

# **Customer Satisfaction Survey**

Section 1
Introduction

### In this section:

**Member Abbreviations** 

**Background** 

**Objectives** 

# **Member Abbreviations**



Membe	
As	Austin Capital Metro
Ва	Baltimore MTA
Bf	Buffalo NFTA
Ch	Charlotte CATS
Da	Dallas DART
DM	Des Moines DART
Dy	Dayton GDRTA
Eu	Eugene LTD
FH	Foothill Transit
FI	Flint MTA
HR	Hampton Roads Transit
JX	Jacksonville JTA
Mw	Milwaukee MCTS
ОС	Orange County OCTA
Pg	Pittsburgh Regional Transit
Rc	Rochester RTS
RI	Rhode Island RIPTA
RV	Richmond GRTC
SB	San Bernardino Omnitrans
SJ	San Joaquin RTD
SP	St. Petersburg PSTA
ST	Spokane STA
UT	Salt Lake City UTA
Vc	Vancouver C-TRAN

### **Background to ABBG Customer Satisfaction Survey**



The satisfaction of customers, or in other words the extent to which organizations meet their customers' expectations, is an important indication of an organization's success and sustainability. Members agreed that directly comparing their own customer satisfaction scores in a benchmarking exercise is not useful due to the differences in:

- Measured items
- Definitions
- How it is measured (e.g. time/location, methods/formats)
- Cultural bias

Furthermore, a customer satisfaction survey is a subjective measurement and therefore by default less suitable for benchmarking than objective measurements.

However, the group wished to research if a "Bus Benchmarking Specific CSS" could be developed and equally executed by all members. In 2009 a pilot Customer Satisfaction Survey was conducted across 8 IBBG members.

Based on the success in other benchmarking groups, including IBBG, annual Customer Satisfaction Surveys for the ABBG commenced in 2013, using the same methodology (described over the following pages).

#### Additional details:

Customer satisfaction should be included in any benchmarking exercise through which participants aim to understand their relative performance. However, as noted above, directly comparing the satisfaction of customers in different cities is methodologically challenging for a number of reasons. Furthermore, customer satisfaction is a subjective measurement and therefore (by default) less suitable for benchmarking than objective measurements.

Nonetheless, due to the importance of customer satisfaction, the members of the International Bus Benchmarking Group (IBBG) initiated research in 2009 to develop a methodology to compare customer satisfaction. Researchers at the TSC first developed and tested a 'Bus Benchmarking Specific CSS methodology' in 2009, with the aim of defining a process which could be executed by all member organisations. A pilot CSS was conducted across eight members around the world in 2009; its success has led to an annual survey in the IBBG, which subsequently led to similar surveys being developed and adopted by other benchmarking groups as well.

# **ABBG Customer Satisfaction Survey Objectives**



- Not: to directly compare overall customer satisfaction between organizations in different cities.
- ✓ <u>Objective:</u> to understand relative performance in meeting agencies' own customers' expectations
- <u>Objective:</u> to improve those areas in which agencies relatively underperform (and are important to passengers).

#### Additional details:

Although interesting, the benchmarking objective of the ABBG CSS work is not to directly compare overall (aggregated) customer satisfaction between organizations in different cities.

The ABBG CSS benchmarking objective is for bus operators to understand the relative performance compared to ABBG peers in meeting their own customer's expectations in multiple (disaggregated) service quality areas. Using a disaggregated approach, as opposed to a single 'customer satisfaction' KPI, allows for a more comprehensive understanding of customer satisfaction. While the overall satisfaction score will be used to cross-check this relative performance, it will not be benchmarked on its own. Instead, normalization methods will be used to improve comparability of 'relative' CSS results.

Overall, the CSS is designed to provide organisations with an (additional) customer satisfaction dataset which can be used to validate and/or complement their own customer satisfaction research. Furthermore, the information detailed in this report allows operators to identify and develop plans to target those areas in which they relatively underperform.

1.3 ABBG CSS Objectives

Section 2: Methodology, Responses and Data Cleaning 2.1 Methodology and Participating Members 2.2 Question Abbreviation Key

2.3 Response Summary

2.4 Particip ation Incentives

### **Methodology and Participation**



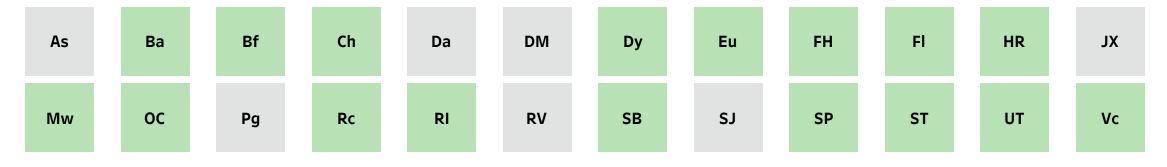
#### The ABBG customer satisfaction survey:

- 19 Questions, based on the service quality areas of EN13816 (European Standard on service quality)
- 1 general question on overall satisfaction
- 1 'Net Promoter Score' question on likeliness to recommend the service
- 1 request to select the top 3 customer service quality areas / priorities
- 6 demographic questions
- This year, 5 questions about COVID factors and estimations of frequency of use both before the pandemic, and during the six month period following the survey.

#### **General methodology:**

- Questionnaire produced via SurveyMonkey
- An online example ABBG CSS can be found here: <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CSS-ABBG-Example">https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CSS-ABBG-Example</a>
- Identical questionnaires produced for all participants, each with a separate link. Questionnaire needs to be translated by members into their languages
- Members disseminate link to survey, while the Transport Strategy Centre performs all analysis
- An overview of the survey questions is provided on the next page

#### This year, 17 ABBG member cities participated in the ABBG survey (participants highlighted in green):



#### Respondents were directed to the online survey through one or more of five types of 'collectors' (depending on the participating city):

- Link on (home)page of the organization website
- Pop-up invitation on the organization website
- Direct email with a link
- Link(s) on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or LinkedIn
- Signage or QR codes at bus stops

# **Question Abbreviation Key**



Each of the 19 standard CSS questions, the overall satisfaction question, and this year's COVID-related satisfaction questions are included in the survey as statements. The customer are asked to agree or disagree with each statement using one of the following answer options: Agree Strongly (assigned a value of 5 during analysis), Agree (4), Neutral (3), Disagree (2), Disagree Strongly (1), or Don't Know (no assigned value).

Question	Question Abbreviation Key				
Question Number	Question	Abbreviation for Report Charts	Service Quality Area		
1	The buses operate on the days and at the times that I need them	Convenient schedule	Availability		
2	The bus routes are conveniently located for me	Convenient network	Availability		
3	It is easy for me to get on and off the bus	Entering & leaving the bus	Ease of use		
4	It is convenient to pay the bus fare / buy tickets or passes	Paying a fare	Ease of use		
5	It is easy to get information about the bus services	General information	Information		
6	It is easy to find out if the buses are running on schedule	Actual service information	Information		
7	If there are problems, I can easily get information about alternative routes or schedules	Alternatives information	Information		
8	The bus usually runs on time	Punctuality	Time		
9	The bus gets me to my destination in a reasonable amount of time	Journey time	Time		
10	Bus drivers are helpful and professional	Driver helpfulness	Customer Care		
11	Bus drivers look professional (appropriate uniform and neat)	Driver appearance	Customer Care		
12	The transit agency is responsive to customer complaints/problems	Resolving problems	Customer Care		
13	The bus is well driven	Ride comfort	Comfort		
14	The bus provides a comfortable environment	Interior comfort	Comfort		
15	There is enough seating/space on the bus	Seat/space availability	Comfort		
16	The bus is clean	Vehicle cleanliness	Comfort		
17	I feel safe and secure waiting for my bus	Safety when waiting	Security		
18	I feel safe riding on the bus	Safety on the bus	Security		
19	The bus helps to reduce pollution	Pollution reduction	Environment		
20	How satisfied are you overall with the bus service?	Overall satisfaction	Overall satisfaction		
21	It is safe to travel by bus in the current COVID pandemic situation	Safe to travel during COVID	COVID		
22	Managed customer safety well during the COVID-19 pandemic	COVID management	COVID		
23	Kept me well informed about changes in service and policies throughout the COVID-19 pandemic	Informed on COVID policies	COVID		
24	It is important to keep socially distanced from others while on the bus	Social distancing	COVID		
25	It is important to wear a mask or face covering on the bus	Mask wearing	COVID		

