



### Weather

- A new record high temperature for the month of July was set on 19 July at Wisley when temperatures reached 36.5 deg C

### Transport and tour operator news

- BAA airports passenger figures for June: domestic -0.2%, European scheduled +8%, North Atlantic +2.9% and other long-haul +8.2%
- bmi to launch a daily Moscow to Heathrow service
- Eastern Airways to launch a double-daily service from Brussels to Durham Tees Valley from early October
- Manx2 to begin operating from Belfast to the Isle of Man, with four flights per day
- Jet Airways to launch a service from Amritsar to Heathrow operating three times a week from August
- BA to launch a double-daily service from Marrakech to Heathrow and a twice-weekly service to Heathrow from Fez
- Ryanair to launch services from Eindhoven and Riga to Glasgow Prestwick from end October
- Eurotunnel applies for the French equivalent of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection in order to give the company a further six months to put together a restructuring plan

### Domestic Economic News

- UK retail sales now growing at their fastest rate since spring 2002

### European Economic News

- The Euro area external trade deficit is estimated to have risen to €3.2bn in May

### US Economic News

- The US federal deficit is now forecast to fall to under \$300bn in the year to September

### Global Economic News

- Japan increases interest rates from 0% to 0.25%, the first increase for six years
- Between March and June the Chinese economy grew by 11.3% compared with the same period of last year

### Domestic Tourism News

- The 2005 UK Time Use Survey reveals that the average time spent per day on sport and outdoor activities is 10 minutes, with 24 minutes a day spent going out with friends and relatives, 5 minutes a day spent on entertainment and culture and 19 minutes partaking in hobbies
- Figures from Global Refund show a 14% annual rise in sales to overseas tourists to the UK reclaiming tax

### Global Tourism News

- Oil touches \$78 a barrel following Israeli attacks on Lebanon

### 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.

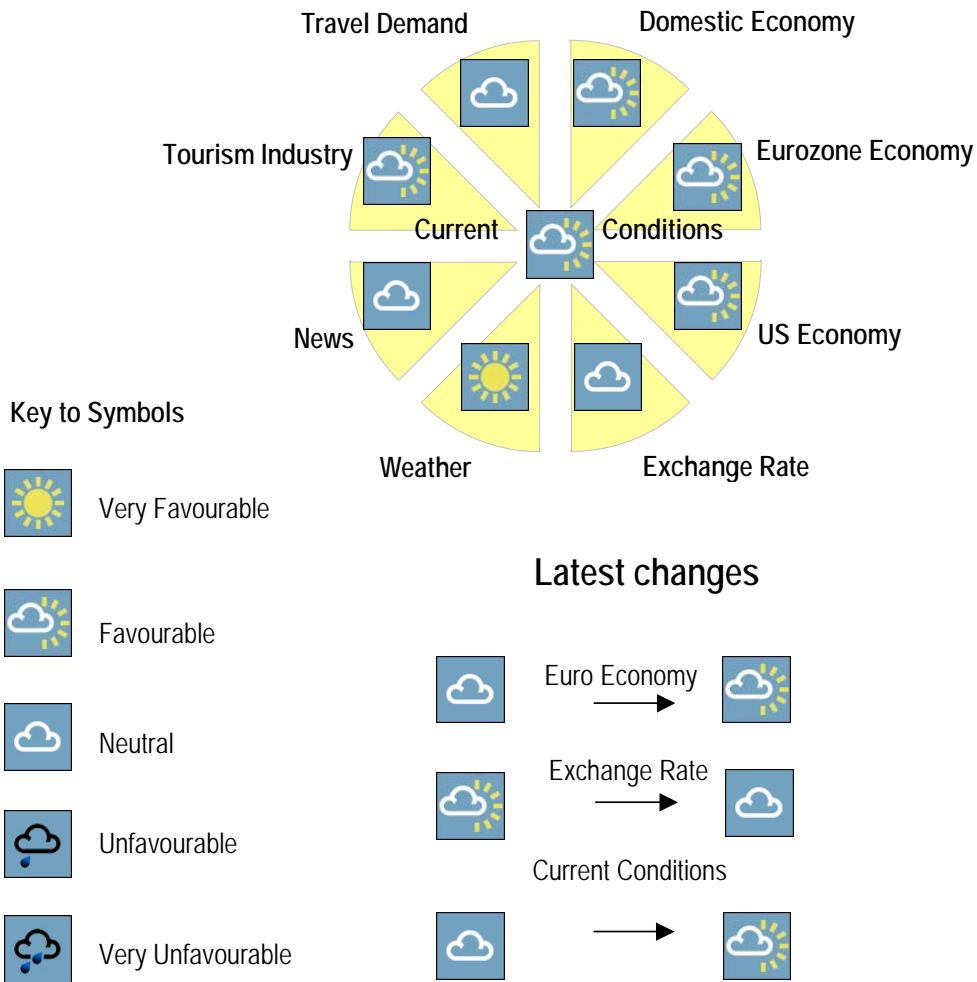
Trends and Forecasts: <http://vbnet/Communications/PartnershipsPlanning/ForecastingTrends/ForecastingAndTrends.asp>

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## Factors Contributing to Current Tourism Trends in Britain July 2006



- Overall conditions are now considered to be Favourable
- July looks set to deliver another positive set of favourable results with record July temperatures being set
- Travel demand remains in the neutral range despite a 6% jump in international air traffic to and from the UK in June
- US federal deficit forecast to improve in the coming months
- Eurozone unemployment continues to drift down and economic conditions are now considered to be Favourable
- PKF figures show hotel occupancy in May to be at its highest level since 2000
- Global Refund report continued growth in tax reclaims by overseas visitors