

## Trends Update – Issue 24 (31 October 2005)

### Transport and tour operator news

- Eurostar report passenger numbers 4.3% up in the first 9 months of 2005 compared with the same period of last year, but in the period July to September traffic fell by 2%
- Eurotunnel announces 900 job cuts in the face of competition from ferry services and low-cost airlines
- Luton Airport to submit a planning application for a replacement full length runway and new Terminal building and additional aircraft stands
- PIA launches twice-weekly flights from Pakistan to Glasgow via Dubai, one originating in Islamabad, the other in Karachi
- New trans-Atlantic routes announced by Delta including a daily service from Atlanta to Edinburgh and from New York JFK to Manchester from May 2006
- Flybe to axe its Norwich to Belfast flights due to low demand
- Superfast Ferries to cut its daily service from Zeebrugge to Rosyth to three times a week from November

### Domestic Economic News

- In the three months to September UK retail sales were 1% up on the same period of last year, the slowest annual increase since January 1996

### European Economic News

- A further national strike in Belgium in protest at plans to increase retirement age from 58 to 60

### US Economic News

- US consumer confidence continues to fall in October
- OECD says it expects “solid but slower” US economic growth over the next 18 months, at a forecast annual rate of 3.25%

### Global Economic News

- South Korea's economy grew at an annual rate of 4.4% in the third quarter, helped by strong consumer spending

### Domestic Tourism News

- The population of the UK is forecast to increase by 7.2 million between 2004 and 2031
- In 2004 the number of people arriving to live in the UK for at least a year increased to a record 582,000 (of whom 494,000 were non-British citizens). The number leaving the UK to live elsewhere stood at 360,000 (of whom 208,000 were British citizens)
- PKF hotel occupancy figures for September show London occupancy of 79.6%, just 3% down on September 2004, with regional hotel occupancy at 79.6% (78.2% September 2004). TRI Hospitality figures for Chain Hotels reveal a very similar story
- Bird shows, fairs and markets banned by UK Government unless veterinary experts deem them to be safe

### Global Tourism News

- New cases of avian flu in birds confirmed in China, Romania, Croatia and Russia, with confirmed human deaths from the virus in Thailand and Indonesia. There have now been 121 human cases globally with 62 of these resulting in death
- World Tourism Organisation forecast global international arrivals will increase by 5%-6% in 2005

### Pictorial Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

[http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20171005\\_tcm17-8615.doc](http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20171005_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 Forecasts: <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>