Passenger Rail Usage
2014-15 Quarter 4
Statistical Release

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1. Introduction

This release contains information on passenger rail usage in Great Britain covering the period from 2002-03 with the latest data in this release referring to 2014-15 Quarter 4 (1 January 2015 to 31 March 2015). Annual statistics for the year 2014-15 are also presented.

The data covered within the release are:

- Timetabled Train Kilometres (TTKM) - the number of train kilometres each train operator would achieve if they operated 100% of their timetable;
- Passenger Kilometres - the number of kilometres travelled by passengers on the network;
- Passenger Journeys\(^1\) - the number of passenger journeys made on the network; and
- Passenger Revenue - all ticket revenue and miscellaneous charges associated with passenger travel on national railways, but not including government support or grants.

These measures of rail usage show the number of passengers using the network and journeys made on it, providing an indication of the levels of demand for rail travel.

Passenger kilometres and passenger journeys data are linked, as the number of journeys made by a passenger impacts the number of kilometres travelled. For example, if the number of passenger journeys increases, you would expect to see an increase in the number of passenger kilometres travelled.

Passenger revenue data provides an insight into revenue levels within the industry as well as the levels of revenue generated through each ticket type, which can highlight changes in ticket purchasing trends.

An increase in passenger revenue is generally a direct consequence of increased passenger journeys. The percentage change in passenger revenue can often outstrip the equivalent passenger journeys and passenger kilometres measures as a result of the fare increases usually announced in January each year.

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\(^1\) A journey is based on travel from an origin station to a destination station. A train journey may include one or more changes of train, and one journey is generated for each train used.
All the data contained within this release are sourced from the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC), the rail industry’s ticketing and revenue database (LENNON) and the train operating companies (TOCs). For more detail on data collection, the methodology used to calculate the data within this release, details of which services are included in each sector and which TOCs are franchised and non-franchised, please see the accompanying quality report which can be found at: Quality Report.

This is a quarterly release and the data in this release refers to 2014-15 Q4, 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2015. All the data contained and referred to within this release can be accessed via the ORR Data Portal.

**Annexes**

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. For information on how to access the data referenced in this report and details of future publications and other statistical releases produced by the ORR, please refer to the annexes at the end of this report.
2. Summary of key results

- Passenger rail usage in Great Britain has been increasing since the time series began in 2002-03 with growth across all measures.

**Annual 2014-15 results:**

- Timetabled train kilometres (TTKM) for all passenger operators in Great Britain were 529.9 million kilometres. This was up 1.0% on 2013-14.

- Passenger kilometres totaled 62.9 billion. Of which, 62.4 billion kilometres were by franchised operators, the highest recorded since the series began in 2002-03. This was an increase of 4.5% on 2013-14 and an increase of 57.2% on 2002-03. Growth in the franchised Long distance and Regional sectors outstripped growth in London and South East.

- Over 1.6 billion passenger journeys were made, the highest recorded figure since the series began. Franchised journeys accounted for 1.65 billion compared to 2.1 million non-franchised journeys. Franchised passenger journeys saw an increase of 4.2% on 2013-14 and an increase of 69.5% on 2002-03.

- £8.9 billion of passenger revenue was generated from passenger journeys made in Great Britain in 2014-15. This was split between £8.8 billion by franchised operators and £63 million by non-franchised operators. Overall passenger revenue increased by 7.4% on 2013-14.
2014-15 Quarter 4 results:

- The total number of TTKM across all operators in 2014-15 Q4 increased by 1.0% compared to 2013-14 Q4, recording a total of 130.7 million kilometres. For the fourth consecutive quarter, First Transpennine Express recorded the largest increase in its TTKM for franchised operators, primarily due to the introduction of additional services between Leeds and Manchester in May 2014. Virgin Trains West Coast launched two new direct services between London and Blackpool, and London and Shrewsbury with the commencement of their December 2014 timetable, thereby increasing their TTKM this quarter.

