

Trends Update – Issue 31 (22 February 2006)

Transport and tour operator news

- UKInbound figures continue to show a slower rate of decline; in December arrivals were 1.3% down on a year before, with forward bookings down just 0.6%
- Global Refund figures for January show the value of sales to overseas visitors claiming tax refunds up 26% on a year ago
- Iberia to withdraw the service from Valencia to Heathrow from 27 March
- easyJet to launch daily services to Glasgow from Alicante, Berlin and Malaga from 7 July
- Cathay Pacific postpone plans for a service from Hong Kong to Manchester via Moscow

Domestic Economic News

- UK unemployment increases slightly in the three months to December and the rate of employment growth slows

European Economic News

- The European Commission forecast EU wide economic growth of 2.2% in 2006, but with the average for Eurozone countries slightly lower at 1.9%

US Economic News

- US economic productivity slipped 0.6% in the final 3 months of 2005, its first decline since early 2001

Global Economic News

- Japan economic growth stood at 1.4% in the fourth quarter of 2005, ahead of expectation due to strong exports

Domestic Tourism News

- Blackpool Pleasure Beach was the most visited free attraction in 2005 according to ALVA, with 5.97m visitors, the London Eye was the most visited charged attraction with 3.25m visitors

Global Tourism News

- Avian flu in birds now confirmed in a number of Western European countries along with India, Egypt and Malaysia. The number of human deaths stands at 92

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.

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