Passenger Rail Usage
2016-17 Q1 Statistical Release

Background

This release contains statistics on passenger rail usage in Great Britain with the latest quarterly data referring to April, May and June of 2016 (2016-17 Q1).

Passenger journeys, kilometres and **revenue** are sourced from the rail industry's ticketing and revenue database (LENNON) and train operating companies (TOCs). These measures are published by TOC, sector and ticket type.

Passenger train kilometres are sourced from Network Rail's Track Access Billing System (TABS) and published for each TOC. This has replaced timetabled train kilometres in this statistical release.

Contents

Passenger journeys in Great Britain reached 418.5 million in 2016-17 Q1, an increase of 1.6% from the 412.0 million recorded in 2015-16 Q1.While franchised passenger journeys recorded an increase, the non franchised passenger journeys recorded a drop of 1.3%.

Passenger Rail Usage 2016-17 Q1

Passenger Journeys	418.5 million	↑ 1.6%
Passenger Kilometres	16.2 billion	↑ 2.2%
Passenger Revenue	£2.4 billion	↑ 3.5%
Passenger Train Kilometres	130.9 million	↑ 0.3%

Passenger kilometres totalled 16.2 billion, of which 16.0 billion kilometres were on franchised operators. As with passenger journeys, passenger kilometres on non-franchised operators recorded a drop of 3.1% to 148.8 million kilometres.

Passenger revenue was £2.4 billion in 2016-17 Q1 with revenue per passenger journey on franchised operators reaching a record high of £5.59.

Passenger train kilometres across all operators totalled 130.9 million, with franchised operators increasing by 0.3% to 129.8 million kilometres.

1. Passenger journeys , kilometres and revenue

Passenger journeys are calculated 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.

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.

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

Annual 2015-16

In 2015-16, **1.69 billion** passenger journeys were made in Great Britain, the vast majority were franchised passenger journeys, with 1.69 billion (1686.9 million) recorded compared to 2.3 million non-franchised operator journeys. The merger of Southern services with Govia Thameslink Railway in July 2015 resulted in Govia Thameslink Railway recording the highest passenger journeys made by a franchised operator in 2015-16, with a total of 327.0 million journeys.

64.4 billion passenger kilometres were recorded on Great Britain's rail network, of which 63.8 billion kilometres were by franchised operators while the non-franchised totalled 0.6 billion kilometres.

£9.3 billion was raised from the 1.69 billion passenger journeys made. This was split between £9.2 billion for franchised operators and £71.6 million for the non-franchised operators.

For more information on the Annual 2015-16 results please see the 2015-16 Q4 statistical release.

2016-17 Quarter 1 Results

Passenger journeys

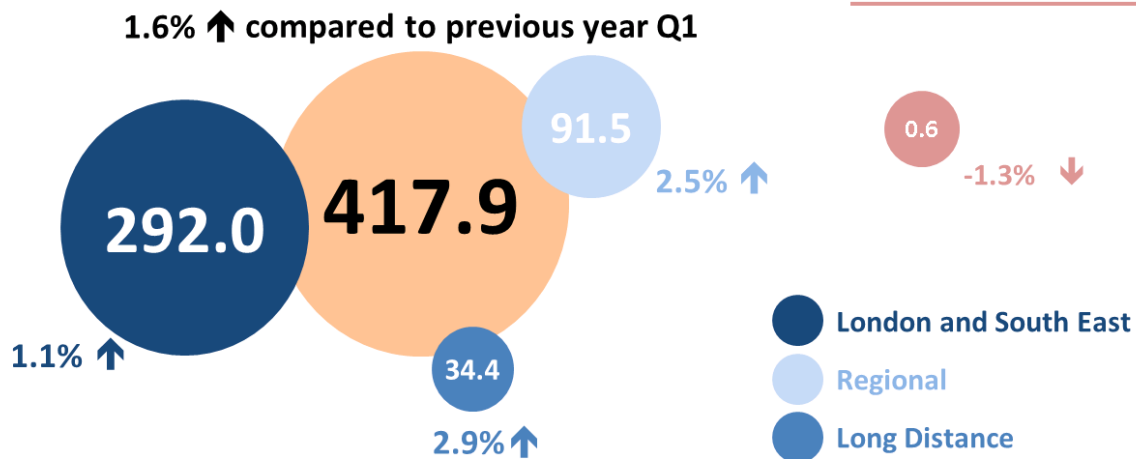Quarterly and annual data **by sector** is available from 1994-95 onwards.

Quarterly data **by ticket type** is 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.

