



Summary of
**National Heavy
Rail Census**

Carried out in November 2014



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The Rail Census

Data Qualification

The Rail Census is a snapshot of rail usage on a single day. While this survey is broadly representative of a typical weekday it is important to remember that it does not present systematic use or provide information on variations in rail usage by day of week or seasonally.

Variation in rail usage from one day in a particular year to another day in the next year may be influenced by a range of factors. Some of these factors include operational changes such as amendments to timetables and frequencies of services, while other factors are outside the control of the operator, such as the weather or the macroeconomic environment.

Annual data on rail usage gives a balanced picture over the course of an entire year and therefore provides the best representation of systematic changes. The findings in this report should be interpreted in this context and provide a snapshot only.

The National Heavy Rail Census

- The National Heavy Rail Census, funded by the National Transport Authority, records rail patronage at every train station in the country on one day of the year.
- The 2014 Census is the third National Census. Prior to 2012, the Census was carried out in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) only.
- The Census was conducted by surveyors counting the number of individuals boarding and alighting each service at each station for an entire day (13th November 2014).
- The month of November is chosen as a month which is unaffected by holidays and when most places of work and education are in full session.
- On the day of the Census some services in the Cork area were affected by flooding. Despite this, it is reasonable to conclude that the Census was undertaken on a generally representative day

Highlights from the 2014 Rail Census

- Just over 124,000 journeys were taken on the day of the Census – a slight increase on 2013.
- All 10 stations in the top 10 generated in excess of 5,000 passengers each, up from 9 in 2013. Connolly, Pearse, Heuston and Tara continued to be the busiest stations.
- Kent station, in Cork city, was the only station outside of the Greater Dublin Area to feature in the top ten busiest stations.
- Blackrock re-entered the top 10, having been replaced by Maynooth in 2013.
- The 10 busiest stations on the network accounted for just under half (47%) of all passenger movements on the network.
- 26 stations in the country generated fewer than 100 journeys on Census day. Of the quietest stations, 11 experienced fewer than 30 journeys.
- Just over one-third of all stations experienced fewer than 200 daily journeys.
- For the third year running, the busiest train in the country on Census day was the 08:00 DART service from Greystones to Malahide, carrying a total of 1,405 passengers. The busiest section on this service occurred between Booterstown and Sydney Parade when 923 passengers were on board.
- The most heavily loaded Commuter service was the 07:12 from Drogheda to Bray, which carried 865 passengers between Howth Junction and Connolly.



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The National Rail Census 2013 v 2014

- 677 individual rail services operated on Census day 2014. This was a slight (2%) increase on the number of services that operated on the corresponding day in 2013.
- Overall the number of daily journeys on the rail network remained relatively static compared to 2013.
- DART accounted for 44% of all passenger journeys, Commuter services for 33% and Intercity for 23% of all journeys made on Census day.
- Just over 55,000 journeys were made on the DART on Census day 2014, around 900 fewer than in 2013.
- Approximately 1,900 more passengers boarded Heuston services in 2014 than in 2013.
- The Northern line (including DART) carried over 46% of total passenger flows on the network during the morning peak hour, mirroring trends witnessed in 2012 and 2013.
- The maximum passenger flow during the morning peak hour was on DART services travelling towards Dublin between Clontarf Road and Connolly in 2013 and 2014.
- In 2013, the number of boardings on Heuston services between 08:00 and 09:00 increased relative to 2012 with the result that peak demand in the morning was prolonged from 07:00 to 09:00. 2014 saw a decrease in boardings between 08:00-10:00 coupled with increased boarding in the 06:00-08:00 period. This has resulted in the bulk of morning peak boardings in 2014 occurring before 08:00
- Journeys in the GDA account for approximately 83% of total journeys undertaken nationally on Census day - this remains unchanged from 2012 and 2013.
- The numbers of rail journeys taken outside of the GDA on Census day decreased by almost 2% relative to 2013.



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Approximately

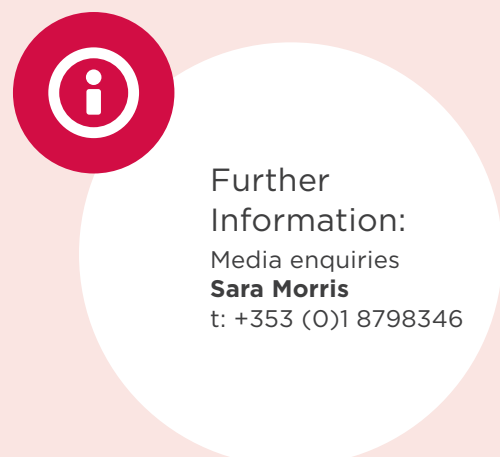
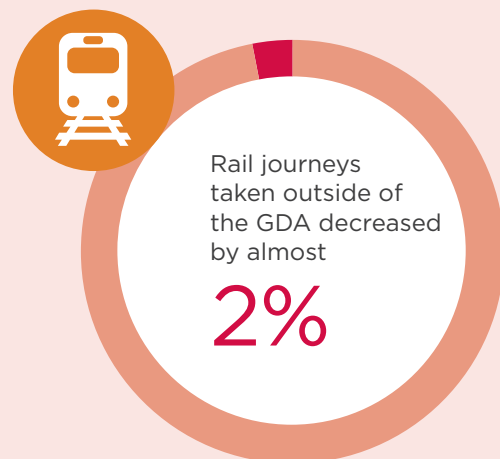
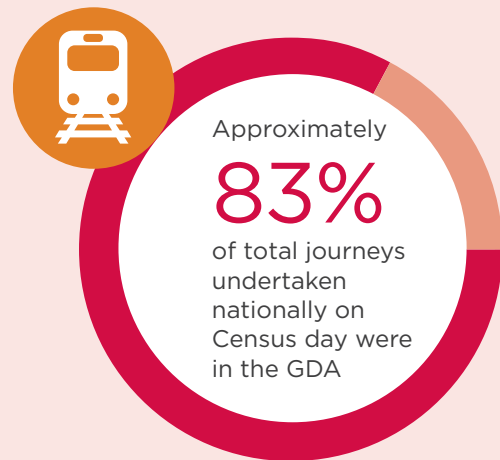
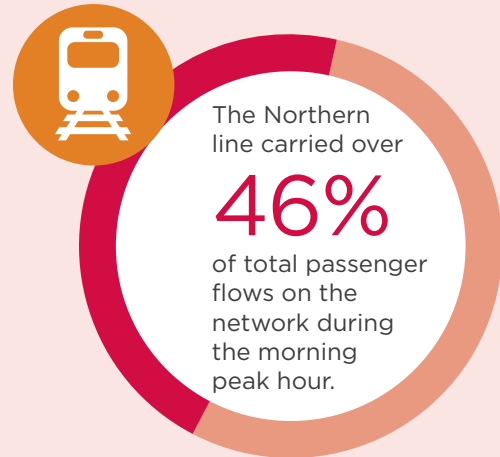
1,900

more passengers boarded Heuston services in 2014 than in 2013

Passenger Journeys 2014



	DART	44%
	Commuter Services	33%
	Intercity	23%





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