

## Trends Update – Issue 28 (6 January 2006)

### Weather

- The weather across England and Wales during December brought exceptionally above average sunshine totals for the second successive month, with rainfall below average and temperatures close to average. In Scotland sunshine totals and temperatures were above average with rainfall totals below average

### Transport and tour operator news

- UKInbound report visitor arrivals down 9.2% compared with October 2004 with forward bookings down 7.9%
- The number of passengers travelling on short-sea crossings to and from the UK between July and September was 7% down on the equivalent period of 2004
- Long distance rail journeys increased in number by 4.4% in the three months to September compared with the same period of 2004
- MAXjet to introduce a second 'all business class' service to Stansted from late February originating in Washington and operating 5 times per week
- Cathay Pacific to introduce a three-times weekly service from Hong Kong to Manchester via Moscow from March
- American Airlines announce they are abandoning plans for a service from New York to Newcastle
- Qatar Airways is to increase its service from Doha to Manchester to daily by summer 2006
- From March Transavia will operate six times each week from Amsterdam to Prestwick
- BA to withdraw its daily service from Melbourne to Heathrow

### Domestic Economic News

- UK unemployment increases slightly in the 3 months to October
- UK consumer confidence falls in December

### European Economic News

- Eurozone interest rates increased by ¼% for the first time in 30 months

### US Economic News

- US interest rates increased by a further ¼%
- A survey of US CEOs suggest that they expect the US economy to grow by 3.3% in 2006
- Latest figures from the US show that economic growth in the three months to September stood at 4.1%
- US consumer confidence rebounds strongly in December

### Global Economic News

- Revised figures on the size of China's economy indicate it has now overtaken Italy in terms of GDP, with analysts forecasting that when 2005 figures are available China will have overtaken both the UK and France
- Above expectation figures on Singapore's economic growth suggest final quarter economic growth was 7.7%

### Domestic Tourism News

- PKF figures show London hotel occupancy at 81.6% in November, the first year-on-year increase post July bombings, occupancy in provincial hotels was 74.4%, again up on October 2004

### Global Tourism News

- Morocco signs an "open skies" agreement with the EU, likely to result in an increase in flights from Morocco to the UK, potentially including flights operated by low-cost airlines
- UN calls for governments to follow the example set in France and impose a development tax on airline tickets
- Avian flu found to be the cause of death in 3 humans in Turkey, yet to be confirmed whether the victims had the H5N1 strain of the virus, a further 8 people remain hospitalised with suspected avian flu symptoms

### Pictorial Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

[http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pic%20060106\\_tcm17-8615.doc](http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pic%20060106_tcm17-8615.doc)

#### About "Trends Update"

Issued bimonthly 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.

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