Passenger Rail Usage
2016-17 Q2 Statistical Release

Publication date: 8 December 2016
Next Publication date: 2 March 2017

Background

This release contains statistics on passenger rail usage in Great Britain with the latest quarterly data referring to July, August and September of 2016 (2016-17 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.

Contents

Passenger journeys in Great Britain reached 425.1 million in 2016-17 Q2, an increase of 0.7% compared to 2015-16 Q2. This is the lowest growth rate since 2012-13 Q4. In the last twelve months, there have been 1.73 billion passenger journeys. Non-franchised passenger journeys reached a record 0.6 million journeys in 2016-17 Q2.

Passenger Rail Usage 2016-17 Q2

Passenger Journeys	425.1 million	↑ 0.7%
Passenger Kilometres	16.6 billion	↑ 1.7%
Passenger Revenue	£2.4 billion	↑ 1.4%
Passenger Train Kilometres	132.4 million	↓ -0.4%

Passenger kilometres totalled a record 16.6 billion, of which 16.5 billion kilometres were on franchised operators. As with passenger journeys, passenger kilometres on non-franchised operators recorded their highest total of 163.5 million kilometres in 2016-17 Q2.

Passenger revenue was £2.4 billion in 2016-17 Q2 with revenue per passenger journey on franchised operators reaching a record high of £5.52.

Passenger train kilometres across all operators totalled 132.4 million, with franchised operators decreasing by 0.4% to 131.2 million kilometres in 2016-17 Q2.

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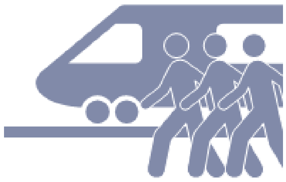
1. Passenger journeys , kilometres and revenue



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. For more information on these revisions, please see the revisions log http://orr.gov.uk/statistics/code-of-practice/revisions-log

2016-17 Quarter 2 Results

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

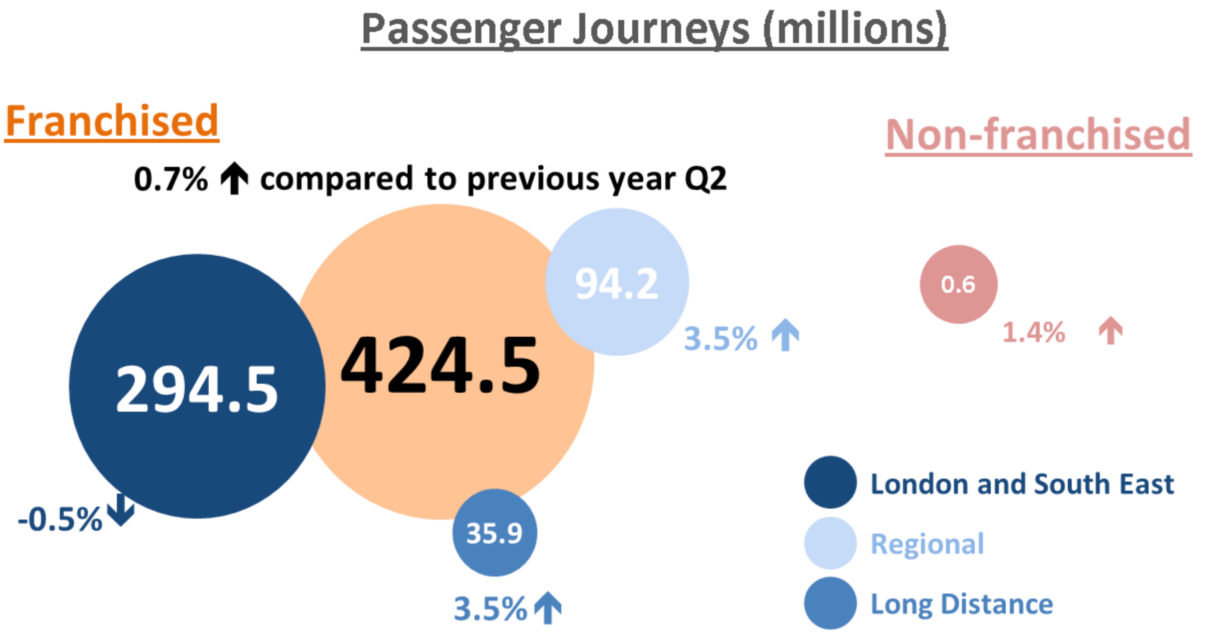
Quarterly data **by ticket type** is available from 1994-95 Q1 and annual data is available from 1986-87 onwards.

