

Passenger rail performance: cancellations data

Rail period 11 (8 January to 4 February 2023)

17 February 2023

ORR publish National Statistics accredited [passenger rail performance statistics](#) in a statistical release and associated data tables every quarter. The most recent release published on 8 December 2022 covered the quarter 1 July to 30 September 2022 and contained statistics on a range of industry punctuality and reliability measures for all train operators in Great Britain. In addition, operational data supplied to us by Network Rail are published every period (4-weekly) in tables on our data portal as soon as the data are loaded and validated into our systems. This data includes the number of trains cancelled by each operator. The latest periodic data released today is for period 11, up to 4 February 2023.

The main measure of reliability is the **Cancellations score** which is a weighted score which counts full cancellations as one and part cancellations as half. This industry measure is an indicator of disruption against the timetable operating on the day. The timetable is finalised at 22:00 the previous evening, and trains removed from the timetable before then will not be included.

ORR has been working with rail industry parties to get a better understanding of resource availability shortage pre-cancellations, i.e. changes to train services caused by non-availability of staff or rolling stock that are included in a revised timetable, and therefore may not be appearing in operators' cancellations scores. The Office for Statistics Regulation [wrote to us](#) on 9 December stating that they were supportive of this work as it will enhance the value of the statistics by providing users with greater insights and therefore informing public debate on this topic.

On 19 January, ORR [wrote to all train operators](#) to seek their confirmation that they will support and participate in action by the industry to stop the use of resource availability shortage "P*-coded" pre-cancellations. Until this is complete, operators were asked to provide ORR with the number of resource availability shortage "P*-coded" pre-cancellations every period, which ORR will publish.

This ad hoc release and associated data table (Table 3128) presents data for the first time for both on the day and resource availability shortage "P*-coded" pre-cancellations by cause for each operator.

Background:

This ad hoc release contains information on the rail industry's passenger rail performance measure of reliability – cancellations score. It also provides additional data on resource availability shortage pre-cancellations, which are not included in the official cancellations score measure.

Sources: Network Rail and train operators

Latest data: Rail period 11 (8 January to 4 February 2023)

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23 out of 24 train operators reported to ORR their number of “P*-coded” pre-cancellations in period 11. The only operator who did not report data by the specified deadline was Caledonian Sleeper.

Of the operators that supplied data, seven reported resource availability shortage “P*-coded” pre-cancellations. Only these operators are shown in the table and chart below as other operators’ official cancellations score is unchanged.

Table 1 Resource availability shortage “P*-coded” pre-cancellations by cause

Train operator	Number of trains part pre-cancelled (P-coded) due to a shortage of available train crew	Number of trains full pre-cancelled (P-coded) due to a shortage of available train crew	Number of trains part pre-cancelled (P-coded) due to a shortage of available rolling stock	Number of trains full pre-cancelled (P-coded) due to a shortage of available rolling stock
Grand Central	0	0	0	56
Great Western Railway	0	1	1	1
London North Eastern Railway	17	17	1	0
Northern Trains	2	182	0	0
ScotRail	0	14	0	0
TfW Rail	48	30	0	5
TransPennine Express	312	1,048	0	0

Figure 1 Grand Central and TransPennine Express recorded the largest differences between their official and adjusted cancellations scores

Official and adjusted cancellations score by operator, rail period 11 (Table 3128)