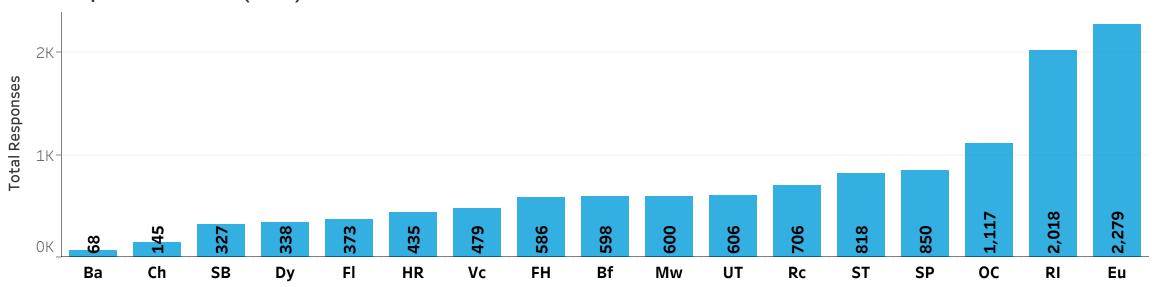
# **Response Summary**



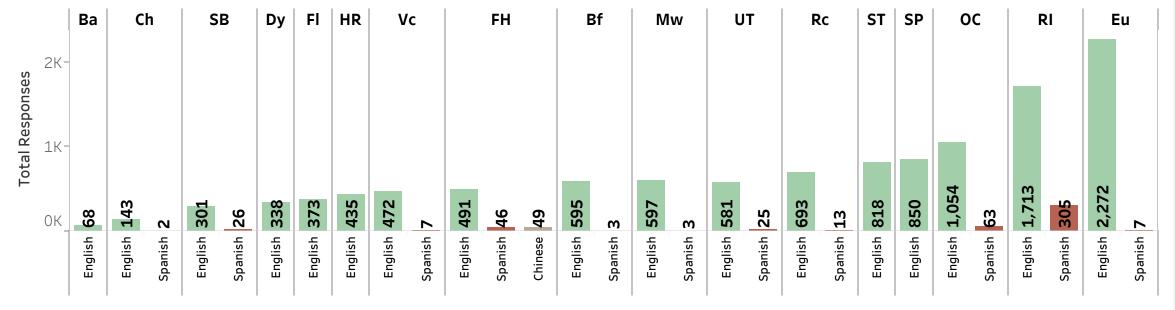
The graphs below display the total number of responses and the languages in which the survey was undertaken for each member.

Survey Dates: 28 March 2022 to 1 May 2022

### **Total Responses Received (2022)**



### **Total Responses by Language (2022)**



# **Data Cleaning Process**



After data collection, the data is cleaned in order to ensure data comparability across members.

Seven cases for data to be omitted from the study have been established.

#### Seven cases for data to be omitted:



**Space Cadets** 

Incomplete response, did not answer enough questions (3 or more satisfaction questions blank)



**Speed Demons** 

Answer survey too quickly to have done it meaningfully; Completion time < 54 seconds – less than 2 seconds per question – compared to 3 to 5 minutes typically required to answer survey



N/A-sayers

Answer "not applicable" / "don't know" to too many satisfaction questions (>6 answers '6' - "Don't Know or N/A")



Clones

Same respondent answering survey twice (Same IP address, answers >90% identical, within a short timeframe)



**Brady Bunch** 

Answers are suspiciously and consistently positive (All answers to satisfaction questions are all '5' - "Strongly Agree")



**Negative Nancy** 

Answers unhelpfully and consistently negative (All answers to satisfaction questions are all '1' - "Strongly Disagree")



**Robots** 

Answers show pattern (Answers demonstrate integer patterns (e.g. 1-5-1-5... Or 1-1-2-2...) and have taken less than 90 seconds to complete)

# **Distribution of Satisfaction Levels per Question**

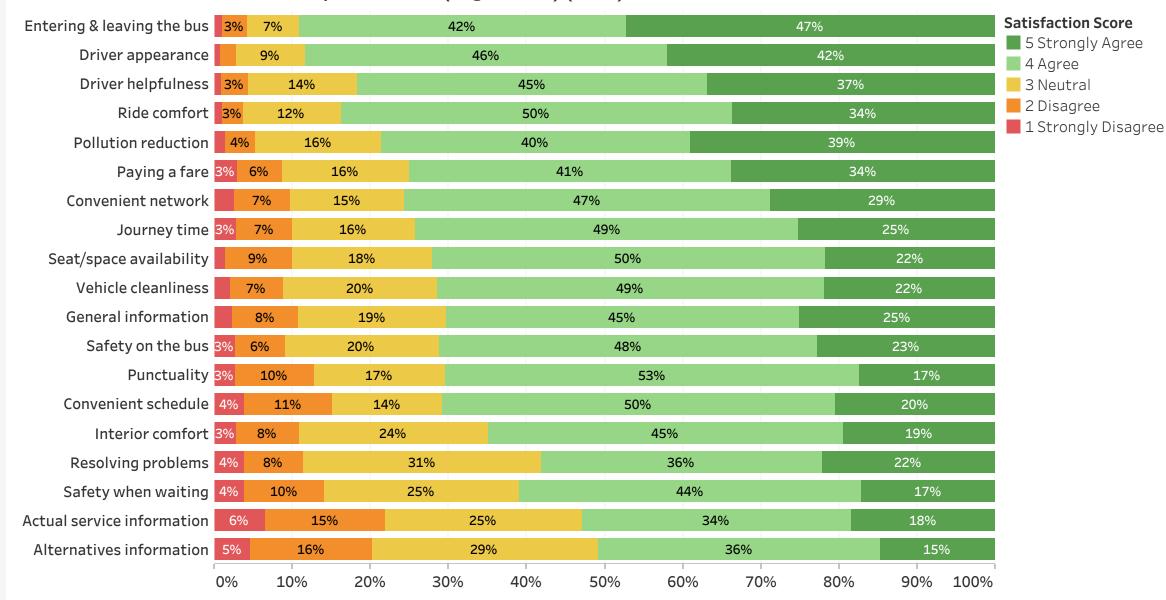


The chart shows the proportion of respondents that strongly agreed, agreed, felt neutral, disagreed, or strongly disagreed with each question. The questions are ranked on their average satisfaction score with the highest satisfaction at the top and the lowest satisfaction at the bottom. This helps us to understand the extent to which satisfaction is polarized. Each question has been abbreviated for graph legibility.

**Member** Eu

You may use the dropdown menu on the right to select a different member to display on the graph.

### Distribution of Satisfaction Levels per Question (Eugene LTD) (2022)



# **Results of the ABBG Customer Satisfaction Survey**



The graph displays the absolute score results (latest year) for each question asked at an individual (city by city) level. The blue bar represents the average score of all cleaned responses for each of the 19 individual questions. Results are ranked from most satisfied to least satisfied for each member regarding the average customer satisfaction

The satisfaction scores are between 1 and 5, with 5 being most satisfied and 1 being least satisfied.

You may use the dropdown menu on the right to select a different member to display on the graph.