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

Passenger journeys by sector (millions), Great Britain, 2016-17 Q2 ([Table 12.6])



Total passenger journeys in 2016-17 Q2 reached 425.1 million, a 0.7% increase on the same quarter last year. 424.5 million passenger journeys were made on franchised operators this quarter. For the first time since 2012-13 Q4, passenger journeys within the London and South East sector[1] fell compared to the same quarter last year.

The franchised London and South East sector clocked up 294.5 million passenger journeys in 2016-17 Q2; down by 0.5% on 2015-16 Q2. Three of the ten London and South East operators – South West Trains, London Overground and Govia Thameslink Railway which combined account

[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]

for over 60% of all passenger journeys in this sector, recorded a drop in their passenger journeys in 2016-17 Q2 compared to Q2 last year.

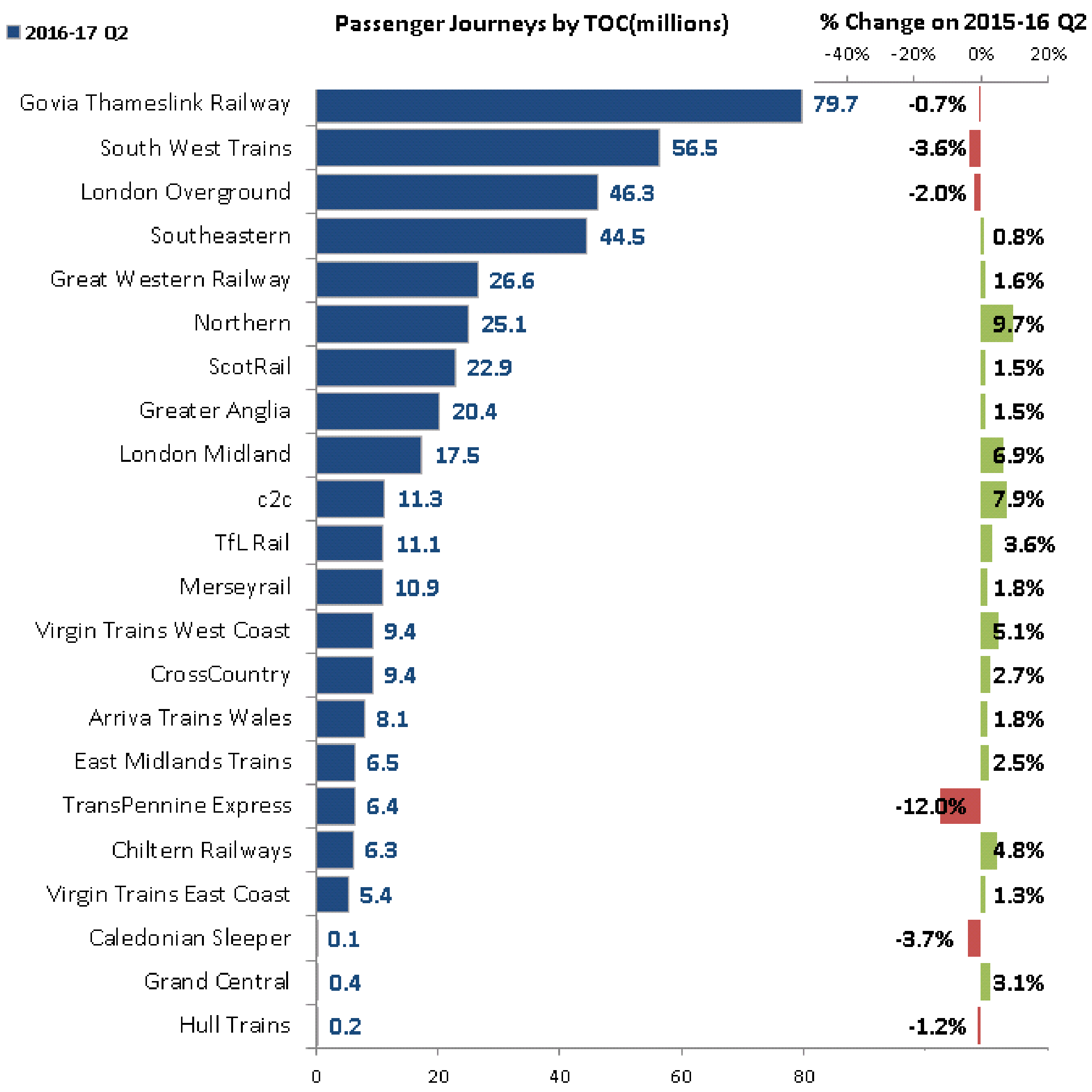
Passenger journeys in the franchised Long Distance and Regional (including Scotland) sectors both increased by 3.5% this quarter, with the journeys on the franchised Long Distance sector reaching a record high of 35.9 million. Virgin Trains West Coast recorded growth of 5.1% in this sector.

