

Factsheet

Metro facts 1

The Metro is a modern light railway system that serves the Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland districts of the North East of England.

Here are some facts about the Tyne and Wear Metro System:

- Track: 77.5km, 18.5km of which was added for the Sunderland extension in 2002
- Stations: 58, serving the major residential, retail and employment areas of Tyne and Wear. We have 2 new stations planned to open near Backworth in North Tyneside and Simonside in South Tyneside. That will make a total of 60 stations
- Rolling stock: 90 Metrocars, built by Metro-Cammell in Birmingham
- Employees: 1000 - of which 220 are train drivers
- Passenger journeys 2003/4 38 million
- Operated train kilometres per annum: 4.8 million



Factsheet

Metro facts 2

- The first phase of the Metro from Haymarket to Tynemouth, opened in August 1980
- The rest was opened in four phases through to 1984. Total cost £284 million (at 1984 prices)
- In 1991, a 3.5km extension to Newcastle International Airport was opened at a cost of £12 million
- The most recent phase, the extension of the system to Sunderland, was opened in March 2002
- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II formally opened Metro on November 6, 1981
- The Queen officially opened Sunderland Metro extension on May 7, 2002

Passenger figures

- 1980/81 - 10.3m
- 1981/82 - 27.6m
- 1982/83 - 40.7m
- 1983/84 - 49.8m
- 1991/92 - 40.6m
- 2003/04 - 37.9m

