



Passenger Rail Usage

2015-16 Q1 Statistical Release

Publication date: 1 October 2015

Background

This release contains statistics on passenger rail usage in Great Britain during April, May and June of 2015 (2015-16 Q1).

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.





A full time series of annual and quarterly data are published on the [Data Portal](#).

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■ **Passenger journeys** in 2015-16 Q1 reached 412.5 million, a 4.7% increase on the same quarter last year. London and South East sector accounted for 70% of all journeys in Great Britain in Q1. Season ticket journeys (169.6 million) accounted for 41.2% of all franchised passenger journeys and showed the highest growth of all ticket types this quarter compared to 2014-15 Q1 with 5.7%.

Passenger Rail Usage, Great Britain 2015-16 Q1

 Timetabled Train Kilometres	133 million	↑ 0.5%
 Passenger Kilometres	15.8 billion	↑ 3.3%
 Passenger Journeys	412.5 million	↑ 4.7%
 Passenger Revenue	£2.3 billion	↑ 6.6%

■ **Timetabled train kilometres (TTKM)** by all passenger train operators in Great Britain in 2015-16 Q1 totalled 133 million, an increase of 0.5% compared to 2014-15 Q1.

■ **Passenger kilometres** in 2015-16 Q1 rose to 15.8 billion, an increase of 3.3% compared to the same quarter last year.

■ **Passenger revenue** totalled £2.3 billion, a 6.6% increase on 2014-15 Q1. This was the highest revenue generated within any Q1 since the time series began in 2002-03.

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1. Timetabled Train Kilometres (TTKM)

Annual 2014-15



The annual data has been updated from the previous quarter as we have now been supplied with the data for Caledonian Sleeper services.

- 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, who added additional services between Leeds and Manchester in May 2014.

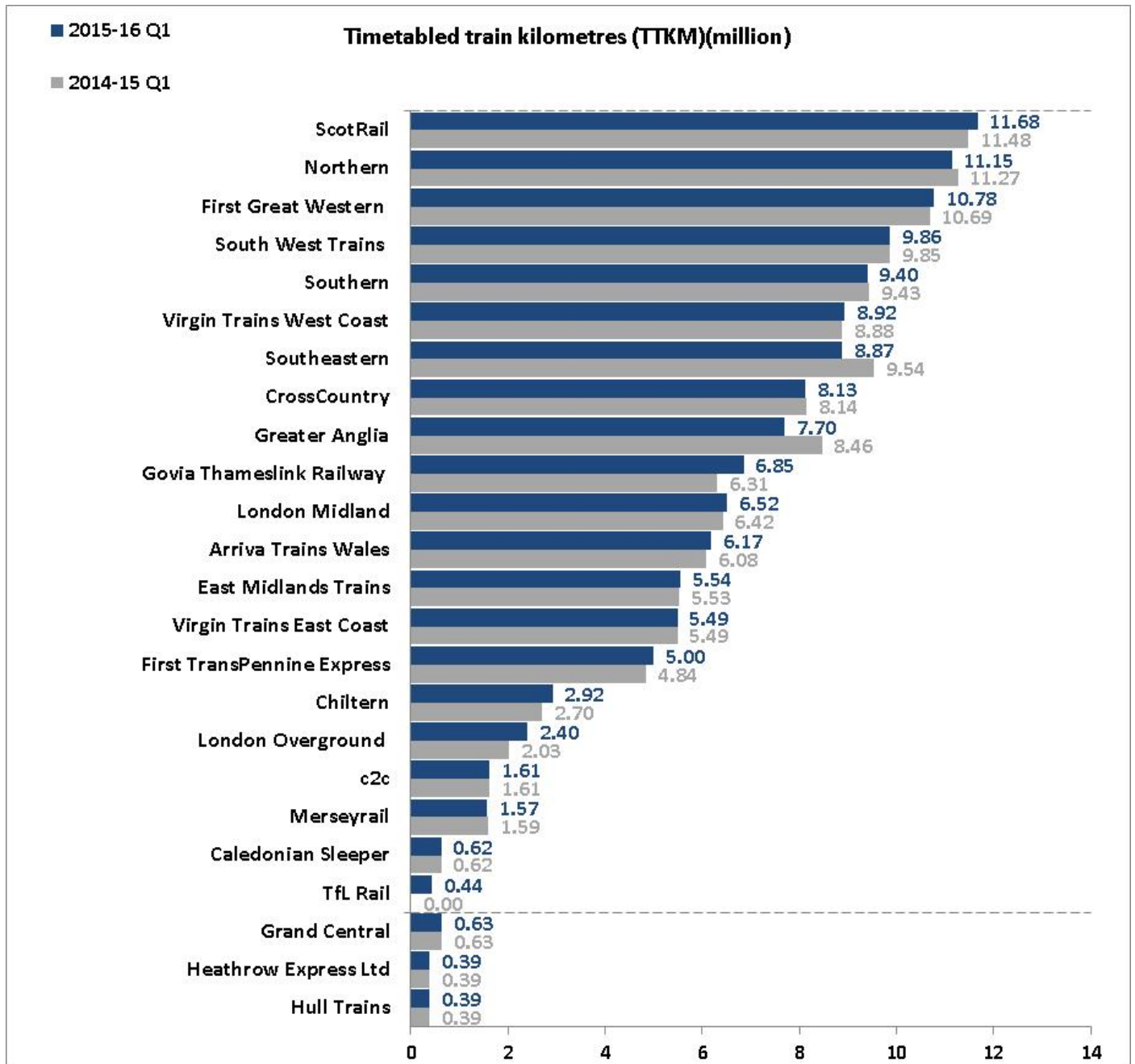
Timetabled train kilometres (TTKM) refers to the number of train kilometres (million) each train operator would achieve if they operated 100% of their timetable.

