Passenger Rail Usage
2015-16 Q2 Statistical Release

Publication date: 10 December 2015

Background

This release contains statistics on passenger rail usage in Great Britain during July, August and September of 2015 (2015-16 Q2).

The statistics include information on **timetabled train kilometres** (TTKM) by train operating company (TOC). The data is sourced from Deltarail and are calculated based on the summer and winter train timetables, usually published in May and December each year.

Passenger kilometres, **journeys** and **revenue** by sector and ticket type are all sourced from the rail industry's ticketing and revenue database (LENNON) and TOCs. For the first time, passenger kilometres and journeys for each TOC have been published this quarter.

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- **Passenger journeys** in 2015-16 Q2 reached 414.0 million, a 1.4% increase on the same quarter last year, and therefore an annual total for the last 12 months of 1.68 billion journeys. London and South East sector accounted for 70.2% of all journeys in Great Britain in Q2. Season ticket journeys (158.7 million) dropped by 1.4% this quarter compared to 2014-15 Q2. Govia Thameslink Railway recorded the highest number of passenger journeys in 2015-16 Q2 with 80.3 million.

Passenger Rail Usage 2015-16 Q2

Timetabled Train Kilometres	134.3 million	0.0%
Passenger Kilometres	16.3 billion	2.4%
Passenger Journeys	414 million	1.4%
Passenger Revenue	£2.3 billion	5.7%

- **Timetabled train kilometres (TTKM)** by all passenger train operators in Great Britain in 2015-16 Q2 totalled 134.3 million, a marginal decrease compared to 2014-15 Q2.

- **Passenger kilometres** in 2015-16 Q2 rose to 16.3 billion, an increase of 2.4% compared to the same quarter last year. An annual total for the last 12 months of 63.8 billion.

- **Passenger revenue** totalled £2.3 billion, a 5.7% increase on 2014-15 Q2. This was the highest revenue generated since the beginning of the time series in 1996-97.

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1. Timetabled Train Kilometres (TTKM)

From 2015-16 Q3, ORR is proposing to replace the existing timetabled train kilometres measure with actual passenger train kilometres. The aim of this is to create an accurate picture of the actual volume of service delivered by train operators rather than what they are scheduled to deliver.

If you have any comments on the proposed change please contact us at: Rail.Stats@orr.gsi.gov.uk.

Annual 2014-15

The annual data has not been updated since the previous quarterly publication but has been retained for completeness and to aid understanding of trends in the quarterly data.

- Timetabled train kilometres have increased every year since the time series began in 2003-04 to meet the increasing demand for rail travel. The largest annual increase in TTKM was in 2009-10 when TTKM rose by 4.1% to reach 502.5 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 532.4 million kilometres. This was up 1.0% on the 527.3 million kilometres recorded in 2013-14 and up 18.1% since the annual time series began in 2003-04 when there was 450.9 million timetabled train kilometres. The main driver of the increase in 2014-15 is First Transpennine Express, which added additional services between Leeds and Manchester in May 2014.

Timetabled train kilometres (TTKM) refers to the number of train kilometres (million) each train operator would achieve if they operated 100% of their timetable.

