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Richard Branson's Virgin Trains tops fares league with 210% increase in prices



with prices hikes of 210 per cent

DICK MURRAY MATTHEW BEARD, TRANSPORT **EDITOR**

Published: 01 October 2013 Updated: 13:08, 01 October

Rail companies were today branded "great train robbers" as new figures revealed some fares have more than tripled since privatisation.

Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Trains and First Great Western topped the list with prices hikes of 210 per cent, according research by the transport union TSSA

East Coast Main Line is third with 200 per cent rises followed by East Midlands Trains (155 per cent) and Greater Anglia 150 per

Separately the RMT union published figures today showing Tube fares have risen six times faster than wages since Boris Johnson become mayor in 2008.

The figures come after a group of MPs last month launched a campaign for restraint "the most expensive fares in the world".

Manuel Cortes, the TSSA leader, said: "The irony in all of this is that the Great Train Robbers who stole £3 million went to jail for 30 years. Those in charges of the train companies have rippedoff passengers for billions of pounds and have been rewarded with knighthoods. A standard single fare from Manchester to London has jumped 240 per cent since 1993, up from £45 to

"It is cheaper to fly from Paris to Manchester then get a train to London. That is the economics of the madhouse.



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Ravel Morrison and Wilfried Zaha in England U21 bustuр

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Last week the union won a vote at the Labour Conference calling on a future Labour government to take the private rail companies back under public control as the franchises expire.

Remaining companies in the high fares league are; 6; Gatwick Express, 125 per cent: 7; Southeastern 100 per cent: 8; South West Trains 90 per cent: 9; Southern 85 per cent and 10, Thameslink 75 per cent.

Tube fares have risen six times faster than wages since Mayor Boris Johnson was elected in May 2008, the RMT union said

The union published its survey to coincide with the Mayor's speech to the Tory conference.

It stated an Oyster peak single fare in Zones 1-4 rose from £4 to £5.50p - a total rise over the period of 37.5 per cent, almost five times as much as wage rises and over twice as much as inflation.

Monthly Travelcard Zones 1-4 rose from £132.90 to £167.50p, a rise of 26 per cent, said the union.

Bob Crow, the RMT leader, said: "Leave aside the conference grand-standing, the stone cold fact is that on Boris Johnson's watch hard-pressed travellers have been forced to endure inflation busting fare increases.

A spokesman for the Association of Train Operating Companies (Atoc) said: "The TSSA is trying to take people for a ride.

"If its figures bore any resemblance to what most people actually pay, train companies would not be carrying double the number of passengers that they were 15 years ago.

"By offering a range of tickets to suit all pockets, operators have helped attract record numbers of passengers to the railway, generating growth which significantly outstrips other publicly-run railways in Europe.



38



30





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Anonymous 14 days ago

Less hot-air from Boris with easy action to transform halfcapacity Jonners buses into all-electric trolley-buses.

Reply



bubblewrap 14 days ago

We are going backover, Its cheaper to go by hot air balloon than travel on a Virgin train, And the toilet facilities are better.....

Reply 0



Anonymous 14 days ago

In fact the DFT receives more money from Train Operating Companies than it pays out to them thus raising a form of Fares Tax" according to Rail Magazine!

With most London train companies paying to DFT while payouts are to Northern companies

So a fares freeze should accompany a fuel duty freeze to ensure rail users are not subsidising Petrolheads!

Reply

Marly 15 days ago

Tell us something we don't know.

The entire public transport system should be there to support the public and get them to where they need to be (that usually means to work), not to make profits and create bonuses for massively overpaid board members. The system we have penalises people for going to work.

Reply

Dave 15 days ago

Railways aren't there to make profit....All of Europe realizes that they loose money however the country makes a gain as a whole by getting people about quicker, saving road journeys etc.... etc.....Get on a German, Dutch , French etc trainCosts less and is a much better serviceSome things can't be privatized the railways is one of them

[Reply] 3 replies

Hilton Holloway 15 days ago

It's not privatised. The infrastructure is owned by Network Rail and rthe fares are subsidised by the tax payer. That doesn't sound like a private system to

Reply

+2

Anonymous 15 days ago

Every train operating company is a private company, run for profit. They are given taxpayer-funded subsidies by the government and are allowed to set their own fares within certain limits. The government gets nothing in return. Therefore, the railways are a private system. Understand



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Anonymous 14 days ago

Network Rail is a not for profit company but is not state owned!

In fact Government is considering putting Highways Agency on same basis!

+1



Anonymous 15 days ago

I'm beginning to think it was a good job Branson didn't get the lottery, railways are heavilly subsidised by the taxpayer, yet Cameron wants to build a new line, the man is brain dead, the new line is not needed, big improvement to the network are needed, and would do much more than HS2 ever can.