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.

2015-16 Quarter 1 Results

Timetabled train kilometres (TTKM) by train operating company – chart ([Table 12.1](#))
Great Britain, 2015-16 Q1 and 2014-15 Q1



- The total number of TTKM across all operators in 2015-16 Q1 increased by 0.5% compared to 2014-15 Q1, recording a total of 133 million kilometres. London Overground recorded the largest increase in its TTKM of 18.7% this quarter. This is due to a transfer of some of the local services out of Liverpool Street Station to North East London from the Greater Anglia franchise¹ in May 2015.
- Greater Anglia has seen the biggest drop in its TTKM compared to the same quarter last year, falling by 9.1%. This was due to the transfer of some of its services to London Overground and also a new franchise (TfL Rail) beginning operating services into and out of London Liverpool Street that were transferred from Greater Anglia.
- Govia Thameslink Railway recorded the second highest quarter on quarter increase for all operators with an increase of 8.6%. This increase was due to the introduction of additional services in the December 2014 timetable² and through taking over some Southeastern routes.
- ScotRail continues to have the highest TTKM of all operators in 2015-16 Q1 recording 11.68 million kilometres. 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 are presented for the first time. They were previously not included in either ScotRail totals or separately.*)
- The number of TTKM for the non-franchised operators (First Hull Trains, Grand Central and Heathrow Express) saw a marginal increase of 0.2% in 2015-16 Q1 compared to 2014-15 Q1.

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

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

² <http://www.thameslinkrailway.com/your-journey/timetables/more-seats>

2. Passenger Kilometres

Annual 2014-15

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

- 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 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) sectors³ 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.

