Passenger Rail Usage
2016-17 Q3 Statistical Release

Publication date: 2 March 2017
Next Publication date: 25 May 2017

Background

This release contains statistics on passenger rail usage in Great Britain with the latest quarterly data referring to October, November and December of 2016 (2016-17 Q3).

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 442.4 million in 2016-17 Q3, the lowest growth rate since 2012-13 Q4 and an increase of 0.04% compared to 2015-16 Q3. In the last twelve months, there have been 1.73 billion passenger journeys.

Passenger Rail Usage 2016-17 Q3

Passenger Journeys	442.4 million	↑ 0.0%
Passenger Kilometres	16.6 billion	↑ 1.4%
Passenger Revenue	£2.4 billion	↑ 1.2%
Passenger Train Kilometres	129.0 million	↓ -0.5%

Passenger kilometres totalled 16.6 billion, of which a record 16.5 billion kilometres were on franchised operators. Passenger kilometres on non-franchised operators recorded 152.7 million kilometres in 2016-17 Q3.

Passenger revenue was £2.4 billion in 2016-17 Q3, with revenue from franchised operators (£2.384 billion) seeing the lowest growth rate since 2009-10 Q2.

Passenger train kilometres across all operators totalled 129.0 million, with franchised operators decreasing by 0.6% to 127.9 million kilometres in 2016-17 Q3.

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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, **1.72 billion** passenger journeys were made in Great Britain, the vast majority were franchised passenger journeys, with 1715.3 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.

64.7 billion passenger kilometres were recorded on Great Britain's rail network, of which 64.1 billion kilometres were by franchised operators while the non-franchised totalled 0.6 billion kilometres.

£9.3 billion was raised from the 1.72 billion passenger journeys made. This was split between £9.2 billion for franchised operators and £71.6 million for the non-franchised operators.

Please note that the figures quoted above may differ from the 2015-16 annual results quoted in the 2015-16 Q4 statistical release. This is due to revisions to passenger journeys and kilometres in 2016-17 Q2. For more information on these revisions, please see the revisions log http://orr.gov.uk/statistics/code-of-practice/revisions-log

2016-17 Quarter 3 Results

Passenger journeys

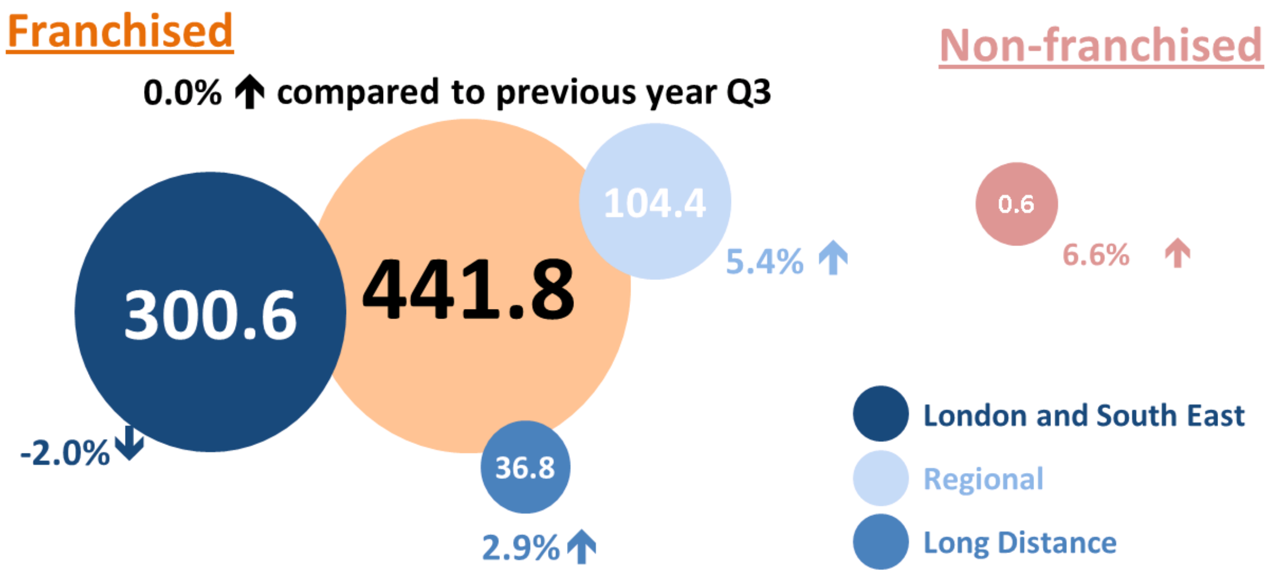
Quarterly and annual data **by sector** is available from 1994-95 onwards.