Franchised season ticket journeys (157.4 million) fell by 2.7% compared to 2015-16 Q2 and were the lowest recorded since 2013-14 Q2. 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 fall in journeys in this sector.

Passenger journeys in the Ordinary ticket category recorded their highest ever total (267.1 million), with journeys made on Advanced (17.2 million) and Off-Peak tickets (142.3 million) recording the highest since the time series began. These tickets are the key drivers of journeys in the Long Distance sector so growth in these types of tickets reflects the 3.5% growth seen in this sector.

Passenger journeys on the non-franchised operators increased by 1.4% this quarter compared to 2015-16 Q2, reaching 0.6 million. Grand Central recorded a record number of passenger journeys this quarter, with passenger journeys increasing by 3.1% to 0.4 million journeys in 2016-17 Q2.

Passenger journeys by TOC, Great Britain, 2015 -16 Q2 and 2016-17 Q2 (Table 12.12)



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 9.7% whilst journeys on TPE registered a decrease of 12.0%. This effect is replicated in passenger kilometres and passenger train kilometres.

All franchised operators with the exception of TPE, South West Trains, London Overground, Caledonian Sleeper and Govia Thameslink Railway recorded growth in their passenger journeys this quarter compared to 2015-16 Q2.

The opening of the new rail line[2] linking Oxford to London via Bicester in October 2015 and the opening of the rebuilt Birmingham New Street station and the adjoining redeveloped shopping centre may have contributed to the increases in passenger journeys for Chiltern Railways and London Midland respectively this quarter.

Despite a 0.7% drop in passenger journeys compared to the same quarter last year, Govia Thameslink Railway recorded the highest passenger journeys among all operators in 2016-17 Q2 totaling 79.7 million.

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.

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

[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

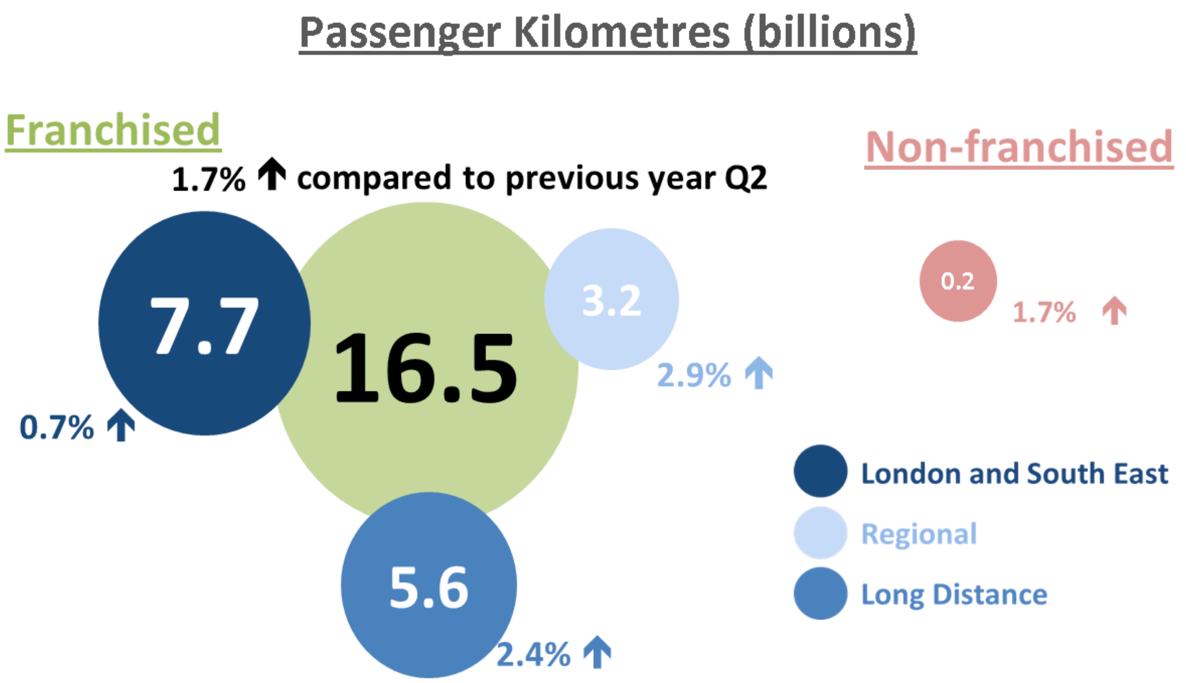
Quarterly and annual data **by sector** is now available from 1994-95 onwards.