- Passenger kilometres across all sectors increased in 2014-15 Q4 with the total franchised passenger kilometres reaching 15.4 billion, an increase of 4.2% compared to the same quarter last year. Non-franchised passenger kilometres for the same quarter reached a total of 0.14 billion.

- Franchised passenger journeys reached a record 422.7 million in 2014-15 Q4, a 3.7% increase on the same quarter in 2013-14. This quarter saw the highest franchised passenger journeys made on Season tickets since the beginning of the time series, totaling 197.9 million journeys.

- Total franchised passenger revenue exceeded £2.2 billion in 2014-15 Q4, an 8.4% increase on 2013-14 Q4. This was the highest revenue generated within any Q4 since the time series began, with all the sectors generating higher revenue compared to the same quarter last year.

- Revenue generated by non-franchised operators increased by 13% this quarter compared to 2013-14 Q4, recording a total revenue of £16.2 million, the highest revenue recorded since the beginning of the time series.
3. Timetabled Train Kilometres (TTKM)

About Timetabled Train Kilometres

Timetabled train kilometres (TTKM) refers to the number of train kilometres (million) each train operator would achieve if they operated 100% of their timetable. The data are calculated from the summer and winter train timetables, operational from May and December each year. Measures of train kilometres are used by the rail industry to show the volume of service provision.

Timetabled train kilometres by train operating company

Annual 2014-15

Timetabled train kilometres have increased every year since the time series began to meet the increasing demand for rail travel. The largest annual increase in TTKM was in 2009-10 when TTKM rose by 4.2% to reach 500 million kilometres; mainly as a result of the upgrade to the West Coast Mainline being completed which increased the volume of services operated by Virgin Trains and London Midland. In 2014-15, TTKM for all passenger operators in Great Britain was 529.9 million kilometres. This was up 1.0% on the 524.8 million kilometres recorded in 2013-14 and up 18.2% since the annual time series began in 2003-04 when there was 448.4 million timetabled train kilometres. The main driver of the increase in 2014-15 is First Transpennine Express, who added additional services between Leeds and Manchester in May 2014.
2014-15 Quarter 4 Results

Timetabled train kilometres (TTKM) by train operating company - chart
Train operating company data 2014-15 Q4 and 2013-14 Q4

- The total number of TTKM across all operators in 2014-15 Q4 increased by 1.0% compared to 2013-14 Q4, recording a total of 130.7 million kilometres. For the fourth consecutive quarter, First Transpennine Express recorded the largest increase in its TTKM for franchised operators. The net increase in its TTKM compared to the same quarter last year was 15.8%.

- Govia Thameslink Railway recorded the second highest quarter on quarter increase for franchised operators, with an increase of 8.8%. This increase has been due to the introduction of additional services along some of Govia Thameslink Railways’ routes.
through the December 2014 timetable\textsuperscript{2}, and the taking over of some Southeastern routes since December 2014. Consequently, Southeastern has seen the biggest drop in its TTKM compared to the same quarter last year, falling by 4.7%. In addition, Chiltern, Arriva Train Wales, Southern and First Great Western all recorded a reduction in their TTKM this quarter compared to the same quarter last year.

- ScotRail had the highest TTKM of all operators in 2014-15 Q4. It showed an increase of 2.8% compared with the same quarter last year.

- Virgin Trains West Coast launched two new direct services between London and Blackpool, and London and Shrewsbury with the commencement of their December 2014 timetable\textsuperscript{3}, thereby increasing their TTKM by 0.6% this quarter over the same quarter last year.

- The number of TTKM for the non-franchised operators (First Hull Trains, Grand Central and Heathrow Express) saw a marginal increase in 2014-15 Q4 compared to 2013-14 Q4. This was due to the increase of 0.1% in the TTKM for Heathrow Express.

TTKM by quarter data are available on the data portal in: \textbf{Table 12.1}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{2} http://www.thameslinkrailway.com/your-journey/timetables/more-seats
\item \textsuperscript{3} http://www.virgintrains.co.uk/about/media-room/#/pressreleases/virgin-trains-launch-new-direct-services-to-blackpool-and-shrewsbury-1099862
\end{itemize}
4. Passenger Kilometres

About Passenger Kilometres

The number of kilometres travelled by passengers on the network. The data used to derive passenger kilometres are sourced from the LENNON (Latest Earnings Network Nationally Over Night) database and train operating companies.