Passenger journeys by sector (millions), Great Britain, 2016-17 Q1 (Table 12.6)

Franchised

1.6% ⬆ compared to previous year Q1

Non-franchised

292.0   417.9   91.5
2.5% ⬆
0.6   -1.3% ⬇

1.1% ⬆

34.4
2.9% ⬆

● **London and South East**
● **Regional**
● **Long Distance**

Total passenger journeys in 2016-17 Q1 reached 418.5 million, a 1.6% increase on the same quarter last year. 417.9 million passenger journeys were made on franchised operators this quarter with all three sectors[1] recording a quarter on quarter increase.

The franchised London and South East sector clocked up 292.0 million passenger journeys in 2016-17 Q1; up by 1.1% on 2015-16 Q1. Three of the ten London and South East operators – Abellio Greater Anglia, London Overground and South West Trains, which combined account for more than a quarter of all passenger journeys, recorded a drop in their passenger journeys in 2016-17 Q1 compared to Q1 last year.

Season ticket journeys (168.0 million) fell by 0.8% compared to 2015-16 Q1. This is the fourth quarter in succession where Season ticket journeys have fallen compared to the same quarter in
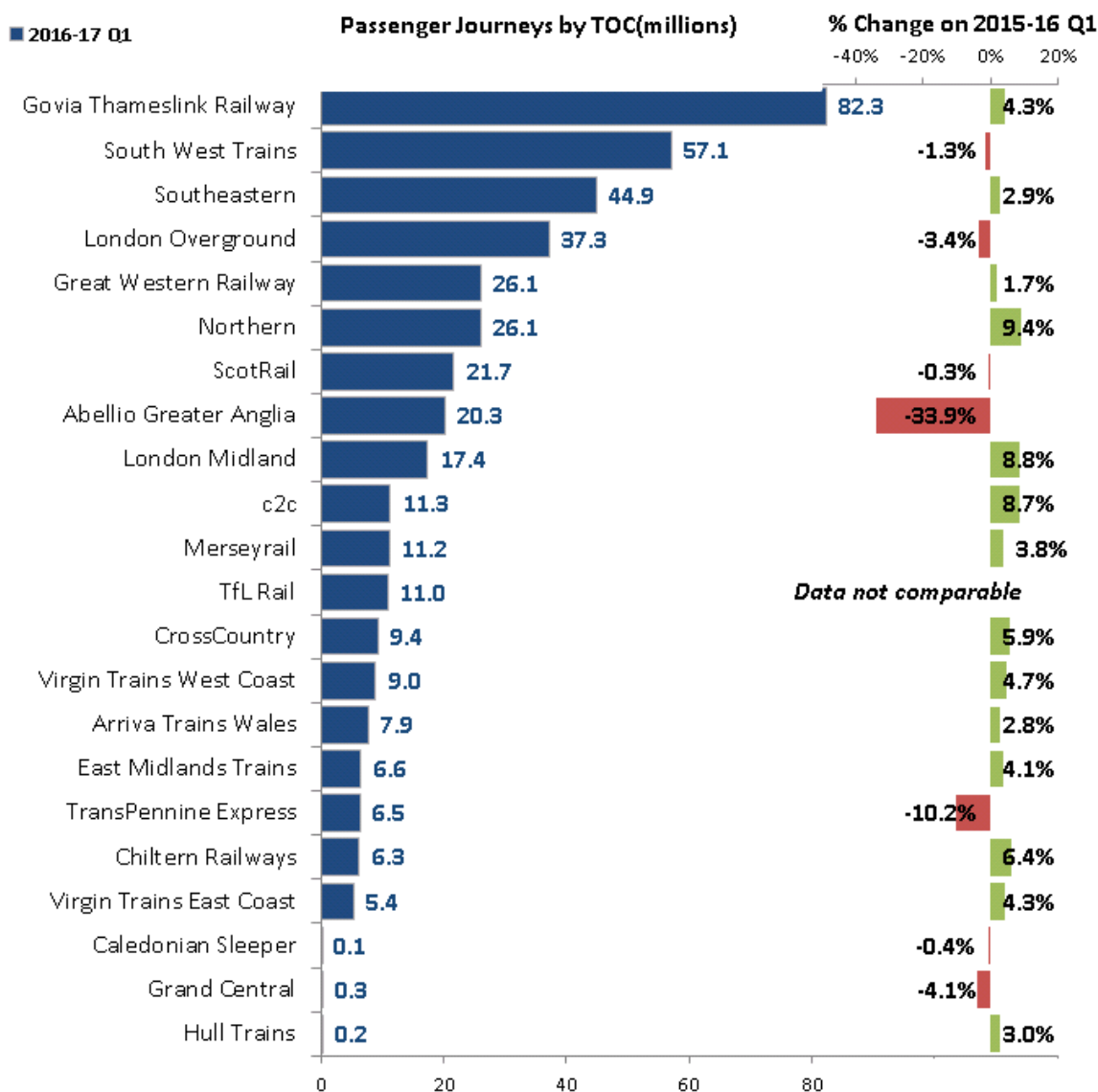
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[1] The rail network is divided into 3 sectors – London and South East, Long distance and Regional (including Scotland). A list of services in each sector is available in the Quality Report

the previous year. Season tickets are a key driver of journeys in the London and South East sector, so a fall in season ticket journeys may have contributed to the lower growth rate in this sector.

