Passenger Rail Usage
2017-18 Q2 Statistical Release

Publication date: 14 December 2017
Next Publication date: 08 March 2018

Background

This release contains statistics on passenger rail usage in Great Britain with the latest quarterly data referring to July, August and September (2017-18 Q2).

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.

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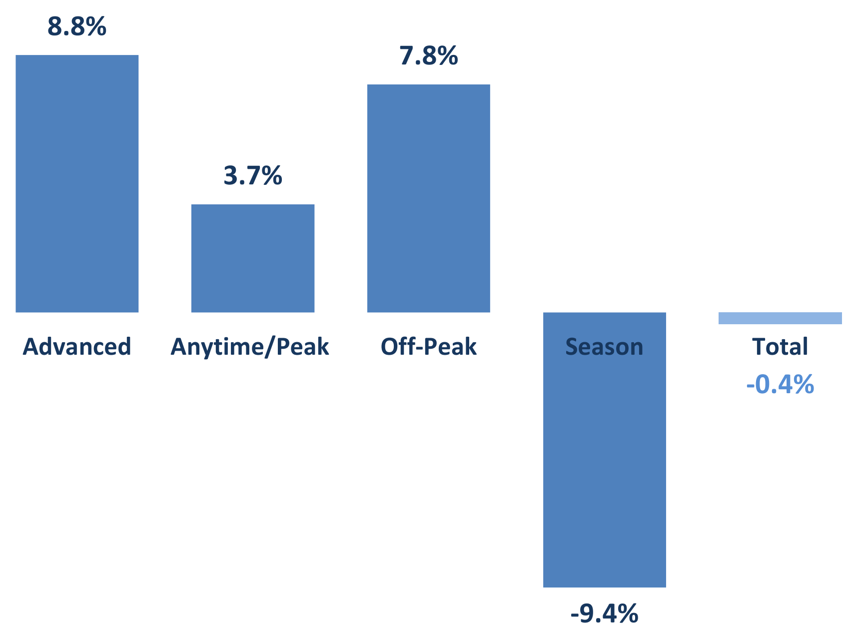
Rail passenger journeys in Great Britain fell by 0.4% in 2017-18 Q2 with passenger journeys totalling 424m.

Passenger journeys by ticket type, percentage change (2017-18 Q2 to 2016-17 Q2)



The number of journeys made using season tickets fell to its lowest since 2010-11 Q2, with 15m fewer journeys made compared to this time last year.

In contrast, journeys made on non-season tickets continued to grow with journeys made on anytime/peak tickets reaching a record 101m in 2017-18 Q2.

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1. Passenger journeys

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.

Quarterly and annual data **by sector** are available from 1994-95 onwards in Table12.6

Quarterly data **by ticket type** are available from 1994-95 Q1 and annual data are available from 1986-87 onwards in Table 12.7.

Quarterly and annual data **by TOC** are now available from 2011-12 onwards in Table 12.12.

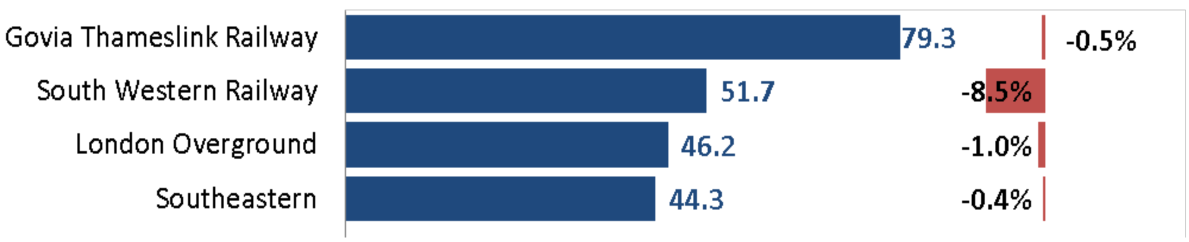
A time series of aggregate annual data from 1950 are also available in Table 12.5.

2017-18 Q2

- Passenger journeys fall by 0.4% compared to 2016-17 Q2
- South Western Railway journey numbers see the largest fall, decreasing by 8.5%
- Season ticket journeys fall by 9.4% compared to 2016-17 Q2
- Passenger journeys on the franchised London and South East sector fall for the fifth consecutive quarter, by 1.3%.

Passenger journeys in Great Britain fell by 0.4% in 2017-18 Q2 compared to the same quarter last year, driven by a 1.3% fall in journeys in the London and South East sector. This reduction was offset by increases in the Long Distance (1.1%) and Regional sectors (2.0%).

