

Trends Update – Issue 32 (8 March 2006)

Weather

- February weather: temperatures, rainfall and sunshine totals were all close to average across England and Wales, in Scotland temperatures were above average, rainfall below average. Coldest February for a decade

Transport and tour operator news

- BA carried 0.8% more passengers in February than a year ago, Asia/Pacific traffic +12%, Americas -1.4%
- Monarch to withdraw its service from Malaga to Newquay
- Etihad to launch a direct service from Abu Dhabi to Manchester
- Ryanair to operate a flight three times a week from Pisa to Bournemouth from 8th June
- Eastern airways to launch a year-round service from Leeds Bradford to Inverness with support from Scottish Executive Route Development Funds
- Virgin Atlantic to add a sixth daily flight from New York JFK to Heathrow
- From this summer easyJet will launch daily services from Marrakech to Gatwick and from Istanbul to Luton, with four flights per week from the Croatian city of Rijeka to Luton
- Lufthansa cancels numerous flights out of Germany to the UK due to heavy snow
- Spanish ship owner Acciona Trasmediterranea will open a regular goods and passenger ro-ro service between the Spanish port of Vigo and Portsmouth in April 2007

Domestic Economic News

- New figures from ONS show that in 2004 UK productivity per worker was similar to that of Germany, but well below that in France and the USA
- UK consumer confidence slipped back slightly during February

European Economic News

- German business confidence now at its highest level for 14 years
- The European Central Bank increases Eurozone base rates by ¼% due to concerns over inflation

US Economic News

- Congress expected to approve a plan to extend the government's credit limit as it approaches the current permitted maximum of \$8.2 trillion

Global Economic News

- Thwarted suicide bomb attacks on a major oil installation in Saudi Arabia and further threats in Nigeria leads to a hike in oil prices
- The Indian budget sets a 10% annual economic growth target and promises investment in infrastructure, including airports
- China announces that it is to spend \$17bn on expanding airport infrastructure over the next five years
- Protests against the Prime Minister of Thailand grow, and opposition parties threaten to boycott a snap election pencilled in for 2 April
- The OECD says that the global economy is "back on track"

Domestic Tourism News

- PKF figures show London hotel occupancy during January at 68.4%, up from 65.0% in January 2005, in the regions occupancy increased from 56.9% last year to 58.3% this year
- JD Wetherspoon to delay introducing a smoking ban in all its pubs from May 2006 to mid 2007
- The Government rejects plans to erect 27 wind turbines near Kendal in the Lake District

Global Tourism News

- Human fatalities from avian flu stand at 96, of which 20 have been during 2006

Pictorial Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20080306_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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