Reply 1 reply



Anonymous 14 days ago

Well this Saturday lottery goes up in price to £2 per ticket for Lotto!

Reply 0



Hilton Holloway 15 days ago

Any idea how it costs to run the rail network? See this...

"The subsidised company, which is responsible for tracks and signalling, announced last month that its debt had soared past £30bn.

It has set out plans to spend £23.3bn running the railway network from 2014 to 2019 but the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has calculated the day-to-day costs at the lower figure of £21.4bn.

That's £4bn per year just to the keep the track and infrastructure running. And rail tickets are on average 1/3 subsidised.

Rail is a very expensive system.

Reply 3 replies -1



Anonymous 15 days ago

Network Rail is not a company, it is a corporation with no shareholders. It is not "owned" by anyone, in the same way as the BBC is not "owned" by anyone. Rail tickets should be subsidised to the point where it is affordable to everyone and not just people on business trips paid for by their companies.

Reply

1 reply



Anonymous 14 days ago

Fact is its Cameron who has pushed up rail fares with share of rail costs going from 50:50 to 75:25!

In fact DFT now receives more from rail companies than it pays out a form of Rail Tax as Rail Magazine refers to it!

While Osbourne admitted freeze on fuel duty has cost £21 Billion that's enough to build Stage 1 of HS2!



Anonymous 14 days ago

Road is even more expensive given how it expects taxpayers who don't drive to subsidize roads!

Time Highways Agency was put on same basis as Network Rail and made to cover same percentage of costs from users via tolls!

Fact is many Train companies now pay more to DFT than they receive leading to a form of Rail Tax as Rail Magazine calls it!

Reply



Beth Williams 15 days ago

Branson has never been slow to maximise profit at the expense of the consumer. It is just a pity that with all the money he is making from train passengers the toilets are not kept in good order. When I had the misfortune to travel on Virgin Trains from Euston to Manchester in August the stinky odour drifted down the carriage.



Old school glamour at Mahiki with Joan Collins and friends





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	Reply	<u>1 re</u>	<u>oly</u>	+3	
	•	_	mous 14 days ago		
	P 1		id you expect from a shit service? s, perhaps?	' Fragrance	
		[Reply]		0	News pictures of the
•	Give an would a BR was regulati	ally Pro ybody a all take a a joke, ing the r ompanie 2 rep	day		
		Go on a train efficien Rail	5 days ago German, French, Dutch or Italian Cost is minimal its and its more tWhy because its state owned ways have to be state owned 1 reply	d	
		P	Anonymous 14 days ago Many of our railways are now sta but that's Germany or France as Tories don't believe we should ha rights as in Europe!	ECML shows	
0	Larry 1	5 days	ago		
	renation commit and the	nalise th ment in e fact th	considered voting Labour if they le railways. But they did not fulfil 1997 to keep the railways in the p lat they caused the immigration pot t can't be trusted, and will never	their public sector roblem	
	Reply	3 re	<u>olies</u>	+1	
		So inste	5 days ago ead you will vote Tory though wh ways!!!!!! Just admit your a racist who will vote Tory regardless 2 replies		
			Larry 14 days ago Labour completed the railway privation point is? And it's "you're" no your sentence. You're confused? school? Boohoo, someone has difto me, I'll just pull the race card.	t "your" in Too cool for ferent views	
		•	ASLEFshrugged 14 days ago When Labour took over in 1997 p was virtually finished, there wasn to keep in the public sector.		
			There was a 63% "yes" vote for renationalisation at Party Confere which Blair and Brown decided to claiming that it would cost £22br motion (the rail union everyone for about) was for the various franct taken back as they expired, making cheaper.	ignore, i but TSSA's orgets nises to be	
				+1	
•	Commu	ters: if	ord 15 days ago god didn't want them sheared he want sheep.	would not	
•	pbench	1 15 day			
	money paid for are paid Stephe govern Amersh Mail that newspat Oh, and	for new (or old off? n, if privent ow am inter at nobood per is clid the Vir	rsayers please tell us exactly whe trains comes from , how new state ones refurbished) and how expensatisation was such a disater how and BA cope with easyJet? How wrational cope with Siemens? How by uses (the irony of emailing come learly lost on you) cope with DHL? gin service to the NW is so much ten 10 years ago it is like a differe	tions are sive unions would a would will a Royal ments to a better than	
	[Reply]	<u>3 re</u>	<u>olies</u>	-2	



Nationally Proud 15 days ago

You are correct, BR shirked capital investment to the effect that the railways were becoming dangerous with rolling stock dating back decades flying about on tracks that were poorly maintained. BUT the government should have legislated for a regulator with teeth to stop the rip off.