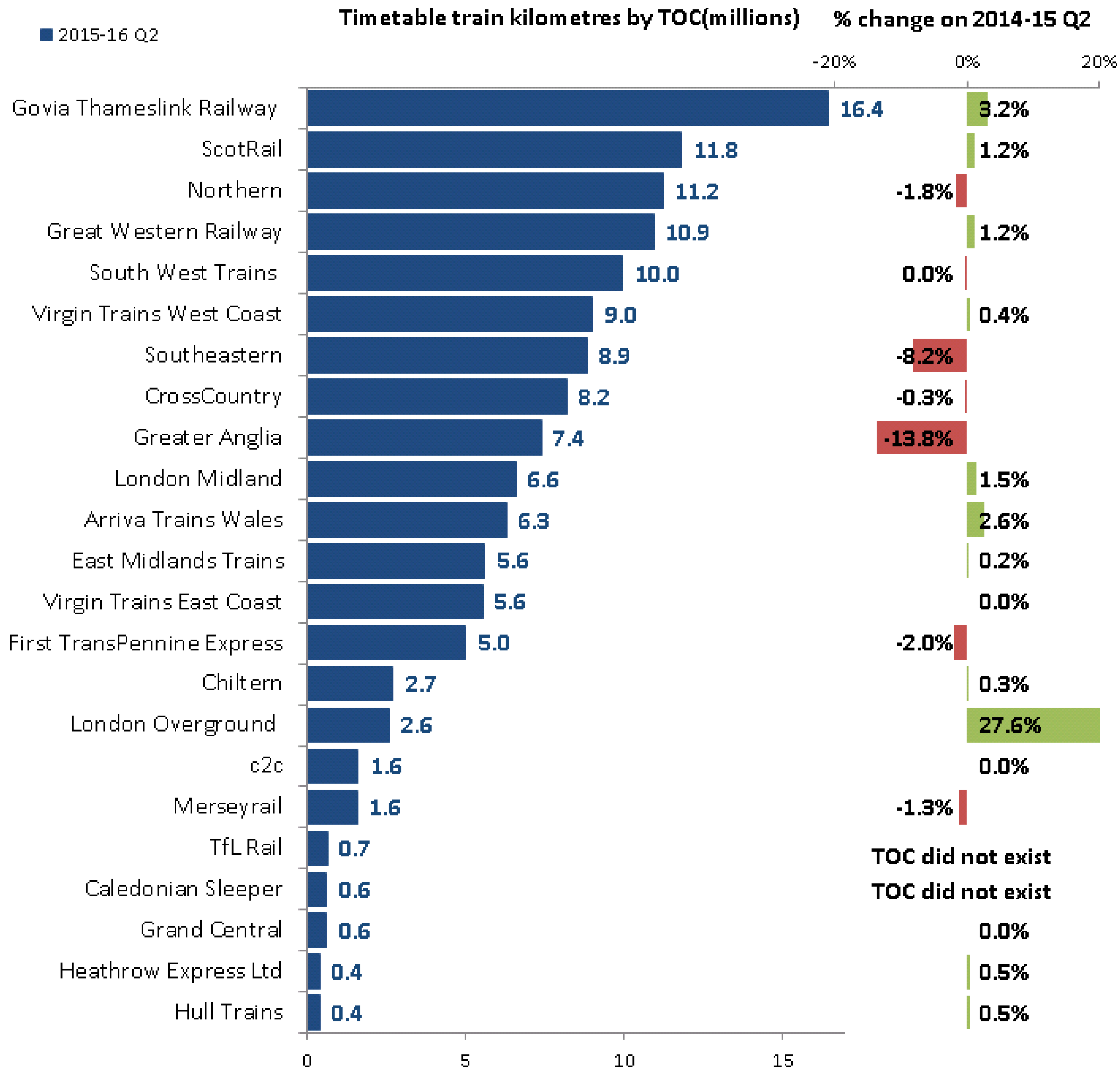
The data are calculated from the summer and winter train timetables, operational from May and December each year.

Measures of train kilometres are used by the rail industry to show the volume of service provision.

Quarterly data for **TTKM by TOC** is available from 2002-03 Q2.

2015-16 Quarter 2 Results

Timetabled train kilometres (TTKM) by train operating company – chart (Table 12.1)
Great Britain, 2015-16 Q2



- The total number of TTKM across all operators in 2015-16 Q2 decreased by 0.01% compared to 2014-15 Q2, recording a total of 134.3 million kilometres. London Overground recorded the largest increase in its TTKM of 27.6% this quarter. This is due to a transfer of some local services out of London Liverpool Street to North East London from the Greater Anglia franchise[1] in May 2015.

[1] https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2014/may/tfl-appoints-london-overground-operator-to-run-additional-services

- Govia Thameslink Railway recorded the second highest quarter on quarter increase for all operators with an increase of 3.2%. This increase was due to the introduction of additional services in the December 2014 timetable[2] through taking over some Southeastern routes. In addition to the above, Govia Thameslink Railway[3] franchise merged with Southern on 26 July 2015. The TTKM data for Southern is therefore included in the figures for Govia, and has been remapped to the beginning of the time series. This explains the jump in Govia Thameslink Railway's overall TTKM figures from the last publication.
- Greater Anglia has seen the biggest drop in its TTKM compared to 2014-15 Q2, falling by 13.8%. This was due to the transfer of some of its services to London Overground and to a new franchise (TfL Rail) that began operating services into and out of London Liverpool Street that were previously operated by Greater Anglia. Southeastern recorded the second biggest drop in TTKM compared to 2014-15 Q2 owing to the transfer of some of its services in December 2014 to Govia Thameslink Railway.
- The merger of Southern services with Govia Thameslink Railway makes it the operator with the highest TTKM in 2015-16 Q2, totalling 16.43 million kilometres, surpassing ScotRail, which had the highest TTKM amongst all operators since 2012-13 Q4. At the beginning of 2015-16, the ScotRail franchise transferred from FirstGroup to Abellio. At the same time the sleeper services which had been operated as part of ScotRail transferred to a separate franchise known as Caledonian Sleeper. (*The TTKM data in table 12.1 for Caledonian Sleeper have been presented since 2015-16 Q1. They had previously not been included in the ScotRail total.)*
- The number of TTKM for the non-franchised operators (First Hull Trains, Grand Central and Heathrow Express) saw a marginal increase of 0.3% in 2015-16 Q2 compared to 2014-15 Q2.

TTKM by quarter data are available on the data portal in: [Table 12.1]

[2] http://www.thameslinkrailway.com/your-journey/timetables/more-seats

[3] http://www.southernrailway.com/southern/company-info/integration/

2. Passenger kilometres

Annual 2014-15

The annual data disaggregated by sector and ticket type has been updated to include historical data from 1994-95 and 1986-87 respectively. The commentary in this annual section has therefore been updated where relevant.