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 Q2 (Table 12.3)



Total passenger kilometres in 2016-17 Q2 recorded 16.6 billion, of which franchised operators recorded 16.5 billion, an increase of 1.7% compared to the same quarter last year.

Passenger kilometres on franchised operators across all three sectors - London and South East (7.7 billion), Long Distance (5.6 billion) and Regional (3.2 billion) recorded a growth this quarter, with the Regional sector, which includes Scotland, achieving the highest growth of 2.9% compared to 2015-16 Q2.

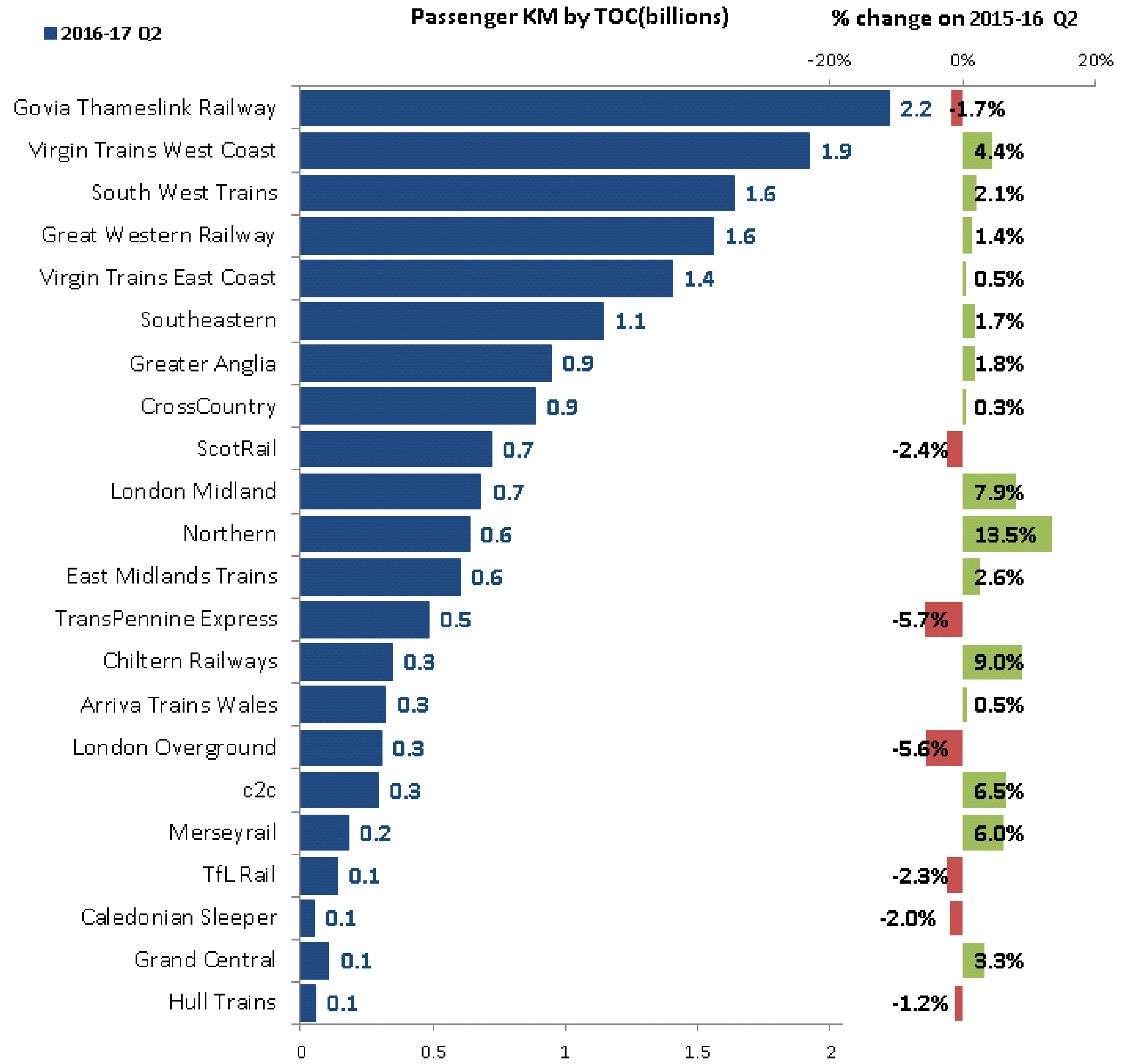
Passenger kilometres in the London and South East sector increased by 0.7% compared to Q2 last year despite a fall of 0.5% in the number of journeys. This is primarily due to South West Trains, who recorded a 3.6% fall in journeys but a 2.1% increase in passenger kilometres. This suggests that it was their shorter-distance commuter services that were affected by the fall in journeys.

