



#### Weather

- May Weather in England and Wales: above average temperatures, exceptionally above average rainfall (wettest since 1979) and close to average sunshine totals. Scotland: temperatures close to average, above average rainfall and sunshine totals

#### Transport and tour operator news

- The total number of passengers travelling on international sea routes to/from the UK dropped 4% in the first three months of 2006 compared with a year ago
- BAA May traffic figures: domestic +0.4%, European scheduled +6.6%, North Atlantic +1.4%, other long-haul +11%
- BA carried 3.5% more passengers in May this year compared with May 2005
- Ryanair is granted permission by the Moroccan authorities to operate up to twenty routes to the country, though details of where these routes will originate are yet to be announced
- Global Refund report an annual 29% increase in sales to overseas tourists claiming tax refunds on retail purchases during May

#### Domestic Economic News

- UK interest rates kept at 4.5%

#### European Economic News

- German consumer confidence now at its highest level since 2001
- Eurozone interest rates increased to 2.75%

#### US Economic News

- New data reveal the US economy grew at an annual rate of 5.3% in the first quarter, its fastest rate for two and a half years
- US consumer confidence in May declines to its lowest level since last autumn due to worries about short-term economic prospects
- The White House says it expects the US economy to grow more quickly during 2006, but that inflationary pressures are mounting
- US unemployment fell slightly in May to stand at 4.6%

#### Global Economic News

- Economic growth in Japan during the first quarter of 2006 was 3.1%, higher than expected

#### Domestic Tourism News

- The Office of Fair Trading announces that it has 'decided to look more closely at how the airport markets work with the aim of establishing whether the current market structure delivers best value for air travellers.'
- Eight locations short-listed for the UK's first 'super-casino': London's Wembley Stadium and Millennium Dome, Cardiff, Blackpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and Glasgow
- Thames Water applies for a Drought Order in London

#### Global Tourism News

- IATA says its global membership of airlines is likely to record a US\$3bn loss in 2006

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

[http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20120606\\_tcm17-8615.doc](http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%20120606_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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