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 Q3 (Table 12.6)



Total passenger journeys in 2016-17 Q3 reached 442.4 million, of which journeys made on franchised operators totalled 441.8 million. Despite recording the highest number of quarterly passenger journeys by franchised operators on Britain's rail network, 2016-17 Q3 saw the lowest quarter on quarter increase (0.04%) in passenger journeys since 2012-13 Q4 .

The franchised London and South East sector clocked up 300.6 million passenger journeys in 2016-17 Q3. All of the wholly London and South East operators with the exception of c2c and Chiltern saw a quarter on quarter decrease in their passenger journeys resulting in a 2.0% decline in passenger journeys in this sector. This was the second quarter in succession when passenger journeys within the London and South East sector[1] fell compared to the same quarter last year.

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

Govia Thameslink Railway recorded the largest decrease of 4.2% reaching a total of 78.4 million passenger journeys this quarter. Industrial actions, staffing issues and planned cancellations have all affected their passenger journeys this quarter.

Passenger journeys in the franchised Long Distance sector increased by 2.9% this quarter; reaching a record high of 36.8 million. All of the wholly franchised Long distance operators recorded growth in their passenger journeys this quarter, with Virgin Trains West Coast (9.7 million) and CrossCountry (10.2 million) growing by 3.6% and 2.9% respectively compared to Q3 last year.

Franchised Regional sector saw the highest passenger journeys recorded, exceeding 100 million for the first time since the time series began in 1994-95. This sector totalled 104.4 million journeys this quarter, an increase of 5.4% over 2015-16 Q3, the highest growth rate among the three sectors this quarter. Northern, which has the highest passenger journeys among all franchised operators in this sector, recorded an 18.2% growth in its passenger journeys this quarter over 2015-16 Q3 though this has been exacerbated by the transfer of services from TransPennine Express to Northern in April 2016[2]. Correspondingly, TransPennine Express journey numbers fell by 8.3%.