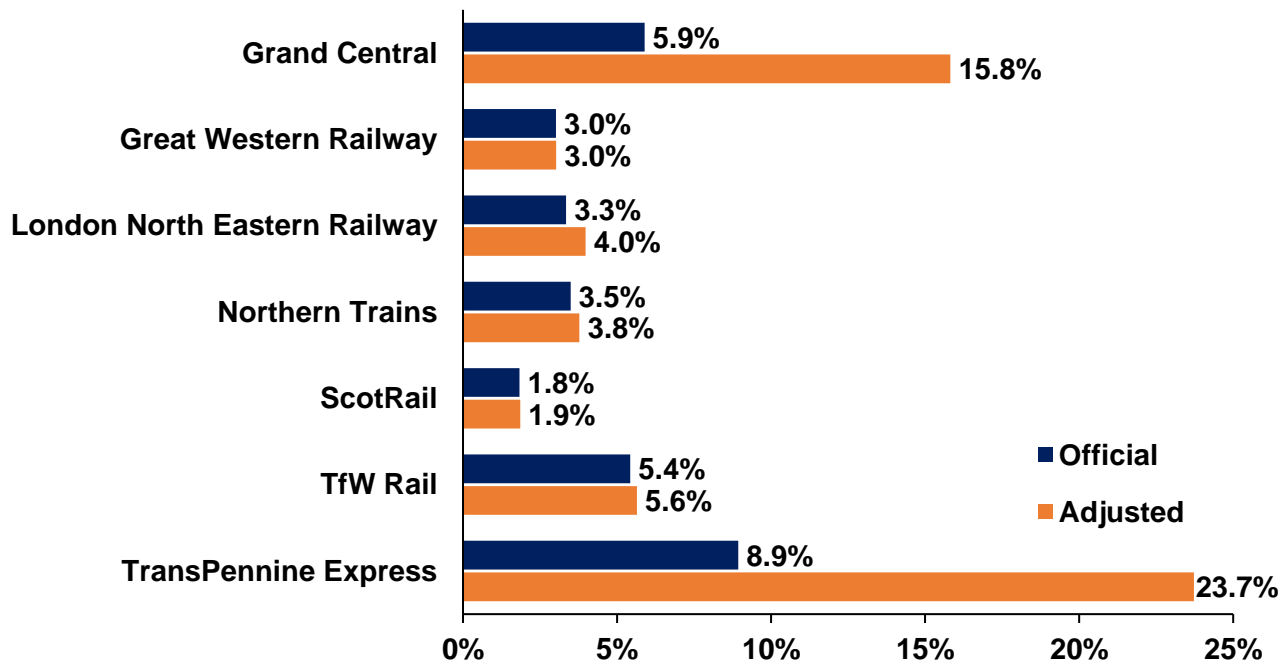
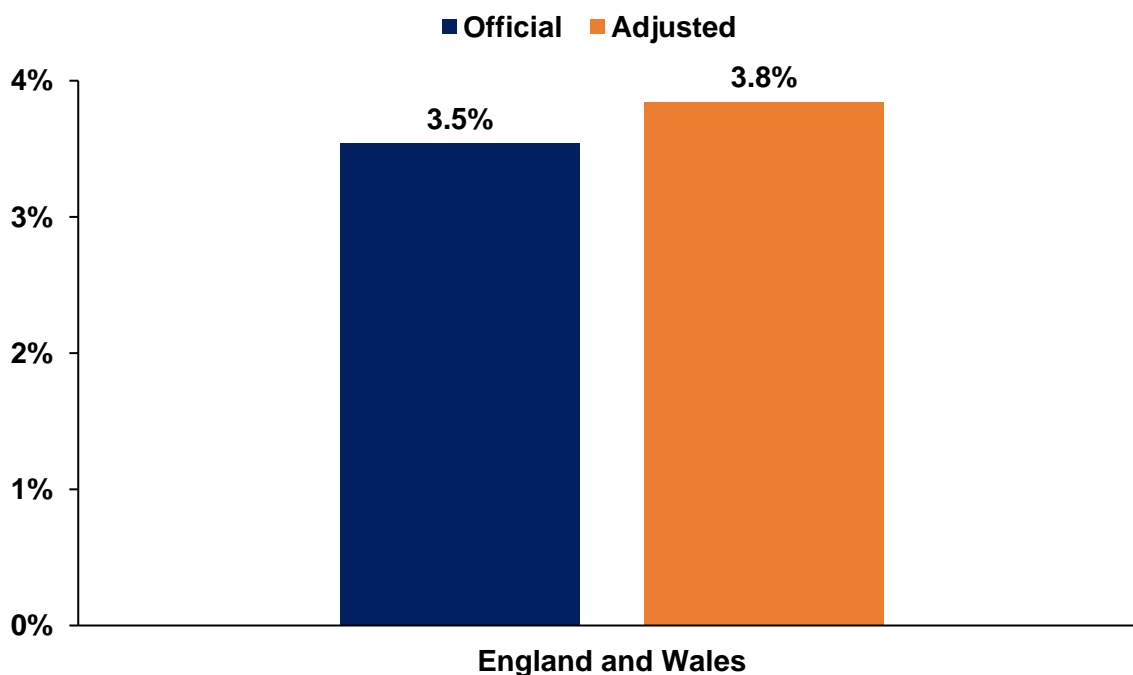


Figure 2 The inclusion of “P*-coded” pre-cancellations increases the England and Wales cancellations score by 0.3 pp

Official and adjusted cancellations score, England and Wales, rail period 11 (Table 3128)



Annex

Quality and methodology

The official cancellations score data are sourced from Network Rail's TRUST system. The additional data on the number of resource availability shortage "P*-coded" pre-cancellations have been supplied to ORR by each individual train operator. These data have been combined to calculate an 'adjusted cancellations score', i.e. the number of full pre-cancelled trains have been added to the number of 'on the day' timetabled trains planned, and the full and part pre-cancellations have been added to the 'on the day' cancellations using the existing methodology which counts full cancellations as one and part cancellations as half.

There are some **limitations** that users should be aware of:

- This data only covers pre-cancellation due to availability of train operator staff or rolling stock. Other types of pre-cancellation (for example due to severe weather or major ongoing infrastructure unavailability) are not included within this data.
- There is no automatic recording of resource availability shortage pre-cancellations at present. Therefore, data is manually recorded by train operators, without verified methodology.
- There is no historic data available on resource availability shortage pre-cancellations. Data collection by ORR begin in period 11 (8 January to 4 February 2023).
- For the adjusted cancellations score calculation only full pre-cancelled trains have been added to the number of 'on the day' timetabled trains planned as the part pre-cancelled trains are included in the timetable however it does mean that if a part pre-cancelled train is also cancelled on the day it will be counted again and therefore inflating the adjusted cancellations score slightly.
- It has not been possible to calculate an adjusted cancellations score for Great Britain and Scotland for period 11 due to Caledonian Sleeper not providing a data return.

Data tables

Table 3128 - *Pre-cancellations and adjusted cancellations score by operator* can be accessed on the [passenger rail performance page](#) of the data portal free of charge in OpenDocument Spreadsheet (.ods) format and in csv format on request.

Other periodic and quarterly passenger rail performance tables are also available on this page of the data portal. These include train cancellations data in Table 3123 (quarterly) and Table 3124 (periodic) showing the number of full and part cancellations by operator, and by cause.



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