Passenger journeys by operator (millions), 2017-18 Q2 and percentage change to 2016-17 Q2

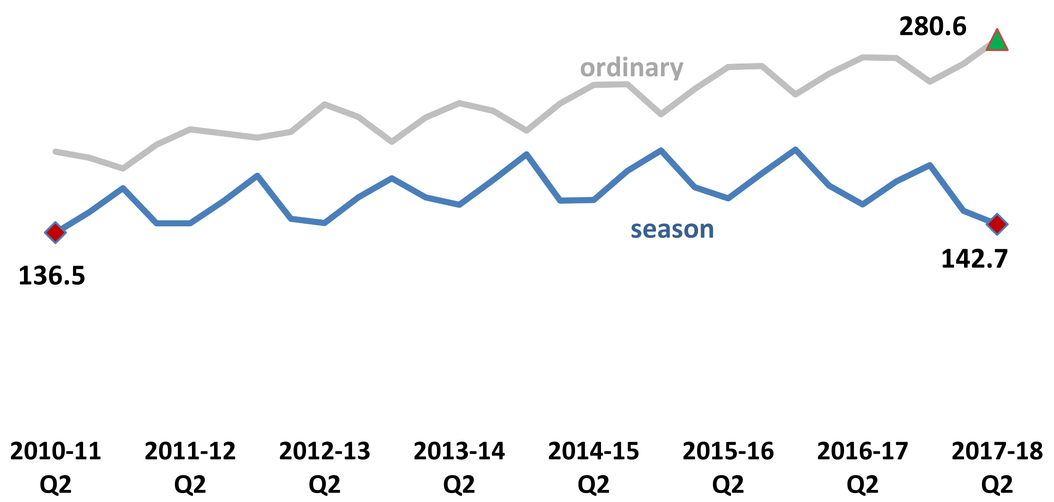


All of the four largest passenger operators, all of whom operate within the London and South East sector and account for just over 50% of all journeys, saw their journey numbers fall this quarter compared to 2016-17 Q2. The biggest fall recorded was by South Western Railway[1] reducing by 4.8 million journeys mainly due to the three-week engineering works at London Waterloo[2] in August. The shift in the franchise ownership from Stagecoach to First Group and MTR during August also meant there were no passenger journeys on the Stagecoach Group subsidiary Megatrain that operated along South West Train routes.

Chiltern Railways saw the highest quarter on quarter increase in their passenger journeys (11.4%), mainly due to the completion of the London to Oxford City Centre route that opened in December 2016[3].

The number of journeys made on season tickets fell to 142.7m in 2017-18 Q2, the lowest in any quarter since 2010-11 Q2. The fall in season ticket journeys have a direct impact on the journeys in the London and South East sector, as they are the main drivers of journeys in this sector. In contrast journeys made on advance, anytime/peak and off-peak tickets which fall in the ordinary ticket basket experienced growth this quarter, with journeys made on anytime/peak tickets exceeding 100million for the first time this quarter.

Passenger journeys (millions), ordinary and season tickets (2010-11 Q2 to 2017-18 Q2)



Passenger journeys among non franchised operators dropped by 1.3% compared to 2016-17 Q2, with increases in the passenger journeys for Hull Trains (10.1%) offset by the drop in Grand Central's journeys (8.6%) this quarter.

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1 http://www.railjournal.com/index.php/commuter-rail/firstgroup-and-mtr-take-over-south-western-franchise.html

2 http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/08/07/waterloo-rail-chaos-engineering-works-crippling-britains-busiest/

3 https://www.chilternrailways.co.uk/news/chiltern-railways-announces-oxford-city-centre-london-marylebone-launch-date

2. Passenger kilometres

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.

