



Weather

- April weather across England and Wales brought above average temperatures and sunshine, with rainfall below average. Scotland: temperatures close to average, rainfall above average but sunshine totals were well above average

Transport and tour operator news

- BAA traffic forecasts for the next ten years suggest passenger numbers will increase from 67.4m in 2005/6 to 85m in 2015/16 at Heathrow, 32.8m to 40m at Gatwick and 22.2m to 40.5m at Stansted. This gives an overall annual average growth of 4% for London area airports
- CAA figures for 2005 show that the fastest growing route for scheduled passenger air traffic to/from the UK was Mumbai-Heathrow with 280,000 more passengers than in 2004. The busiest international route overall remains New York JFK-Heathrow with 2.9 million passengers in 2005
- BAA April traffic: domestic -1.3%, European scheduled +10.8%, North Atlantic +4.8%, other long-haul +15%
- BA April traffic: +5% compared with 2005, with all regions registering an increase
- Eastern Airways to launch a service between Inverness and Newcastle from June, operating six days a week
- Thomsonfly to introduce four flights per week between Cardiff and Jersey from June
- Ryanair withdraws its service from Dublin to Cardiff, with flights now diverted to Bristol but Aer Arran announces it will introduce a new twice-daily service between Dublin and Cardiff
- Saturday morning Tube services will start an hour later from May 2007, but will run half an hour later from destinations in central London on both Friday and Saturday nights
- UKInbound figures for March show arrivals down 8.6% on March 2005. Forward bookings were up 1.4%

Domestic Economic News

- Preliminary figures show UK GDP grew at an annual rate of 2.2% in the first three months of 2006

European Economic News

- Eurozone consumer confidence shows further signs of modest improvement
- Business confidence improves for the fourth consecutive month in Germany, driven by export demand rather than domestic consumers
- The European Commission ups its forecast for Eurozone economic growth in 2006 from 1.9% to 2.1%

US Economic News

- US Consumer Confidence Index increases in April, taking it to its highest level since May 2002
- The US dollar weakens to \$1.85 against the pound

Global Economic News

- South Korean economic growth was 6.2% in the first quarter, helped by strong private consumption
- World Bank says economic growth in China will be 9.5% in 2006

Domestic Tourism News

- PKF figures for March show regional hotel room occupancy at 69.9% (up from 67.4% in 2005) and London occupancy at 79.9% (74.6% in 2005)

Global Tourism News

- Dutch government gives permission for Schiphol Airport to expand from 400,000 flights annually to 520,000

Pictorial Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20100506_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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