

Trends Update – Issue 25 (15 November 2005)

Weather

- October weather: temperatures across England and Wales were exceptionally above average, rainfall well above average and amounts of sunshine were below average. In Scotland: temperatures well above average, rainfall close to average and sunshine totals below average

Transport and tour operator news

- BA reports that the Gate Gourmet dispute has cost the airline between £35m and £45m
- BAA October traffic: domestic +0.9%, European Scheduled +1.9%, North Atlantic +0.5%, other long-haul +6.1%
- UKInbound report arrivals down 3.9% in September with forward bookings 7.4% down on a year ago
- Global Refund report sales to overseas visitors claiming tax refunds down 3% in October compared to 2004
- In October BA carried 2.2% more passengers than in October 2004, with Asia/Pacific seeing the strongest growth, and a fall in traffic to/from Africa and the Middle East
- Air Berlin to launch domestic routes in the UK from Manchester and Glasgow to Stansted, and expand the number of flights it offers from Germany to Stansted from 16 December
- SAS launches twice daily service from Copenhagen to London City
- Globespan to launch daily flights from Edinburgh to Bournemouth next March
- Low yields result in the cessation of the Hoverspeed Calais to Dover service from 7 November

Domestic Economic News

- UK consumer confidence falls to its lowest level since March 2003
- The value of e-commerce in the UK rose by 81% in 2004, to reach £71.1bn

European Economic News

- Turkey granted “market economy” status by the EU

US Economic News

- With estimated annual growth in GDP of 3.8% and 3.9% in consumer spending in the three months ending 30 September, the US Federal Reserve again increase base rates by ¼%
- US unemployment falls slightly in October

Global Economic News

- The Bank of Japan says deflation may end this fiscal year, with inflation of 0.1%, increasing to around 0.5% during the fiscal year ending March 2007, higher than recently published IMF estimates

Domestic Tourism News

- Provisional UCAS figures for acceptances by overseas students for entry into UK Universities in 2005 show an increase of 4.9% compared with last year to a total of 45,058

Global Tourism News

- New outbreaks of avian flu in China and Vietnam, with 2 new confirmed human cases in Indonesia, 1 in Vietnam and 1 in Thailand. Defra says that the risk of avian flu in birds reaching the UK is “low but heightened”
- BBC plans an Arabic tv station for the Middle East. Broadcasts in Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Greek, Hungarian, Kazakh, Polish, Slovak, Slovene and Thai languages will cease. BBC World Service will continue to broadcast in English to these countries

Pictorial Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20151105_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

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

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