Quarterly and annual data **by sector** is now available from 1994-95 onwards in Table 12.3

Quarterly data **by ticket type** is now available from 1994-95 Q1 and annual data is available from 1986-87 onwards in Table 12.4

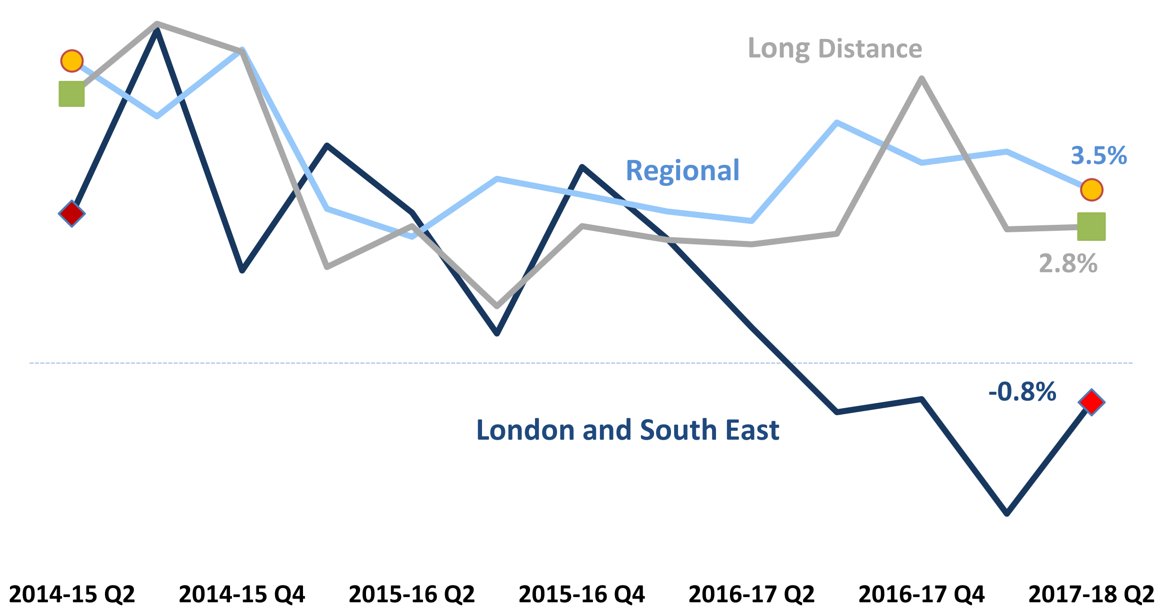
Quarterly and annual data **by TOC** is now available from 2011-12 onwards in Table 12.11

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

2017-18 Q2

- Passenger kilometres increase by 1.3% in 2017-18 Q2
- Passenger kilometres in the Long-Distance sector reach a record high of 5.7 billion, increasing by 2.8%
- South Western Railway record the highest decrease in passenger kilometres with a drop of 9.8%

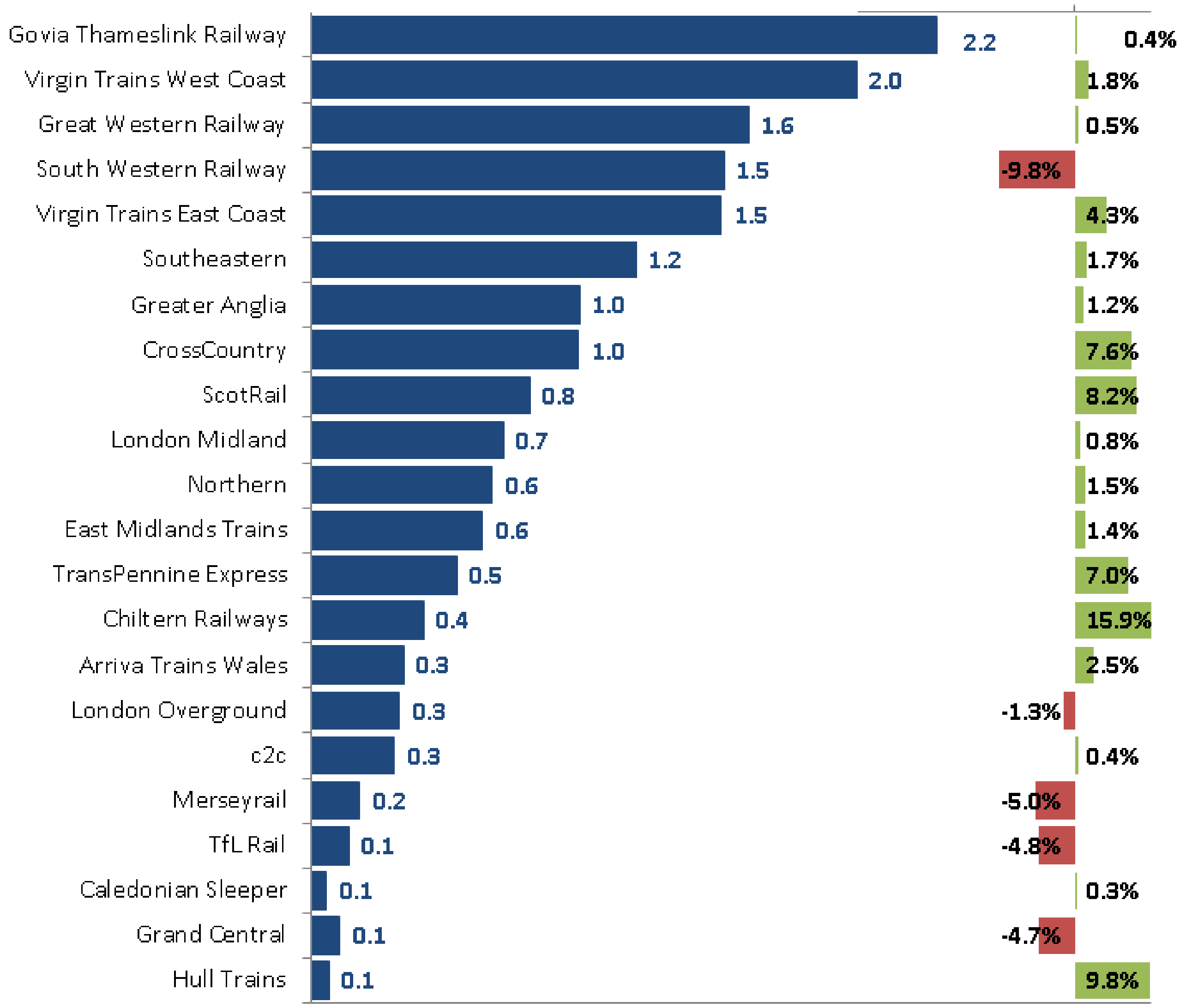
Passenger kilometres by sector, percentage change (2014-15 Q2 to 2017-18 Q2)