- In 2014-15 passenger kilometres in Great Britain totalled 62.9 billion. Of which, 62.4 billion kilometres were by franchised operators, the highest recorded figure since the series began in 1994-95. This was an increase of 4.5% on the 59.7 billion passenger kilometres recorded in 2013-14. Passenger kilometres have more than doubled between 1994-95 and 2014-15.
- 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 of between 3.4% and 5.5%.
- Growth in franchised passenger kilometres in the Long Distance and Regional sectors outstripped growth in London and South East sector, with the franchised Long Distance passenger kilometres increasing by 5.5% to 20.8 billion kilometres in 2014-15. This was the first time since 2011-12 that the London and South East sector did not record the highest growth.
- 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.

Passenger kilometres are the number of kilometres travelled by passengers on the rail network. Passenger kilometres are calculated by multiplying the number of passenger journeys on a particular flow by the number of track kilometres between the two required stations. The track kilometres data are built into the LENNON system.

Quarterly and annual data **by sector** is now available from 1994-95 onwards.

Quarterly data **by ticket type** is now available from 1994-95 Q1 and annual data is available from 1986-87 onwards.

Quarterly and annual data **by TOC** is now available from 2011-12 onwards.

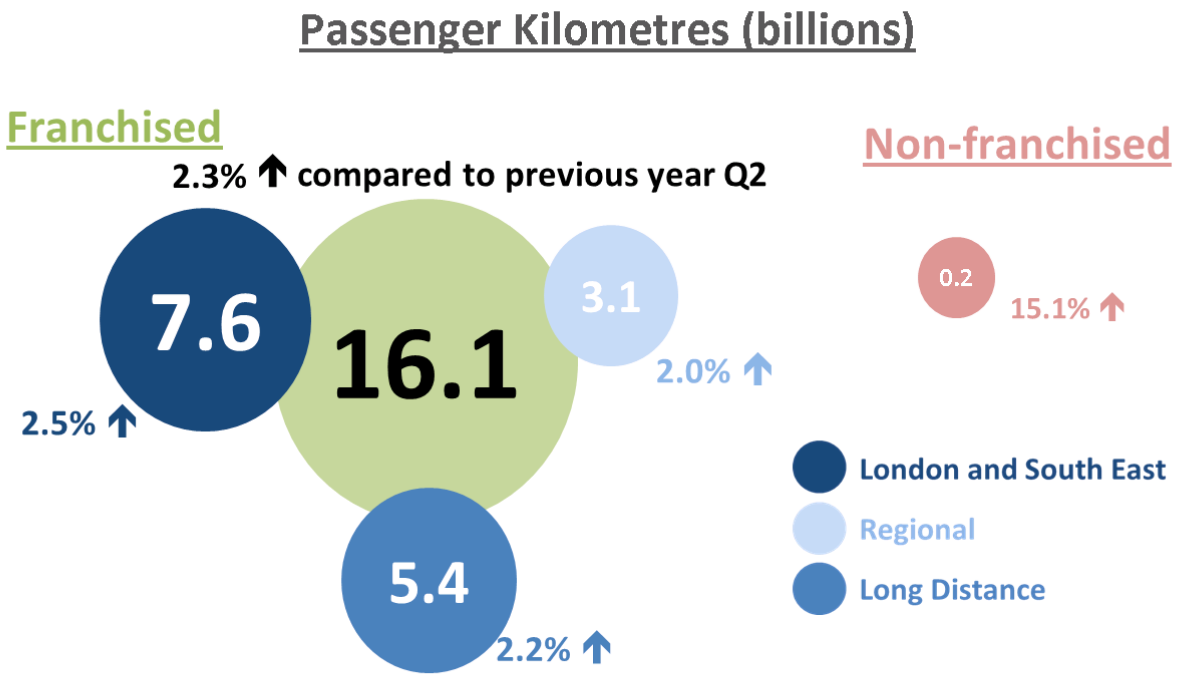
A time series of aggregate annual data from 1947 is also available in Table 12.2

