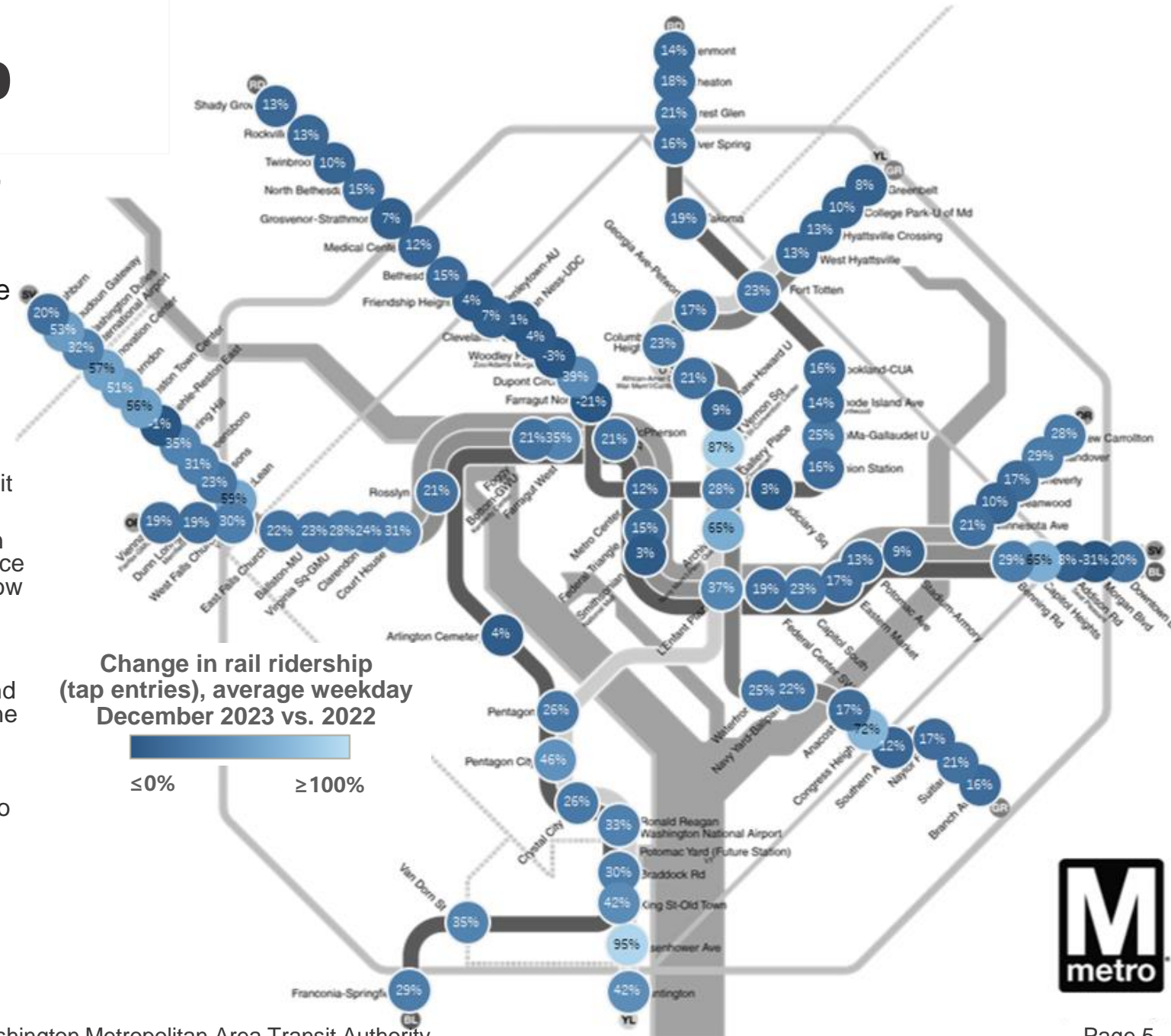


# Ridership Trends Over the Past Year



# Metrorail Ridership

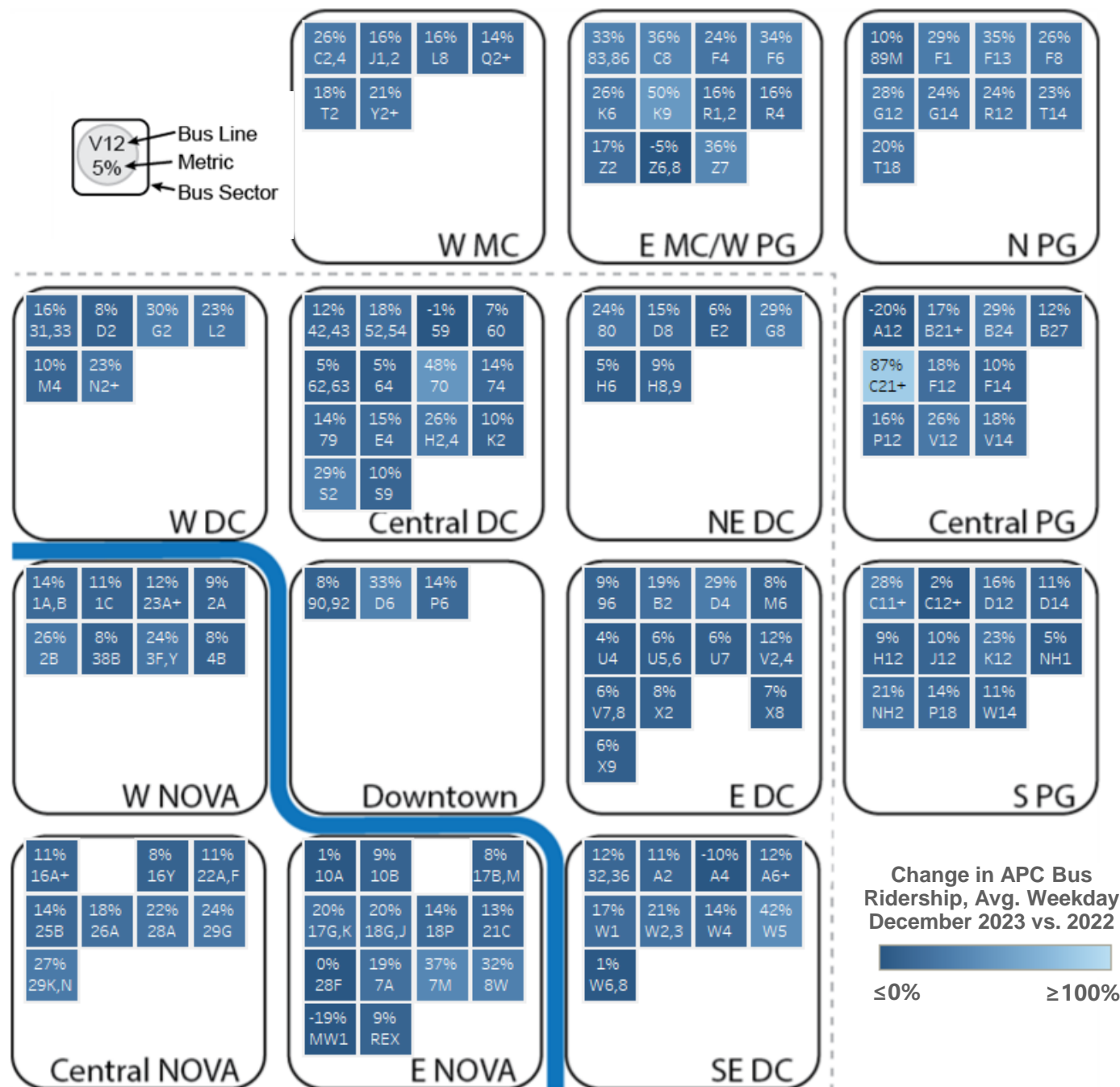
- Metrorail ridership is up 20% overall, 21% on weekdays, 42% on Saturdays, and 16% on Sundays compared to December 2022.
- Less than 1% of customer time was crowded on average with most crowding occurring on weekdays.
- Notes:
  - Potomac Yard station opened on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. In December, the station saw 1,200 entries per weekday. Since there is not year-over-year data for this station yet it does not appear on this map.
  - In 2022, the Yellow Line Tunnel and Bridge Rehabilitation Project began 11/6 /2022. There was no Yellow Line service between Pentagon and L'Enfant Plaza stations. The Yellow Line remained suspended through May 2023, until these critical tunnel and bridge repairs were complete.
  - Beginning Monday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> through Friday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, there was no Red Line service between Dupont Circle and Gallery Place with Farragut North closed, and no Red Line service at Metro Center (upper level). Red Line construction was extended beginning on Friday, Dec. 22 through Sunday, Dec. 24, with no Red Line service to Gallery Place and Judiciary Square stations, in addition to Farragut North and Metro Center closures.



