

## Trends Update – Issue 16 (11 July 2005)

### Weather

- England and Wales enjoyed temperatures that were well above average in June, but both rainfall and sunshine totals were close to average. In Scotland temperatures were also well above average but rainfall was above average and the amount of sunshine below average

### Transport and tour operator news

- BAA traffic statistics for June show that compared to June 2004 domestic passenger numbers were up 4%, European scheduled up 5.7%, North Atlantic traffic up just 0.7% but other long-haul traffic up 11.1%
- BA passenger traffic up 4.7% in June compared with a year before – Ryanair report a 31% increase
- Centralwings will start a thrice-weekly service from Warsaw to Edinburgh this winter, and next summer Finnair is to start a twice-weekly service from Helsinki to Edinburgh

### Domestic Economic News

- CBI report a decline in UK retail sales in June, but partly due to a spike last June caused by Euro 2004
- UK Trade and Investment figures show record levels of inward investment last year - the UK attracted more than 1,000 inward investment projects generating 40,000 new jobs
- Revised figures suggest that first quarter economic growth in the UK this year was 2.1% compared with the earlier estimate of 2.7%

### European Economic News

- Overall Eurozone Consumer Confidence now at its lowest level for more than a year

### US Economic News

- US consumer confidence increases again
- US labour market data shows that unemployment continues to fall and the number in work is increasing
- Revised figures show US GDP grew 3.8% in the first quarter of 2005, ahead of expectations
- A hike in US base rates and expectations of lower UK rates results in the US\$ strengthening against Sterling

### Global Economic News

- Business confidence in Japan increases by more than expected

### Domestic Tourism News

- London successful in its bid to host the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics
- London bombs cause severe disruption to transport within the centre of London on 7 July, many restaurants and theatres remain closed that evening
- PKF figures show that hotel occupancy in London rose in May compared to a year ago, but in the provinces occupancy rates were lower than at the same time last year

### Global Tourism News

- WHO says the number of migratory birds dying due to bird flu in China is 5 times that admitted by the Chinese authorities - new scientific evidence suggests the virus is passing between wild geese, until now it was thought that geese caught the virus from domestic fowl
- UK maintains its 6<sup>th</sup> spot in the world league table of top tourism earners, around \$0.5bn behind Germany, but with China closing in rapidly – now just \$1.6bn behind the UK according to WTO figures

### Pictorial Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

[http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20110705\\_tcm17-8615.doc](http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20110705_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:[http://vbnet/InternationalMarketing/international\\_research/default.asp](http://vbnet/InternationalMarketing/international_research/default.asp)

England Marketing Research:<http://vbnet/EnglandMarketing/EnglandResearch/default.asp>

Market Intelligence Reports:<http://vbnet/OverseasOperations/MarketIntelligenceReports/default.asp>