

Central London Tube and Rail Capacity

Momentum Transport Update June to July 2020

01. Introduction

This board paper has been prepared by Momentum Transport Consultancy by way of an update on London's public transport demand and capacity, comprising London Underground, National Rail and London Bus.

02. General Public Transport Update

Those wishing to use TfL services have been advised to avoid the busiest times if at all possible. These are between 05:45 – 08:15 and 16:00 – 17:30 on weekdays.

From Saturday July 4th the 2m physical distancing guidelines were amended to '1m+'.

Face coverings

As of Monday June 15th, face coverings became 'mandatory' on public transport, via a change in legislation within National Rail Conditions of Travel and Public Service Vehicle Regulations for buses.

In preparation for this TfL started providing free face masks at key London Underground and Bus Stations in London from Monday June 8th. This initiative ran for approximately two weeks, serving as a publicity campaign for face covering usage and the upcoming change in legislation.

This change in legislation allows operators to refuse service to those not wearing masks, or issue penalty fares to those who are already on public transport services.

The British Transport Police were initially reported to be giving verbal warnings to those not adhering to the new legislation. In the following weeks until the present they were reported to be removing passengers from rail services not wearing them, and if refusing, issuing fines of up to £100.

03. London Underground, DLR and Bus Services

As of the 12th June 2020 TfL has now increased service levels to:

- 90% of weekday Tube services
- 87% of bus services
- 80% of London Overground services
- 98% of Docklands Light Railway services
- 100% of peak TfL Rail services
- 100% of weekday London Tram services
- 100% of Cycle Hire services, with all three cycle hire hubs staffed and open and a further two cycle hire hubs added for unprecedented demand

In early July TfL announced that they have nearly finished implementing bus safety measures across the London bus network. This includes the sealing of drivers' cabs and middle door boarding. This signals the end of free bus travel.

Presently London Underground stations accessible only by lift remain closed as they do not allow for social distancing to take place. Staff who worked at these stations are continuing to work at larger stations in order to manage congestion and one-way systems more effectively.

Signage and wayfinding has been implemented asking passengers to stand six steps apart and limits to four people per lift (generally) have been implemented.

Figure 1 indicates public transport demand from early March up until the end of June, whilst Figure 2 illustrates this data for the month of June, where the greatest number of lockdown measures were lifted, and a greater number of people returned to work.