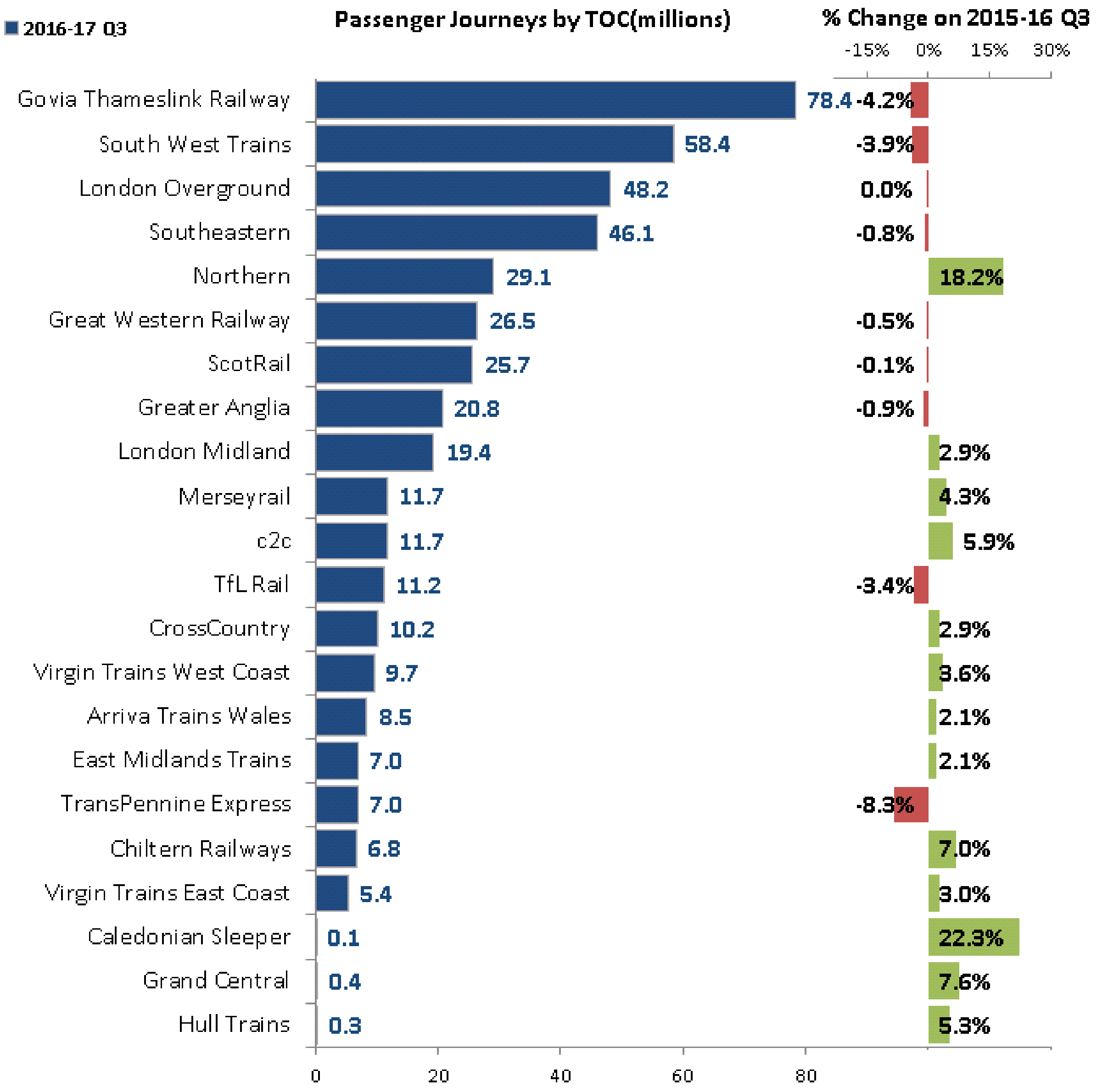
For the second quarter in succession franchised season ticket journeys (174.9 million) fell, this time by 3.3% compared to 2015-16 Q3, the largest drop since 2009-10 Q3. Season ticket journeys are a key driver of demand in the London and South East sector, so a fall in season ticket journeys is likely to have been the main factor in the falling journey numbers in this sector.

Passenger journeys in the Ordinary ticket type recorded 266.9 million, with journeys made on Anytime/Peak (99.1 million) and Off-Peak tickets (144.0 million) recording their highest volume of journeys since the time series began. The highest growth rate in 2016-17 Q3 were journeys made on Advance tickets (16.4 million) growing by 9.8% compared to 2015-16 Q3.

Passenger journeys on the non-franchised operators increased by 6.6% this quarter compared to 2015-16 Q3, reaching 0.6 million. Grand Central increased journey numbers by 7.6% this quarter and Hull Trains registered an increase of 5.3% compared to 2015-16 Q3, a record high for Hull Trains.

[2] 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.

Passenger journeys by TOC, Great Britain, 2015 -16 Q3 and 2016-17 Q3 (Table 12.12)



European comparison

In 2015[3] there were 1.7 billion passenger journeys[4] in the UK. This is the highest number of journeys reported of all the countries that have supplied data to Eurostat[5]. Since 2006 the number 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.