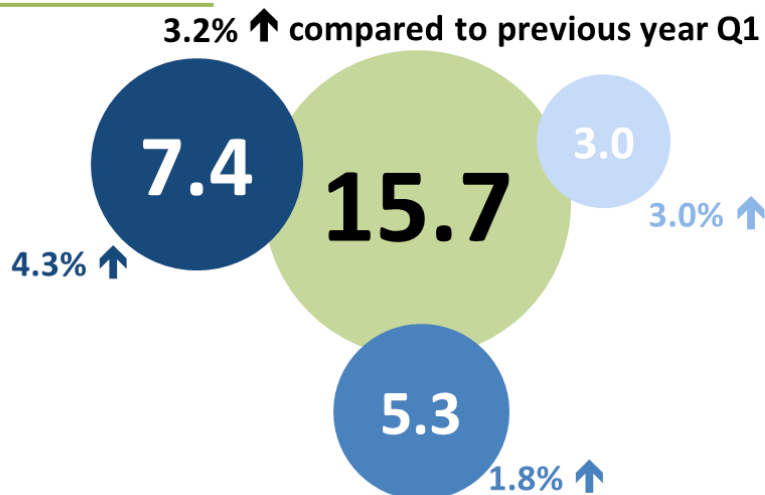
³ The rail network is divided into 3 sectors – London and South East, Long distance and Regional (including Scotland). A list of services in each sector is available in the [Quality Report](#)

2015-16 Quarter 1 Results

Passenger Kilometres by sector – chart ([Table 12.3](#))
Great Britain, 2015-16 Q1

Passenger Kilometres (billions)

Franchised



Non-franchised



- Total passenger kilometres in 2015-16 Q1 rose to 15.8 billion, an increase of 3.3% compared to the same quarter last year, primarily driven by an increase of 4.3% in the London and South East sector.
- 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. Accounting for 27% of the total franchised passenger kilometres this quarter, passenger kilometres on season tickets increased by 4.5%, compared to the same quarter last year.
- The total franchised passenger kilometres on Ordinary tickets reached 11.4 billion kilometres, the highest total in any Q1 since the beginning of the time series in 2002-03. Franchised passenger kilometres on Anytime/Peak tickets recorded the highest total of 2.7 billion kilometres in 2015-16 Q1, the highest since the beginning of the time series. It also had the highest quarter on quarter growth within the Ordinary ticket categories at 7.2%.

- London and South East franchised operators totalled 7.4 billion passenger kilometres during 2015-16 Q1, up by 4.3% on Q1 last year. This sector accounted for 47% of all passenger kilometres in Great Britain in Q1. 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 43.8% of the franchised passenger kilometres in this sector were attributed to Season ticket travel compared to 7.1% in Long Distance and 20.5% in Regional sector.
- In 2015-16 Q1, the passenger kilometres on Long Distance franchised operators increased by 1.8% compared to the same quarter last year to 5.3 billion. This is, the highest recorded passenger kilometres in this sector in any Q1 since the beginning of the time series, although it has consistently accounted for a third of the national total. The journeys in this sector mainly cover longer distance, inter-city travel, thereby contributing to high passenger kilometres. In this sector, passenger kilometres on Ordinary ticket travel, especially Advance and Off-Peak tickets which account for 81.9% of passenger kilometres, 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 3 billion passenger kilometres by franchised Regional operators (including Scotland) in 2015-16 Q1, an increase of 3% compared to Q1 last year. In 2015-16 Q1, 79.5% 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 0.15 billion kilometres in 2015-16 Q1, an increase of 17.6% compared to Q1 last year. The introduction of extra services, cheaper fares on advance tickets and other appealing promotions and offers, have contributed to the growth in passenger kilometres in the non-franchised sector.

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

European comparison

- In 2013⁴ there were 62.0 billion passenger kilometres in the UK⁵. 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.

⁴ European data is submitted to Eurostat based on calendar years

⁵ This data includes figures for Northern Ireland

3. Passenger Journeys

Annual 2014-15



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

- 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 and an increase of 69.5% over 2002-03 which recorded 975.5 million journeys.