For the first quarter since 2011-12 Q4, non-franchised operators recorded a decrease; 1.3% compared to 2015-16 Q1. The main driver in the non-franchised operators, Grand Central, saw its passenger journeys reduce by 4.1% to 0.3 million journeys in 2016-17 Q1.

Abellio Greater Anglia journeys fell by 33.9% whilst its passenger kilometres fell by 11.6% due to the transfer of services to TfL Rail during 2015-16 Q1. The effect is greater on journeys than kilometres because the services that were transferred were shorter distance commuter routes.

Passenger journeys by TOC, Great Britain, 2015 -16 Q1 and 2016-17 Q1 (Table 12.12)

TOC	Passenger Journeys by TOC (millions) 2016-17 Q1	% Change on 2015-16 Q1
Govia Thameslink Railway	82.3	4.3%
South West Trains	57.1	-1.3%
Southeastern	44.9	2.9%
London Overground	37.3	-3.4%
Great Western Railway	26.1	1.7%
Northern	26.1	9.4%
ScotRail	21.7	-0.3%
Abellio Greater Anglia	20.3	-33.9%
London Midland	17.4	8.8%
c2c	11.3	8.7%
Merseyrail	11.2	3.8%
TfL Rail	11.0	Data not comparable
CrossCountry	9.4	5.9%
Virgin Trains West Coast	9.0	4.7%
Arriva Trains Wales	7.9	2.8%
East Midlands Trains	6.6	4.1%
TransPennine Express	6.5	-10.2%
Chiltern Railways	6.3	6.4%
Virgin Trains East Coast	5.4	4.3%
Caledonian Sleeper	0.1	-0.4%
Grand Central	0.3	-4.1%
Hull Trains	0.2	3.0%

On 31 May 2015 some of Greater Anglia's services were transferred to a new franchisee, TfL Rail, hence the data for the current quarter for TfL Rail is not comparable with data from 2015-16 Q1.

To a lesser extent, Northern and TPE figures have also been affected by service changes. On 1 April 2016, the new Northern and TransPennine Express (TPE) franchises commenced operation with services between Manchester Airport and Blackpool North/Barrow-in-Furness and between Oxenholme and Windermere transferring from TPE to Northern. Consequently the highest quarter on quarter increase in passenger journeys this quarter was recorded by Northern, increasing by 9.4% whilst journeys on TPE registered a decrease of 10.2%. This effect is replicated in passenger kilometres and passenger train kilometres.

TransPennine Express and Northern, Percentage change 2016 -17 Q1 on 2015-16 Q1
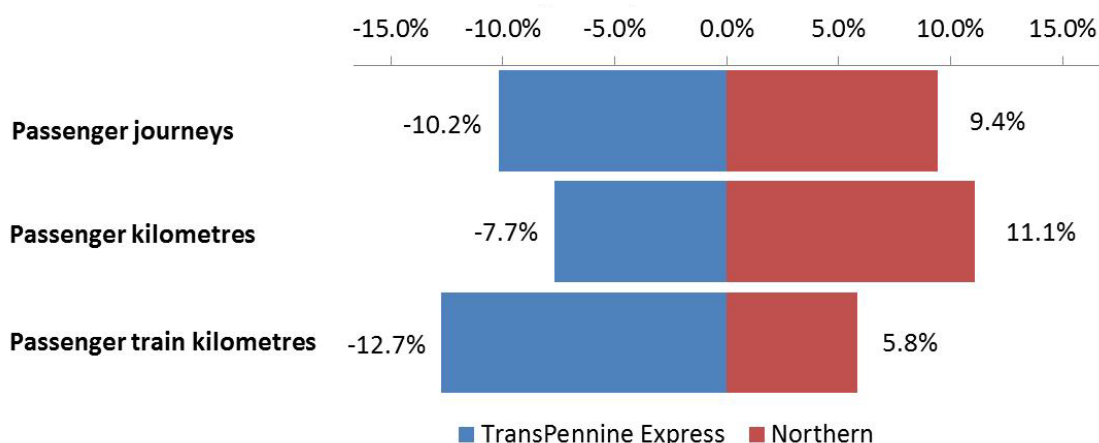
With its services covering London and the South coast, through East and West Sussex, Surrey and parts of Kent and Hampshire, passenger journeys on Govia Thameslink Railway recorded the highest passenger journeys among all operators in 2016-17 Q1 totalling 82.3 million. It also accounts for the highest volume of passenger kilometres with 2.2 billion, up 1.4% compared to the same quarter last year.

