

Rail strikes impact on hospitality

National

- ‘Massive’ £540 million hit to hospitality sector, industry warns (UK Hospitality)
- Spending set to fall by 20 per cent in towns and cities
- Economists at the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) said the three strikes on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday cost the UK economy at least £91m - and there are warnings the cost could be still higher, particularly in hospitality and retail.

London

- Des Gunewardena, chief executive of dining group D&D London, said the five days of stoppages and disruption will cost his business around £1 million in total.
 - Our bookings overall for this week are down 25%, but today with both trains and Tubes on strike we are down 50%
- James Robson, chairman of St James’s restaurant Fallow
 - Each day of strikes makes this worse and in our case costs us around £8,000 a day. We’ve seen around 50% of bookings cancelled this week already, and we know this will be more on the day. It’s incredibly difficult to manage staff rotas and for the team to travel in
- Night-time economy relies heavily on the rail network to bring our audiences and staff safely to and from our venues, with 81% of London theatregoers using public transport and a similar proportion of hospitality customers
- London First, the capital’s business group, said this week’s rail strikes have been forecast to reduce total gross value added — a metric of economic productivity — by £52mn across the capital.
- Data from research company Springboard on retail footfall showed a drop of 8.5 per cent in shoppers on UK high streets, with a 27.5 per cent fall in central London but a 2 per cent rise in provincial market towns — which was consistent with homeworking. “The impact on train and Tube strikes today on footfall is very clear to see, with a large proportion of people clearly working from home,” said Diane Wehrle, Springboard’s insights director.

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