

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE DEMAND FOR PASSENGER RAIL  
SERVICES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA**

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## ABSTRACT

Rail passenger service is an important part of Malaysia's public transport system where Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB) is the only sole provider of intercity rail passenger services in Peninsular Malaysia. For years, there has been a decline in the number of intercity train passengers. This paper attempts to evaluate the factors, which determine the demand for rail passenger services. Binary logit models were built based on the data collected from the train passenger survey and bus passenger survey that were conducted across the Peninsular whereby the socioeconomic and demographic variables were coded into dummy variables so that these variables could be evaluated. The major findings in the study showed that the groups of individuals who are most unlikely to travel by train were females, those in the age category between 41 to 50 years old, individuals belonging to low income groups and students. While those who were most likely to travel by train were those who are married, working in the private sector and those traveling on official business. The implications drawn from the findings for public policy on railways were the necessity to improve the quality of rail passenger services, which included improving public safety and providing better amenities. It was also crucial to review the train fare structure and concessions given with the purpose of increasing ridership and to overcome competition from intercity bus services, air services and private motorcars.

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