[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

2015-16 Quarter 2 Results

Passenger kilometres by sector and ticket type

Passenger kilometres by sector (Table 12.3)
Great Britain, 2015-16 Q2



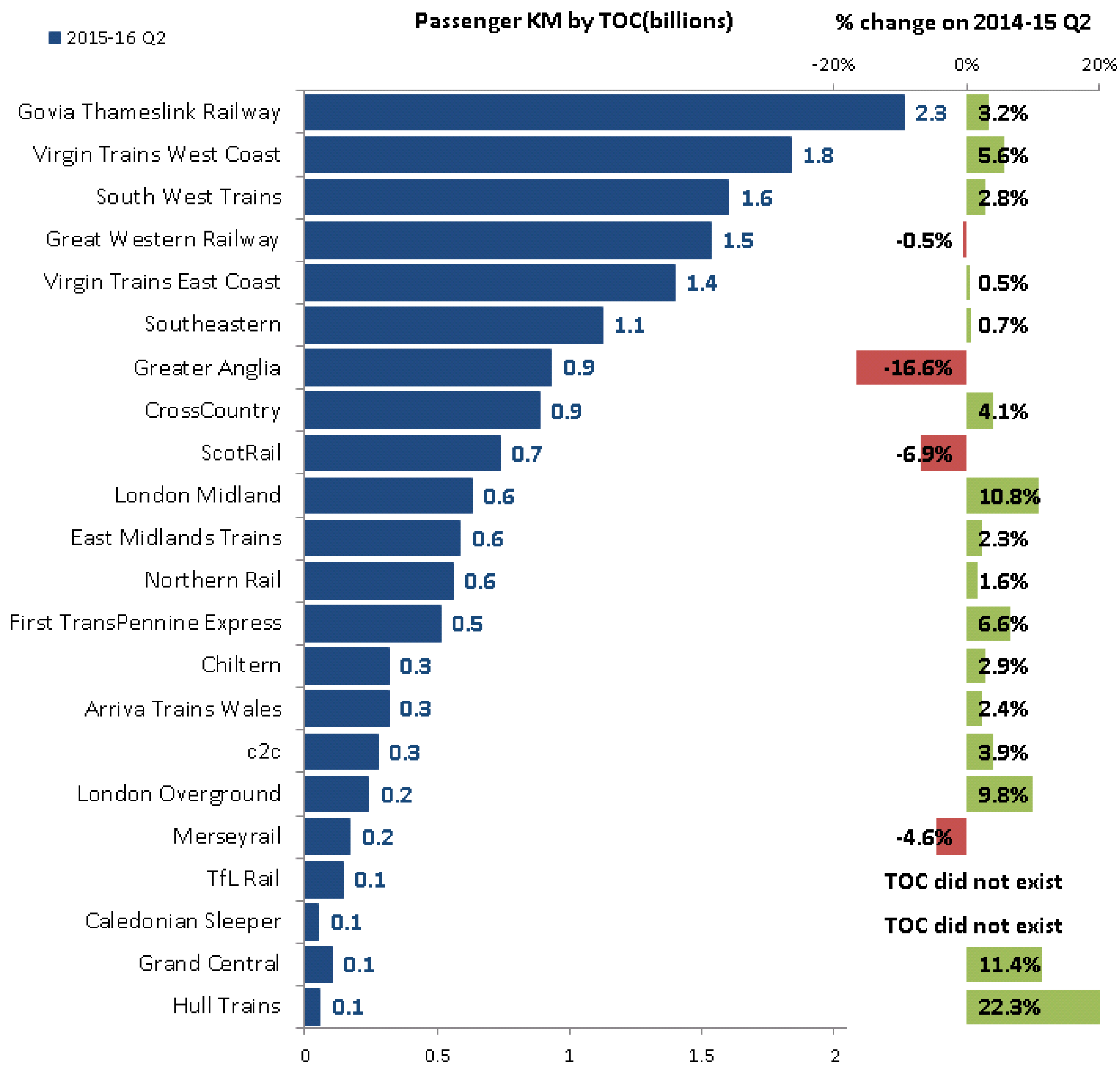
- Total passenger kilometres in 2015-16 Q2 rose to 16.3 billion, an increase of 2.4% compared to the same quarter last year. Therefore an annual total for the last 12 months of 63.8 billion passenger kilometres.
- Passenger kilometres across all the three franchised sectors and the non-franchised operators recorded a growth this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2014-15.
- The total franchised passenger kilometres on Ordinary tickets reached 12.1 billion kilometres, the highest total since the beginning of the time series. Passenger kilometres on Anytime/Peak tickets increased by 7.5% this quarter compared to the same quarter last year, the highest quarter on quarter growth within the Ordinary ticket categories and also the highest passenger kilometres made on Anytime/Peak tickets since the beginning of the time series.
- London and South East franchised operators totalled 7.6 billion passenger kilometres during 2015-16 Q2, up by 2.5% on Q2 last year. This sector accounted for 47% of all passenger kilometres in Great Britain in Q2. 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. This quarter 41% of the franchised passenger kilometres in this sector were attributed to Season ticket travel compared to 6.5% in Long Distance and 17.7% in Regional sector.

- In 2015-16 Q2, the passenger kilometres on Long Distance franchised operators increased by 2.2% compared to the same quarter last year to 5.4 billion. This is the highest recorded passenger kilometres in this sector since the beginning of the time series. The journeys in this sector mainly cover longer distance, inter-city travel, thereby contributing to high passenger kilometres.
- There were 3.1 billion passenger kilometres by franchised Regional operators (including Scotland) in 2015-16 Q2, an increase of 2.0% compared to Q2 last year. In 2015-16 Q2, 82.3% of the passenger kilometres in this sector were attributed to Ordinary tickets, with the Ordinary Off-Peak tickets accounting for the largest share of the total franchised passenger kilometres in this sector.
- Passenger kilometres by non-franchised operators accounted for 0.16 billion kilometres in 2015-16 Q2, an increase of 15.1% compared to Q2 last year. Given that over the same time period timetabled train kilometres within the non-franchised sector has grown by less than 0.5%, this is almost entirely down to increased usage of current services.