03. London Underground, Docklands Light Railway and Bus Services

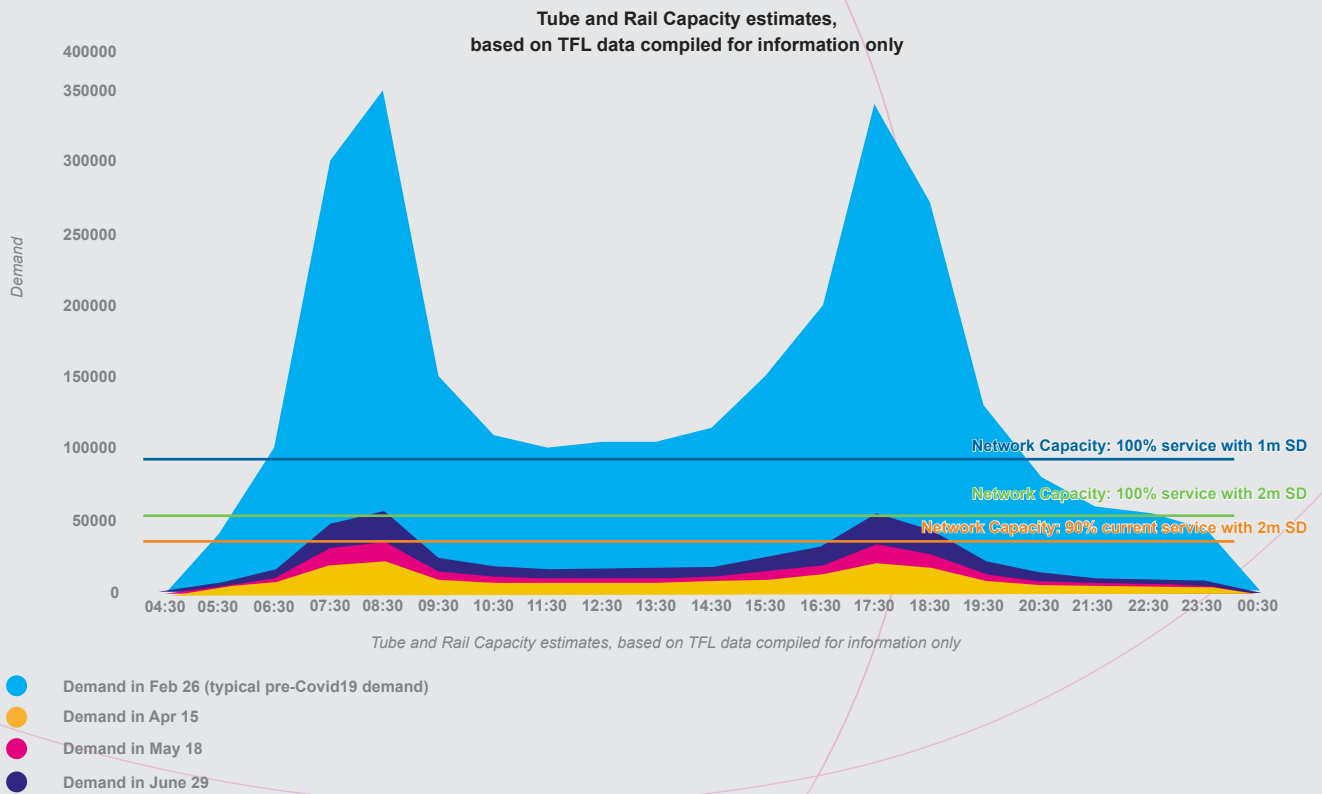