[3] European data is submitted to Eurostat based on calendar years
[4] This data includes figures for Northern Ireland, Eurostar
[5] The 2015 data for Germany is not yet available in Eurostat. In previous years Germany has recorded approximately 60% more journeys than the UK.

Passenger kilometres

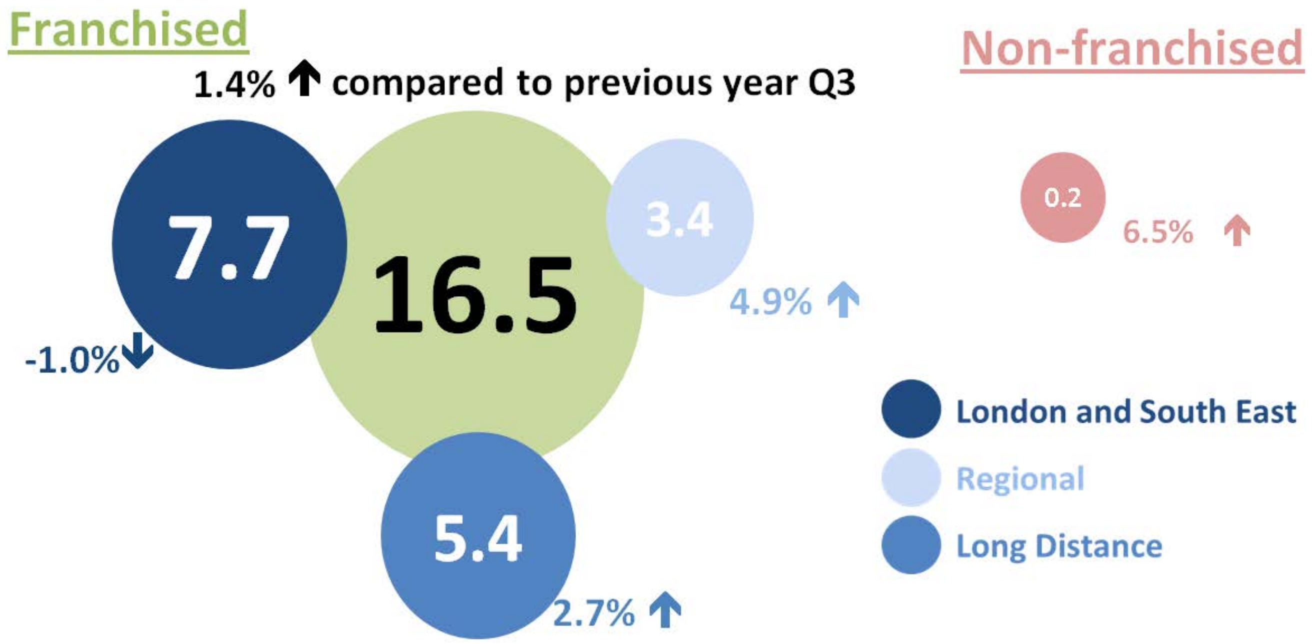
Quarterly and annual data **by sector** is now available from 1994-95 onwards.

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 Q3 ([Table 12.3])



The total number of passenger kilometres recorded in 2016-17 Q3 was 16.6 billion. Franchised operators recorded 16.5 billion, an increase of 1.4% compared to the same quarter last year.

Passenger kilometres in the London and South East sector (7.7 billion), fell by 1.0% compared to Q3 last year. Govia Thameslink Railway and South West Trains, who together accounted for 48.8% of the total passenger kilometres in this sector, recorded a fall of 4.2% and 1.3% respectively in 2016-17 Q3. TfL Rail also recorded a fall of 7.8% in passenger kilometres.

These decreases were partially offset by Chiltern Railways (0.4 million), who saw an increase of 12.9%, primarily due to the Oxford Parkway – London service launched part way through 2015-16 Q3 and its subsequent extension to Oxford City Centre in December 2016.