Reply

2 replies

2



Dave 15 days ago

Are you stupid!!! BR's lack of capital investment was the government deliberately depriving funds for the railways thus making their argument that the only way to save them was through privatize the service..... Have you even been on a mainland European train..... I think not....Mainland Europe have government run railways and are far superior to what we have.....

+4



Anonymous 14 days ago

When railway was state owned it was Rail v NHS/ Defence etc and naturally rail was at bottom of the pile!

Privatisation and even Network Rail setup means this is no longer the case and as a result rail investment like rail use is booming with £37 billion for investment in next 5 years control period and thousands of new carriages on order!

Oddly its now Roads v NHS etc. for despite money paid in fuel duty and VAT by motorists it still goes into Treasury pot like Rail Fares used to and is reason roads need Highway Agency to have same set up as NR with revenue direct from fuel duty as a part of its income!

+2



Anonymous 15 days ago

John Major's Government pushed-through Rail Privatisation with undue haste in order that they should 'beat-the-clock', with their fast approaching General Election. Thus, they would have a fait-accomplii that would be in-ordinately almost impossible to reverse. Indeed, the Labour Party ditched its manifesto promise and sure enough, 'chickenedout'. The administrively messy layering of divided responsibilities, leaves vast swathes of room to 'pass-the buck', whilst wastefully swallowing millions of tax-payers and rail-users hard-earned money, into the opaque maelstrom of evasive fob-offs, lost in the administrative storm of curiously-awarded Contracts.

Dr Beeching unwittingly came near to completely eradicating our Heritage from Brunel and his contempories, with his illadvised ripping-up of 1/3rd of our national rail-track structure in the sixtles. More and more concrete covering our Green and Pleasant Land' jammed-full of perpetual blocked queues of private cars and heavy-goods vehicles, has not been a substitution for the lost railways. A new clear visionary in Westminster needs to 'get-a-grip', it is surely not an impossibility to devise more cost-effective railway ownership, that will not bleed the population twice (1) with gross taxation subsidies, (2) ever-escalting and un-justified fare increases, at the same time as share-holders pocketing unfair profits?

A New Rail Main-Line i.e. HS2 is necessary to provide rail-pathways to accommodate the exponential growth in demand for rail passengers and rail-freight that the Beeching-Cuts shrunken railway network of the last sixty years no longer is able to squeeze in.

Reply 1 reply +4 +4



Anonymous 14 days ago

And guess what franchise gets priority after Hammond Locoshambes

That's right state run ECML!

Same old Tories who just knead the dough ...



Harriet Startling-Grope Forsyth 15 days ago

we need a party FAR stronger than ukip:

	close our borders					
	those wo	ould be a good start				
	Reply	2 replies	-1			
		Anon 15 days ago				
		But then the standard would close and ther ould you whine on?	n where			
		Reply <u>1 reply</u>	+2			
		Anonymous 15 days ago				
		Since regrettably the Standard alon				
		proud, without The Evening News a Star competing in former decades,	Γhe			
		Standard is vital to its appreciative avid readers.	mass of			
			0			
			0			
•		15 days ago				
, ,	one big o	p people! The whole privatisation thing ha confidence trick. Individuals stuffing hundre	ds of			
		f pounds of your money into their pockets. buses,gas,electricity etc etc etc. Most of				
		ed by overseas governments. That's what g Tory, absolutely no sympathy for you To				
	from here	e in The Peoples Republic of Scotland.				
	Reply	3 replies	+5			
		Harriet Startling-Grope Forsyth 15 days eah BUT, labour and ukip will just give us r	o .			
	t	hat. Nobody is committed to tackling the biroblem our nation faces - privatised service	iggest			
		nfrastructure.				
		Reply <u>1 reply</u>	+5			
		Anonymous 14 days ago				
		The promise by Ed to freeze Gas an prices has got Tories in a panic!	d Electric			
		prices has get rolles in a parie.	+1			
		own, 15 days ago				
	A	.arry 15 days ago and labour completed the privatisation of th				
	_	ailways in 1997 after promising to do the o Reply	pposite			
	L	керіу	+3 _			
•	_	ous 15 days ago				
, ,		do we think we're going to be saying abou il privatisation 20 years down the line?	t the			
	Reply	1 reply	+5			
		Anonymous 14 days ago				
	_	Reply got lost in the private postal service				
		кергу	+2			
•		Grentford 15 days ago	Amanan			
, ,		n over the age of 30 who has to use public re" Margaret, Duchess of Argyll.	transport			
	Reply	4 replies	0			
		Anonymous 15 days ago				
	q	hanks for reminding me of that discredited juote from one of Jimmy Saville's biggest su	ipporters			
		nd greatest friends (she had him over for) linner every year you know!)	Kmas			
		Reply <u>1 reply</u>	+5			
		Steve, Brentford 15 days ago				
		Nope that was Margaret Thatcher.	Keep up.			
			+2			
		Anonymous 14 days ago				
	S	she said, in between mouthfulls				
		Reply	+2			
	P	Anonymous 14 days ago				
		the did not understand London commuting	then!			
	J	ust a country bumpkin				
		Reply	+1			

