



#### Transport and tour operator news

- Wizz Air to introduce 3 flights a week from Katowice in Poland to Doncaster Sheffield Robin Hood Airport from September
- From November Ryanair will introduce new services from Marseille to Stansted and Glasgow
- Eastern Airways to suspend its twice-daily flight between Norwich and Manchester from 30<sup>th</sup> May
- bmi to launch a service operating four times a day from Amsterdam to Southampton
- The volume of car traffic on Britain's roads in the first three months of 2006 was unchanged with a year ago

#### Domestic Economic News

- New figures from the Office for National Statistics that 69.2% of all UK Internet connections are now broadband, with just 30.8% of connections now dial-up

#### European Economic News

- Eurozone economic growth in the first three months of 2006 stood at 2.0%
- Bulgaria and Romania likely to become full members of the European Union next January
- Slovenia to adopt the Euro as its national currency from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007

#### US Economic News

- US interest rates increased for the sixteenth successive month to 5.0%

#### Global Economic News

- Retail spending by Chinese consumers grew at an annual rate of almost 14% in April
- Japan's economy grew by 1.9% in the first quarter of 2006, well ahead of expectation
- Stock and commodity markets worldwide fall sharply due to the expectation of higher base rates

#### Domestic Tourism News

- Figures from consultancy firm PKF show regional hotel occupancy in April at 71.4%, almost identical to April 2005, whereas in London room occupancy of 79.2% this year was well up on the 73.6% achieved a year ago
- Global Refund data show continued strong growth in VAT reclaims by overseas visitors to the UK during April

#### Global Tourism News

- The confirmed number of human deaths due to avian flu during 2006 reaches 48, seven more than in the whole of 2005

#### Pictorial Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

[http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20250506\\_tcm17-8615.doc](http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20250506_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>  
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