Passenger kilometres on franchised operators across Long Distance (5.4 billion) and Regional (3.4 billion) recorded a growth this quarter, with the Regional sector which includes Scotland achieving the highest recorded passenger kilometres since the time series began in 1994-95. The Regional sector also saw the highest quarter on quarter growth of 4.9% among the three sectors, driven by the 20.0% growth in passenger kilometres on Northern[6] services.

Franchised passenger kilometres on Ordinary ticket type (12.1 billion), accounting for 73.2% of the total passenger kilometres this quarter, recorded a growth of 2.7% over 2015-16 Q3. This was mainly due to the increase in passenger kilometres on Advance and Off-Peak tickets, which are also the main drivers of passenger kilometres in the Long Distance sector.

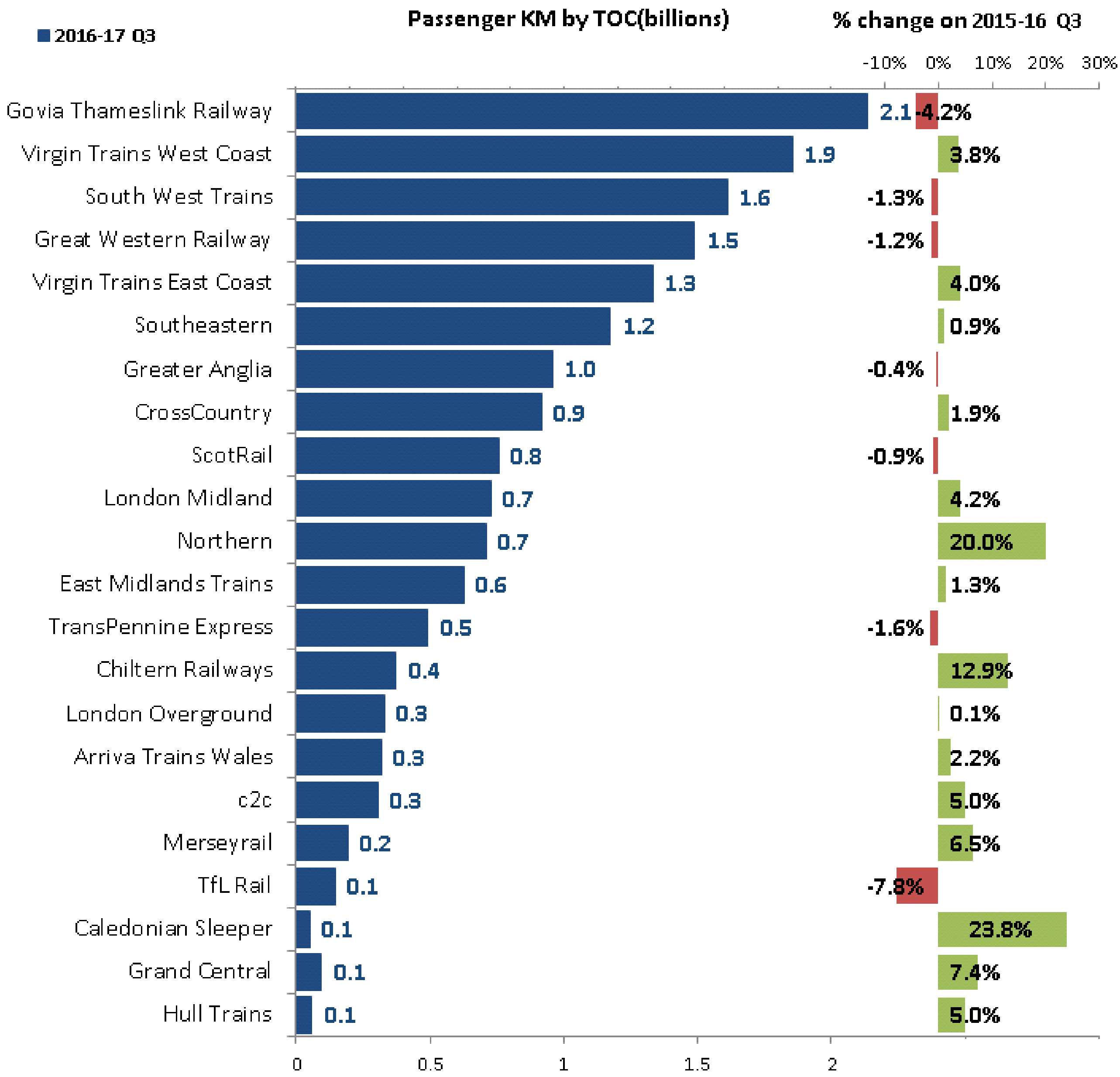
Passenger kilometres on Advance tickets recorded the highest quarter on quarter growth in 2016-17 Q3 of 8.0%, totaling 3.1 billion. Off-Peak tickets which have the largest market share (36.5% this quarter) of any ticket type registered a 2.2% increase in their passenger kilometres this quarter. Passenger kilometres on Anytime/Peak tickets saw a drop of 0.3% in 2016-17 Q3.

