

Part-time train travel for Wales

Chwarae Teg & Sustrans Cymru



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Regular rail passengers across Wales can benefit from discounted Season Tickets that provide a significant discount on the price of travel compared to buying return ticket each day.

Season tickets are available not just annually, but 3-monthly, monthly and even for 7-days. The season tickets covering the longest time period have the most significant discounts.

Yet part-time workers receive no such comparable discount. Those working two or three days per week are faced with losing money on season tickets they are unable to take full advantage of, or purchasing expensive peak time return fares on an individual basis.

Introducing part time season tickets could help more people afford to go back to work, access better paid jobs in other areas, or make rail a preferable option over the private car – cutting congestion and tackling the issue of transport poverty in Wales.

Women in Wales are more likely to be part-time workers than men, and tend to be more reliant on public transport. Therefore, the introduction of discounted tickets for part time travel could play a key role reducing poverty among women in Wales.

Part time work in Wales

Wales has a significant number of part time workers and part time hours could be more suitable for many people currently seeking employment in Wales.

Just over a quarter of the workforce, 26% of workers in Wales, are employed part-time workers¹.

On average, part time workers in Wales also earn less per hour than their full time counterparts. The gross weekly pay for full time workers is £455, yet for part time workers it is only £151².

On an hourly basis, full time workers earn £11.63 per hour in Wales, yet their part time counterparts earn just £7.62³.

Wales has the highest share (26%) of low-paid workers (below 2/3 median hourly pay) in the UK.⁴

Yet, despite this, part time workers have limited or no part time travel discounts available to them on the rail network in Wales.

The impact on women

A greater proportion of women than men in Wales work part time, with 44% of working women in Wales employed part time.⁵

¹ Annual Population Survey accessed via NOMIS 19/08/13

² ASHE accessed via NOMIS 19/08/13

³ Ibid.

⁴ Pennycook, M. and Whittaker, M (2012) *Low Pay Britain 2012*, Resolution Foundation, London

⁵ Chwarae Teg (2013) *A Woman's Place*, CT, Cardiff

Women are the main users of public transport, for example in Wales 56% of bus users are women.⁶ Across Wales, almost two-thirds of households have access to either just one car or no car⁷ - which limits the transport options of a second earner – still more likely to be a woman – in taking on employment. In particular, car ownership levels are lower in the Valleys, where the rail network is most comprehensive.

The Welsh Government’s Equality Impact Assessment of its draft budget highlights that 61% of women have a driving license, compared to 79% of men, and that women are twice as likely as men to travel to work by bus (the most affordable public transport option).⁸

Women are also more likely than men to live in poverty, face greater risk of falling into poverty and in many cases their income decides if a family lives in poverty or not.

Three quarters of welfare saving will come from women’s pockets.⁹ A woman currently working 16 hours per week will see her income cut from £47 to £17.50.¹⁰

How much could part-time workers save?

By introducing part time season tickets, rail users in some parts of Wales could save up to £640 a year if they were passed on the same percentage discounts as those purchasing monthly season tickets.

Even compared to buying 7-day season tickets, if passed on the same discount as full time users, part time workers could save up to £300 a year on some routes.

Route	7-day Season Ticket	5 x Day Return	% saving	3 x Day Return	Annual saving
Flint – Wrexham	£34.40	£38.50	11%	£23.10	£98.40
Caerphilly – Cardiff	£22	£32	31%	£19.20	£240
Machynlleth – Aberystwyth	£24.80	£31.50	21%	£18.90	£160.80

Route	1 month Season Ticket	25 x Day Return	% saving	15 x Day Return	Annual saving
Llanelli – Swansea	£60	£135	56%	£81	£540
Pyle – Cardiff	£116	£205	43%	£123	£640.80
Pontypridd – Cardiff	£84.50	£160	47%	£96	£543.60

⁶ <http://www.poverty.org.uk/w75/index.shtml>

⁷ 2011 Census: KS404EW Car or van availability, local authorities in England and Wales

⁸ Welsh Government 2014/15 draft budget Equality Impact Assessment <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/inclusivepolicy/impactassessments/draftbudget1415eia/?lang=en>

⁹ Fawcett Society (2013) Cutting Women Out Campaign: <http://uat.fawcettsociety.org.uk/cutting-women-out/>

¹⁰ Winckler, V. (2012) *Universal Credit threat to equality*, Bevan Foundation, Merthyr Tydfil