Passenger Kilometres by sector

Annual 2014-15

Passenger kilometres (billions)

Franchised

4.5% ↑ compared to previous year

29.6

12.0

5.4% ↑

62.4

Non-franchised

0.5

13.0% ↑

20.8

5.5% ↑

In 2014-15 passenger kilometres in Great Britain totaled 62.9 billion. Of which, 62.4 billion kilometres were by franchised operators, the highest recorded figure since the series began in 2002-03. This was an increase of 4.5% on the 59.7 billion passenger kilometres recorded in 2013-14 and an increase of 57.2% on the 39.7 billion passenger kilometres recorded in 2002-03.

Passenger kilometres for the London and South East, Long distance and Regional (including Scotland) sectors\(^4\) all experienced an increase in passenger kilometres between 2013-14 and 2014-15. Growth in franchised passenger kilometres in the Long distance

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\(^4\) The rail network is divided into 3 sectors – London and South East, Long distance and Regional (including Scotland). A list of services in each sector is available in the Quality Report.
and Regional sectors outstripped growth in London and South East sector, with the franchised Long Distance passenger kilometres recording 20.8 billion kilometres in 2014-15. For non-franchised operators (First Hull Trains, Grand Central and Heathrow Express) the number of passenger kilometres increased by 13% in 2014-15 compared to 2013-14, reaching 541 million.

Of the 62.4 billion franchised passenger kilometres in 2014-15, 45 billion were attributed to Ordinary tickets and the remaining 17.4 billion to season tickets. Advance, Anytime/Peak, Off-Peak and Season tickets all experienced an increase in passenger kilometres between 2013-14 and 2014-15.
2014-15 Quarter 4 Results

Passenger Kilometres by sector – chart
Great Britain data 2002-03 Q1 to 2014-15 Q4

- Passenger kilometres have been seeing continued growth in all the sectors over the past few years. Additional train services and routes, revised timetables, attractive offers and deals facilitating cheaper travel, major schemes involving redesign and improvements to stations, and the growing economy in general have all contributed to the increasing number of passenger kilometres over the years.

- 69.0% of the total passenger kilometres this quarter are attributed to Ordinary ticket travel, with Off-Peak tickets claiming the largest share of the total passenger kilometres in Great Britain with 32.5%.

- In 2014-15 Q4 there were 15.4 billion franchised passenger kilometres, an increase of 4.2% compared to the same quarter last year. The total franchised passenger kilometres on Ordinary tickets reached 10.6 billion kilometres, the highest total in any Q4 since the beginning of the time series. The ticket type with the highest passenger kilometres was Ordinary Off-Peak tickets recording a total of 5 billion passenger kilometres in 2014-15 Q4. The non-franchised passenger kilometres reached a total of 0.14 billion kilometres this quarter, an increase of 9.6% on the same quarter last year.

- London and South East franchised operators totaled 7.4 billion passenger kilometres during 2014-15 Q4, up by 1.9% on Q4 last year and the highest total in any Q4 since the beginning of the time series. Compared to operators in the other sectors, franchised operators in the London and South East are typically associated with a high proportion of commuters and thus usually have the highest proportion of passenger kilometres on...
Season tickets compared to the other sectors. This quarter 49.4% of the franchised passenger kilometres in this sector were attributed to Season ticket travel compared to 8% in Long Distance and 25% in Regional sector.

In 2014-15 Q4, the passenger kilometres on Long Distance franchised operators increased by 6.3% on the same quarter last year to 5.1 billion passenger kilometres, the highest recorded passenger kilometres in any Q4 since the beginning of the time series. The journeys in this sector mainly cover longer distance, inter-city travel, thereby contributing to the higher passenger kilometres. Passenger kilometres on Ordinary ticket travel, especially Ordinary Advance and Off-Peak tickets, have continued to show growth implying an increase in leisure travel, with people making the most of the travel incentives offered by the operators.

