

[Click here to print](#)

Thousands of rail passengers to be hit by 10 PER CENT increase on season tickets

By [Paul Milligan](#)

PUBLISHED: 10:45, 11 August 2012 | **UPDATED:** 22:51, 11 August 2012

Rail passengers are set to be hit by inflation-busting increases of 10 per cent on annual season tickets.

July's Retail Price Index (RPI) will be announced on Tuesday and will form the basis of next year's fares. Estimates are it will be around 2.7 per cent.

This will produce average fare increases of 5.7 per cent, under the Government's rules which allow train companies to raise prices three per cent above RPI.



Rail passengers could be hit with another big increase on fares, this time as much as 10 per cent

Train companies can push some fares higher than that figure, up 10 per cent for example, by exploiting a loophole which means it is acceptable as long as they reduce the level of increases on other routes.

What the train companies have done in the past is to raise prices on routes where commuters have no alternative train services, and put smaller increases on routes where other train companies run competing timetables.

A 10 per cent rise would see commuters hit hard in major cities across the UK. For example someone commuting from Brighton to London on the train would see an increase of more than £400 a year, from £4,020 now to £4,422.

An annual season ticket from Edinburgh to Glasgow would cost an extra £338, up from £3,380 to £3,718.

A season ticket holder from Reading to London would now pay £4,180 instead of £4,009 at the moment.

Such a steep rise in fares, at a time when household budgets are so tight has inevitably caused great anger.

Manuel Cortes, leader of the TSSA rail union, said that Transport Secretary Justine Greening 'seems determined to turn her predecessor Philip Hammond's flippant remark about rail now being a rich man's toy into firm reality'.

He said: 'Passengers already pay 60 per cent of all rail funding through the fares box and now they are being forced to pay even more. Motorists don't fund new roads and air passengers don't fund new airports. Why are rail passengers being singled out?'



© Jeremy Selwyn

Transport Secretary Justine Greening is trying to get the Treasury to cap the rises to the Retail Price Index plus one per cent, but her plan seems likely to fail

Anthony Smith, of the Passenger Focus consumer watchdog said: 'With the economy flat-lining and passengers' belts being further tightened, we would urge the Government to accept that these are exceptional times and repeat last year's capping of fares at RPI plus one per cent.

'We also want them to reduce the flexibility train companies have to increase certain routes by more than the overall average.'

Miss Greening is trying to persuade the Treasury to limit the 2013 rise to RPI plus one per cent, as she did last year. But it is believed a similar move by the rail industry is unlikely this time.

Greening has defended the rises saying: 'To make life better for passengers, the Coalition Government is delivering a massive programme of rail improvements.'

She has just announced a £9 billion investment plan in the rail network, which is to be part-funded by ticket increases.

The Government wants passengers to pay 75 per cent of the investment costs by 2014 compared to 50 per cent two years ago.

The Department of Transport responded to the story by saying the formula for fares was set out last year. It said: 'It is a rise of RPI plus one per cent this year and RPI plus three per cent in 2013 and 2014 before returning to RPI plus one cent.'

WHAT A 10 PER CENT SEASON TICKET INCREASE WOULD MEAN TO YOUR WALLET

Route: Brighton to London

Current price: £4,020. 10% rise: £4,422 up £402

Edinburgh to Glasgow

Perhaps this is to fund the HS2 - which nobody wants, and nobody will be able to afford....? Just a thought

- funnybean, beantown uk, 12/8/2012 14:00

Click to rate .. Rating 3

[Report abuse](#)

Train companies HAVE NOT invested anything in rolling stock or track, that's the government. Train operators lease both they DON'T own them. Ticket price increases WON'T mean more is invested because the revenue goes to the train operating company and just boosts thier profit they keep 25% of thier total revenue as PROFIT. So why are taxpayers subsidising train operating companies at the same time as they are putting up fares additional revenue which won't be spent on improving the service

- Just one little cog, Who knows anymore, 12/8/2012 12:54

Click to rate .. Rating 7

[Report abuse](#)

Just another hidden tax. Just before the next election there will be a token tax cut, some fools will be excited by that, not realising they are getting a tiny slice of what was taken from them back. Until the next budget.

- Keithy, London UK, 12/8/2012 12:27

Click to rate .. Rating 9

[Report abuse](#)

In light of the economic situation at the present moment, wouldn't a reduction in fares be more appropriate. This brainless government continue to throw our money to the EU and couldn't care less for the tax paying workers, fare increases are never ending and bosses bonuses are forever increasing for failing to deliver a service that is nowhere near 100%. One wonders how much of the vast profit the rail companies are making is actually ploughed back into maintaining and/ or upgrading the system, probably very little after they have taken their bonuses from the profits. The economy in this country will never recover at this rate but the greedy lot with their snouts in the trough don't give a damn as long as they are getting the oversized salaries and lucrative bonuses and couldn't care less who suffers for it.

- DW, Wigan, 12/8/2012 12:22

Click to rate .. Rating 7

[Report abuse](#)

umm... "per cent" is one word. PERCENT

- werdna, Italy, 12/8/2012 12:10

Click to rate .. Rating 1

[Report abuse](#)

Motorists don't fund new roads and air passengers don't fund new airports. Why are rail passengers being singled out? What a stupid thing to say if every penny the motorist pays in V.E.D was spent on the roads we would have the best roads in the world, instead the money motorists pay goes into the big communal pot which pays for everything including rail subsidies. Yes our rail fares are ridiculously high because like bus companies they only ever think of raising their fares, instead they should be looking at lower fares and greater numbers, having said that i have little sympathy for a group of people who want to earn high salaries yet live outside London because A its cheaper and B a nicer environment a sort of have your cake and eat it scenario.