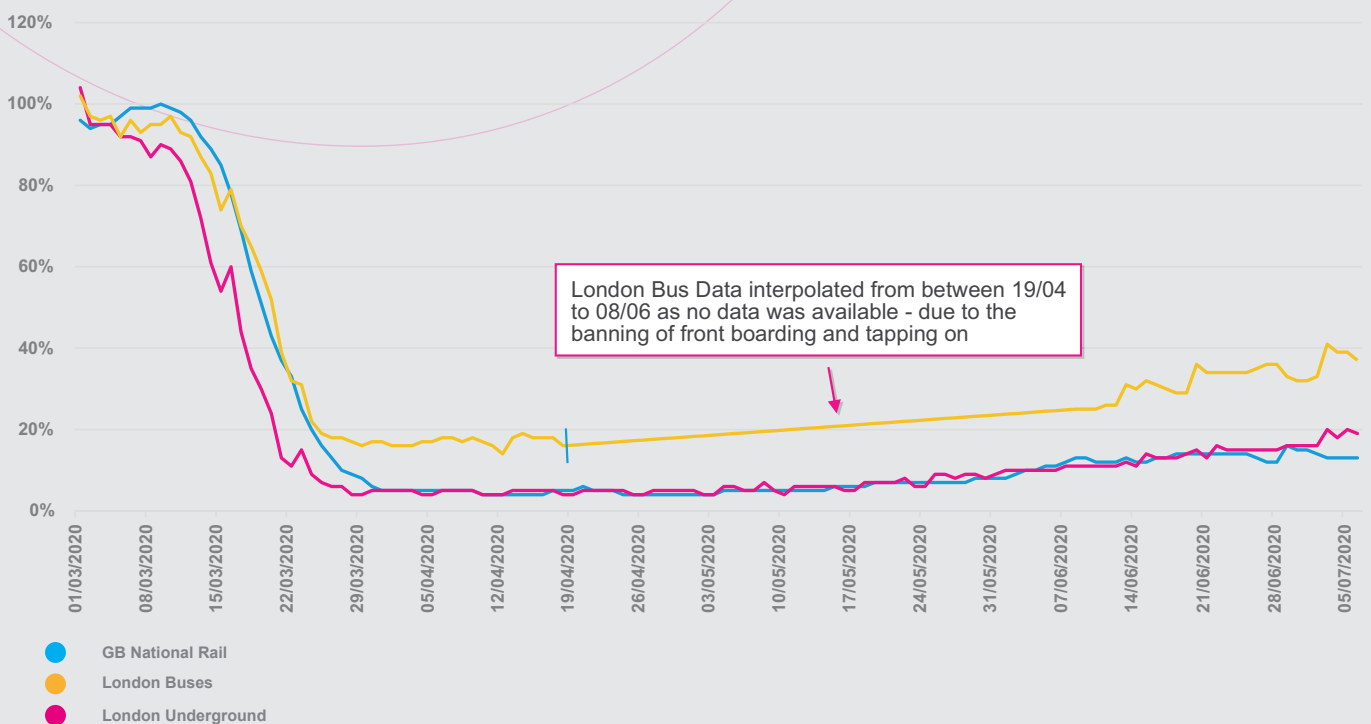
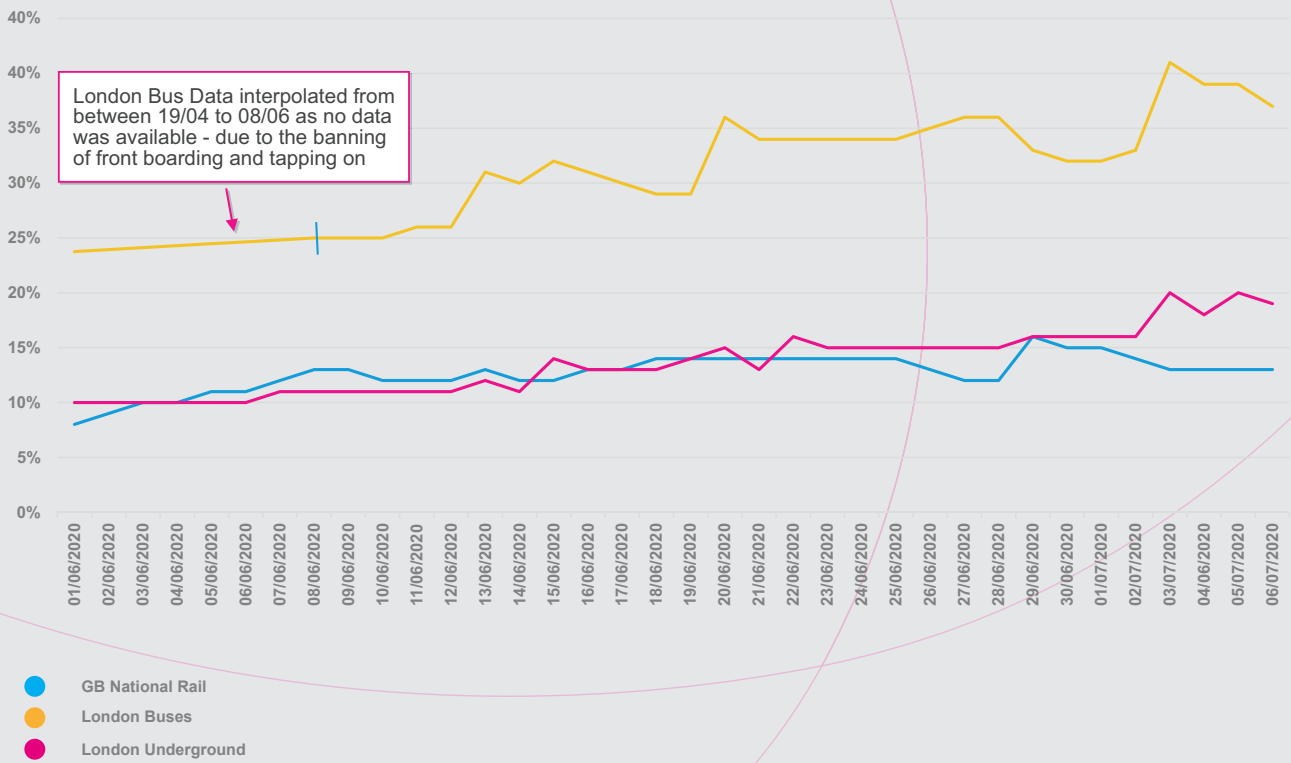


