A closer look into Spanish railway passenger transportation pricing

Salvador Rocher
Data Analytics / 07-19

"

Do train ticket prices really change over the days?

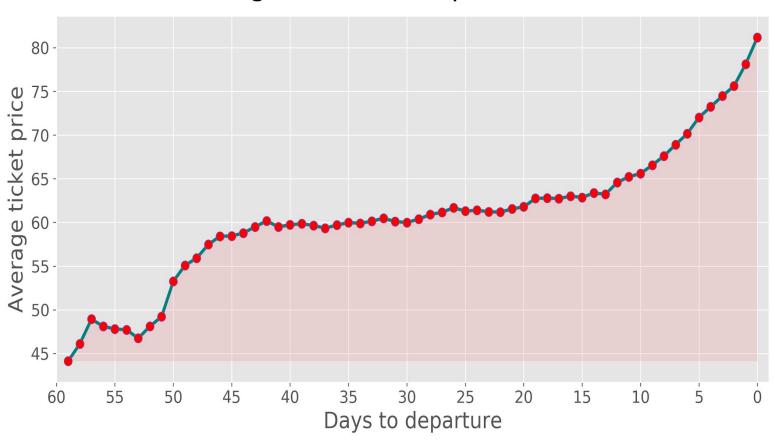If so, is there an optimal moment to buy?

CONTEXT

- Renfe

- Long distance spanish routes

- 3 months train tickets data (04-19/07-19)

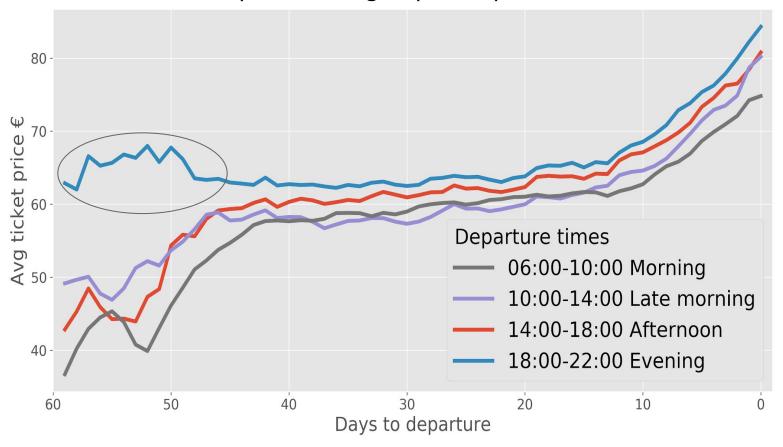- Daily repeated web scraping for ticket prices
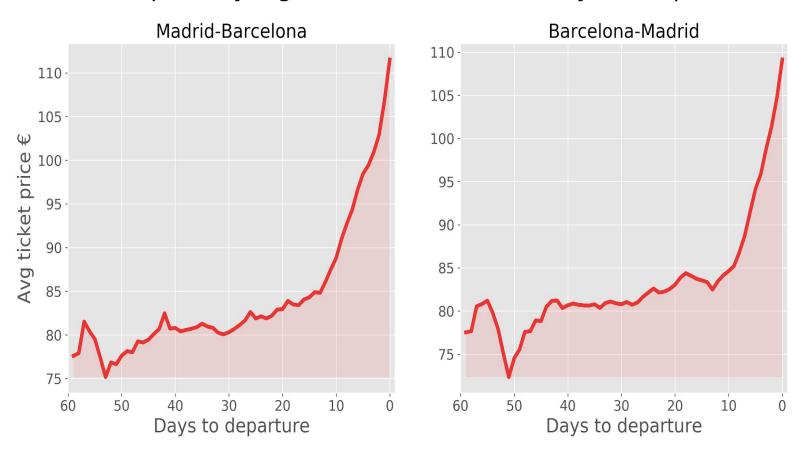
Average train ticket price evolution

CLOSER LOOK

DEPARTURE WINDOW

Morning

Late morning

Afternoon

Evening

ROUTES

High demand

Non-high demand

FARE CATEGORY

First class

Economy
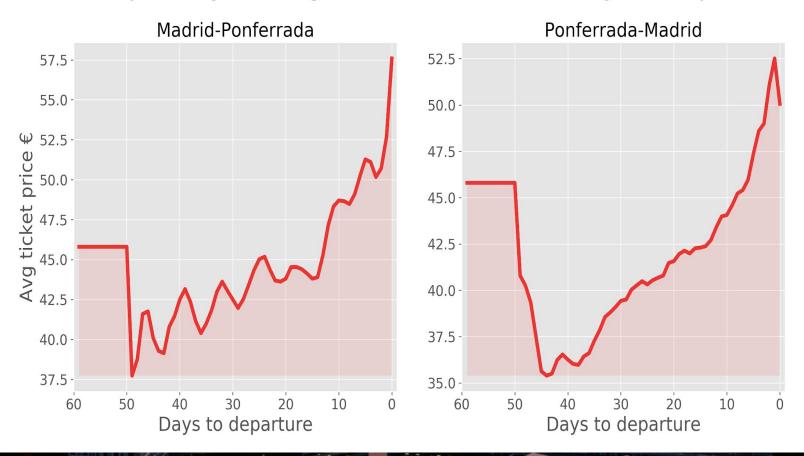
Ticket price changes per departure time
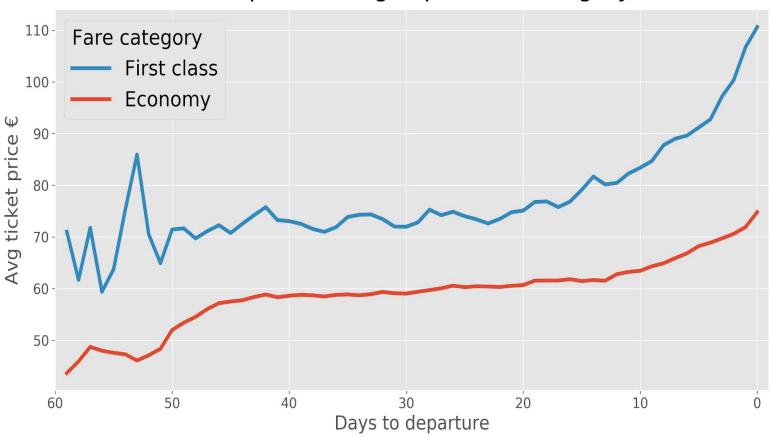
Ticket price by high demand route and days to departure

Madrid-Barcelona

Barcelona-Madrid

Ticket price by non-high demand route and days to departure

Madrid-Ponferrada

Ponferrada-Madrid

Ticket price changes per fare category

INSIGHTS / TIPS FOR TICKET PURCHASE

Routes high demand

50-60 days before departure

Non-high demand

40-50 days before departure

Evening trains

30-40 days before departure

12-40 days for departure

Just 6% price variation (<5€ on average)

Last minute purchases

Economy class sold out first.

1st class tickets 40% up in the last 10 days (+30€ on average)

THANK YOU!

Any questions?