For the second quarter in succession, passenger kilometres by franchised operators on Season tickets dropped by 2.1% to 4.4 billion. Season tickets are the main drivers of passenger kilometres in the London and South East sector, so the reduction in season ticket travel is likely to have contributed to the fall in passenger kilometres in this sector in 2016-17 Q3.

Passenger kilometres by non-franchised operators accounted for 152.7 million kilometres in 2016-17 Q3, an increase of 6.5% compared to Q3 last year. This comprised Grand Central and Hull Trains increasing passenger kilometres by 7.4% and 5.0% respectively, reflecting the growth in their passenger journeys.

[6] 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.

Passenger kilometres by TOC, Great Britain, 2015 -16 Q3 and 2016-17 Q3 (Table 12.11)



European comparison

In 2015[7] there were 66.4 billion passenger kilometres [8] in the UK. Of the countries that have reported data to Eurostat only France had a higher number of passenger kilometres with 91.7

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

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

billion[9]. 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.

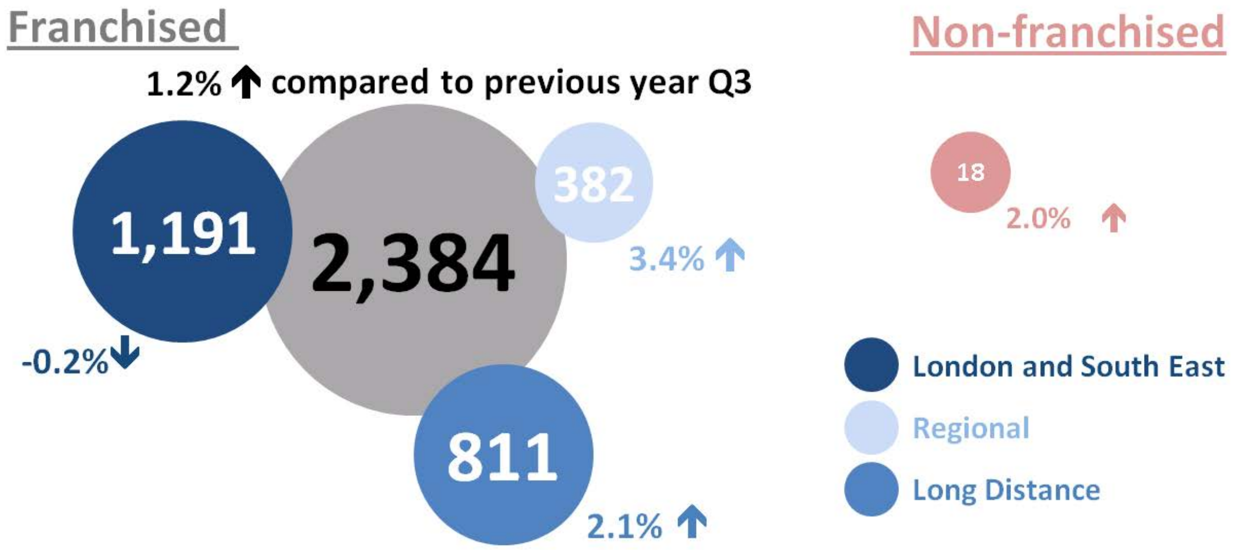
[9] The 2015 data for Germany is not yet available in Eurostat. Based on previous years Germany typically reports approximately 50% more passenger kilometres than the UK