European comparison

In 2015[2] there were 1.7 billion passenger journeys[3] in the UK. This is the highest number of journeys reported of all the countries that have supplied data to Eurostat[4]. Since 2006 the number

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[2] European data is submitted to Eurostat based on calendar years

[3] This data includes figures for Northern Ireland, Eurostar

[4] The 2015 data for Germany is not yet available in Eurostat. In previous years Germany has recorded approximately 60% more journeys than the UK.

of passenger journeys on the UK rail network has increased by 48.9%. This is second only to Luxembourg where there has been a 52.1% increase in journeys on comparatively a much smaller network.
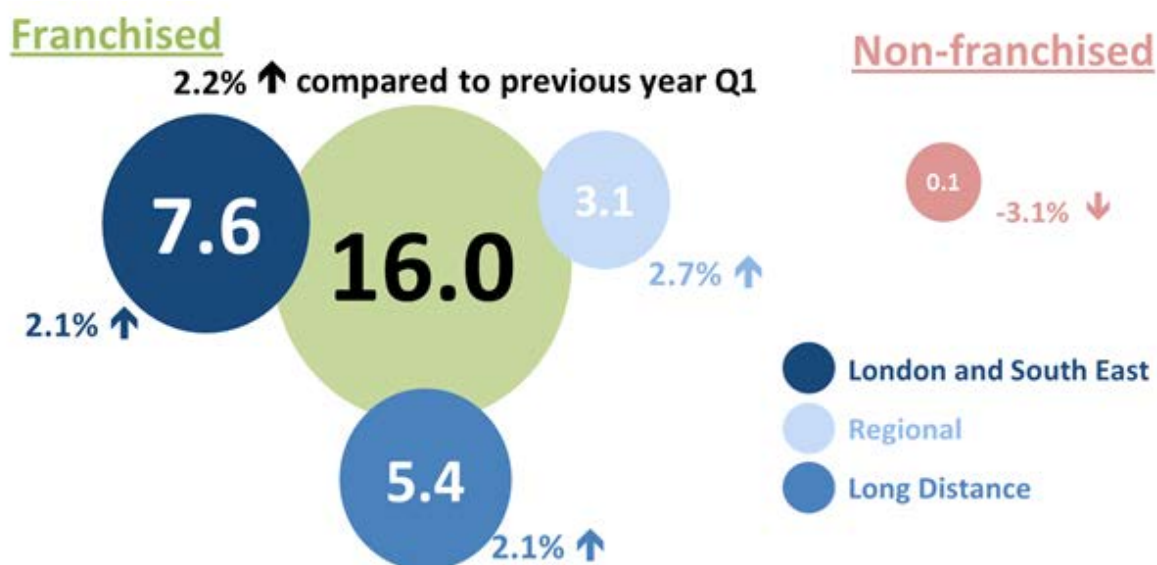
Passenger kilometres

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

Passenger kilometres (billions) by sector, Great Britain, 2016-17 Q1 (Table 12.3)

