



# Train travel boom leads to 10,000 new jobs on railways over 15 years

28 Sep 2013 00:00

Rail services are carrying 73% more passengers, with a resultant increase in the number of people employed by train companies

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Boom time: A Virgin train at London Euston

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A boom in rail travel has created more than 10,000 extra jobs, new figures will reveal today.

Last year Britain's train operators employed 50,100 people - a 25% increase on the 39,700 staff working for them 15 years ago.

The Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) attributes the jobs increase to running 20% more services a day and carrying 73% more passengers, who are now making 376m journeys a year.

And it says staff productivity - measured by comparing the number of train company employees to the number of passengers - has increased by 37%, while passenger satisfaction has gone up.

Train operators have been recruiting more people into roles dealing with passengers, such as train crew and station attendants, as well as drivers and conductors.

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The jobs boom includes:

ScotRail - since taking over its franchise in 2004, First ScotRail has increased the number of people it employs from 3,461 to 4,700, an increase of more than 35%.

Chiltern - since 1997, Chiltern Railways has more than trebled the number of train guards it employs - 18 in 1997 compared to 62 in 2013.

Arriva Trains Wales - has increased its staff from around 1,800 in 2003 to 2,100 today - a 17% increase. The number of services it runs has increased by 20%.

Michael Roberts, Chief Executive of ATOC, said: "By encouraging more people to travel on the railway, train companies are oiling the wheels of the British economy.

"Not only are operators growing the market for train travel, they are also increasing their workforce, supporting 10,000 additional jobs.

"The extra staff taken on by train companies has been far outstripped by the increase in passengers and satisfaction with services is at a near record high.

"This highlights the focus operators have on providing passengers with better services."

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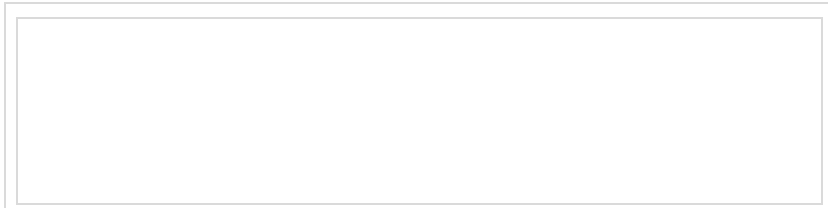
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