Nationally, passenger kilometres among franchised operators increased by 1.3% in 2017-18 Q2 compared to the same quarter last year reaching a record 16.7bn.

Passenger kilometres in the Long Distance and Regional sector increased by 2.8% and 3.5% while mirroring the slowdown in passenger journeys, passenger kilometres in the London and South East sector decreased by 0.8% in 2017-18 Q2.

Passenger kilometres by operator (billions), 2017-18 Q2 and percentage change to 2016-17 Q2



The main driver of the fall in London and South East was South Western Railway, which recorded the highest decrease in passenger kilometres in 2017-18 Q2 (9.8%). Engineering upgrades scheduled in

August coupled with other operational incidents [4] seem to have had an impact on their passenger kilometres this quarter.

All of the Regional operators except Merseyrail saw an increase in their passenger kilometres compared to 2016-17 Q2. Strike actions in July and September may have resulted in the 5% decrease in their passenger kilometres this quarter. All of the Long distance operators saw a quarter on quarter increase with Virgin Trains West Coast reaching a record 2bn passenger kilometres in 2017-18 Q2.

Mirroring their increase in passenger journeys, Chiltern Railways' passenger kilometres reached a record high of 401m in 2017-18 Q2, the sixth quarter in succession where their passenger kilometres have increased.

Passenger kilometres among the non franchised operators recorded a 0.4% increase in 2017-18 Q2. The drop in passenger kilometres for Grand central by 4.7% this quarter was offset by the increase in Hull Trains', with passenger kilometres for Hull Trains reaching a record 63.5 million.