Total passenger kilometres in 2016-17 Q1 was 16.2 billion, of which franchised operators recorded 16.0 billion, an increase of 2.2% compared to the same quarter last year.
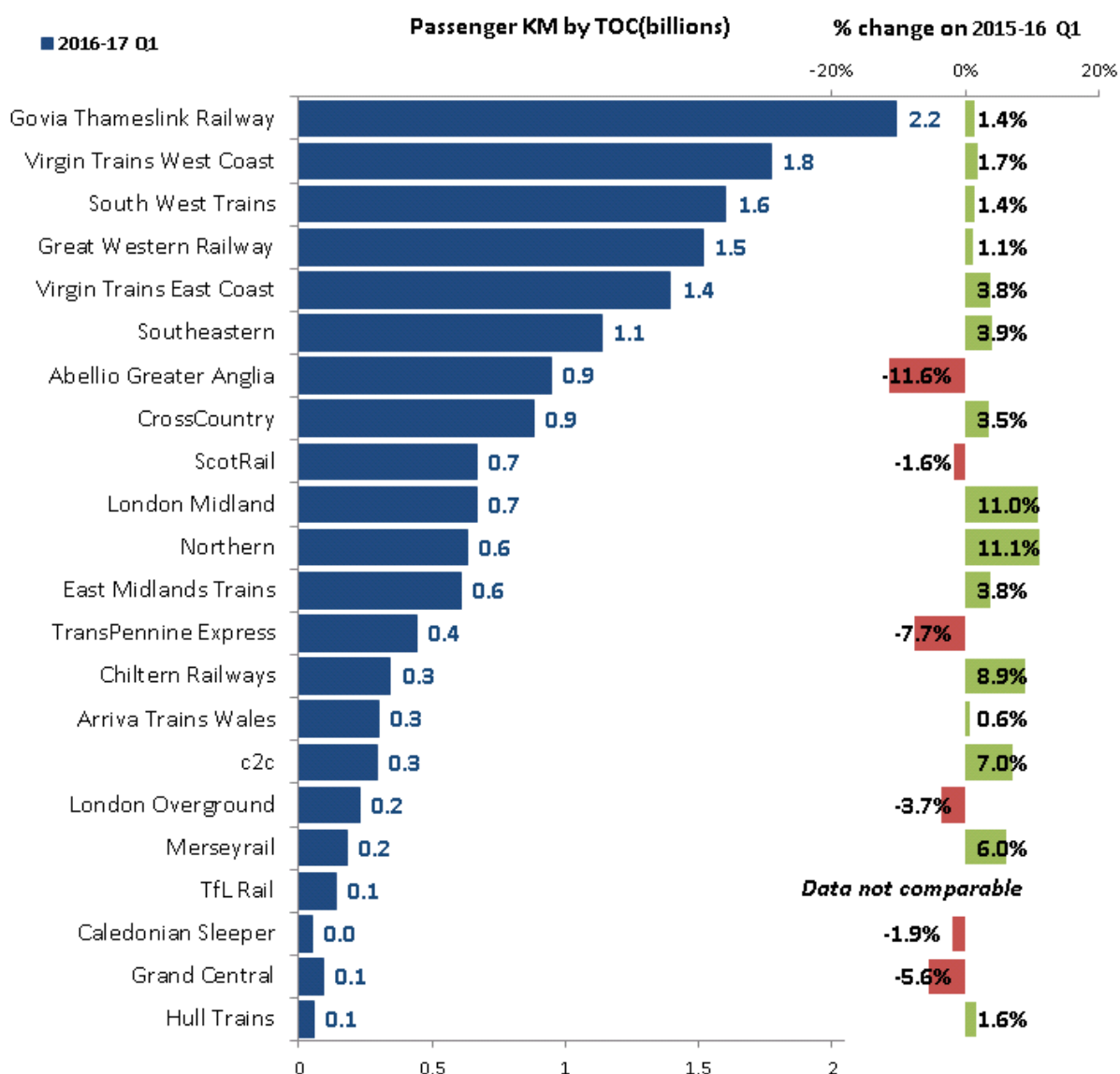
Passenger kilometres on franchised operators across all three sectors - London and South East (7.6 billion), Long Distance (5.4 billion) and Regional (3.1 billion) recorded a growth this quarter, with the Regional sector achieving the highest growth of 2.7% compared to 2015-16 Q1.

Passenger kilometres on all ticket types recorded growth in 2016-17 Q1 with the exception of the 'Other' category. Total franchised passenger kilometres on non-season tickets recorded 11.7 billion

kilometres in 2016-17 Q1, increasing by 2.4% compared to the same quarter last year. Passenger kilometres on Anytime/Peak tickets recorded the highest growth this quarter (5.7%), totalling 2.9 billion kilometres, with London and South East sector responsible for majority of the passenger kilometres made on this ticket type.

Passenger kilometres by non-franchised operators accounted for 0.15 billion kilometres in 2016-17 Q1, a decrease of 3.1% compared to Q1 last year. As seen in passenger journeys, Grand Central also recorded a drop of 5.6% in its passenger kilometres this quarter.

Passenger kilometres by TOC, Great Britain, 2015 -16 Q1 and 2016-17 Q1 (Table 12.11)

TOC	Passenger KM by TOC (billions) 2016-17 Q1	% change on 2015-16 Q1
Govia Thameslink Railway	2.2	1.4%
Virgin Trains West Coast	1.8	1.7%
South West Trains	1.6	1.4%
Great Western Railway	1.5	1.1%
Virgin Trains East Coast	1.4	3.8%
Southeastern	1.1	3.9%
Abellio Greater Anglia	0.9	-11.6%
CrossCountry	0.9	3.5%
ScotRail	0.7	-1.6%
London Midland	0.7	11.0%
Northern	0.6	11.1%
East Midlands Trains	0.6	3.8%
TransPennine Express	0.4	-7.7%
Chiltern Railways	0.3	8.9%
Arriva Trains Wales	0.3	0.6%
c2c	0.3	7.0%
London Overground	0.2	-3.7%
Merseyrail	0.2	6.0%
TfL Rail	0.1	Data not comparable
Caledonian Sleeper	0.0	-1.9%
Grand Central	0.1	-5.6%
Hull Trains	0.1	1.6%

On 31 May 2015 some of Greater Anglia's services were transferred to a new franchisee, TfL Rail, hence the data for the current quarter for TfL Rail is not comparable with data from 2015-16 Q1.

