

Trends Update – Issue 30 (8 February 2006)

Weather

- England and Wales recorded above average temperatures and sunshine totals in January, with rainfall well below average. In Scotland temperatures were well above average and rainfall below average, whereas sunshine totals were close to average

Transport and tour operator news

- UKInbound figures for November show visitor arrivals 3.2% down compared with a year before, and forward bookings 2.1% lower, this is, however, an improvement on the figures for October
- PKF figures show that in December hotel occupancy in London was very similar to that achieved in December 2004, with occupancy in provincial hotels registering a small increase
- CAA figures show the number of passengers on scheduled international flights to/from the UK was up 6.7% on December 2004, with the strongest growth in traffic to/from Eastern Europe, North Africa and India
- In January BA carried 0.9% more passengers than a year ago, with Asia-Pacific traffic up 12.8% but Americas traffic down 2.6%
- SAS flights disrupted by bad weather and then a strike by pilots
- Jet2 to launch three flights per week from Bergen to Newcastle from April
- Aer Lingus to introduce 3 flights per week from Cork to Birmingham from June
- BA to withdraw its service from Oslo to Manchester

Domestic Economic News

- Provisional figures show UK GDP in 2005 to be 1.8% up on 2004
- UK consumer confidence improves markedly during January

European Economic News

- Eurozone unemployment increased slightly in December to stand at 8.4%

US Economic News

- Unemployment falls to 4.7% in January and the number of people in employment was 2% up on a year ago
- Consumer confidence is now at its highest level for more than three years

Global Economic News

- The Indian government forecasts annual economic growth of 8.1% in the year to March 2006
- Thailand sees protests against the Prime Minister in Bangkok, and an increase in attacks by insurgents in the south of the country

Domestic Tourism News

- The number of marriages in England and Wales increased by 0.2% in 2004 to stand at 270,700

Global Tourism News

- The number of human deaths due to H5N1 now stands at 88, with the first case in Iraq confirmed. Of these deaths 41 occurred in 2005, with 12 so far in 2006

Pictorial Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20080206_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.

Trends and Forecasts: <http://vbnet/Communications/PartnershipsPlanning/ForecastingTrends/ForecastingAndTrends.asp>

International Marketing Research: http://vbnet/BritainInternational/InternationalMarketing/international_research/default.asp

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