[4] http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-40933704

3. Passenger Revenue

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

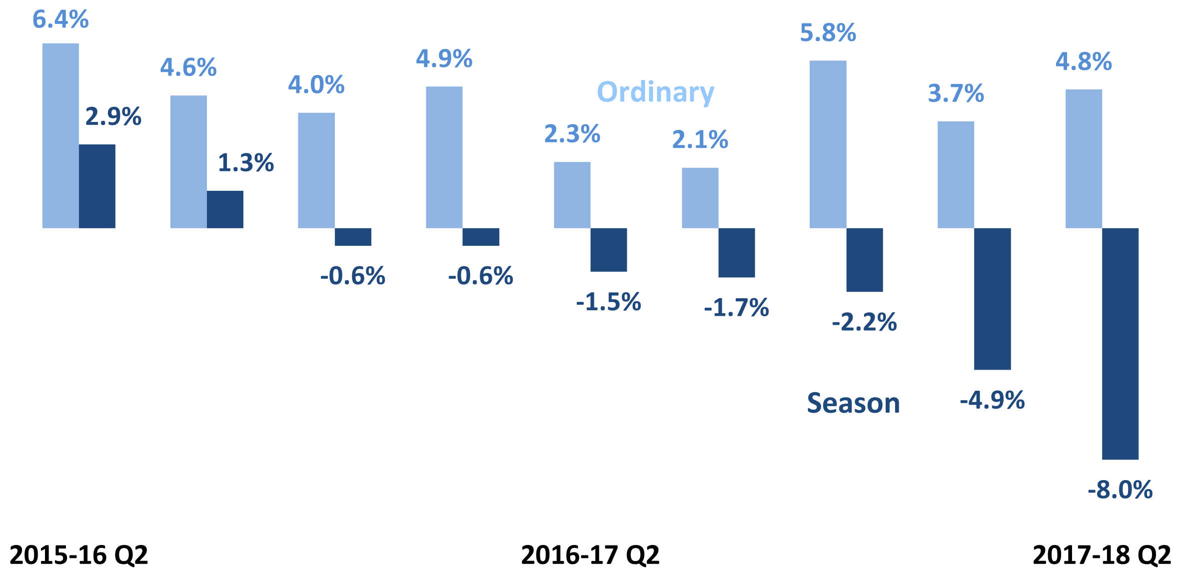
Quarterly data **by sector** is now available from 1995-96 Q1 and annual data is available from 1994-95 onwards in [Table 12.8]

Quarterly data **by ticket type** is now available from 1996-97 Q1 and annual data is available from 1986-87 onwards in [Table 12.9]

2017-18 Q2

- Passenger revenue across all operators increases to £2,410m in 2017-18 Q2
- Season ticket revenue falls for the seventh quarter in a row, an 8.0% decrease from 2016-17 Q2
- Revenue in the London and South East sector slows to 0.2%, the second lowest growth rate ever recorded.

Passenger revenue by ticket type, percentage change (2015-16 Q2 to 2017-18 Q2)