For more nuanced station information, additional data can be found on the [WMATA Ridership Data Portal](https://wmata.com/ridership-data-portal).

# Metrobus Ridership

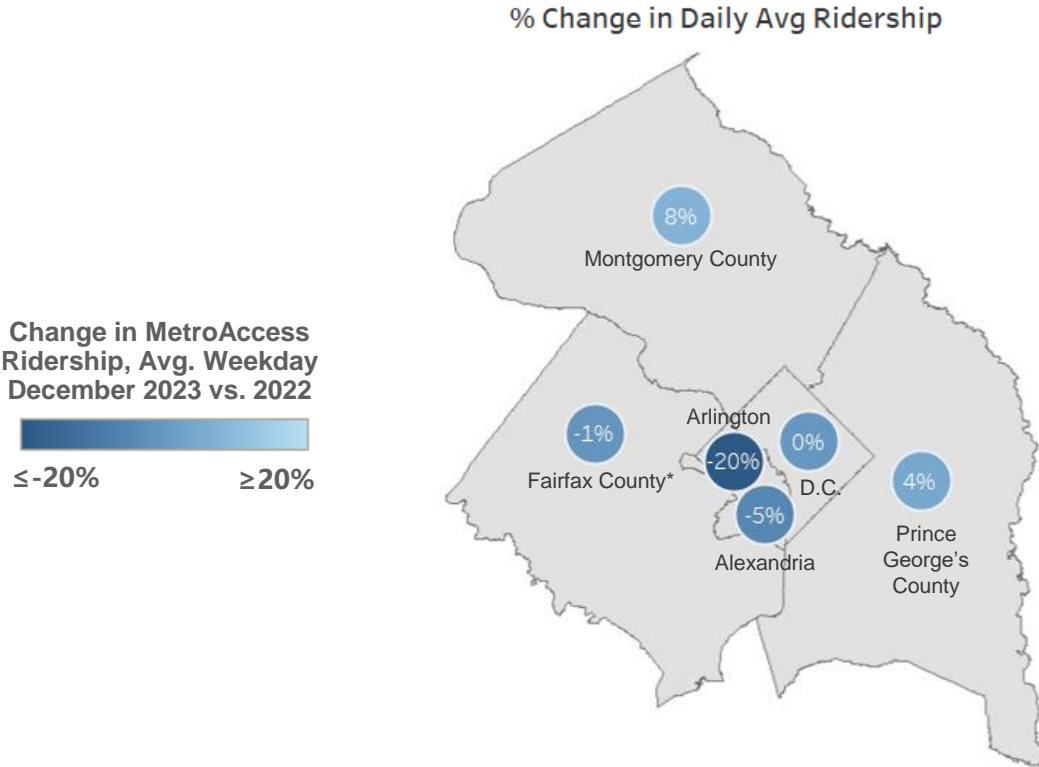
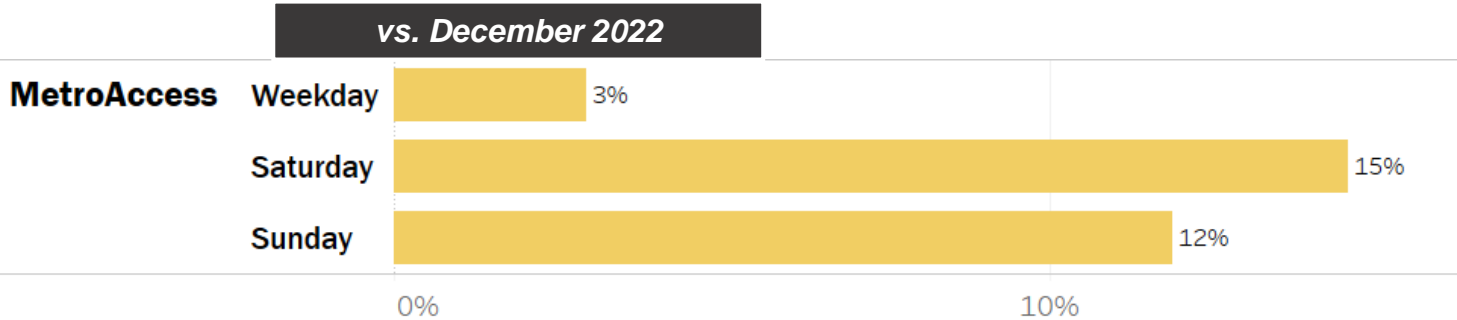
- Metrobus ridership is up 16% overall, 17% on weekdays, 20% on Saturdays, and 9% on Sundays compared to December 2022.
- About 3% of stop events were above crowding thresholds with more crowding on weekdays.
- There were approximately 208,000 total shuttle rides made in December 2023, serving customers on the Blue, Orange, and Silver lines between Benning Road and Minnesota Avenue on the weekend of 12/16 – 12/17 and on the Red line between Dupont Circle and Gallery Place, (extended to Union Station the weekend of 12/22 - 12/24).
- Notes:
  - In December 2022, bus service levels were around 103% of pre-Covid levels on weekdays, between 107-108% on weekends.
  - Current bus service levels are 103% of pre-Covid levels on weekdays, 125% pre-pandemic levels on Saturdays, and 143% above pre-pandemic levels on Sundays.