**Member** Eu

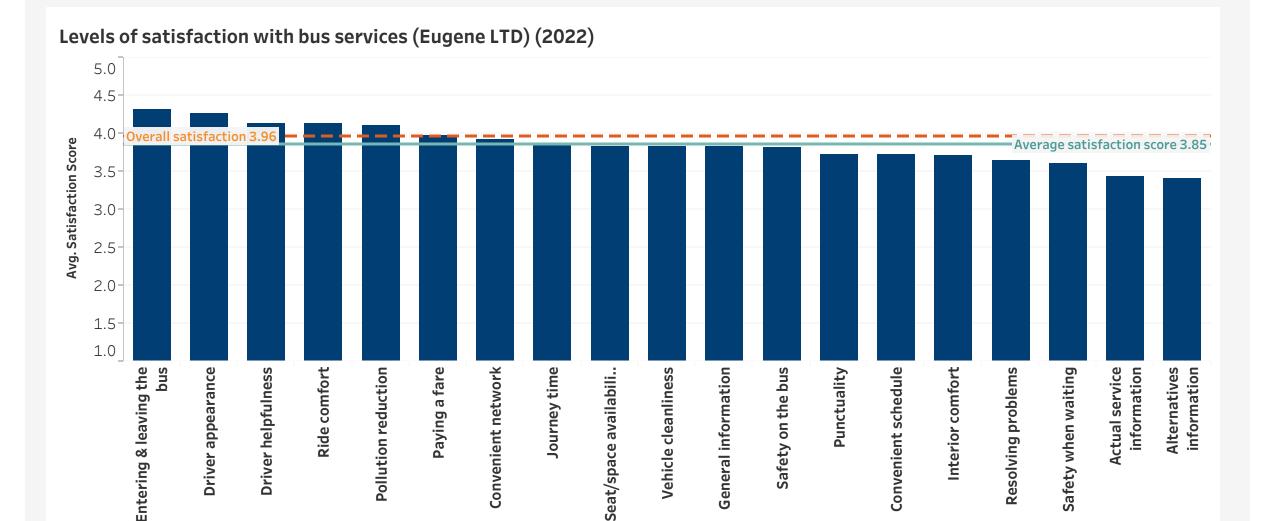
Average Satisfaction 3.86

scores for all 19 questions.

The average score of all 19 individual questions. Represented by the turquoise line.

Overall Satisfaction 3.96

The average score of all cleaned responses for the overall satisfaction (control) question.
Represented by the orange dashed line.



# Trends: Result of the ABBG Customer Satisfaction Survey



The graph shows the **trends** of the average customer satisfaction scores for each question over the past 10 years, ranked from most satisfied to least satisfied for each member.

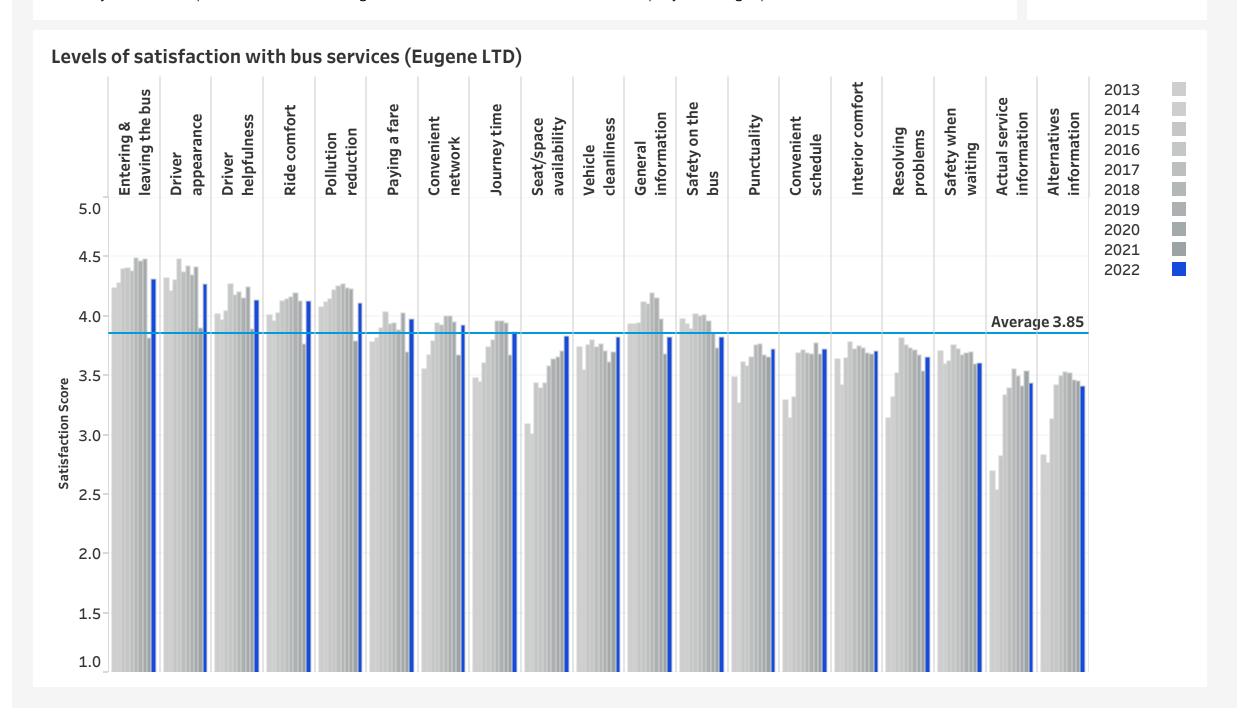
The satisfaction scores are between 1 and 5, with 5 being most satisfied and 1 being least satisfied.

You may use the dropdown menu on the right to select a different member to display on the graph.

Member

Eu

**Year**Multiple values



### **Customer Journey Satisfaction Levels**



The graph displays the average Absolute Satisfaction Score for each question. The questions are ordered by each phase of the customer journey (before, during and after my ride).

You may use the dropdown menu on the right to select a different member to display on the graph, or to switch between absolute satisfaction scores and normalised scores.

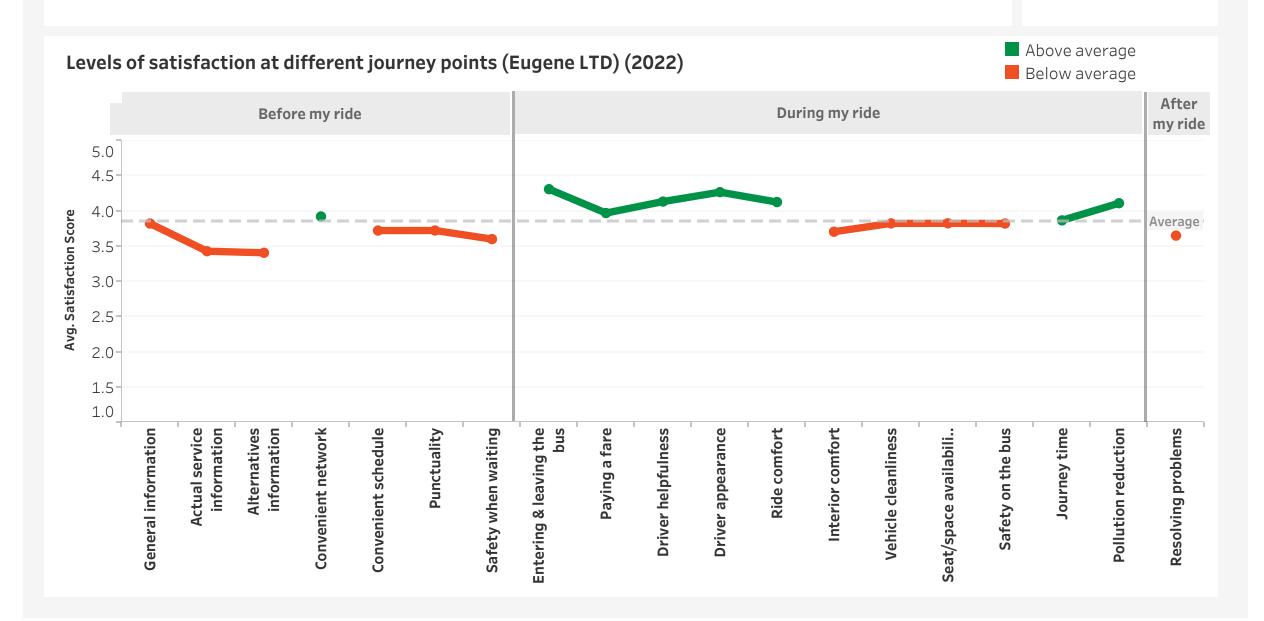
The Absolute Satisfaction Score view shows the absolute average of all 19 satisfaction questions (grey line), and the questions' absolute scores are shown in green (when exceeding the average) or red (when below the average). This allows you to track where your customers are on average more satisfied than on other parts of the journey.

#### Member

Eu

#### **Customer Journey View**

Absolute Satisfaction Score



# **Customer Journey Satisfaction Levels**



The graph displays the average Normalised Score for each question. The questions are ordered by each phase of the customer journey (before, during and after my ride).

You may use the dropdown menu on the right to select a different member to display on the graph, or to switch between absolute satisfaction scores and normalised scores.