The highest quarter on quarter increase in passenger kilometres was recorded by Northern, increasing by 11.1% followed by London Midland with 11.0%. The opening of the rebuilt Birmingham New Street station and the adjoining redeveloped shopping centre may have boosted London Midland's passenger kilometres this quarter.

Scotrail recorded a decrease of 1.6% in their passenger kilometres and of 0.3% in their passenger journeys compared to the same quarter last year. A possible reason for this fall was industrial action in June[5].

European comparison

In 2015[6] there were 66.4 billion passenger kilometres [7] in the UK. Of the countries that have reported data to Eurostat only France had a higher number of passenger kilometres with 91.7 billion[8]. Since 2006 the UK has seen a 40.4% growth in passenger kilometres. The only country with a higher growth is Slovakia, which had seen a growth a 54.1% over this time period. However in absolute terms this growth is much smaller than that of the UK, with Slovakia's total passenger kilometres representing approximately 5% of the UK's passenger kilometres. The growth in passenger kilometres in Slovakia between 2006 and 2015 is less than the growth seen in the UK between 2014 and 2015.

Compared to 2014 the UK has seen a growth of 2.6%; this is similar to France who recorded a 2.4% growth between the two years. The next two largest markets, Italy and Spain, recorded higher year-on-year growth, with increases of 4.5% and 4.4% respectively.

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[5] http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-36632976

[6] European data is submitted to Eurostat based on calendar years

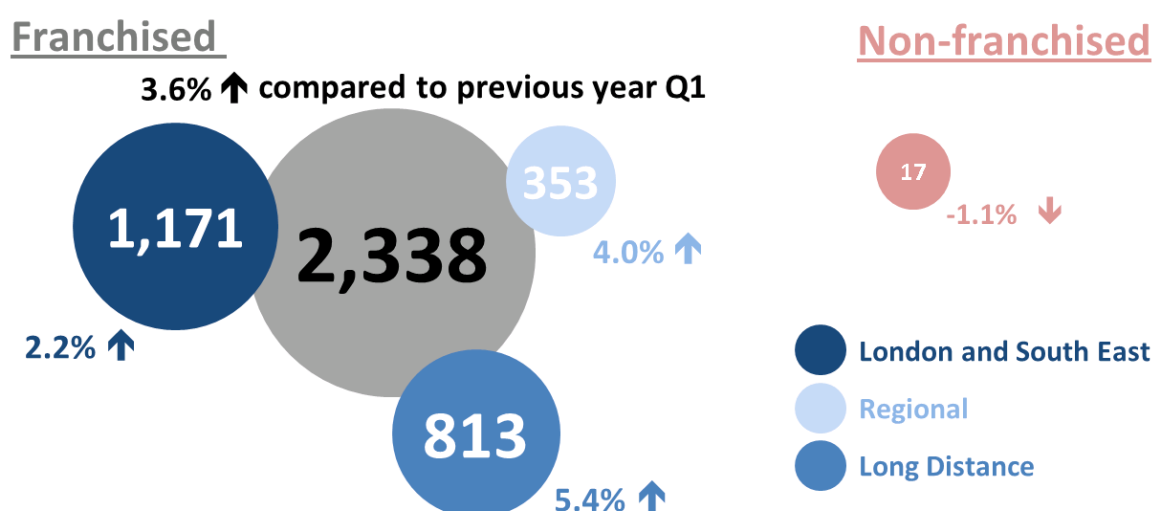[7] This data includes figures for Northern Ireland, Eurostar.

[8] The 2015 data for Germany is not yet available in Eurostat. Based on previous years Germany typically reports approximately 50% more passenger kilometres than the UK

Passenger revenue

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 onwards.

Passenger revenue by sector, Great Britain, 2016-17 Q1 (Table 12.8)

Franchised

3.6% ⬆ compared to previous year Q1

1,171 2.2% ⬆

2,338

353 4.0% ⬆

813 5.4% ⬆

Non-franchised

17 -1.1% ⬇

● **London and South East**
● **Regional**
● **Long Distance**

In 2016-17 Q1, passenger revenue across all operators totalled £2.4 billion, a 3.5% increase on 2015-16 Q1. Revenue from franchised operators (£2.338 billion) saw an increase in all three sectors compared to the same quarter last year.