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 (£ millions), Great Britain, 2016-17 Q3 (Table 12.8)



In 2016-17 Q3, passenger revenue across all operators totalled £2.4 billion, a 1.2% increase on 2015-16 Q3. Revenue from franchised operators (£2.384 billion) went up by 1.2% but was the lowest growth rate since 2009-10 Q2.

For the first time since the time series began in 1995-96, revenue from franchised operators within the London and South East sector recorded a quarter on quarter drop of 0.2%, with the revenue for this sector totaling £1.2 billion in 2016-17 Q3; This decline in growth is likely to be as a direct result of the decrease in passenger journeys of 2.0% this quarter, thereby resulting in lower revenue. The London and South East sector accounted for 49.9% of the total franchised passenger revenue this quarter.

Passenger revenue for franchised Long Distance operators generated £811 million, a 2.1% increase on the same quarter last year. Franchised Regional services which includes Scotland registered the highest growth in revenue (3.4%) among the three sectors in 2016-17 Q3 reaching a record £382 million, likely to be as a result of their record passenger journeys this quarter.

Revenue from franchised Ordinary tickets accounted for the highest share of ticket revenue (76.9%) in 2016-17 Q3, generating £1.83 billion; a 2.1% increase compared to 2015-16 Q3. Revenue from Advance fares (£346 million) saw the highest quarter on quarter increase of all the Ordinary ticket types with 6.8%.

Revenue from Season tickets saw a 1.7% decrease on the same quarter last year, generating £551 million. Revenue from Season tickets has now fallen for four quarters in succession, with this quarter seeing the biggest drop compared to the same quarter previous year. This is a direct result of the 3.3% fall in Season ticket journeys seen this quarter.

Revenue generated by non-franchised operators showed a 2.0% increase this quarter compared to 2015-16 Q3, recording total revenue of £18.1 million.

In 2016-17 Q3, for every passenger journey made on franchised operators the revenue generated was £5.39, with 14.46 pence generated for every passenger kilometre made on franchised operators in Great Britain.