Passenger kilometres by train operating company (TOC)

Passenger kilometres by TOC – chart ([Table 12.11](#))
Great Britain, 2015-16 Q2



- The highest passenger kilometres in 2015-16 Q2 among franchised operators was recorded by Govia Thameslink Railway. On 26 July 2015, Govia Thameslink Railway[5] franchise merged with Southern which resulted in its passenger kilometres totalling 2.3 billion kilometres in 2015-16 Q2.

[5] http://www.southernrailway.com/southern/company-info/integration/

- The highest quarter on quarter increase in passenger kilometres was recorded by London Midland, increasing by 10.8%. Having taken over some of the services operated by Greater Anglia at the end of May 2015, London Overground recorded the second highest increase in its passenger kilometres this quarter compared to 2015-16 Q2.
- In May 2015, with Greater Anglia having transferred some of its services to London Overground and TfL Rail, and the sleeper services of ScotRail transferred to Caledonian Sleeper, Greater Anglia and ScotRail have recorded the biggest drop (16.6% and 6.9% respectively) in its passenger kilometres this quarter compared to 2014-15 Q2.
- Both Grand Central and Hull Trains in the non-franchised operators have seen growth in its passenger kilometres. We do not have passenger usage data available for Heathrow Express, in the non-franchised operators.

Passenger kilometres quarterly data are available on the [Data Portal]

European comparison

- In 2014[6] there were 64.7 billion passenger kilometres in the UK[7]. 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 89.5 billion and 91.0 billion respectively. When combined France, Germany and the UK account for 60.9% of the passenger kilometres travelled in the European Union.
- Since 2004 the UK has seen a 48.8% growth in passenger kilometres, which is higher than the average growth across the European Union of 17.5%[8]. The only country with a higher percentage growth in passenger kilometres was Luxembourg with an increase of 61.7%. However in absolute terms the growth in Luxembourg is much smaller than that of the UK. Compared to the UK, France and Germany have seen smaller increases in passenger kilometres between 2004 and 2014, with increases of 20.4% and 19.9% respectively.

[6] European data is submitted to Eurostat based on calendar years.
[7] This data includes figures for Northern Ireland.
[8] Calculated from countries who had supplied data in both 2004 and 2014.

3. Passenger journeys

Annual 2014-15

The annual data disaggregated by sector and ticket type has been updated to include historical data from 1994-95 and 1986-87 respectively. The commentary in this annual section has therefore been updated where relevant.

- In 2014-15, 1.66 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. By 2014-15, passenger journeys increased by 125.3% from the 735.1 million recorded in 1994-95.
- 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 was 1.15 billion this year.

The number of **passenger journeys** made on the rail network.

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.

Quarterly and annual data **by sector** is now available from 1994-95 onwards.

Quarterly data **by ticket type** is now available from 1994-95 Q1 and annual data is available from 1986-87 onwards.

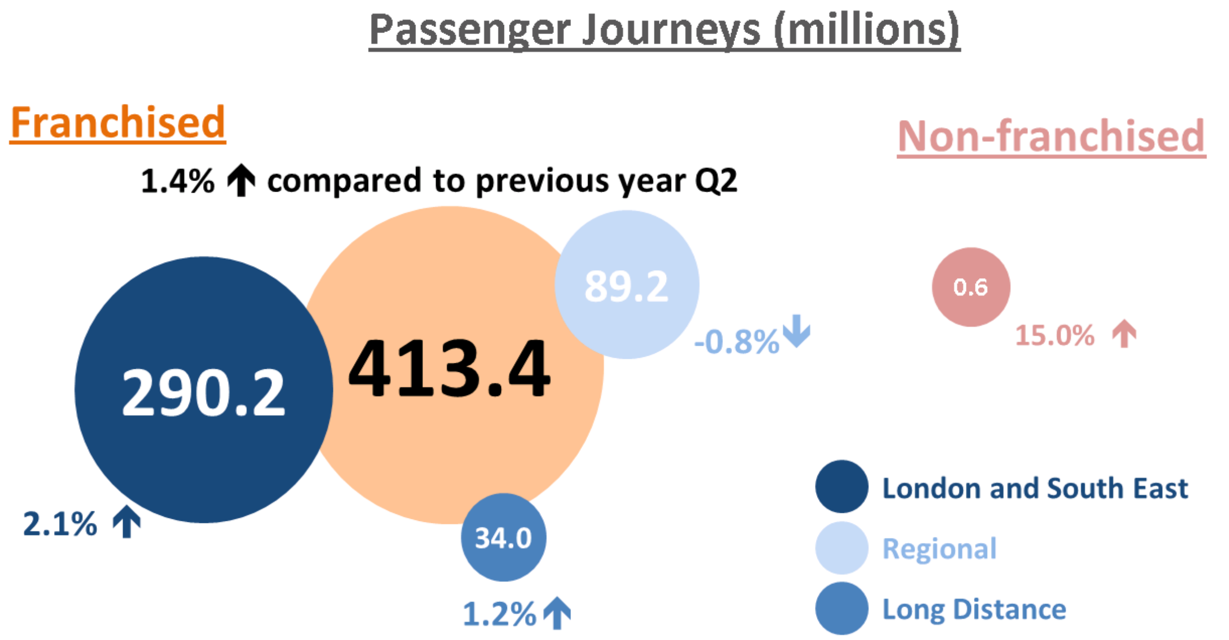
Quarterly and annual data **by TOC** is now available from 2011-12 onwards.