There were 2.9 billion passenger kilometres by franchised Regional operators (including Scotland) in 2014-15 Q4, an increase of 6.4% compared to Q4 last year and the highest recorded passenger kilometres in any Q4 since the beginning of the time series. In 2014-15 Q4, 75% of the passenger kilometres in this sector were attributed to Ordinary tickets, with the Ordinary Off-Peak ticket travels accounting for the largest share of the total franchised passenger kilometres in this sector.

There were 0.14 billion passenger kilometres by non-franchised operators in 2014-15 Q4, an increase of 9.6% compared to quarter 4 last year. The introduction of extra services, cheaper fares on advance tickets and other appealing promotions and offers, have contributed to passenger kilometres in the non-franchised sector achieving steady growth.

Passenger kilometres quarterly data are available on the Data Portal.

**European comparison**

In 2013 there were 62.0 billion passenger kilometres in the UK. This is the third highest number of passenger kilometres of the countries in the European Union that have reported data to Eurostat; France and Germany were the countries with the highest number of passenger kilometres with figures of 90.5 billion and 89.5 billion respectively. Since 2008 the UK has seen a 17.0% growth in passenger kilometres, this is the second highest percentage increase in the EU behind Austria which has experienced an 18.0% increase. The size of the rail network in Austria is smaller than that of the UK; in absolute numbers the UK has seen the biggest increase in passenger kilometres since 2008.

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5 European data is submitted to Eurostat based on calendar years
6 This data includes figures for Northern Ireland
5. Passenger Journeys

About Passenger Journeys

The number of passenger journeys made on the network. The data used to derive passenger journeys are sourced from the LENNON database and train operating companies.

Passenger Journeys by sector

Annual 2014-15

![Passenger journeys (millions)](image)

- In 2014-15, over 1.6 billion passenger journeys were made in Great Britain, the highest recorded figure since the series began. The vast majority were franchised passenger journeys, with 1.65 billion recorded compared to 2.1 million non-franchised operator journeys. Franchised passenger journeys saw an increase of 4.2% on the 1.59 billion recorded in 2013-14 and an increase of 69.5% over 2002-03 which recorded 975.5 million journeys.

- Franchised operators across all sectors experienced an increase in passenger journeys between 2013-14 and 2014-15. With London and South East sector accounting for 69.8% of the total franchised passenger journeys, the total passenger journeys in this sector totaled 1.15 billion this year.
Of the 1.65 billion passenger journeys made on franchised operators in 2014-15, 57.6% of the journeys made were attributed to Ordinary tickets. Advance, Anytime/Peak, Off-Peak and Season tickets all experienced an increase in passenger journeys between 2013-14 and 2014-15, with the biggest increase seen in journeys on Ordinary Advance ticket type.
2014-15 Quarter 4 Results

Passenger Journeys by sector – chart
Great Britain data 2002-03 Q1 to 2014-15 Q4

As seen with passenger kilometres, franchised passenger journeys have seen steady growth over the past few years. Station improvements, regeneration of areas, additional train services with revised timetables, attractive offers and deals facilitating cheaper travel, and the general upturn in the economy have all contributed to the increasing number of passenger journeys over the years.

In 2014-15 Q4, franchised passenger journeys reached a record 422.7 million, a 3.7% increase on the same quarter in 2013-14. This quarter saw the highest franchised passenger journeys made on Season tickets since the beginning of the time series, totaling 197.9 million journeys. Season ticket journeys accounted for 46.8% of the total franchised passenger journeys this quarter. Although passenger journeys on the Ordinary Off-Peak tickets had the largest share of total Ordinary ticket journeys, journeys made on Ordinary Advance tickets saw the highest growth of 9.9% compared to 2013-14 Q4, recording a total of 14.8 million journeys. This was the highest total since the beginning of the time series and the growth in these ticket types may be attributed to the promotional activities by train operating companies with their attractive offers for cheaper travel.

