

Trends Update – Issue 110 (13 August 2009)

Weather

- According to the Met Office winter 2009/10 is likely to be milder and wetter than last winter
- The Met Office forecast that the remainder of summer 2009 will bring rainfall totals close to or above average, with temperatures near or above average
- Met Office figures reveal that it was the wettest July on record across England and Wales, while both sunshine amounts and temperatures were close to average

Transport news

- IATA report global air passenger numbers were 7.2% down on a year earlier in June, a slight improvement on previous months
- BAA's seven UK airports handled 2.4% fewer passengers in July than a year ago, marking an improvement on earlier months; UK domestic traffic was 4.8% down, European scheduled up 1.2%, North Atlantic down 8% and other long-haul traffic up 4.8%
- BA will reduce flight frequencies from New York, Newark, Chicago and Seattle to Heathrow from end October
- From March 2010 Ryanair will operate new routes to Leeds Bradford from a number of European cities including Carcassonne, Knock, Krakow, Limoges, Montpellier, Murcia, Nantes, Pisa and Venice
- The number of long distance rail journeys undertaken in the UK during the first three months of 2009 was 0.7% lower than in the equivalent period of 2008
- Figures from the Department for Transport indicate that the number of car journeys undertaken in the UK during the three months to June was 1% down on the equivalent period of 2008

Domestic Economic News

- UK unemployment increased to 7.8% of the workforce in the three months to June

European Economic News

- Eurozone unemployment increased to 9.4% in June, meaning that 14.9 million Eurozone citizens are out of work
- Eurozone consumer confidence improved slightly during July but is still downbeat
- The French and German economies both grew by 0.3% between the first and second quarter of 2009, bringing both nations out of recession

US Economic News

- US unemployment stood at 9.7% in July, with the number of people in employment being 4% lower than a year earlier
- US consumer confidence declined for the second consecutive month in July but is still slightly up on the early months of 2009
- US consumer credit was 4.9% lower in June than a year earlier

Global Economic News

- The rate of deflation in Japan increased to 1.7% in the year to June

Tourism News

- Figures from PKF indicate that hotel occupancy in London during June stood at 85.5% up from 84.2% a year earlier, however room rates were 6.4% down. In the regions occupancy stood at 71.9% down from 75.0% a year ago, with room rates 8% down
- Intercontinental Hotels which operates brands including Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn says operating profits fell 38% in the first half of 2009, and said that it saw no sign of recovery

Factors contributing to tourism trends in Britain, August 2009

