

Some passengers to face higher than 'average' fare rises

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Passenger Focus has warned some passengers will face higher than expected fare rises when they go to buy their ticket in the New Year.

Great Britain's passengers are expecting government-regulated fares – about half of the fares sold including season tickets, some Off-peak tickets and commuter fares – to increase by 5.8%. However, in 2011 train companies have been given the flexibility to pick and mix which fares will go up, which will stay the same and what fares will decrease. The only rule is that the average increase for the company can be no more than RPI+1% (RPI+3% on Southeastern and in the West Yorkshire Public Transport Executive area).

The independent passenger watchdog's research shows that passengers already pay some of the most expensive rail fares in Europe.

Anthony Smith, Passenger Focus chief executive, said: "*Many passengers returning to work in the New Year will be baffled about why they are paying much higher figures than the 'averages' published by the train companies. For many passengers, this flexibility won't appear fair.*

"With the train companies again free to raise fares on individual routes, some passengers will be facing rises way above inflation and, in some cases it will be back to the bad old days of double-digit fare increases."

Passenger Focus looked at a selection of fares and found that commuters travelling from Canterbury to London will pay 12.7% more for their annual season tickets with prices rising by £488 since January 2010. In the Midlands, passengers travelling between Gloucester and Birmingham will pay £268 more for their annual season tickets, up 8.8%.

"Unregulated fares will also go up by nearly 7% on average, but this will mask some massive,

double-digit rises.”

Passenger Focus's checks of a selection of unregulated fares showed increases of 12% on the Chelmsford to London route with an Off-Peak Day Return going up from £13 to £14.60.

Passengers wanting to travel on an Anytime Return between London and Norwich will pay 14% more with tickets going up from £82 to £93.10.

Ends

Notes to the Editor

1. The fares in the table are provided as examples only. They are not statistically representative and must not be used to draw any overall conclusions about other fares on the train company's route – some fares will be rising, some stay the same, some may decrease.
2. All fares are taken from the National Fare Manuals for January 2010 and January 2011
3. The table compares fares at January 2010 with fares valid from January 2011 to show the annual change. Please note that fares could also have increased in May 2010 and September 2010 so it may not show the increase from the current fare.
4. Regulated fares are linked to inflation (RPI+1%) and in January 2011 can increase by an average of 5.8% (apart from Southeastern and in the West Yorkshire Public Transport Executive area where it is RPI+3%). However, train companies this year are able to increase their 'fare basket' by up to 5% as long as the average for the company doesn't exceed the regulation formula. This flexibility was removed for 2010, but has been returned this year.
5. For season tickets:
 - Fare increases for Southeastern reflect current regulation which allows fares to increase by RPI+3% rather than the RPI+1% applicable to other train companies
6. For non-season tickets:
 - Where a choice of fares for is available for a train company the one chosen allows travel by 'any permitted' route (i.e. the fewest restrictions).
 - Period return fares (i.e. allowing travel on one day and a return on a different day) have been selected - except where marked * which indicates a Day Return fare (i.e. out and back the same day)
7. Media enquiries should be addressed to:
Krista Hamblin
Senior press officer
0300 123 0821/07918 626 045
krista.hamblin@passengerfocus.org.uk

Annual Season tickets. Route selected is 'Any Permitted' option

Train operator	Journey	Jan 2010 annual £	Jan 2011 annual £	Change £	Change %
Southeastern	Gillingham-London	£3,068.00	£3,324.00	£256.00	8.3%
	Canterbury Stns-London	£3,840.00	£4,328.00	£488.00	12.7%
	Tonbridge-London	£3,048.00	£3,408.00	£360.00	11.8%
South West Trains	Guildford-London	£2,728.00	£2,916.00	£188.00	6.9%
	Portsmouth Stns-London	£3,940.00	£4,224.00	£284.00	7.2%
	Bournemouth-London	£5,080.00	£5,424.00	£344.00	6.8%
C2C	Southend Victoria-London	£3,692.00	£3,908.00	£216.00	5.9%
First Great Western	Swindon-Chippenham	£1,264.00	£1,336.00	£72.00	5.7%
	Didcot Parkway-Oxford	£936.00	£992.00	£56.00	6.0%
	Newbury-Reading	£1,340.00	£1,416.00	£76.00	5.7%
	Maidenhead-London	£2,360.00	£2,496.00	£136.00	5.8%
	Gunnislake-Plymouth	£816.00	£864.00	£48.00	5.9%
	Reading-London	£3,388.00	£3,584.00	£196.00	5.8%
	Oxford-London	£3,880.00	£4,104.00	£224.00	5.8%
Southern	Rye-Ashford International	£924.00	£996.00	£72.00	7.8%
	Hove-London	£3,556.00	£3,832.00	£276.00	7.8%
	Arundel-Croydon	£2,296.00	£2,472.00	£176.00	7.7%
	Eastbourne-London	£3,656.00	£3,940.00	£284.00	7.8%
Chiltern	Aylesbury-London	£3,184.00	£3,340.00	£156.00	4.9%
National Express East Anglia	Colchester-London	£3,940.00	£4,140.00	£200.00	5.1%
	Shenfield-London	£2,468.00	£2,580.00	£112.00	4.5%
First Capital Connect	Huntingdon-London	£4,004.00	£4,260.00	£256.00	6.4%
	Stevenage-London	£2,828.00	£3,020.00	£192.00	6.8%
	Hertford-London	£2,188.00	£2,320.00	£132.00	6.0%
	Cambridge-London	£3,764.00	£4,000.00	£236.00	6.3%
London Midland	Worcester stns-Kidderminster	£748.00	£792.00	£44.00	5.9%
	Northampton-London	£4,128.00	£4,448.00	£320.00	7.8%
CrossCountry	Gloucester-Birmingham stns	£3,032.00	£3,300.00	£268.00	8.8%
	Burton-on-Trent - Derby	£1,060.00	£1,152.00	£92.00	8.7%
Northern	Morpeth-Newcastle	£916.00	£968.00	£52.00	5.7%
East Coast	Durham-Newcastle	£984.00	£1,040.00	£56.00	5.7%
	Newark-Doncaster	£2,296.00	£2,428.00	£132.00	5.7%
	Peterborough London	£5,892.00	£6,232.00	£340.00	5.8%
TransPennine Express	Middlesbrough-York	£3,944.00	£4,172.00	£228.00	5.8%
East Midlands Trains	Loughborough-Leicester	£852.00	£908.00	£56.00	6.6%
Virgin Trains	Oxenholme-Preston	£2,316.00	£2,452.00	£136.00	5.9%
First ScotRail	North Berwick-Edinburgh	£1,376.00	£1,456.00	£80.00	5.8%
	Stirling-Glasgow	£1,644.00	£1,740.00	£96.00	5.8%
	Cowdenbeath-Edinburgh	£1,556.00	£1,648.00	£92.00	5.9%
Arriva Trains Wales	Caerphilly-Cardiff Queen St	£752.00	£800.00	£48.00	6.4%
	Llanelli-Swansea	£504.00	£536.00	£32.00	6.3%
	Pontypridd-Cardiff Queen St	£752.00	£800.00	£48.00	6.4%