The franchised London and South East sector recorded 297.4 million passenger journeys in 2014-15 Q4, up by 2.8% on 2013-14 Q4 and the highest total recorded in any Q4 since the beginning of the time series. With shorter commuter distances and stops at a greater number of stations, trains operating in this sector recorded the highest share of the total...
franchised passenger journeys in Great Britain. As with passenger kilometres, increase in the franchised passenger journeys has been driven by Ordinary Off-Peak tickets.

- The franchised Long Distance sector had 33.0 million journeys in 2014-15 Q4, a 5.8% increase on the same quarter last year. This is the highest total recorded in any Q4 for this sector since the beginning of the time series. As in London and South East sector, journeys made on Ordinary tickets account for the majority of the franchised passenger journeys in this sector, the key drivers being the Ordinary Advance and Off-Peak ticket journeys.

- The franchised Regional sector recorded 92.3 million journeys in 2014-15 Q4, an increase of 6.1% over the same quarter last year and the highest recorded total in any Q4 since the beginning of the time series. Journeys made on Ordinary Advance, Off-Peak and Anytime/Peak tickets saw an increase this quarter compared to the same quarter last year. For journeys made on Ordinary tickets this quarter, Anytime/Peak tickets recorded the highest proportion for this sector, overtaking the journeys made on Off-Peak tickets.

- The non-franchised sector had 0.53 million passenger journeys in 2014-15 Q4, an increase of 9% over the same quarter last year. Introduction of extra train services, cheaper fares on advance tickets and other appealing promotions and offers have fuelled the growth in the number of passenger journeys in this sector.

Passenger journeys quarterly data are available on the Data Portal

**European comparison**

In 2013 there were 1.6 billion passenger journeys in the UK. This is the second highest number of rail passenger journeys of the countries in the European Union that have reported data to Eurostat; Germany was the only country to record more passenger journeys with 2.6 billion journeys. Since 2008 the number of passenger journeys on the UK rail network has increased by 23.0%; this is the biggest increase in journeys of any EU country that reports to Eurostat.
6. Passenger Revenue

About Passenger Revenue

These data show all ticket revenue and miscellaneous charges associated with passenger travel on national railways, but not including government support or grants. The data used to derive passenger revenue are sourced from the LENNON database.

Passenger Revenue by sector

Annual 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Franchised</th>
<th>Non-franchised</th>
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<td>£63 million</td>
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- In 2014-15 £8.9 billion was raised from passenger journeys made in Great Britain on passenger operators, the highest recorded figure since the series began in 2002-03. This was split between £8.8 billion by franchised operators and £63 million by non-franchised operators. Overall passenger revenue increased by 7.4% on the £8.3 billion collected in 2013-14.

- All three franchised sectors experienced an increase in revenue between 2013-14 and 2014-15, with the revenue from the Regional sector seeing the highest growth of 7.8%.

- Of the £8.8 billion raised on franchised operators in 2014-15, 75.5% of the total revenue was attributed to Ordinary fares. All ticket types experienced an increase in revenue, with Advance fares recording a 12% growth in revenue year on year.
In 2014-15 Q4, total franchised passenger revenue exceeded £2.2 billion, an 8.4% increase on 2013-14 Q4. This was the highest revenue generated within any Q4 since the time series began, with all the sectors generating higher revenue compared to the same quarter last year. As London and South East sector has the highest proportion of journeys among the three sectors, the majority of the revenue also comes from the journeys made within this sector, bringing in 51.4% of the total franchised passenger revenue this quarter.

There was revenue growth across all ticket types this quarter. Revenue from Ordinary tickets usually accounts for the highest share of ticket revenue, with 2014-15 Q4 bringing in £1.6 billion; an 8.8% increase in revenue from Ordinary ticket sales compared to 2013-14 Q4. Revenue from Ordinary Off-Peak ticket sales continues to be biggest contributor to revenue from Ordinary fares, with Off-Peak revenue coming in at £643 million for 2014-15 Q4, closely followed by Anytime/Peak fares with £618 million. Revenue from Season ticket sales saw a 7.5% increase on the same quarter last year, bringing in £602 million, and the highest revenue from Season ticket sales since the time series began. Usually the revenue from Season tickets peak in Q4 of the financial year, possibly due to a high proportion of commuters choosing to renew their annual season ticket at this time of the year.
Revenue for franchised operators within the London and South East sector exceeded £1.1 billion during 2014-15 Q4, an increase of 7.9% when compared to the same quarter last year. Although a higher proportion of passenger journeys in this sector on Ordinary tickets were recorded on Ordinary Off-Peak tickets, the revenue from Anytime/Peak ticket sales outstripped the revenue from Ordinary Off-Peak sales for this sector in 2014-15 Q4.

