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S&P U.S. Transportation Infrastructure 2023 Activity Estimates Show Air Travel Likely To Fully Recover, With Transit Ridership Still Lagging.

Key Takeaways

- Although we expect U.S. air travel, as measured by passengers, will return to pre-pandemic levels in 2023, evolving remote or hybrid work practices and other factors will continue to drag on the recovery in public transit ridership compared with other U.S. not-for-profit transportation infrastructure asset classes.
- Our updated activity estimates reflect the effects of expected recessionary pressures in 2023.
- Our baseline activity estimates show public transit recapturing about 70% of pre-pandemic activity by the end of 2023 and only about 85% by the end of 2026; and U.S. systemwide enplanements returning to near pre-pandemic levels in 2023.
- Our downside activity estimates show public transit ridership returning to only 80% of pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2026, and U.S. systemwide enplanements still returning to near pre-pandemic levels in 2023.

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