A time series of aggregate annual data from 1950 is also available in Table 12.5.

2015-16 Quarter 2 Results

Passenger journeys by sector and ticket type

Passenger journeys by sector ([Table 12.6](#))
Great Britain, 2015-16 Q2

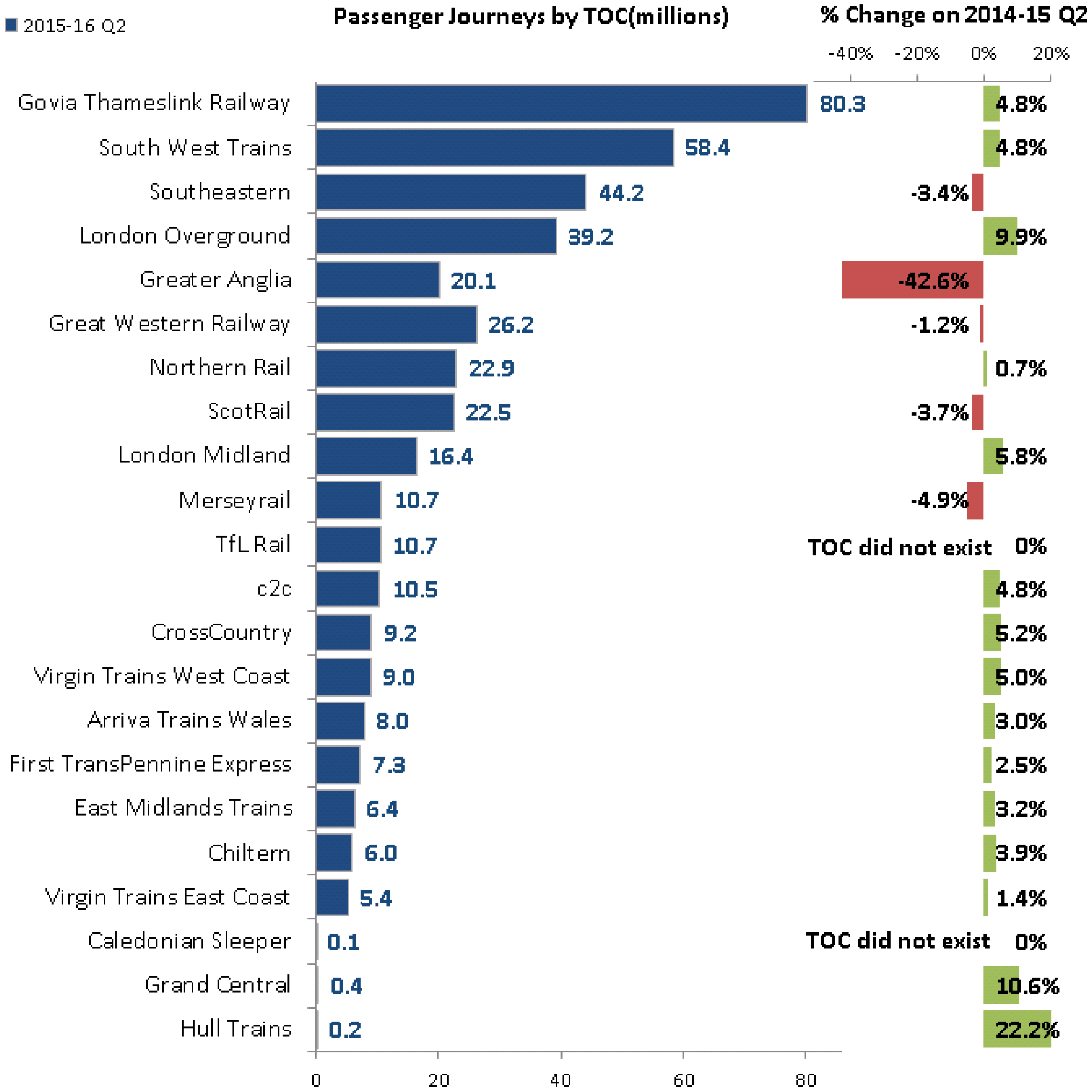


- Total passenger journeys in 2015-16 Q2 reached 414.0 million, a 1.4% increase on the same quarter. Therefore an annual total for the last 12 months of 1.68 billion journeys.
- Franchised passenger journeys accounted for 413.4 million (99.8% of the total). Franchised passenger journeys on Ordinary ticket types saw a growth of 3.2% this quarter, with Anytime/Peak ticket journeys (94.9 million) recording the highest growth(6.1%) of all ticket types this quarter compared to 2014-15 Q2.
- The franchised London and South East sector recorded 290.2 million passenger journeys in 2015-16 Q2, up by 2.1% on 2014-15 Q2 and the highest total recorded in any Q2 since the beginning of the time series in 1994-95. With shorter commuter distances and stops at a greater number of stations, trains operating in this sector recorded the highest share (70.2%) of passenger journeys in Great Britain. In this sector, journeys made on season tickets account for a significant share, with 44.4% of the journeys in 2015-16 Q2, given the high number of commuters.