Passenger revenue for franchised Long Distance services increased by 9.3% in 2014-15 Q4 reaching £752.7 million. Revenue from Ordinary Advance tickets sales recorded the highest growth this quarter, 12.7%, compared to 2013-14 Q4.

During 2014-15 Q4 franchised Regional operators generated £331.2 million, an 8.4% increase on the same quarter last year. This is the highest revenue generated in any Q4 for the Regional sector since the beginning of the time series, mainly driven by the revenue from Anytime/Peak ticket sales in this sector.

Revenue generated by non-franchised operators increased by 13% this quarter compared to 2013-14 Q4, recording a total revenue of £16.2 million, the highest revenue recorded since the beginning of the time series. This is likely to be as a direct result of the increasing passenger journeys and kilometres the non-franchised sector has seen over time.

Passenger revenue quarterly data are available on the Data Portal.
# Annex 1 – Statistical release themes and publication timetable

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<td>2015-16: Q1: 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; September 2015</td>
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<td>Freight performance measure</td>
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<td>Rail Infrastructure, Assets and Environmental – Annual 2014-15</td>
<td>Infrastructure on the railways</td>
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<td>Regional Rail Usage – Annual 2014-15</td>
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Annex 2 – List of pre-created reports available on ORR NRT Data Portal

All data tables can be accessed on the data portal free of charge. The ORR data portal provides on screen data reports, as well as the facility to download data in Excel format and print the report. We can provide data in csv format on request.

Timetabled train kilometres

- Timetabled Train Kilometres by train operating company and quarter – Table 12.1

Passenger Kilometres

- Passenger Kilometres – Table 12.2 (franchised)
- Passenger Kilometres by sector – Table 12.3
- Passenger Kilometres by ticket type – Table 12.4

Passenger Journeys

- Passenger Journeys – Table 12.5
- Passenger Journeys by sector – Table 12.6
- Passenger Journeys by ticket type – Table 12.7

Passenger Revenue

- Passenger Revenue by sector – Table 12.8
- Passenger Revenue by ticket type – Table 12.9
- Revenue per passenger kilometre and per passenger journey – Table 12.10

Revisions: There have been revisions to the previously published dataset. Further details on historic revisions to the dataset can be found at: Revisions Log
Annex 3

Statistical Releases

This publication is part of the statistical releases which cover the majority of reports that were previously released on a quarterly basis through the NRT Data Portal. The statistical releases combine the previous quarterly reports into 4 quarterly and 4 annual themed releases. The four quarterly statistical releases in the series are:

- Passenger and Freight Rail Performance;
- Passenger Rail Usage;
- Freight Rail Usage; and
- Passenger Rail Service Satisfaction.

A full list of the themed releases, their data and publication schedule can be found in Annex 1.

This is a quarterly release and the data in this release refer to 2014-15 Q4, 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2015. All the data contained and referred to within this release can be accessed via the National Rail Trends Data Portal.
National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

For more details please contact the Statistics Head of Profession Lyndsey Melbourne on 020 7282 3978 or contact rail.stats@orr.gsi.gov.uk.

The Department for Transport (DfT) also publish a range of rail statistics which can be found at DfT Rail Statistics.

We publish, where possible, rail statistics comparing Great Britain with other EU member states. For rail usage comparable statistics are available from Eurostat\(^7\) for passenger journeys and passenger kilometres; these have been discussed in the relevant sections.

\(^7\) [http://epp eurostat ec europa eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/)