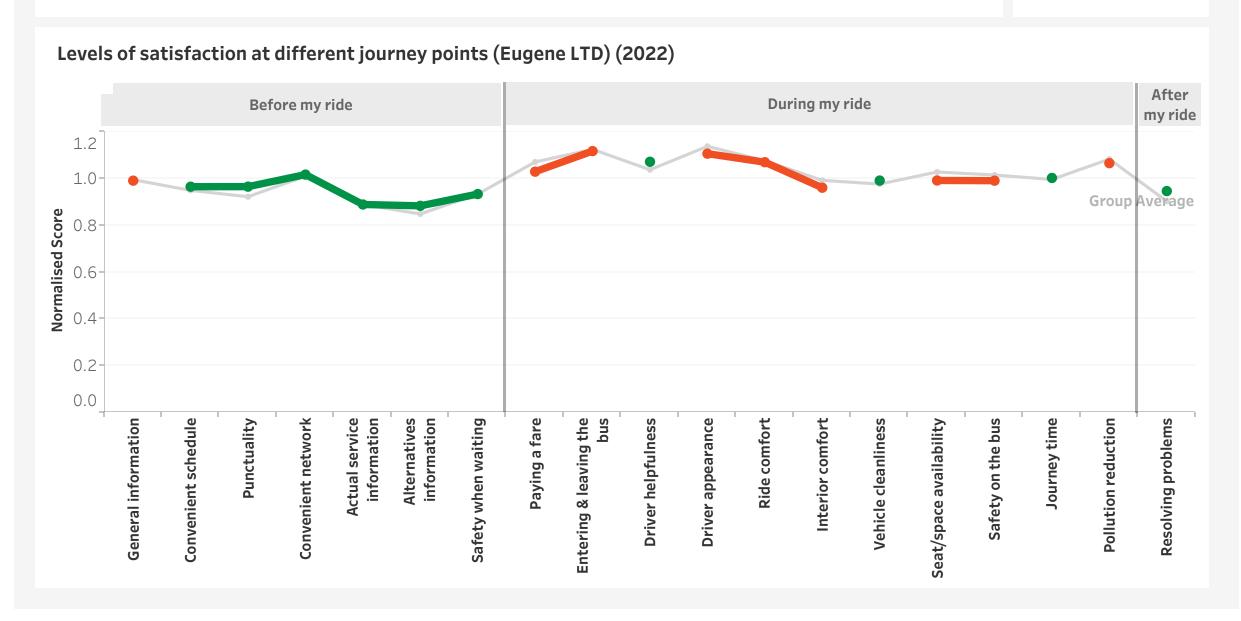
The Normalised Satisfaction Score view allows for a comparison of the satisfaction levels throughout the journey compared to the average of all participating cities, represented by the grey line (see section 6.1 for an explanation of the normalisation methodology). When your respondents are on average more satisfied with a particular part of their journey compared to respondents of other agencies, this will be represented by a green line, and when relatively less satisfied this is represented in red.

#### Member

Eu

#### **Customer Journey View**

Normalised Score



5.4 Sati sfaction by Que..

5.5.1 Customer Journey: Satisfaction Levels: Absolute Satisfaction Score 5.5.2 Customer Journey: Satisfaction Levels: Normalised Satisfaction Score 5.6 Service Quality Area Priorities: Indices

**5.7 Service Quality Area** Priorities: Ranked

**5.8 Priority Map** 

5.9.1 Overa Il Satisfacti on a..

# **Service Quality Area Priorities: Indices**

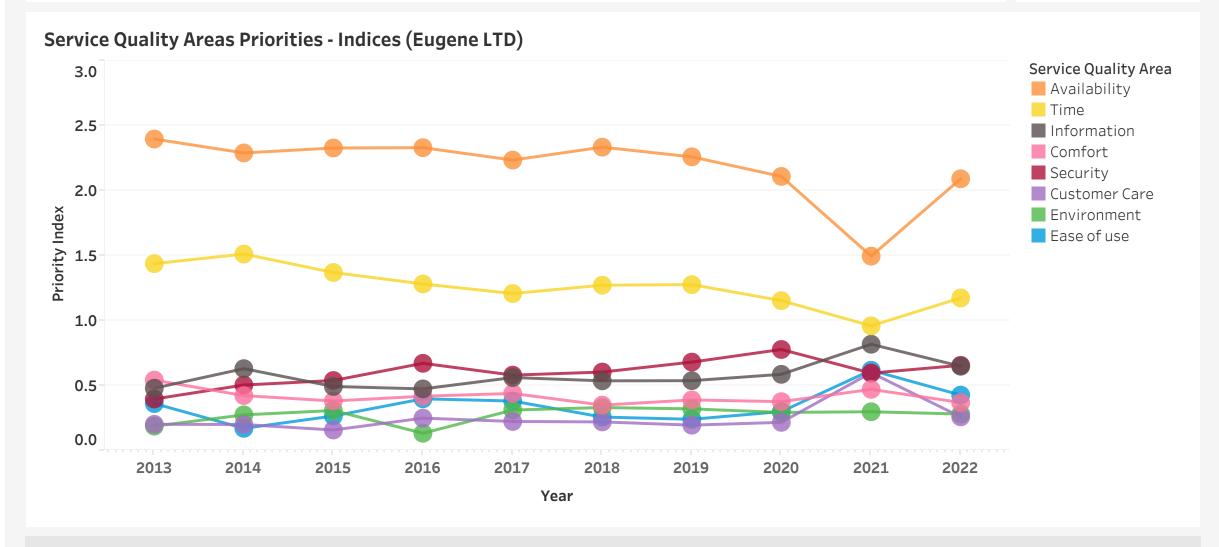


The chart shows the eight service quality areas over time relative to their actual importance.

Further details about the calculations used for the priority index can be found by selecting the information icon in the top right-hand corner of the chart.

..

**Member** 



Respondents were asked to select, out of the eight service quality areas, their 1st priority (which was given the weight of 3 points), 2nd priority ("2 points) and 3rd priority ("1 point). Priority areas not selected received zero points.

Therefore, the average score a service quality area can receive lies between 0 and 3. For example, if all respondents select 'availability' as their highest priority, the average score for 'availability' is 3. If 50% of all respondents select 'availability' as their highest priority (and none as 2nd or 3rd priority), the average score for 'availability' is 1.5, etc.

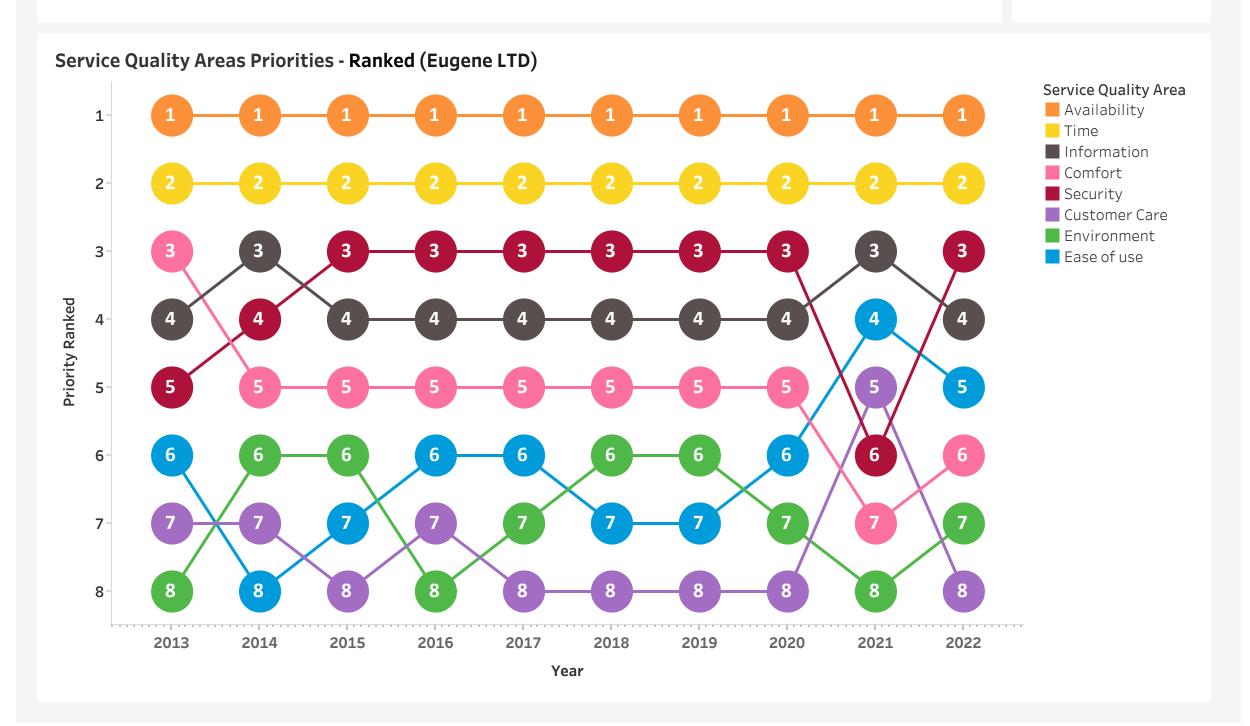
# **Service Quality Area Priorities: Ranked**



The chart shows the absolute rank of the eight service quality areas over time, based on their priority index score. The service quality areas in the graph are ranked from highest priority to lowest priority.