Franchised passenger kilometres on all ticket types recorded growth in 2016-17 Q2 with the exception of Off-Peak and Season tickets. Off-Peak tickets have the largest market share (37% this quarter) of any ticket type but registered a decrease (0.1%) this quarter. Despite this, total franchised passenger kilometres on non-season tickets reached 12.5 billion kilometres in 2016-17 Q2, increasing by 2.8% compared to the same quarter last year. Franchised passenger kilometres on Advance tickets reached a record high of 3.4 billion kilometres growing by 7.3% this quarter compared to 2015-16 Q2.

As seen in passenger journeys, passenger kilometres by franchised operators on season tickets registered a drop of1.5% this quarter, recording 4.0 billion kilometres, the lowest since 2013-14 Q2.

Passenger kilometres by non-franchised operators accounted for 0.2 billion kilometres in 2016-17 Q2, an increase of 1.7% compared to Q2 last year; Grand Central increasing by 3.3% whilst Hull Trains fell by 1.2%.

Passenger kilometres by TOC, Great Britain, 2015 -16 Q2 and 2016-17 Q2 (Table 12.11)



The highest quarter on quarter increase in passenger kilometres was recorded by Northern (13.5%) mainly due to the transfer of some TPE services to Northern. Consequently TPE recorded the largest decrease (5.7%) in its passenger kilometres, followed by London Overground and ScotRail. The drop in passenger kilometres for London Overground may possibly be due to the Overground upgrade [6] work between Gospel Oak and Barking since June 2016.

Chiltern Railways, with an increase of 9.0%, recorded the second highest growth rate in its passenger kilometres with London Midland also seeing strong growth of 7.9%. Growth rates for these operators reflect the increase in their passenger journeys.

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

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 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.

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

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

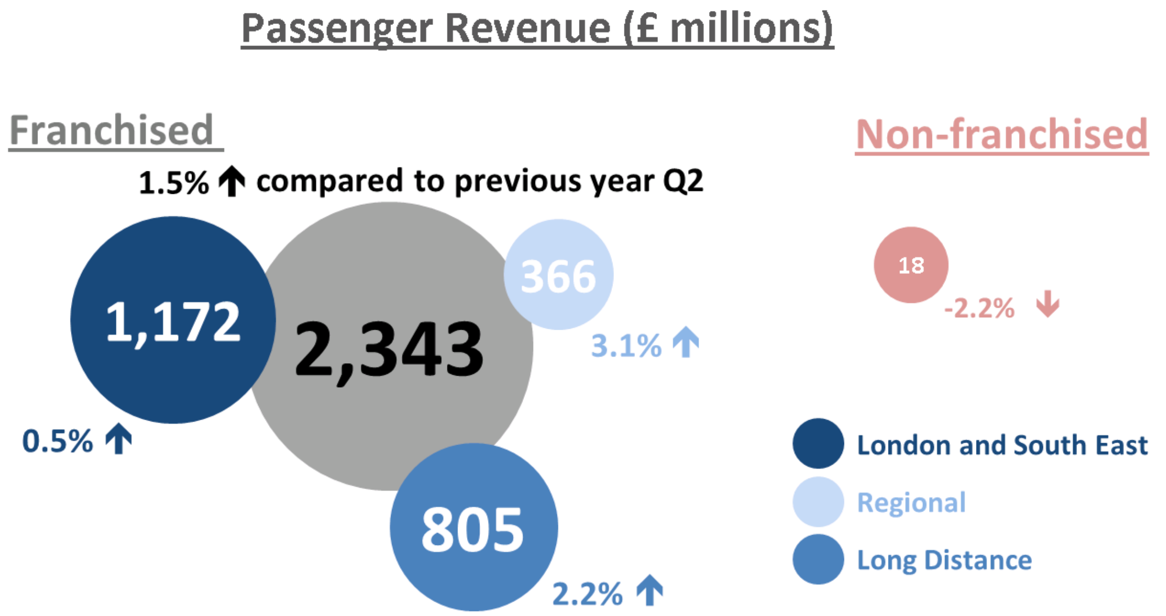
[9] The 2015 data for Germany is not yet available in Eurostat. Based on previous years Germany typically reports approximately 50% more passenger kilometres than the UK

