

Rail passenger numbers reached the milestone of 90 per cent of pre-COVID levels

June 6, 2022



The Chief Executive at the [Railway Industry Association \(RIA\)](#) has called on the new Great British Railways not to base its 30-year strategy on the last two years after 90 per cent milestone on passenger numbers.

That's the message from Darren Caplan, in his response to the Department for Transport's (DfT) latest statistics released on rail travel in Great Britain.

[RIA](#) has welcomed the fact that rail passenger numbers reached the milestone of 90 per cent of pre-COVID levels on Thursday 19 May, and reached 92 per cent in the following three days. The statistics show that passenger numbers are returning both during weekdays and weekends, approaching the highest levels since 15 March 2020.

- [Rail passenger numbers hit 80% of pre-COVID levels](#)
- [Big numbers revealed for the Elizabeth Line opening day](#)

Darren Caplan, Chief Executive at [RIA](#), said: "These figures show that people are returning to rail in ever greater numbers. In the week of 16-22 May, every day of the week saw passenger figures hitting between

86 per cent and 92 per cent of pre-COVID levels, less than three months since pandemic restrictions started being relaxed. This is not just leisure travel coming back – commuter travel, including Mondays and Fridays, has been steadily increasing too.

“So RIA continues to ask Government and the new Great British Railways not to base the 30-year strategy it is planning on the last two years. If the industry and decision makers work closely together to continue attracting passengers back, the future for rail really can be bright in the years ahead.”

[See the Department for Transport’s latest statistics here.](#)

Photo credit: Rail Delivery Group