You may use the dropdown menu on the right to select a different member to display on the graph.

**Member** Eu





These graphs show the average score for the 'overall satisfaction' question and the top three priorities, broken down by Age.

The last column shows the average percentage across all of the categories for the selected demographic.

<u>Note:</u> categories that have a sample size below 30 respondents are excluded; therefore, some categories may be missing from the charts.

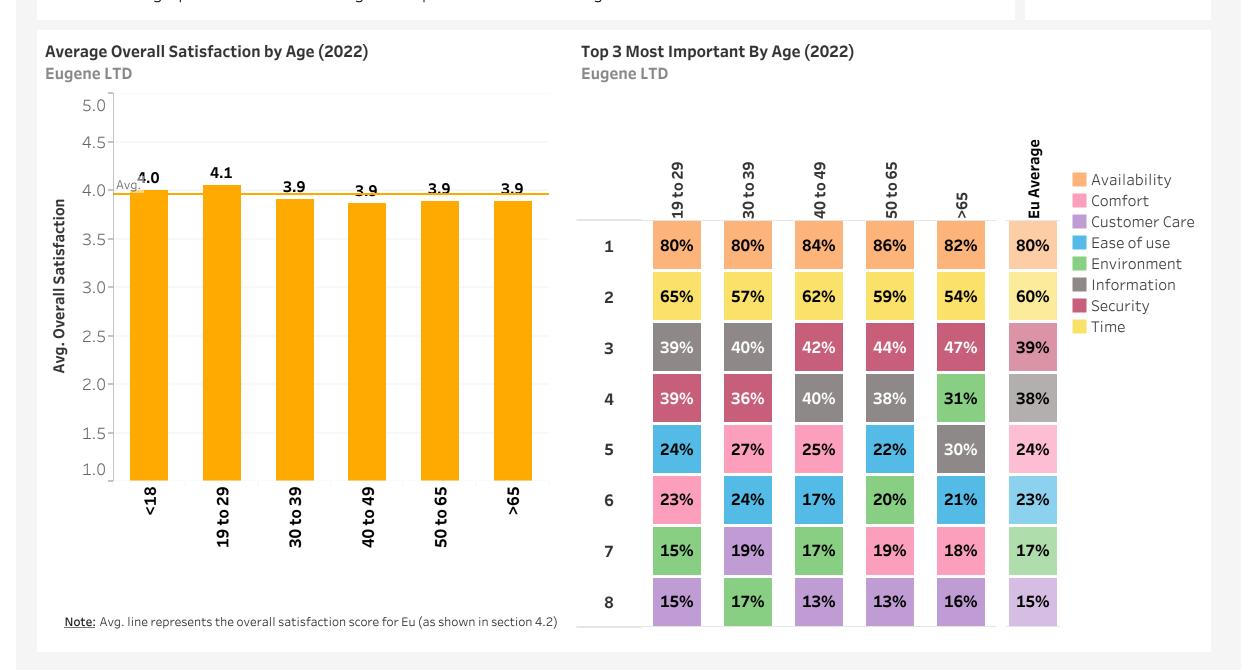
Select a demographic and a member using the drop down menus to the right.

### Member

Eu

#### Demographic

Age





These graphs show the average score for the 'overall satisfaction' question and the top three priorities, broken down by Frequency of use. The last column shows the average percentage across all of the categories for the selected demographic.

Note: categories that have a sample size below 30 respondents are excluded; therefore, some categories may be missing from the charts.

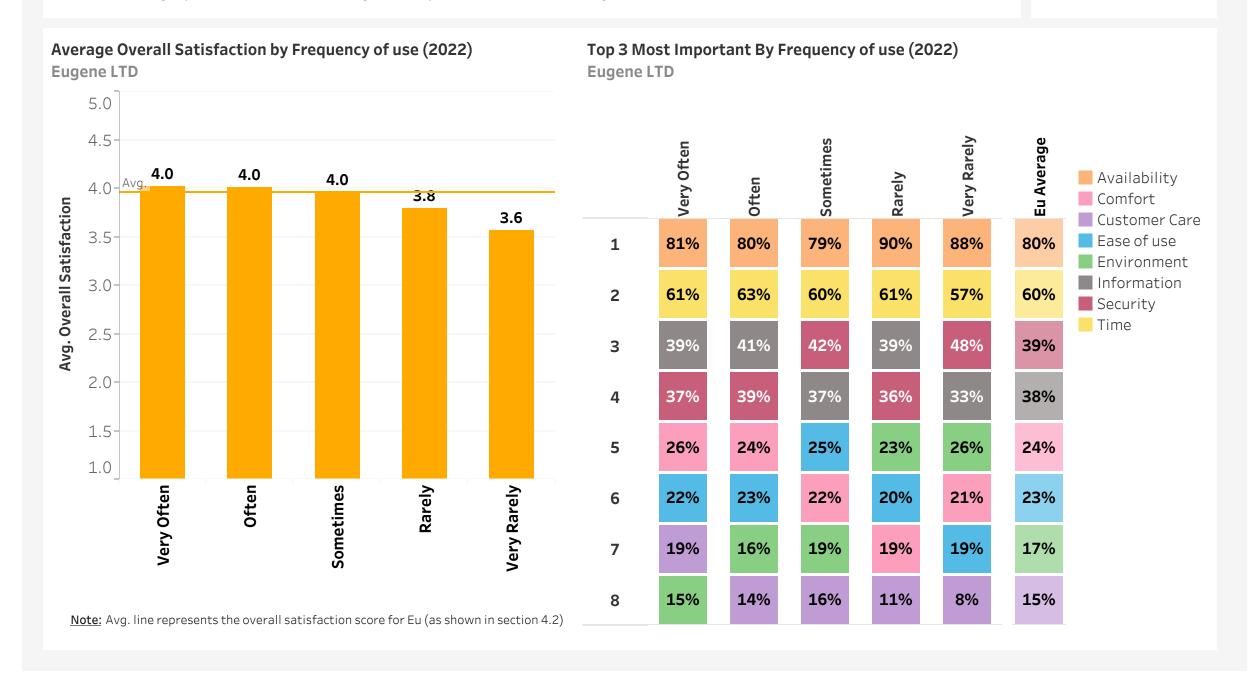
Select a demographic and a member using the drop down menus to the right.

### Member

Eu

### Demographic

Frequency of use





These graphs show the average score for the 'overall satisfaction' question and the top three priorities, broken down by Trip purpose. The last column shows the average percentage across all of the categories for the selected demographic.

<u>Note:</u> categories that have a sample size below 30 respondents are excluded; therefore, some categories may be missing from the charts.