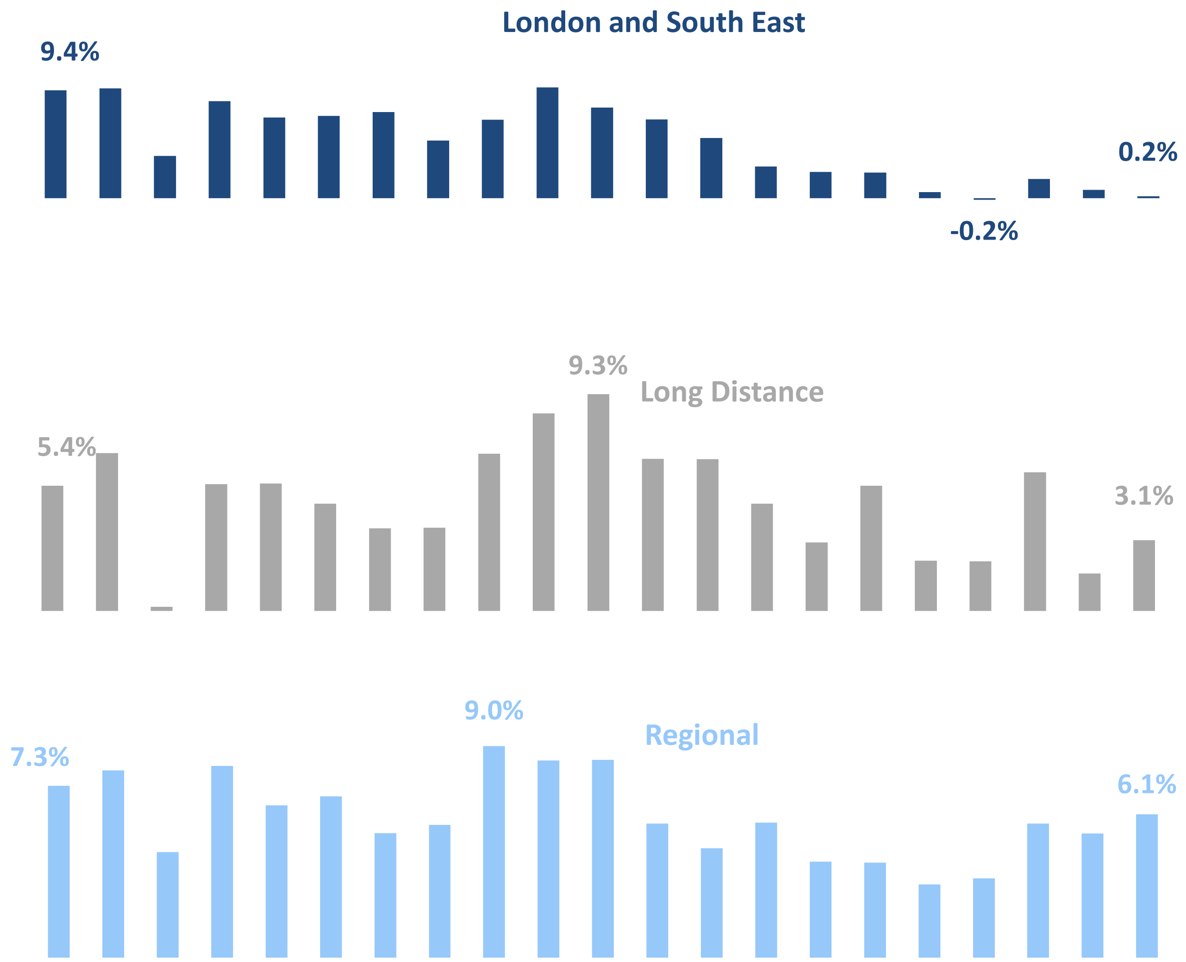


Passenger revenue across all operators increased by 2.1% compared to 2016-17 Q2, with revenue from franchised operators totaling £2,392m in 2017-18 Q2.

Season ticket revenue fell by 8.0% compared to 2016-17 Q2, reaching £463m in 2017-18 Q2. With journeys made on season tickets at their lowest level since 2010-11 Q2, the fall in season ticket revenue is the biggest recorded since the beginning of the time series. In contrast, revenue from ordinary tickets reached an all-time high of £1,929m contributed by the increases in revenue from advance and off peak tickets.

The impact of falling season ticket revenue can be seen in the slowdown in revenue growth for the London and South East sector, with the passenger revenue from franchised operators in this sector reaching £1,174m. The Long Distance and Regional sectors saw higher growth rates compared to London and South East with this quarter seeing the highest revenue on record for both Long Distance (£830m) and Regional (£388m) sectors.

Passenger revenue by sector, percentage change (2012-13 Q2 to 2017-18 Q2)



Revenue from the non franchised operators fell by 0.6% in 2017-18 Q2 reaching £18.2m. The decline in growth in the passenger journeys for non franchised operators this quarter have resulted in the fall in revenue.

Revenue per journey in 2017-18 Q2 was £5.65, an increase of 2.4% compared to the same quarter last year. Similarly, revenue per passenger kilometre reached 14.32p, an increase of 0.8% on 2016-17 Q2.

4. 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 2017-18 Q2.

Annual data for **Passenger train kilometres** is available from 2010-11 to 2016-17

(Table 12.13)

2017-18 Q2

- Passenger train kilometres for franchised operators increases by 0.4% in 2017-18 Q2 to 131.8m, the highest ever total recorded.
- South Western Railway has their lowest train kilometres ever this quarter (9.7m) reducing by 6.4% over 2016-17 Q2
- Non-franchised operators' train kilometres increases by 0.4% totalling 1.2m

Nationally, passenger train kilometres increased by 0.4% compared to 2016-17 Q2. Six out of the twenty franchised operators recorded their highest train kilometres this quarter. The two big operators based on their share of train kilometres - Scotrail and Govia Thameslink Railway, increased by 3.9% and 6.7% respectively this quarter compared to 2016-17 Q2.

Whilst South Western Railway recorded their lowest ever train kilometres this quarter (9.7m), Merseyrail recorded the largest quarter on quarter fall of 7.3% with their train kilometres totalling 1.6m. Planned engineering works affecting London Waterloo contributed to the fall in South Western Railway's train kilometres whereas industrial actions during July and September appear to have contributed to the fall in Merseyrail's train kilometres.

For the non franchised operators, falls in train kilometres for Grand Central (0.4%) and Heathrow Connect (3.2%) were offset by an increase in the train kilometres for Hull Trains (2.7%).

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)

We no longer publish the Timetabled Train Kilometres by train operating company table on our data portal. For historical data, please contact us on rail.stats@orr.gsi.gov.uk.

Revisions: There have not been any revisions to the previously published tables associated with this statistical release. Further details can be found at: Revisions Log

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

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 Fares Index;
- Key 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 Complaints.

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

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 Abby Sneade 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.

This publication is available at orr.gov.uk

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