ban foreign ownership of our newspapers

	Beardie	henry 15 days ago lie and co should never have been allowed anywhere public transport.And neither should Bozo and those at				
	_	<u>7 re</u>	plies	+3		
		The wo	mous 15 days ago errying thing is that 'beardie' is now qu over the NHS with his Virgin Health o			
	2	The co	mous 15 days ago mpany that runs public transport in L 't be allowed anywhere near public tr on?			
			ting theory 1 reply	+1		
		•	colinhenry 15 days ago TFL is not a company. The fact is the although it is there to run Transort i Capital, those at the top(including Boincompetent buffoons who should have sacked ages ago.	n the ozo)are ove been		
				+3		
Boris Mayo edict			ymous 15 days ago and Hendy certainly should reverse the wrong al- that halted Cross-River Tram: no exhausts, so ng the			
		amount the Mai	of harmful Particulates in London's A in-	ir; linking		
		Line Ra Euston	il Terminii of Kings Cross, St Pancras HS2,	HS1,		
		with Wa	aterloo Station and Clapham Junction modern	; on-		
		trams of	daily carrying millions of Londoners eff	iciently		
		[Reply]		+2		
		-	Hilton Holloway 15 days ago Edinburgh tram line, £80m per mile. I no less than £100m per mile. So that Billion for the line, before the infrastr rolling stock and massive traffic and disruption.	t's a ructure,		
			Just convert Boris Buses to trolley b ditch the tracks. That will work.	us and		
				0		
		-	Anonymous 14 days ago Hilton Holloway			
			Anyone watching Conservative Conf- would have seen trams running in the background on highly successful Met network that just keeps on growing new section just opened and more to followin fact when Boris was inten- tonight I wanted to shout "look behill When a tram passed!	e rolink with a o viewed		
			Trams clear jamsBorismasters can' as many as a normal bus!	t carry		
				+2		
		-	Anonymous 14 days ago Mayor Boris and his side-kicks Deput and lackey Hendy	y Mayor		

Anonymous 14 days ago
Mayor Boris and his side-kicks Deputy Mayor and lackey Hendy are over-parked inert at GLA: stop buying more Botch-Master

Buses until they are morphed into high passenger-capacity articulated Trolley-Buses carrying 200 people each without exhaust

fumes belching-out, AND blow-the-dust-off the previously pre-

		planned scheme for Trams from the Rail Terminals of	Main-Line		
		Camden to South London.			
			+2		
	off 15 d Britain.	lays ago			
		the answer is though, re-nationalisat that'll make the railways even worse.			
Govt re	etains a	under one publicly listed company, wh share in (25%ish?) so it can ensure a support unprofitable routes?			
Reply	<u>7 re</u>	<u>plies</u>	0		
-	Harriet Startling-Grope Forsyth 15 days ago Why would it "make it worse"? People who say that NEVER have any reason they can bring to the table to support this claim. If you push them, they simply witter on about how it was 40 years ago in the 70's.				
	Reply	3 replies	+1		
	2	Handsoff 15 days ago Because govt cannot run things as eas private sector. They increase cos reduce flexibility due to the added si operaton.	sts and		
			0		
		colinhenry 15 days ago So why then do these marvellous prisector companies need twice the subsidy the old BR got?.	vate		
			0		
	-	Anonymous 14 days ago Fact is British Rail was less government controlled than railways have been steep were privatised!			
		BR was like the BBC left to get on w job of running and maintaining railwa			
		However, railways now have a proble growth of usage and that's where not system is working better as rail does compete with NHS or Defence for full trued to do in days government coas an easy option for funding cuts!	ew not nding like		
		That's why health, defence etc are because easy options have been private the because the second of			
2	one of trains h rarely u That w	t Startling-Grope Forsyth 15 days a the first things we could do is make s have only ONE 1st class carriage (whi used by anyone) and the rest standar rould instantly create millions more pa without requiring new trains.	sure our ch is d fare.		
	one of carriage	my life i've watched trains running wi them having a slew of empty first-cla es. we ar paying just to drag these e reights around.	iss		
		ne hell are we reserving so much pass for non-existant passengers?	enger		
	we nee has.	ed common sense, something no party 2 replies	curently		
	періу	<u>2 100103</u>	01 1		
		Anonymous 15 days ago Common-sense? Perhaps you could u little, by having a less bizarre non-de-plume by-line Fo			
		Anonymous 14 days ago That was plan First group had when WCML but Hammonds Locoshambles to that idea.			

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