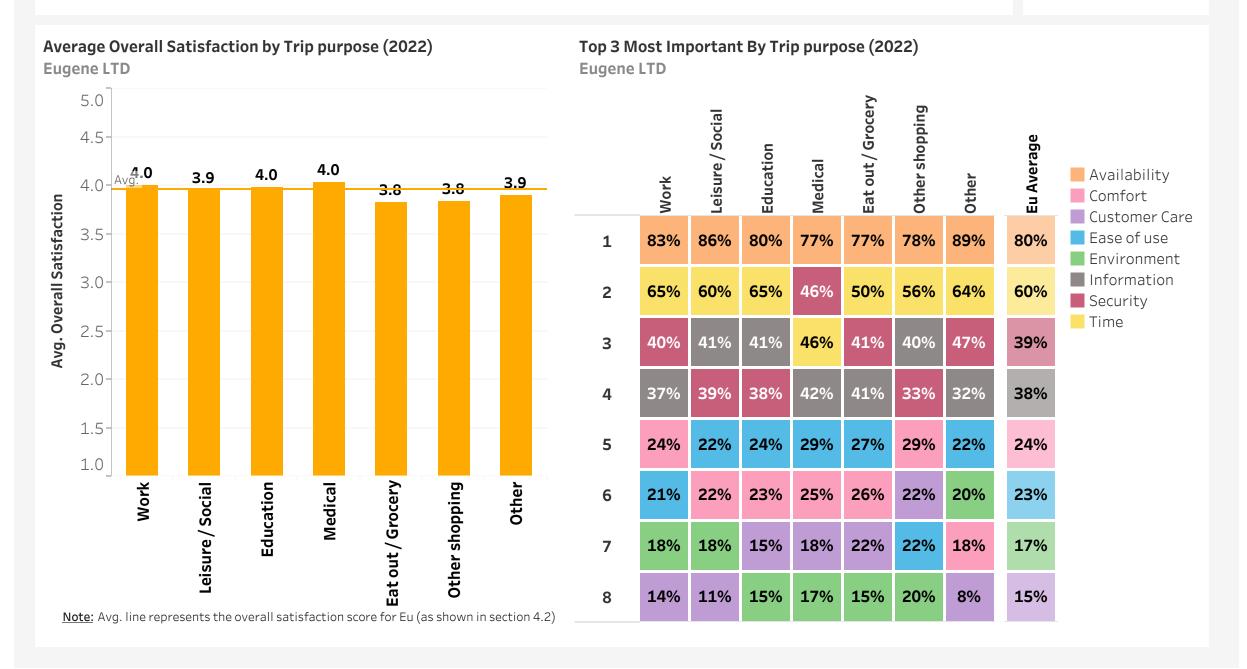
Select a demographic and a member using the drop down menus to the right.

### Member

Eu

#### Demographic

Trip purpose





These graphs show the average score for the 'overall satisfaction' question and the top three priorities, broken down by Gender. The last column shows the average percentage across all of the categories for the selected demographic.

<u>Note:</u> categories that have a sample size below 30 respondents are excluded; therefore, some categories may be missing from the charts.

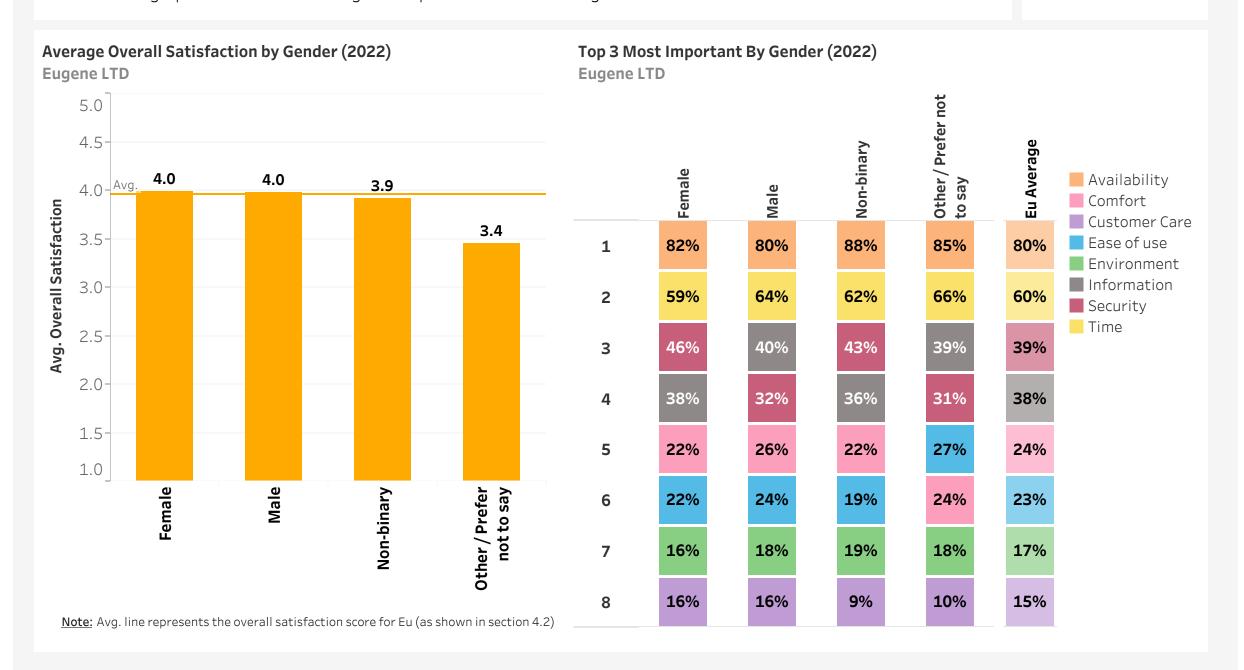
Select a demographic and a member using the drop down menus to the right.

### Member

Eu

#### Demographic

Gender





These graphs show the average score for the 'overall satisfaction' question and the top three priorities, broken down by Race/ethnicity. The last column shows the average percentage across all of the categories for the selected demographic.

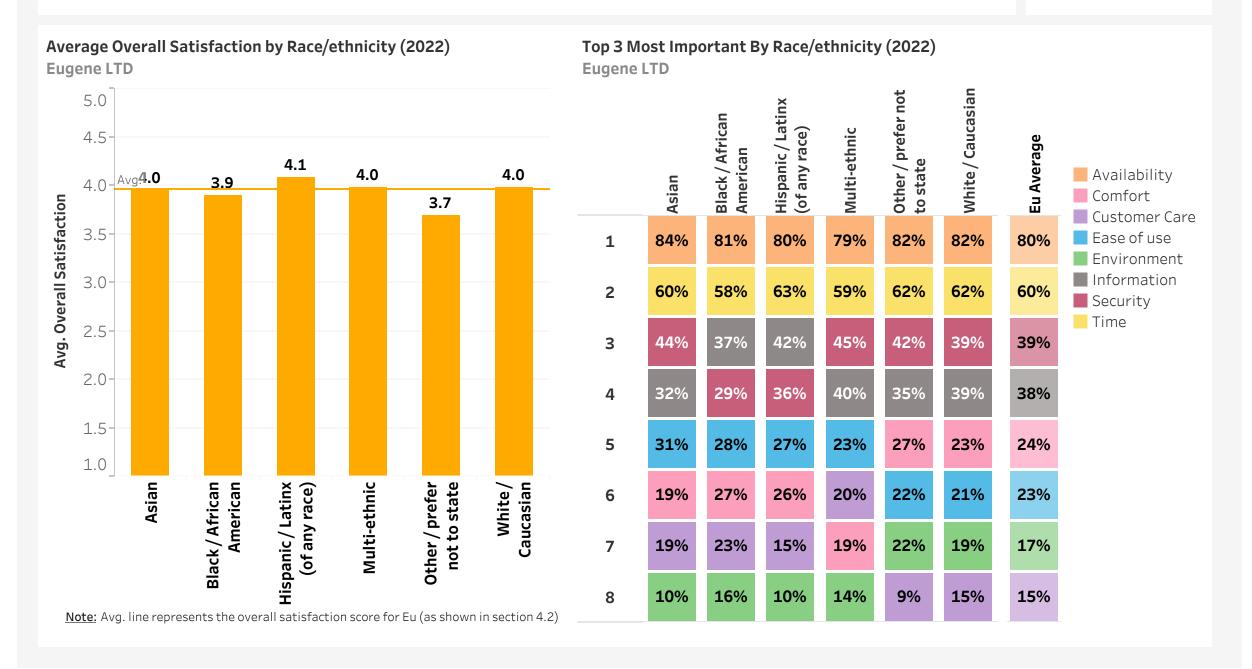
<u>Note:</u> categories that have a sample size below 30 respondents are excluded; therefore, some categories may be missing from the charts.

Select a demographic and a member using the drop down menus to the right.

#### **Member** Eu

Demographic

Race/ethnicity





These graphs show the average score for the 'overall satisfaction' question and the top three priorities, broken down by Household Income. The last column shows the average percentage across all of the categories for the selected demographic.