Revenue from franchised operators within the London and South East sector reached £1.2 billion during 2016-17 Q1, an increase of 2.2% when compared to the same quarter last year. As the London and South East sector has the highest proportion of journeys (69.9%), the majority of the revenue also comes from this sector, bringing in 50.1% of the total franchised passenger revenue this quarter.

Passenger revenue for franchised Long Distance services registered the highest growth in revenue (5.4%) among the three sectors in 2016-17 Q1 reaching £813 million. Franchised Regional operators generated £353 million, a 4.0% increase on the same quarter last year.

Revenue from non-season tickets accounted for the highest share of ticket revenue (77.2%) in 2016-17 Q1, generating £1.806 billion; a 4.9% increase compared to 2015-16 Q1. Revenue from Anytime/Peak fares (£690 million) saw the highest quarter on quarter increase of all the non-

season ticket types with 6.9%. Strong growth of 5.6% in revenue from Advance tickets this quarter has helped drive the increase in revenue for the Long Distance sector.

Revenue from Season tickets saw a 0.6% decrease on the same quarter last year, generating £532 million. This is the first time since 2009-10 that revenue from season tickets has fallen for two quarters in succession compared to the previous year.

Revenue generated by non-franchised operators decreased by 1.1% this quarter compared to 2015-16 Q1, recording total revenue of £17.4 million. This is likely to be as a direct result of the decreasing passenger journeys and kilometres in the non-franchised sector this quarter over the same quarter last year.

In 2016-17 Q1, for every passenger journey made on franchised operators, the revenue generated was £5.59, the highest since the beginning of the time series. Likewise 14.57pence was a record high for revenue generated per franchised passenger kilometre made on Great Britain's rail network.

2. Passenger train kilometres

Passenger train kilometres refers to the number of train kilometres (million) travelled by revenue earning passenger trains. The passenger train kilometres are derived from Network Rail's Track Access Billing System (TABS), which Network Rail use to bill train operators.

The passenger train kilometres for Heathrow Express have been excluded from the total figures for the non-franchised operators. Heathrow Express is not charged through Networks Rail's Track Access Billing System

Quarterly data for **Passenger train kilometres** is available from 2010-11 Q1 to 2016-17 Q1. (Table 12.13)

Annual 2015-16

Passenger train kilometres in Great Britain have increased every year since the time series began in 2010-11 totalling 521.8 million in 2015-16, an increase of 5.1% since 2010-11.

Govia Thameslink Railway recorded the highest passenger train kilometres among franchised operators in 2015-16 totalling 61.9 million kilometres.

For more information on the Annual 2015-16 results please see the 2015-16 Q4 statistical release.