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 December 2023 MetroAccess provided on average 4,700 paratransit rides on weekdays, 2,100 on Saturdays, and 1,700 on Sundays.
- Ridership is up 3% on weekdays, 15% on Saturdays, and 12% on Sundays compared to December 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.

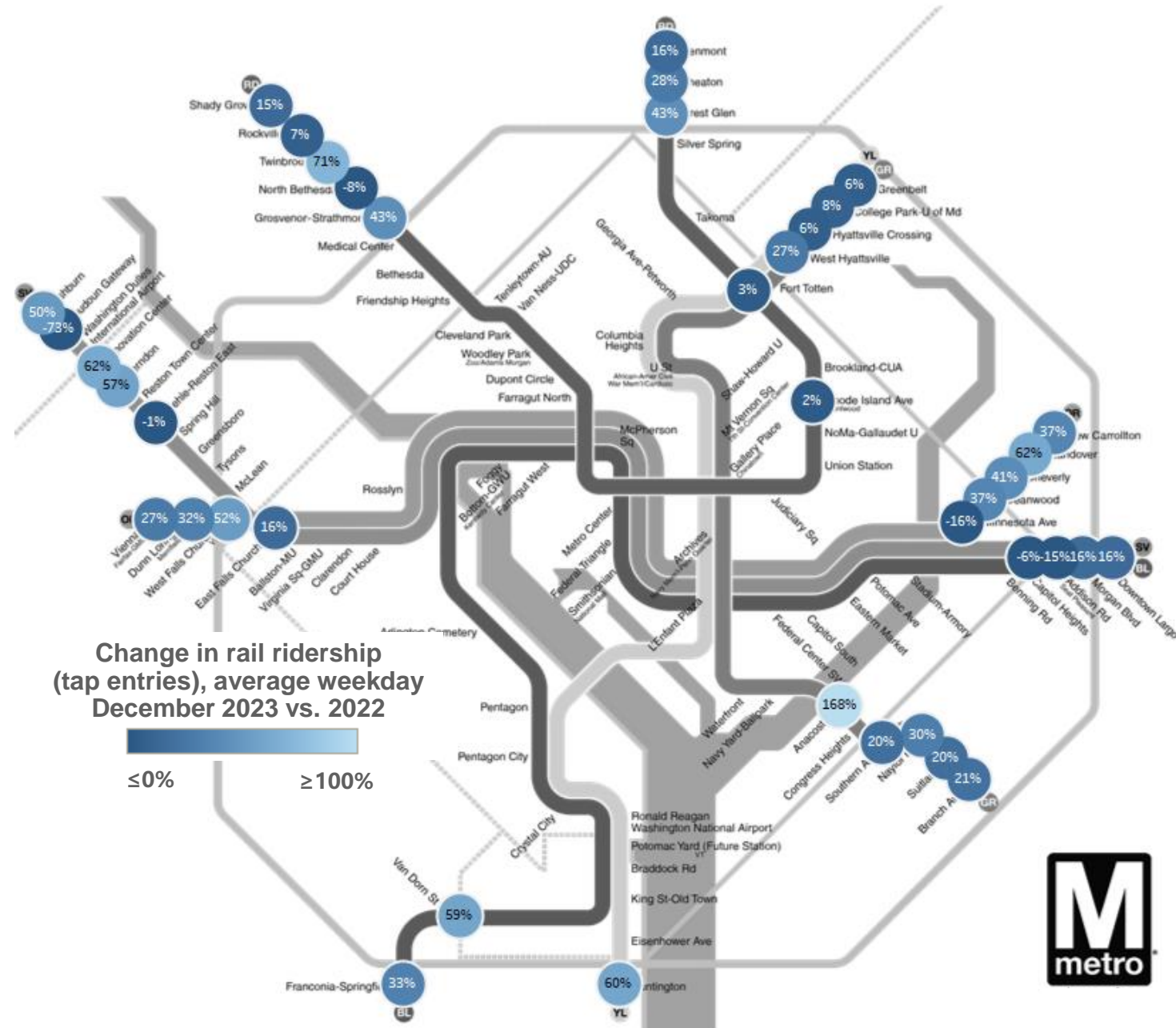


For more nuanced station information, additional data can be found on the [WMATA Ridership Data Portal](#).

\*Fairfax City and Falls Church are counted here as a part of Fairfax County

# Metro Parking Transactions

- Weekday parking usage increased 21% compared to December 2022
  - Most stations grew between 20-40%
- Notes:
  - Shady Grove, Rockville, Twinbrook, and North Bethesda stations were closed for rail service, due to track work, the weekend of 12/9 -12/10.
  - Benning Road and Minnesota Avenue Stations were closed the weekend of 12/16 - 12/17 due to track work.
  - No Red Line service between Dupont circle and Gallery Place from 12/18-12/29.
  - In 2022, Pentagon and L'Enfant Plaza were closed with no Yellow Line service from 11/6 /2022 – 5/31/2023.