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, Great Britain, 2016-17 Q2 (Table 12.8)



In 2016-17 Q2, passenger revenue across all operators totalled £2.4 billion, a 1.4% increase on 2015-16 Q2. Revenue from franchised operators (£2.343 billion) went up by 1.5% but was the lowest growth rate since 2009-10 Q2.

Revenue from franchised operators within the London and South East sector reached £1.2 billion in 2016-17 Q2, increasing by 0.5% when compared to the same quarter last year; the lowest level of revenue growth since 2009-10 Q2. This growth slowdown is likely to be as a direct result of the decrease in their passenger journeys this quarter, thereby resulting in lower revenue. The London and South East sector accounted for 50.0% of the total franchised passenger revenue this quarter.

Passenger revenue for franchised Regional services registered the highest growth in revenue (3.1%) among the three sectors in 2016-17 Q2 reaching £366 million. Franchised Long Distance operators generated £805 million, a 2.2% increase on the same quarter last year.

Revenue from franchised non-season tickets accounted for the highest share of ticket revenue (78.5%) in 2016-17 Q2, generating £1.84 billion; a 2.3% increase compared to 2015-16 Q2. Revenue from Advance fares (£361 million) saw the highest quarter on quarter increase of all the non-season ticket types with 7.7%.

Revenue from Season tickets saw a 1.5% decrease on the same quarter last year, generating £503 million, the lowest revenue since 2014-15 Q1. Revenue from season tickets has now fallen for three quarters in succession compared to the previous year.

Revenue generated by non-franchised operators decreased by 2.2% this quarter compared to 2015-16 Q2, recording total revenue of £18.3 million. This fall comes despite an increase in both passenger journeys and passenger kilometres in the non-franchised sector.

In 2016-17 Q2, for every passenger journey made on franchised operators the revenue generated was £5.52, the highest since the beginning of the time series, with 14.22 pence generated for every passenger kilometre made on franchised operators in Great Britain, the lowest since 2014-15 Q3.