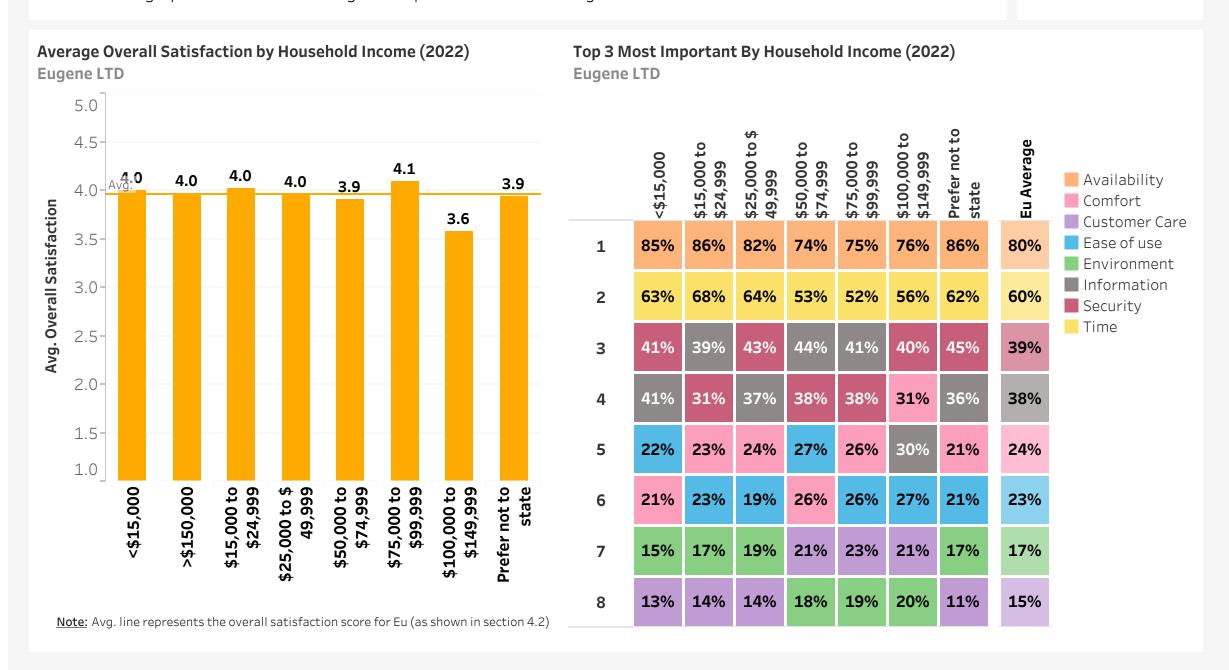
**Member** Eu

<u>Note:</u> categories that have a sample size below 30 respondents are excluded; therefore, some categories may be missing from the charts.

Demographic

Household Income

Select a demographic and a member using the drop down menus to the right.



### **Performance Dashboard**

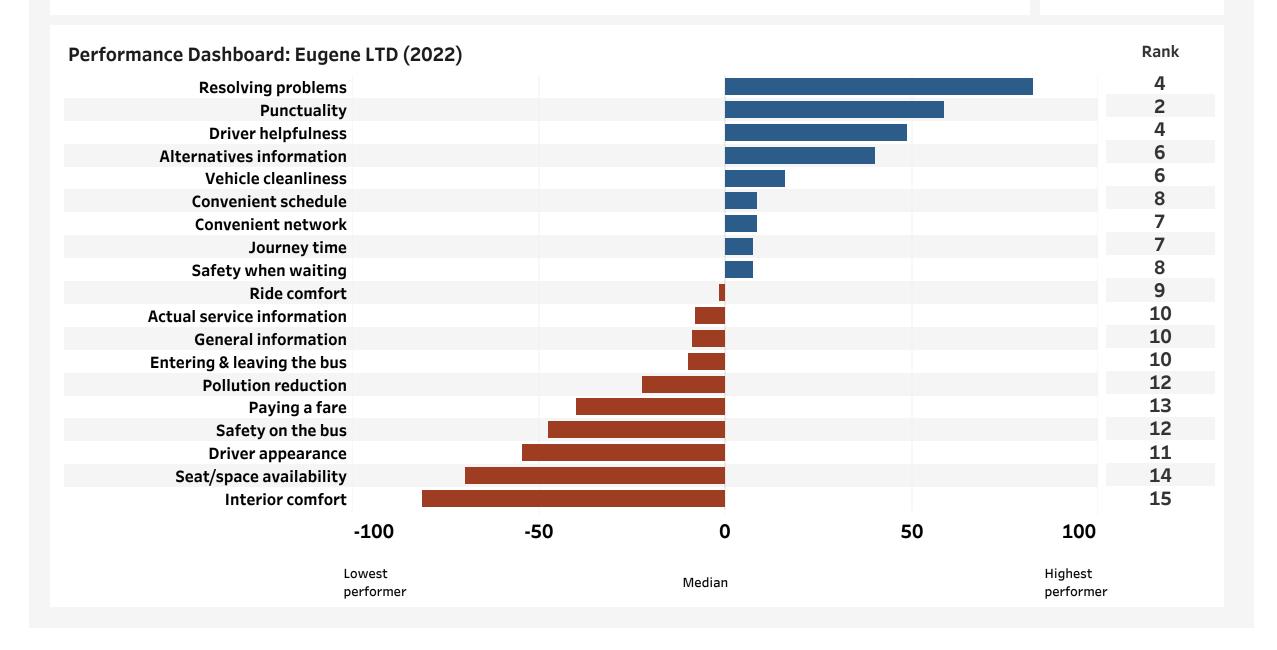


This dashboard shows the 'relative' performance of each member in relation to the best and worst performers and the median value (i.e. a satisfaction index).

A score of +100 for a service quality area indicates that the respective organization is the best performer in meeting their own customers' expectations on that question. The lowest performance is represented by -100 and the median is at 0. The performance dashboard also shows the 19 individual service quality aspects in order of relative potential for improvement. The organization's rank in how well it is relatively meeting customer expectations is also given.

You may use the dropdown menu on the right to select a different member to display on the graph.

# Member



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5.10 Performance Dashboard

**Section 6: Normalized Results** 

6.1 Normalized Results Methodology 6.2.1 Normalized Results Trends: Convenient Schedule

**6.2.2 Normalized Results Trends:** Convenient Network

6.2.3 Normalized Results Tr..

### **Normalized Results Methodology**



Satisfying passengers can also be described as meeting passengers' expectations. Unfortunately for benchmarking, these passengers' expectations will differ from city to city. Therefore comparing the absolute scores will not truly reveal if a bus organization is performing better in satisfying its customers (e.g. meeting their expectations) than another organization.

#### Two examples:

- **1.** An organization's absolute score for security, for instance, can be the highest of all organizations (e.g. 3.6); however, when compared to its own average score over all questions (for example an average of 3.8), it becomes clear that security is actually an area where passengers are relatively less satisfied.
- 2. Passengers in a second example city are generally less satisfied and/or have high expectations. Their absolute 'security' score can be the lowest of all (e.g. 3.1); however, when compared to its own average score over all questions (for example 2.7), it becomes clear this is actually an area where passengers are relatively more satisfied in this city.

The organization in example two should therefore focus on improving the scores under 2.7, rather than the area for which they score 3.1, even if that area is in absolute terms the worst score out of all organizations in that particular service quality aspect.

To benchmark relative performance in meeting customers' expectations, the next step is for each organization 'j' to normalize the average score for a particular question 'i' by dividing it by the average of the scores of all their questions. In other words, **Satisfaction index 'ij' = Average score Qi / average score of the 19** individual questions, for organization 'j'.

The following page shows these <u>normalized</u> satisfaction indices for each of the 19 individual questions asked for all participating cities.

#### To interpret the results, note that:

- A satisfaction index will have a value around 1.0. A score of 1.0 means that the average score for a specific question equals the average score for all questions.
- A satisfaction index above 1.0 indicates that passengers are relatively more satisfied with this service quality aspect than other areas on average.
- The purple line indicates the latest year's average of each organisations' satisfaction index
- Above the purple line means that compared to the other bus operators, an organisation performs better in satisfying their own customers than on average other operators are satisfying their customers on this specific quality area.
- To be a good performer you want to be greater than 1.0 AND/OR above the purple line.