Non-Season tickets - examples of increases and changes to restrictions

Flow	Train operating company	Jan 2010 Off peak return	Jan 2011 Off peak return	2011 £ change	2011 % change	2011 Changes to restrictions
Bristol-Edinburgh	CrossCountry	£131.80	£143.50	£11.70	9%	
Birmingham - Edinburgh	CrossCountry	£101.80	£110.80	£9.00	9%	
London - Cardiff	FGW	£74.00	£77.00	£3.00	4%	
London - Bristol	FGW	£59.00	£59.00	£0.00	0%	
London - Gloucester	FGW	£66.00	£66.00	£0.00	0%	
London - Slough *	FGW	£7.50	£8.00	£0.50	7%	
London - Exeter	FGW	£78.00	£83.00	£5.00	6%	
London - Plymouth	FGW	£86.00	£94.00	£8.00	9%	
London - Glasgow	VT	£108.40	£114.70	£6.30	6%	
London - Manchester	VT	£66.20	£70.00	£3.80	6%	
Kings Lynn-London *	FCC	£29.00	£30.50	£1.50	5%	
St Neots -London *	FCC	£20.00	£21.00	£1.00	5%	
London - Weymouth *	SWT	£50.10	£53.60	£3.50	7%	
Woking-London *	SWT	£13.60	£14.60	£1.00	7%	
Farnborough-London *	SWT	£17.90	£19.20	£1.30	7%	
Gillingham (Kent) - London *	Southeastern High Speed	£17.90	£19.40	£1.50	8%	
Gillingham (Kent) - London *	Southeastern	£15.00	£16.20	£1.20	8%	
London - Canterbury *	Southeastern High Speed	£27.90	£30.20	£2.30	8%	
London - Canterbury *	Southeastern	£23.50	£25.40	£1.90	8%	
London - Norwich	NXEA	£41.40	£45.00	£3.60	9%	
Chelmsford-London *	NXEA	£13.00	£14.60	£1.60	12%	
Leeds - Newcastle	TPE	£48.50	£51.20	£2.70	6%	
London - Nottingham	EMT	£71.00	£77.50	£6.50	9%	
London - Kettering	EMT	£53.00	£58.00	£5.00	9%	
London - Derby	EMT	£74.00	£81.00	£7.00	9%	

Jan 2010 Anytime return	Jan 2011 Anytime return	2011 £ change	2011 % change
£264.00	£289.00	£25.00	9%
£195.00	£214.00	£19.00	10%
£183.00	£189.00	£6.00	3%
£159.00	£169.00	£10.00	6%
£169.00	£169.00	£0.00	0%
£10.90	£11.90	£1.00	9%
£199.00	£209.00	£10.00	5%
£229.00	£239.00	£10.00	4%
£287.00	£306.00	£19.00	7%
£262.00	£279.00	£17.00	6%
£44.50	£47.00	£2.50	6%
£32.00	£33.50	£1.50	5%
£55.10	£58.00	£2.90	5%
£16.40	£17.60	£1.20	7%
£24.40	£26.10	£1.70	7%
£32.00	£34.80	£2.80	9%
£26.60	£28.70	£2.10	8%
£31.50	£32.90	£1.40	4%
£25.60	£27.60	£2.00	8%
£82.00	£93.10	£11.10	14%
£22.00	£23.30	£1.30	6%
£61.00	£65.80	£4.80	8%
£132.00	£139.50	£7.50	6%
£79.50	£87.00	£7.50	9%
£146.50	£160.00	£13.50	9%