- The franchised Long Distance sector had 34 million journeys in 2015-16 Q2, a 1.2% increase on the same quarter last year. This is the highest total recorded in any Q2 for this sector since the beginning of the time series. Journeys made on Ordinary tickets account for the majority of the passenger journeys in this sector, with journeys made on Anytime/Peak and Off-Peak ticket journeys recording the highest growth in this quarter compared to the same quarter last year.
- The franchised Regional sector recorded 89.2 million journeys in 2015-16 Q2, a decrease of 0.8% compared to the same quarter last year. For the third quarter in a row, journeys made on franchised operators in this sector have seen a fall in its total number. Journeys made on Advance tickets in this sector recorded the highest quarter on quarter growth in 2015-16 Q2.
- The non-franchised sector had 0.62 million passenger journeys in 2015-16 Q2, an increase of 15.0% compared to the same quarter last year and in line with the increases seen in passenger kilometres.

Passenger journeys by train operating company (TOC)

Passenger journeys by TOC – chart (Table 12.12)
Great Britain, 2015-16 Q2



- With its services covering London and the South coast, through East and West Sussex, Surrey and parts of Kent and Hampshire, passenger journeys on Govia Thameslink Railway recorded the highest passenger journeys among all operators in 2015-16 Q2 totalling 80.3 million; 19.1% of all journeys made in Q2.
- The highest quarter on quarter increase in its passenger journeys was recorded by London Overground, increasing by 9.9%, the increase as a direct result of having taken over some of the services operated by Greater Anglia at the end of May 2015.

- Consequently Greater Anglia having transferred some of its services to London Overground and TfL Rail has recorded the biggest drop (42.6%) in its passenger journeys this quarter (20.1 million) compared to 2014-15Q2.
- As seen in passenger kilometres, both Grand Central and Hull Trains in the non-franchised operators have seen growth in passenger journeys. We do not have passenger usage data available for Heathrow Express, in the non-franchised operators.

Passenger journeys quarterly data are available on the Data Portal

European comparison

- In 2014 there were 1.7 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 2.7 billion journeys. Since 2004 the number of passenger journeys on the UK rail network has increased by 57.0%; this is higher than the European Union average of 23.3% and in term of percentage growth is second behind Luxembourg where there has been a 59.0% increase in passenger journeys since 2004.

4. Passenger revenue

Annual 2014-15

The annual data disaggregated by sector and ticket type has been updated to include historical data from 1994-95 and 1986-87 respectively. The commentary in this annual section has therefore been updated where relevant.

- 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% compared to 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%.

Passenger revenue statistics show all ticket revenue and miscellaneous charges associated with passenger travel on national railways, but not including government support or grants.

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.

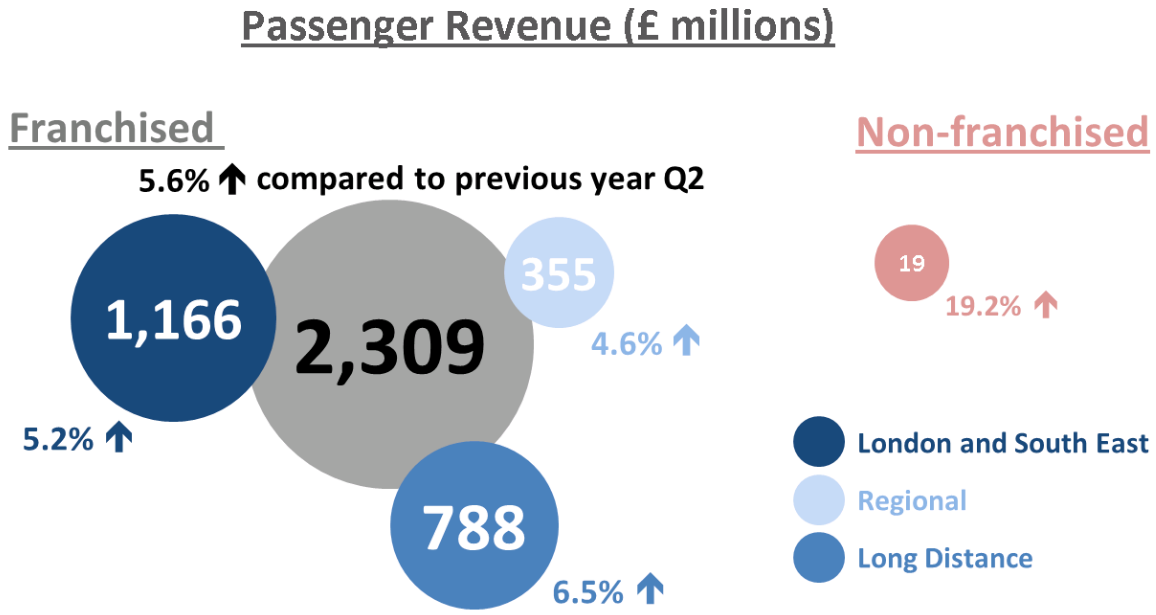
Quarterly data **by sector** is now available from 1995-96 Q1 and annual data is available from 1994-95 onwards.

