



Comment on the graph

# What The Graph 42: teacher notes

## Notes/comments

- This comes from a presentation and an academic journal article about transport in Denmark, produced by researchers at the Technical University of Denmark.
- They have picked out 48 cities in Europe and show the number of passengers who use each of the four different types of public transport, compared to the number of inhabitants of the city.
- Clearly, some of those using the transport system might not live in the city.
- It is not very clear, but it appears that the height of the yellow bar in the 'legend' shows 250 people per 1000 inhabitants, so a bar of that height would indicate that the equivalent of a quarter of the population use those types of public transport.
- It is not easy to see how many people use each transport in each city, but presumably the reason for the graph is to highlight the different uses, rather than to be able to see the exact amounts, so that's probably not a big deal.
- How have the cities been chosen? England is represented by London and Liverpool. Why not Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, etc?
- Some of the bar charts have diagonal lines next to them. Is that to show exactly where the city is? This works for some but not others (eg London, and one that points to the sea off East Anglia!)
- What is the difference between 'light rail', 'metro' and 'suburban rail'? Would a tram fall into one of these categories?
- The graphs do show some interesting things. We can see which cities make the most use of public transport. I associate London with the Tube (metro), so I was surprised to see that buses account for twice as many passengers. Everywhere has buses, but they don't all have all of the other types.