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

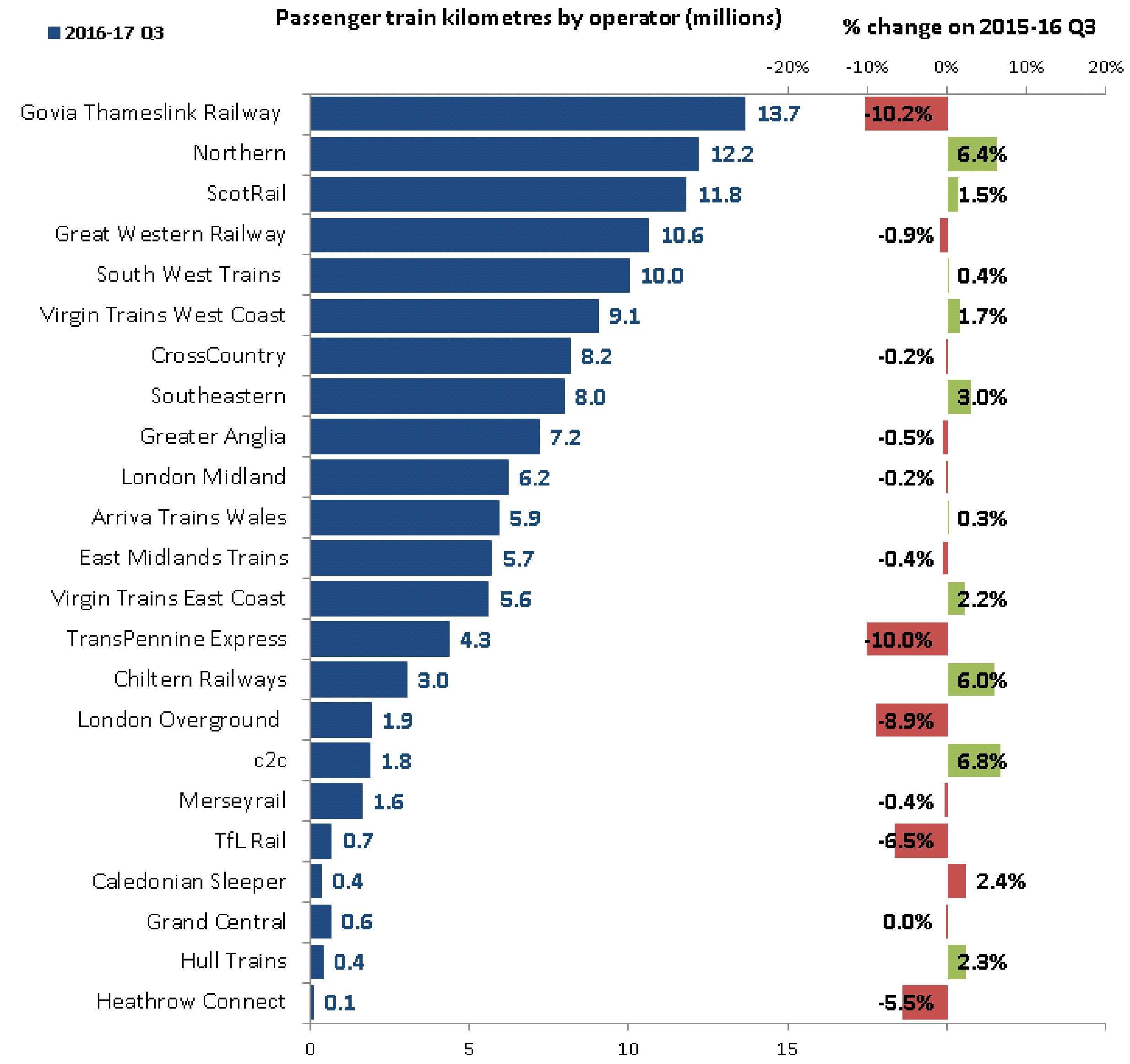
Passenger train kilometres in Great Britain have increased every year since the time series began in 2010-11 totaling 521.8 million in 2015-16, an increase of 5.1% since 2010-11.

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

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

2016-17 Quarter 3 Results

Passenger train kilometres by operator, Great Britain, 2015 -16 Q3 and 2016-17 Q3 ([Table 12.13](#))



The total number of passenger train kilometres across all franchised operators in 2016-17 Q3 decreased by 0.6% compared to 2015-16 Q3, recording a total of 127.9 million kilometres.

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 6.4% adding a further 0.7 million kilometres compared to the same quarter last year with TPE reducing by 10.0% over that period.

Govia Thameslink Railway continues to be the operator with the highest passenger train kilometres in 2016-17 Q3, recording 13.7 million kilometers. Due to the Industrial action, staffing issues and a reduced timetable, the passenger train kilometres for Govia Thameslink Railway have dropped by 10.2%, the largest drop recorded by a franchised operator this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2015-16.

London Overground recorded a decrease of 8.9% in their passenger train kilometres in 2016-17 Q3; possibly due to the Overground upgrade [10] work between Gospel Oak and Barking.

Passenger train kilometres for non-franchised operators increased by 0.2% compared to 2015-16 Q3, recording a total of 1.1 million kilometres .While Grand Central (0.01%) and Heathrow Connect (5.5%) recorded a drop in their total passenger train kilometres, this was offset by the 2.3% increase in the passenger train kilometres for Hull Trains.

[10] https://tfl.gov.uk/status-updates/major-works-and-events/london-overground-closure

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 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 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

This publication is available at orr.gov.uk

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