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

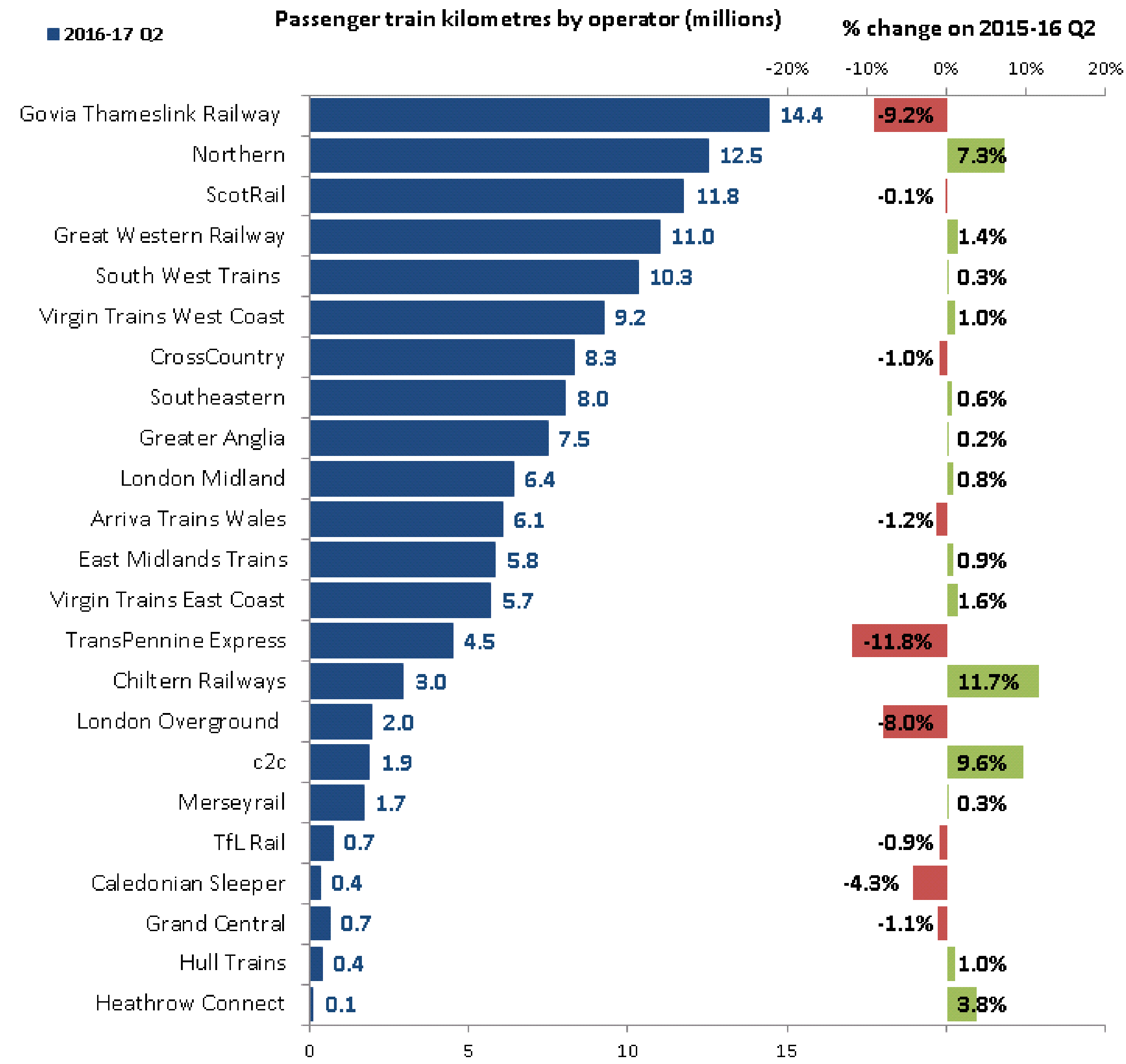
Passenger train kilometres in Great Britain have increased every year since the time series began in 2010-11 totaling 521.8 million in 2015-16, an increase of 5.1% since 2010-11.

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 2 Results

Passenger train kilometres by operator, Great Britain, 2015 -16 Q2 and 2016-17 Q2 ([Table 12.13](#))



The total number of passenger train kilometres across all franchised operators in 2016-17 Q2 decreased by 0.4% compared to 2015-16 Q2, recording a total of 131.2 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 7.3% adding a further 0.8 million kilometres compared to the same quarter last year with TPE reducing by 11.8% over that period.

The opening of the new rail line[10] linking Oxford to London via Bicester in October 2015 is likely to have contributed to the growth in passenger train kilometres for Chiltern in 2016-17 Q2.

Govia Thameslink Railway continues to be the operator with the highest passenger train kilometres in 2016-17 Q2, recording 14.4 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 9.2% compared to the same quarter in 2015-16.

London Overground recorded a decrease of 8.0% in their passenger train kilometres in 2016-17 Q2; possibly due to the Overground upgrade [11] work between Gospel Oak and Barking.

Passenger train kilometres for non-franchised operators increased by 0.1% compared to 2015-16 Q2, recording a total of 1.2 million kilometres .Grand Central, being the main contributor to the train kilometres of the non-franchised operators, recorded a drop of 1.1% in total train kilometres this quarter compared to 2015-16 Q2. This was however offset by increases in the passenger train kilometres for Hull Trains and Heathrow Connect.

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

[11] 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 been 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

This publication is available at orr.gov.uk

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