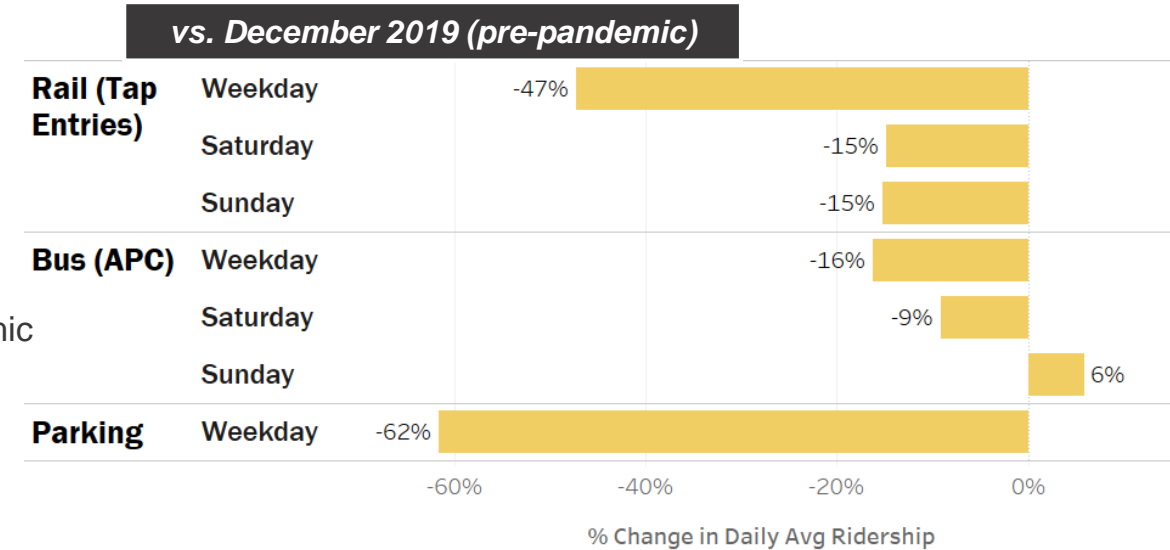
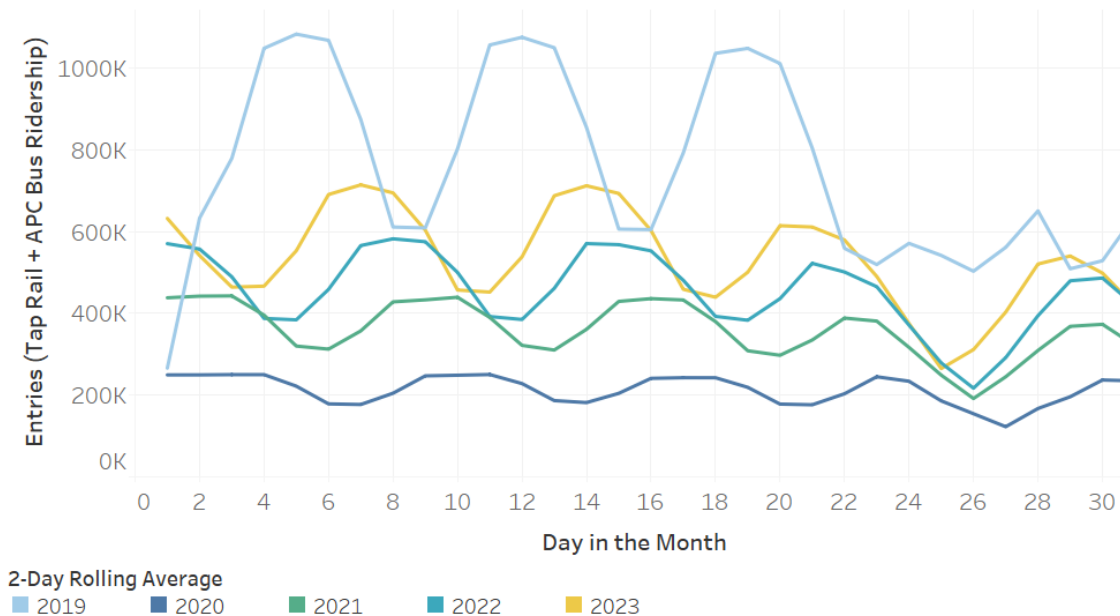


# Pre-Pandemic Ridership Comparison

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

- **Total** ridership was at 69% of pre-pandemic levels overall, 62% of pre-pandemic levels on weekdays, 10% *above* pre-pandemic levels on Saturdays, and 96% of pre-pandemic levels on Sundays.
- **Rail** tap ridership was at 53% of pre-pandemic levels on weekdays, 85% of pre-pandemic levels on weekends.
- **Bus** ridership was at 84% of pre-pandemic levels on weekdays, 91% pre-pandemic levels on Saturdays, and 6% above pre-pandemic levels on Sundays.
- **Parking** usage was at about 38% of pre-pandemic levels.

December Ridership over the Past Five Years



December 2019 Averages	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday	Total Ridership
Rail (Tap Entries)	560,000	239,000	136,000	13,525,000
Bus (APC)	392,000	232,000	144,000	10,001,000
Parking	39,000			866,000
MetroAccess	7,000	3,000	3,000	173,000