Station usage 2004-05

Station usage data consists of estimates of the total numbers of people entering, exiting and interchanging at stations. The station usage information is based on ticket sales in the financial year 2004-05 and covers all National Rail stations throughout England, Scotland and Wales. It does not include those stations that are owned by London Underground. The ticketing system does not record certain journeys made using TfL bought travelcards, TfL Freedom Passes, staff travel passes and certain other PTE specific products. For example, a large proportion of tickets sold in London are not recorded in the ticketing system, and so will have a significant impact on the London figures in the station usage file.

However for those tickets that are recorded, a new methodology has been used to assign an appropriate London station on flows where either the origin or destination is a London terminal or a Zone 1 travelcard, thus improving the accuracy of the figures.

The Station usage spreadsheet is composed of the following:

- Station names,
- County and Region (based on Government Office regions) where the stations are located,
- TOC – the Train Operating Company, which leases the station,
- NLC code – the National Location Code, a unique four character code identifying an issuing office, origin and destination and ticket issuing point in Great Britain. Issuing points can include London Underground stations, rail appointed travel agencies, machines in airport terminals along others. NLC codes are used when issuing tickets.
- Entries and exits data for each station – this is subdivided by ticket type (full, reduced and season tickets),
- Interchanges made at each station,
- Trend of growth and decline, on comparison with the 2002-03 station usage spreadsheet.

The 2004-05 station usage spreadsheet has 2,501 stations. There were four new stations this year: Edinburgh Park, Chandlers Ford, Kempton Park and Glasshoughton. Around 781 million entries, and a similar number of exits, were made in 2004-05. In all, around 121 million interchanges were estimated to have been made. Interchanges occurred at 502 stations in 2004-05.

The calculation of station usage levels uses sales recorded in the railway ticketing system prior to their allocation to individual operators. It does not take into account any changes of train during the course of a journey.

It is possible that some national rail ticket sales for the following 'joint' national rail and London Underground stations are recorded in the ticketing system, but not all sales are, therefore data capture is low at the following stations, and results can be misleading:

- Farringdon
- South Ruislip
- Greenford
- Old Street
- Highbury & Islington
- Seven Sisters
- Tottenham Hale
- West Ham
- Blackhorse Road
- Croxley Green

Care should be taken when using the usage figures for stations within Travelcard zones or for boundary zone tickets in London. Where possible, journeys in such areas are allocated to a particular origin and destination stations based on modelled assumptions.

For tickets sold to "London Terminals" and travelcards including Zone 1, journeys are allocated based on survey responses from the 2001 London Area Travel Survey (LATS). For journeys from any given station the percentage of passengers using each London terminus was determined. Entries and exits have then been apportioned accordingly. For example, for all journeys from WAGN stations to 'London Terminals', LATS tells us the split of journeys going to King's Cross and Liverpool Street and exits were assigned accordingly.

For towns and cities with more than one station – e.g. Maidstone it is possible to buy a ticket to "Maidstone Stations" – known as a Group Station. For such tickets, journeys are allocated to the main station of those in the group.