Quarterly data **by ticket type** is now available from 1996-97 Q1 and annual data is available from 1986-87.

2015-16 Quarter 2 Results

Passenger revenue by sector and ticket type

Passenger revenue by sector (Table 12.8)
Great Britain, 2015-16 Q2



- In 2015-16 Q2, passenger revenue totalled £2.3 billion, a 5.6% increase on 2014-15 Q2. This was the highest revenue generated since the time series began in 1996-97, with all the sectors generating higher revenue compared to the same quarter last year, mainly driven by the revenue from Anytime/Peak ticket sales. As London and South East sector has the highest proportion of journeys (70.2%), the majority of the revenue also comes from this sector, bringing in 50.5% of the total passenger revenue this quarter.
- There was revenue growth across the Ordinary and Season ticket types this quarter. Revenue from all Ordinary tickets as usual accounted for the highest share of ticket revenue (77.9%), with 2015-16 Q2 generating £1.79 billion; a 6.4% increase compared to 2014-15 Q2. Revenue from Anytime/Peak fares saw the highest quarter on quarter increase of all the Ordinary ticket types with 9.8%. Revenue from journeys made on Season tickets saw a 2.9% increase on the same quarter last year, bringing in £511 million.
- Revenue for franchised operators within the London and South East sector exceeded £1.1 billion during 2015-16 Q2, an increase of 5.2% when compared to the same quarter last year. Of the three franchised sectors, London and South East sector brings in the most revenue from Season ticket sales, mostly due to the high proportion of commuters. In the Ordinary ticket types revenue from Anytime/Peak

ticket sales recorded the highest growth for this sector in 2015-16 Q2 compared to 2014-15 Q2.

- Passenger revenue for franchised Long Distance services increased by 6.5% in 2015-16 Q2 reaching £788 million, the highest revenue for this sector since the beginning of the time series in 1996-97. Revenue from Anytime/Peak tickets sales recorded the highest growth this quarter with 13.6% compared to 2014-15 Q2.
- During 2015-16 Q2 franchised Regional operators generated £355 million, a 4.6% increase on the same quarter last year. Revenue from Ordinary ticket sales accounting for 86.7% of the total revenue in this sector was mainly driven by the revenue from Anytime/Peak ticket sales increasing by 8.4% this quarter compared to 2014-15 Q2.
- Revenue generated by non-franchised operators increased by 19.2% this quarter compared to 2014-15 Q2, recording a total revenue of £18.7 million, the highest revenue recorded since non-franchised operators were first recorded in 2008-09. This is likely to be as a direct result of the increasing passenger journeys and kilometres the non-franchised sector has seen over time.
- Franchised operators revenue equated to 14.32 pence per passenger kilometre or £5.59 per journey in 2015-16 Q2; increases of 3.2% and 4.1% respectively compared to 2014-15 Q2.

Passenger revenue quarterly data are available on the Data Portal

Annex 1 – List of pre-created reports available on the ORR 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 (TTKM)

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

Passenger kilometres

- Passenger kilometres – Table 12.2 (franchised only)
- Passenger kilometres by sector – Table 12.3
- Passenger kilometres by ticket type – Table 12.4
- Passenger kilometres by train operating company – Table 12.11

Passenger journeys

- Passenger journeys – Table 12.5
- Passenger journeys by sector – Table 12.6
- Passenger journeys by ticket type – Table 12.7
- Passenger journeys by train operating company – Table 12.12

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 (franchised only)

Revisions: There have been revisions to the previously published tables associated with this statistical release. Further details can be found at: Revisions Log

Annex 2

Statistical Releases

This publication is part of the statistical releases which cover the majority of reports that were previously released through the Data Portal. The statistical releases consist of four annual and four quarterly themed releases:

Annual:

- Rail Finance;
- Rail Safety Statistics;
- Rail Infrastructure, Assets and Environmental;
- Regional Rail Usage.

Quarterly:

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

A full list of publication dates for the next twelve months can be found in the release schedule on the ORR website.

For more information on data collection and the methodology used to calculate the statistics in this release please see the accompanying Quality Report.

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 publishes 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. Rail usage comparable statistics are available from Eurostat[9] for passenger journeys and passenger kilometres; these have been discussed in the relevant sections.

[9] http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/

This publication is available at orr.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at orr.gov.uk