

## Trends Update – Issue 29 (23 January 2006)

### Weather

- Met Office figures confirm the gloomy start to the year with Cardiff averaging just 20 minutes of sunshine per day during the first two weeks of 2006

### Transport and tour operator news

- BA carried 0.2% fewer passengers in December compared with a year ago. The number of passengers travelling within the UK or Europe fell 3.1%, numbers to/from the Americas were up 0.8% and Asia/Pacific traffic up nearly 16%
- BAA figures for December show domestic traffic 0.5% down on December 2004, with European scheduled traffic up 3.7%, North Atlantic traffic down 1.7% and other long-haul traffic up 7.4%
- Eurostar carried 7.45 million passengers in 2005, an increase of 2.4% on 2004, but comparing October to December 2005 with the previous year passenger numbers were down 2.7%
- BA to rebrand its CitiExpress services BA Connect, with a single class cabin and no complimentary catering
- Ongoing industrial action disrupts Alitalia flights
- Flybe to introduce three flights per week from Cherbourg to Southampton
- Flyglobespan to introduce daily flights from Athens to Stansted

### Domestic Economic News

- According to the ONS the number of economically active over 65s will increase from 582,000 in 2005 to 775,000 by 2020
- Latest figures show a small rise in unemployment but a gradual increase in the volume of retail sales

### European Economic News

- The German Federal Statistics Office says the economy grew just 0.9% in 2005

### US Economic News

- The US government has its first monthly budget surplus in more than 4 years
- A slight narrowing in the size of the US trade deficit occurred in November

### Global Economic News

- Japan's stock market hit by reports of fraud at a leading Internet company
- Much of Asia suffering exceptionally low temperatures and heavy snowfall
- China's exports rose by 29% in 2005 whereas imports increased by 18%, further strengthening the trade surplus to \$102bn
- Gun attacks on Shell installations in Nigeria and the stand-off with Iran result in oil prices rising

### Domestic Tourism News

- According to Hitwise 38% of all visits to travel websites in the UK during December were 'search engine generated', with Google accounting for 73% of search engine generated visits

### Global Tourism News

- WHO reports further human cases of avian flu in Turkey and Indonesia but again reiterate that they are not advising against travel to these regions

### Pictorial Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

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