

Trends Update – Issue 11 (4 May 2005)

Weather

- Met Office figures show that England and Wales experienced close to average amounts of sunshine in April, with both temperatures and rainfall being above average. In Scotland sunshine totals, temperatures and rainfall were all above average

Transport and tour operator news

- From 10th May Hellas Jet will suspend all flights due to financial difficulties, thus its services from Athens to both London Heathrow and Manchester will cease
- Indian operator Jet Airways announces that it is to launch a service to London from May 23rd
- CAA figures show the number of passengers at UK airports rose 8% in 2004 compared with 2003. Routes with the biggest volume growth in scheduled passengers were New York JFK-Heathrow, up 296,000, Hong Kong-Heathrow, up 255,000 and Prague-Gatwick up 217,000 (figures include inbound and outbound passengers)
- Newcastle and Bristol were among the airports to see the fastest growth
- In its 10 year forecast BAA says it expects growth of 3% pa at its London airports during the next decade
- In the first quarter of 2005 Eurotunnel handled 439,000 cars, a 4% rise on the same period of 2004, and 18,000 coaches, a 49% rise – however much of the increase will have been due to the ongoing disruption to ferry services during this period

Domestic Economic News

- UK GDP grew at an annual rate of 2.8% in the first quarter of 2005

European Economic News

- Leading German economists have halved their economic growth forecast for 2005

US Economic News

- US Consumer confidence slides again in April, as industrial production growth also slows, however the Fed is still sufficiently concerned about the pace of expansion to increase base rates by a further ¼%

Global Economic News

- In the year to March the Chinese economy grew by 9.5%, with exports up 35%

Domestic Tourism News

- Figures from PKF for March suggest room occupancy in regional hotels stood at 68.5% with the figure for London being 77.1%. In each case this represents a fall compared with March 2004, but this will primarily be due to Easter having fallen in March this year and April last year

Global Tourism News

- The Airbus A380 makes its maiden test flight, but according to Singapore Airlines the plane will now not enter revenue earning service until sometime in the second half of 2006

Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%200312_tcm17-8615.doc

About "Trends Update"

Issued fortnightly TU highlights the latest facts, figures and trends that impact on tourism. TU doesn't cover the main tourism surveys or Market Intelligence Reports circulated separately by International/England Research and Overseas Operations.

Trends and Forecast (Tourism, Economic, Demographic)

<http://vbnet/Communications/PartnershipsPlanning/ForecastingTrends/ForecastingAndTrends.asp>

International Marketing Research

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