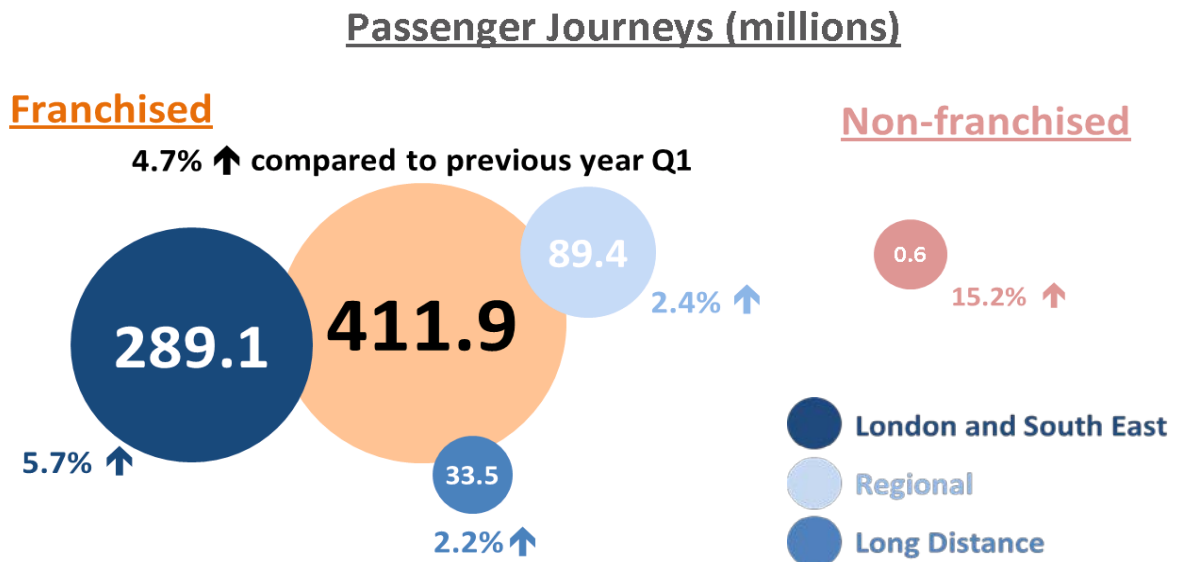
- Franchised operators across all sectors experienced an increase in passenger journeys between 2013-14 and 2014-15. With London and South East sector accounting for 69.8% of the total franchised passenger journeys, the total passenger journeys in this sector totalled 1.15 billion this year.

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.

2015-16 Quarter 1 Results

Passenger Journeys by sector – chart ([Table 12.6](#))
Great Britain, 2015-16 Q1



- Total passenger journeys in 2015-16 Q1 reached 412.5 million, a 4.7% increase on the same quarter last year. Franchised passenger journeys accounted for 411.9 million (99.9% of the total). Season ticket journeys (169.6 million) accounted for 41.2% of all franchised passenger journeys and showed the highest growth of all ticket types this quarter compared to 2014-15 Q1 with 5.7%.
- The franchised London and South East sector recorded 289.1 million passenger journeys in 2015-16 Q1, up by 5.7% on 2014-15 Q1 and the highest total recorded in any Q1 since the beginning of the time series in 2002-03. With shorter commuter distances and stops at a greater number of stations, trains operating in this sector recorded the highest share (70%) of passenger journeys in Great Britain. In this sector, journeys made on season tickets account for a significant share, 47% in 2015-16 Q1, given the high number of commuters.

- The franchised Long Distance sector had 33.5 million journeys in 2015-16 Q1, a 2.2% increase on the same quarter last year. This is the highest total recorded in any Q1 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, the key drivers being the Ordinary Advance and Off-Peak ticket journeys.
- The franchised Regional sector recorded 89.4 million journeys in 2015-16 Q1, an increase of 2.4% compared to the same quarter last year and the highest recorded total in any Q1 since the beginning of the time series. For the second quarter in a row within Ordinary tickets, journeys made on Anytime/Peak tickets had the largest market share ahead of Off- Peak tickets.
- The non-franchised sector had 0.59 million passenger journeys in 2015-16 Q1, an increase of 15.2% compared to the same quarter last year. As seen with passenger kilometres, the 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.

