

Trends Update – Issue 33 (23 March 2006)

Transport and tour operator news

- UKInbound report visitor arrivals up 4.9% in January compared with a year earlier, forward bookings increased by 0.1%
- Global Refund figures show a 47% increase in the value of sales to overseas visitors claiming tax refunds
- Edinburgh and Glasgow airports both closed for several hours due to heavy snow on 12 March
- BAA traffic statistics for February: domestic +0.5%, European scheduled +4.2%, North Atlantic –1.5%, other long-haul +8.4%
- CAA figures show that the number of passengers on scheduled flights to and from the UK during February increased at an annual rate of 5.8%
- The number of international sea passengers travelling to and from the UK in 2005 was 8.1% down on 2004
- New easyJet routes: Rijeka (Croatia), Krakow, La Rochelle, Marseille and Toulouse to Bristol, Split to Gatwick, Bordeaux and Rimini to Luton, Alicante to Edinburgh
- BA Connect to launch a new service from Milan to London City, but withdraws services from Geneva to London City

Domestic Economic News

- UK unemployment increases for the second successive period and retail sales remain subdued in February
- The leading UK stock market index reaches its highest level for over five years

European Economic News

- Unions and students to hold a “day of action” in France on 28 March aimed at thwarting government labour market reforms, this is expected disrupt flights and other forms of transport

US Economic News

- US trade deficit in January reached a new record of \$68.5bn
- US retail sales drop sharply in February, but this could be due to cold weather rather than a downturn in consumer sentiment
- The US trade deficit grew by 20% in 2005 to reach \$805bn

Global Economic News

- Latest research from Forbes suggests there are 793 US\$ billionaires worldwide, with 33 of these living in Russia and 23 in India. There are 40 billionaires in New York and 25 in Moscow
- The Indian stock market continues to set new records, passing the 11,000 mark for the first time, having risen 17% so far in 2006

Domestic Tourism News

- Minimum wage to increase by nearly 6% from October to £5.35 an hour

Global Tourism News

- A second international airport looks set to be built in Beijing within the next five years
- Five additional human fatalities due to H5N1 confirmed in Azerbaijan, taking the total to 103

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.

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

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

England Marketing Research: <http://vbnet/EnglandMarketing/EnglandResearch/default.asp>

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