

FTSE 100
 FELL 12.49
 TO 7,744.87



Sun business £ss

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£ = €113 \$123
OIL
 \$86.75
Brent Crude barrel
 Petrol: 148p
 Diesel: 170p

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CABIN CHARGES SEND PROFITS SOARING

EASYJET MONEY

HEFTY extra charges for cabin bags, speedy boarding and legroom pushed up EASYJET'S fares by 36 per cent in a year.

The budget airline said yesterday it will make more profits than expected as it recovers from the pandemic.

It revealed it will beat the City's forecast of £126million after an 83 per cent jump in sales in the past three months, to £1.47billion.

EasyJet said it is now charging fliers £68.47 on average, the highest amount in at least the past decade and up from £50.21 just a year ago.

The sales boost was driven by £20million in "ancillary revenue" – or the add-ons.

Picking a seat with extra legroom starts at £7.99 while a cabin bag costs from £5.99.

Johan Lundgren, easyJet chief executive, said these were customer "choices", although it is only in the past two years that passengers have had to pay to bring a large rucksack on board.

One customer, Amanda Precious, said easyJet has "turned into RYAN-

AIR". She warned: "You have to be really careful when using booking sites as the lowest price is now for one small bag that can be under the seat in front... not even a bag that fits into the overhead bins."

Rival Ryanair – known for its cheap flights and costly add-ons – said this month that it saw no need to discount heavily because competition was so much weaker.

Official figures show overall airline fares rose by 44.1 per cent last year, the biggest hike since the '80s.

Mr Lundgren said easyJet was facing huge extra costs, particularly fuel which jumped by 76 per cent in a year. Around half of its tickets

are currently under £50, he added. The airline has enjoyed record bookings this month, with the UK back to pre-pandemic levels.

| EASYJET'S RISING REVENUE PER SEAT | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|
| easyJet | 2022 | £68.00 |
| | 2021 | £50.54 |
| | 2020 | £54.35 |
| | 2019 | £60.81 |
| | 2018 | £61.94 |
| | 2017 | £58.23 |
| | 2016 | £62.48 |
| | 2015 | £64.28 |
| | 2014 | £63.31 |
| | 2013 | £62.58 |
| 2012 | £58.51 | |



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