

Strategic Forecasting of Passenger Rail Demand in Great Britain

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Abstract

This paper reports rail demand forecasting models which operate at two levels. One focuses on strategic issues applicable to large sections of the network as a whole and the other focuses on individual rail flows. The former accounts for fares, including competition between different tickets, rail service quality, cross-modal competition and a range of socio-economic variables and is used to produce forecasts over a 30 year horizon. The latter additionally deals with population and catchment areas around stations and hence supports a more detailed analysis of socio-economic variables. The results for the 81 policy tests show a considerable variation across flow categories and tests, varying from a small decline to a four-fold increase in rail demand in Britain by 2031. .

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