2016-17 Quarter 1 Results

Passenger train kilometres by operator, Great Britain, 2015 -16 Q1 and 2016-17 Q1 ([Table 12.13](#))
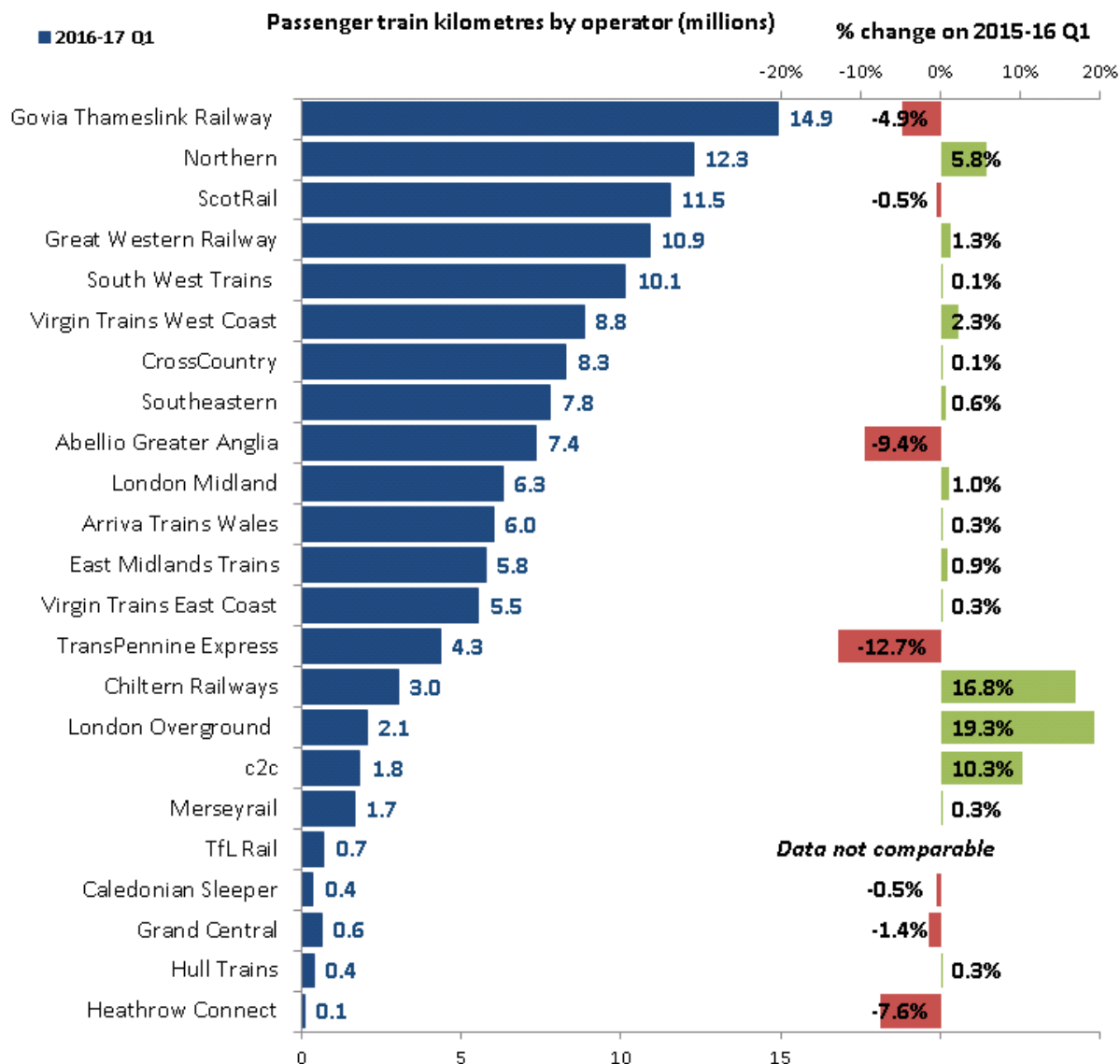
The total number of passenger train kilometres across all franchised operators in 2016-17 Q1 increased by 0.3% compared to 2015-16 Q1, recording a total of 129.8 million kilometres.

On 31 May 2015 some of Greater Anglia's services were transferred to a new franchisee, TfL Rail, hence the data for the current quarter for TfL Rail is not comparable with data from 2015-16 Q1.

The opening of the new rail line[9] linking Oxford to London via Bicester in October 2015, has contributed to the growth in passenger train kilometres for Chiltern in 2016-17 Q1.

Govia Thameslink Railway continues to be the operator with the highest passenger train kilometres in 2016-17 Q1, recording 14.9 million kilometers. With fewer trains planned to run combined with the ongoing staffing issues resulting in cancelled trains, the passenger train kilometres for Govia Thameslink Railway have dropped by 4.9% compared to the same quarter in 2015-16 despite passenger journeys increasing by 4.3%.

The new Northern and TransPennine Express (TPE) franchises commenced operation on the 1 April 2016 with services between Manchester Airport and Blackpool North/Barrow-in-Furness and between Oxenholme and Windermere transferring from TPE to Northern. Consequently, Northern passenger train kilometres have increased by 5.8% adding a further 0.7 million kilometres compared to the same quarter last year with TPE reducing by 12.7% over that period.

Passenger train kilometres for non-franchised operators decreased by 1.5% compared to 2015-16 Q1, recording a total of 1.1 million kilometres .Grand Central , being the main contributor to the train kilometres in the non franchised operators, recorded a drop in the total train kilometres this quarter compared to the same quarter last year.

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[9] http://www.chilternrailways.co.uk/oxford-parkway-open

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.

Passenger train kilometres

- Passenger train kilometres by operator – Table 12.13

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 (franchised only)
- 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)

Timetabled train kilometres (TTKM)

■ Timetabled train kilometres by train operating company – Table 12.1
(Includes data until 2015-16 Q2)

Revisions: There have been no revisions to the previously published tables associated with this statistical release. Further details can be found at: Revisions Log

Regional passenger journeys showing rail journeys to/from and within each region or country are published in Regional Rail Usage statistical release and data portal tables. These journeys are based on the origin and destination named on a ticket and do not take into account any changes of train. It therefore produces slightly lower estimates than the total journeys published in this Passenger Rail Usage statistical release.

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.

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is ORR's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

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