- mikeman, South Coast, 12/8/2012 10:53

Click to rate .. Rating 4

[Report abuse](#)

it is cheaper to live in Spain and fly to London than living in Brighton and using the train I wish all commuters would rebel and refuse to pay the charges they will soon drop the price...need to take a stand NOW

- phil p, slough berkshire, 12/8/2012 10:29

Click to rate -- Rating 18

[Report abuse](#)

The Muppets (Mr Cameron & Co) are putting up Rail Fares again & you wonder why there is such high unemployment in the UK. (people can not afford to get to work now). Unless you are a Real Conservative (Wealthy).

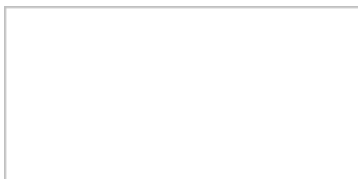
- Ingo, E.London, 12/8/2012 10:26

Click to rate -- Rating 17

[Report abuse](#)

The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

- [FTSE 100](#)
- [DOW](#)
- [OIL](#)
- [GOLD](#)



Latest reports from News

- [A-Z of the Sunday newspapers](#)
- [End of free Barclays banking? New chairman says he agrees with fee based accounts 'in principle'](#)
- ['Why I quit uni after TWO WEEKS to sell Marmite to expats'](#)
- [DAN ATKINSON: Bank of England's amnesia could stir inflation](#)
- [INTERVIEW: Team GB's Olympic glory? It was the Lottery that won it](#)
- [Lost generation: Figures to highlight jobs crisis among youngsters](#)
- [Doom or hope? Experts give their verdicts after five years of the economic crisis](#)
- [BT's Olympic live events in Hyde Park draw 1.2m people](#)
- [Team retail recovers to score on the High St as tourists start to snap up souvenirs](#)
- [SIMON WATKINS: Standard Chartered a terrorist bank? That's just US grandstanding](#)
- [Top restaurants hit by online food poisoning lies](#)
- [Investigation: Debt adviser who had firms closed by the High Court is back with new venture](#)
- [Standard Chartered wants peace over Iran clash despite claims it was considering suing New York watchdog](#)
- [Football hero Pele signs up for signature deal with Sportsrabia](#)

[MORE HEADLINES](#)

CHEAP INSURANCE



- **[Life insurance](#)**

[Cover from as little as £5 a month](#)



- **[Landlord insurance](#)**

[Compare, choose, apply](#)

LATEST ON HOUSEHOLD Bills

- [Household energy bills 'set to rise in the winter' despite falling wholesale costs](#)
- [Bupa boss warns private medical insurance is becoming too expensive unless you have a work scheme](#)
- ['We're customers of 40 years, but now BT will charge us for paying our bill': The fees trap for cash or cheques that can hit £240](#)
- [The end for the middleman? Buying insurance through a broker can push up your premiums by £500 a year](#)
- [The price of convenience: Online shoppers splash out £136 a year on delivery charges](#)
- [How to get a clearer view of optician 'special offers' on sunglasses and eye tests](#)
- [Shoppers warned on duty-free 'bargains' as sunglasses and champagne are priced higher than online deals](#)
- [Cap water prices and charge more to use a hosepipe: Former regulator says water reform must focus on price](#)
- [Watchdog Ofgem blamed for failing to introduce code of practice for energy suppliers](#)
- [Solar panel gold rush firm is shut down for mis-selling and false discounts](#)
- [Gardens, garages and sheds targeted as thefts increase 10%](#)
- [The hidden drain your mobile data: Apps that eat up your allowance and waste £173million annually](#)

[MORE HEADLINES](#)

FREE FINANCE GUIDES

HARGREYS
& LANSDOWN

Top 10 Tips to
improving your
pension



Top 10 Pension Tips

Improve your pension in 10
easy steps

Request Free Guide



Gulf Keystone Report

Should You Buy Gulf
Keystone?

Download FREE Report

Deal finders

- [Annuities](#)
- [Broadband](#)
- [Company reports](#)
- [Credit cards](#)
- [Currency Card](#)
- [Equity release](#)
- [ERFF guides](#)
- [Fund supermarket](#)
- [IFAs](#)

- [Insurance](#)
- [Legal services](#)
- [Loans](#)
- [Mortgages](#)
- [Savings](#)
- [Share dealing](#)
- [Business franchise](#)
- [Utilities](#)
- [Warranties](#)

GET MORE FROM THIS IS MONEY

[GO](#) Sign up for our newsletter, newsflashes and latest deals

Find us on:



•

[Facebook](#)



•

[Twitter](#)



•

[You Tube](#)



•

[RSS Feeds](#)



•

[Apps](#)

Ads by Google:

[9 Best Stocks to Own Now](#) Here's a list of recommendations that several top analysts agree on [www.DailyTradeAlert.com](#)

[Give Me My Money](#) Mis-sold PPI & want to claim back? Get a decision online in seconds! [givememymoney.co.uk](#)

[Paid Online Surveys](#) Register now for free & start to earn today. It's Quick & Easy! [www.surveycompare.net](#)

[£100 - £1000 Payday Loans](#) Get Cash in 15 minutes, Instant Approval, Accept All Credit Ratings [quiddi.com](#)

[Top 20 Savings Accounts](#) Compare Over 1,500 Savings Accounts Use Our Savings Calculator

Now [moneysupermarket.com/savings](#)

Find this story at www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2186914/Thousands-rail-passengers-hit-10-PER-CENT-increase-season-tickets.html