4. Passenger Revenue

Annual 2014-15

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



- 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, the highest revenue growth rate recorded since 2011-12 when it was 9.2%.
- 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.

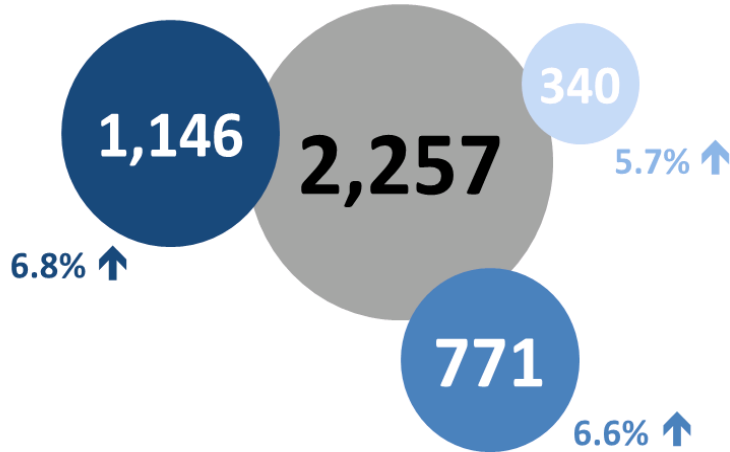
2015-16 Quarter 1 Results

Passenger Revenue by sector – chart ([Table 12.8](#))
Great Britain, 2015-16 Q1

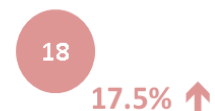
Passenger Revenue (£ millions)

Franchised

6.6% ↑ compared to previous year Q1



Non-franchised



- In 2015-16 Q1, total passenger revenue totalled £2.3 billion, a 6.6% increase on 2014-15 Q1. This was the highest revenue generated within any Q1 since the time series began in 2002-03, 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 (70%), the majority of the revenue also comes from this sector, bringing in 50.4% of the total passenger revenue this quarter.
- There was revenue growth across all ticket types this quarter. Revenue from all Ordinary tickets as usual accounted for the highest share of ticket revenue (76%), with 2015-16 Q1 generating £1.7 billion; a 6.5% increase compared to 2014-15 Q1. Revenue from Anytime/Peak fares saw the highest quarter on quarter increase of all the Ordinary ticket types with 9.2%. Revenue from journeys made on season tickets saw a 6.6% increase on the same quarter last year, bringing in £535 million.

- Revenue for franchised operators within the London and South East sector exceeded £1.1 billion during 2015-16 Q1, an increase of 6.8% 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. Revenue from sales across all ticket types recorded an increase, with revenue from Anytime/Peak ticket sales recording the highest growth for this sector in 2015-16 Q1 compared to 2014-15 Q1.
- Passenger revenue for franchised Long Distance services increased by 6.6% in 2015-16 Q1 reaching £771.3 million, the highest revenue for this sector since the beginning of the time series in 2002-03. Revenue from Anytime/Peak tickets sales recorded the highest growth this quarter with 11.4% compared to 2014-15 Q1.
- During 2015-16 Q1 franchised Regional operators generated £339.6 million, a 5.7% increase on the same quarter last year. This is the highest revenue generated in any Q1 for the Regional sector since the beginning of the time series, mainly driven by the revenue from Anytime/Peak ticket sales in this sector, which account for 37.9% of revenue and increased by 10.5% compared to 2014-15 Q1.
- Revenue generated by non-franchised operators increased by 17.5% this quarter compared to 2014-15 Q1, recording a total revenue of £17.6 million, the highest revenue recorded since the beginning of the time series in 2009-10. 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 14.38 pence per passenger kilometre or £5.48 per journey in 2015-15 Q1; increases of 3.3% and 1.8% respectively compared to 2014-15 Q1.

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

- 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 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](#) (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. For rail usage comparable statistics are available from Eurostat⁶ for passenger journeys and passenger kilometres; these have been discussed in the relevant sections.

⁶ <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/>



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