

Trends Update – Issue 34 (7 April 2006)

Weather

- Met Office figures for March show temperatures to have been below average across England and Wales, with rainfall above average and hours of sunshine close to average – coldest March since 1996

Transport and tour operator news

- UKInbound report visitor arrivals up 1.6% in February but forward bookings fell 0.5%
- The number of long-distance rail passenger journeys during the period October and December increased at an annual rate of 7.8%
- Heathrow slips to 5th most connected European airport in terms of global route network, with Munich moving into 4th place (behind Frankfurt, Charles de Gaulle and Schipol)
- BAA announces that it is to close Heathrow Terminal 2 from 2008 once Terminal 5 is open regardless of whether its Heathrow East plan gets planning permission
- Air Wales to stop all services from end April, but Eastern Airways to offer increased flights to Cardiff
- Stenna Line will decide in the next few weeks whether to continue operating its 'fast ferry' service from Hook of Holland to Harwich
- BA to withdraw its services from Cologne to Heathrow and from Budapest, Hanover and Munich to Gatwick
- Air New Zealand to introduce second daily service from Auckland to Heathrow operating via Hong Kong
- Gulf Air increases its schedule from Muscat to Heathrow to twice daily
- flybve to operate three times a week from Newquay to Edinburgh this summer
- FlyMe to introduce a service operating 13 times per week from Gothenburg to Stansted
- BA to launch five flights per week from Salzburg to Gatwick from December

Domestic Economic News

- UK consumer confidence drops in March with a further small increase in unemployment reported
- UK interest rates kept at 4.5% for the eighth consecutive month

European Economic News

- Continued disruption in France due to protests against proposed new labour laws

US Economic News

- US Consumer confidence picked up in March to reach a four-year high
- US employment continues to expand at an annual rate of more than 2%

Global Economic News

- China's Central Bank forecasts that economic growth will have slowed to 8.7% by the fourth quarter of 2006

Domestic Tourism News

- Figures from consultancy firm PKF for February show regional hotel occupancy at 67.6% (up from 67.2% a year ago) and London occupancy at 76.9% (72.8% a year ago)

Global Tourism News

- Turkish Statistical Institute figures show an annual decrease of 10.1% in arriving foreign visitors in February, a fall that coincides with the emergence of avian flu in both birds and humans in Turkey
- Confirmation that a dead swan found in Scotland died of the H5N1 strain of avian flu
- A survey by SpiceJet, the Indian low-cost operator, finds that 40% of its passengers were making their first ever flight

Pictorial Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20070406_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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