# **Customer Satisfaction Survey**

# Section 7 COVID Supplemental Questions

### In this section:

**Customer Satisfaction by Question (Standard and COVID Questions)** 

**Customer Satisfaction Results by Member (Standard and COVID Questions)** 

**Normalized Results** 

**Frequency of Use** 

### **COVID-19** | Development of the COVID Supplement



A set of five questions on specific COVID factors were added to the 2022 survey, designed to supplement the standard CSS questions asked each year. These consisted of statements that customers either agreed or disagreed with. Three statements reflected satisfaction with aspects of bus ridership during the pandemic while two statements reflected the level of importance of social distancing and mask wearing.

In addition, customers were asked how often they used the bus before the pandemic, as well as how often they expected to use the bus during the next 6 months.

These questions were based on the set of 2021 COVID-related questions, which were developed in consultation with members of all participating benchmarking groups.

#### **COVID Factors - Satisfaction**

- It is **safe to travel by bus** in the current COVID pandemic situation
- [AGENCY] has **managed customer safety well** during the COVID pandemic
- [AGENCY] has **kept me well informed** about changes in service and policies throughout the COVID pandemic

### **COVID Factors - Level of Importance**

At part of this year's survey, participants were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the following statements:

- It is important to keep socially distanced from others while on the bus
- It is important to wear a mask or face covering on the bus

### Frequency of Use

- Before the pandemic, how often did you take the bus?
- How often do you expect to take the bus during the next 6 months?
- Answer options:
- Very often (every day)
- Often (at least 3 days per week)
- Sometimes (at least once per week)
- Rarely (at least once per month)
- Very rarely (less than once per month)

### **COVID-19 | Normalized Results**



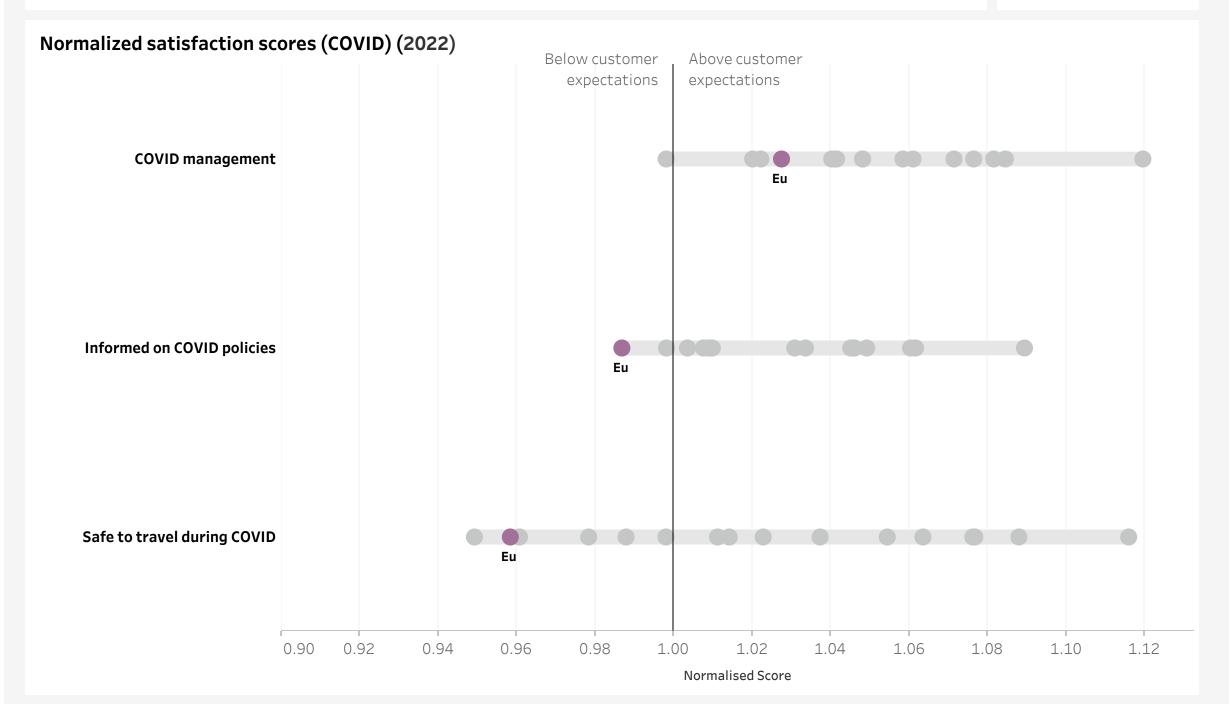
This chart summarises the normalized results for all members for each of the three COVID satisfaction questions.

Note: Mw did not survey their customers on the COVID-19 satisfaction questions.

Use the menu to the right to highlight a member within the chart, or highlight all members using the highlight options menu.

**Member** Eu

Highlight options
Member specific



### **COVID-19** | Results of the ABBG Customer Satisfaction Survey



The graph displays the absolute score results for each question asked at an individual (city by city) level. The blue bars represent the average score of all cleaned responses for either the standard or COVID questions.

The satisfaction scores are between 1 and 5, with 5 being most satisfied and 1 being least satisfied. Results are ranked from most satisfied to least satisfied on the right.

Use the filters to the right of the graph to select: a member, which survey questions to include in the graph and whether to include/exclude the standard questions.

Average
Satisfaction
(Standard)
3.85

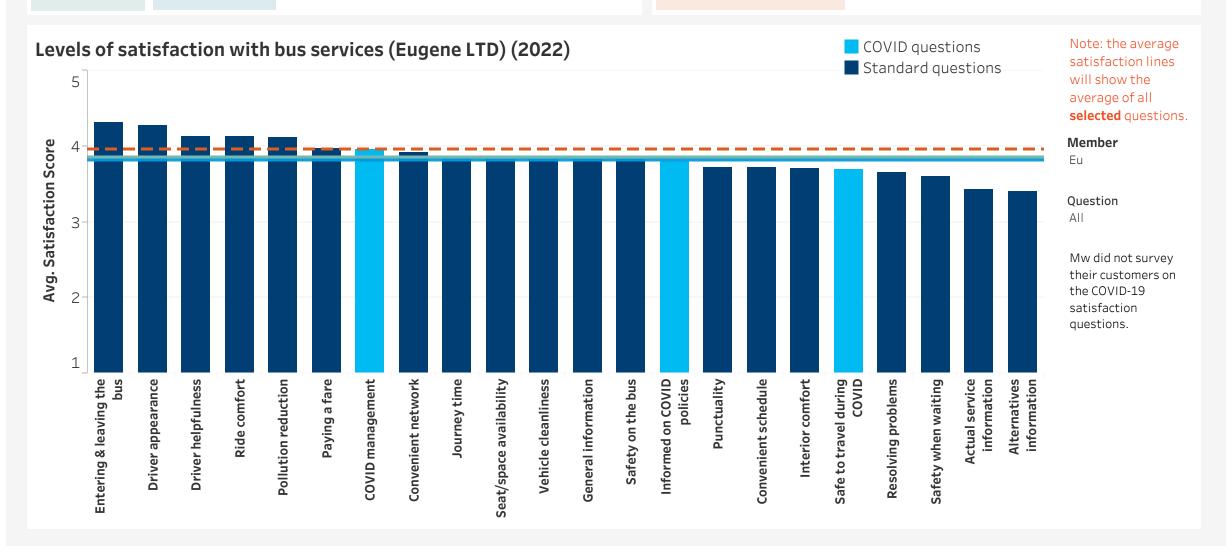
Average Satisfaction (COVID) 3.81

The average score of all (selected) individual questions and for the COVID questions only.

Represented by the turquoise line for all selected questions, and by the blue line for the COVID questions.

Overall Satisfaction 3.96

The average score of all cleaned responses for the overall satisfaction (control) question.
Represented by the orange dashed line.



### **COVID-19 | Frequency of Use**



Within the COVID portion of the survey, customers were asked two questions regarding frequency: 'Before the pandemic, how often did you take the bus?' and 'How often do you expect to take the bus during the next 6 months?'.

These charts show the segmentation of participants by frequency of use category, both before the pandemic and during the next six months. As a reference point, the faded bars represent the segmentation of participants across the whole group.

You may use the filter at the right to select a member.

**Member** Eu