Figure 1 - London Public Transport Demand March - July 2020



03. London Underground, Docklands Light Railway and Bus Services

Figure 2 - London Public Transport Demand June - July 2020



National Rail & Motor Vehicles

04. National Rail

National Rail operators across the country are heavily promoting the usage of 'Smart tickets' rather than paper tickets. This reduces the need for ticket offices and machines to be used.

On Monday 6th July the Managing Director of Southwestern Railways (Mark Hopwood) announced that between 12,000 – 13,000 commuters were arriving into London Waterloo Station via National Rail services during the AM peak period in recent weeks.

Compared to the height of the lockdown when a total of 4,500 commuters were arriving into London Waterloo during the AM peak period. This constitutes a 177% increase in recent weeks.

Compared to pre-lockdown around 125,000 people commuted into London Waterloo daily. At present levels this constitutes 10% of the normal commuting levels.

SwR reported that they have been able to 'step-up' their services again to a timetable close to a normal weekday timetable, and have been able to increase capacity on some services by introducing more carriages.

SwR additionally reported they had finalised refunding customers who had requested refunds for season tickets.

As indicated by the Train Operating Companies above many are presently operating at 80 – 90% capacity, with aims to return to 100% capacity by September, not withstanding changes in the present situation.

05. Motor Vehicles

Two graphs are provided below (Figure 3 and Figure 4). The first one shows the demand for Cars, LGVs and HGVs over the lockdown period, from March to July. The second is a focus on the June period, until early July.

The overall demand for all motor vehicles in the pre-lockdown period (end of February – first week of March) was around 115% (percentage of the equivalent day in the first week of February 2020.)

During the entire lockdown period, motor vehicles demand has fallen at the end of March to reach the lowest point (nearly 20%) in mid-April, a total decrease of 90% compared to pre-lockdown situation. It then started to increase in mid-May. Three low points are showed on the HGV demand and represent low demand due to weekend and bank holidays.

05. Motor Vehicles

Figure 3 - Car, LGV and HGV Demand March - July 2020

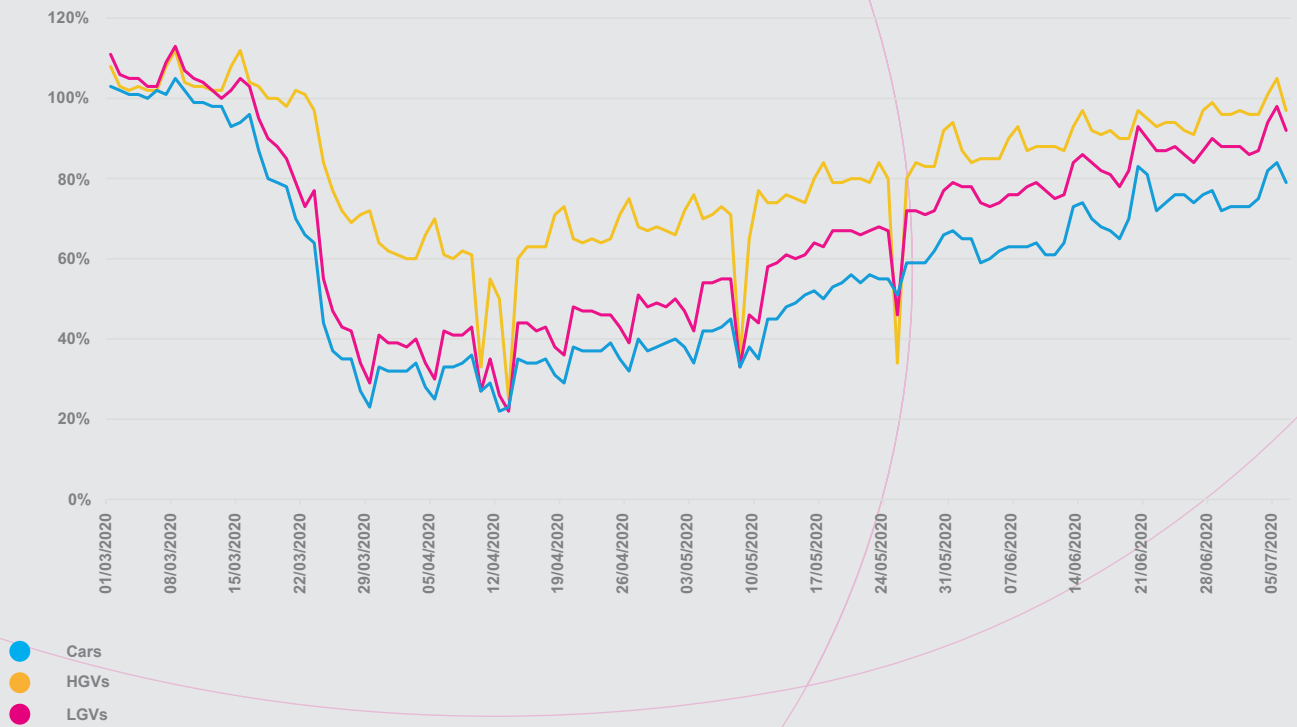


Figure 4 - Car, LGV and HGV Demand - June - July 2020

