

Trends Update – Issue 45 (25 September 2006)

Transport and tour operator news

- Size restrictions on cabin baggage eased, but travellers still only able to take one piece of luggage on board and the ban on taking liquids through security checkpoints remains in force
- Further delays in the delivery schedule for the Airbus A380 super-jumbo anticipated
- Pakistan's second airline, Shaheen Air, is to introduce a four times weekly service to Robin Hood Doncaster Airport from Dubai later this year
- Jet2 to begin flights from Amsterdam and Prague to Blackpool this October and from Milan to Edinburgh next spring at which point the airline will also commence flying to Manchester from Berlin, Paris, Toulouse, Venice, Warsaw and Barcelona
- VLM to launch flights from Antwerp to Manchester from end October, and increase frequencies on the Antwerp to London City route and introduce six flights per week from Groningen to London City
- Because of insufficient passenger numbers, bmibaby flights to Durham Tees Valley from Cork, Paris Charles de Gaulle and Gatwick will cease as of October 29. Flights from Alicante, Malaga and Palma will end on November 6
- From April 2007 Ryanair will operate two flights per day from Bremen to Stansted
- Silverjet looks set to be the next in the increasing line of low-fare 'all business class' operators, planning flights from Newark to Luton by the end of the year

Domestic Economic News

- Bank of England figures show that UK consumer borrowing (excluding the effect of securitisations) increased at an annual rate of 10% in July

European Economic News

- Sweden's centre-right opposition narrowly win the general election, promising to reform the welfare state

US Economic News

- US interest rates unchanged in September

Global Economic News

- A military coup takes place in Thailand but regional stock markets remain calm and the Thai king gives his support to the coup leaders
- Oil prices fall to their lowest level for six months

Domestic Tourism News

- A smoking ban in enclosed public spaces will be introduced in Wales next April

Global Tourism News

- The Virgin boss Sir Richard Branson says he will give all profits from his travel firms, such as airline Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Trains, over the next 10 years to tackling global warming

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 – more information is available on the following topics:

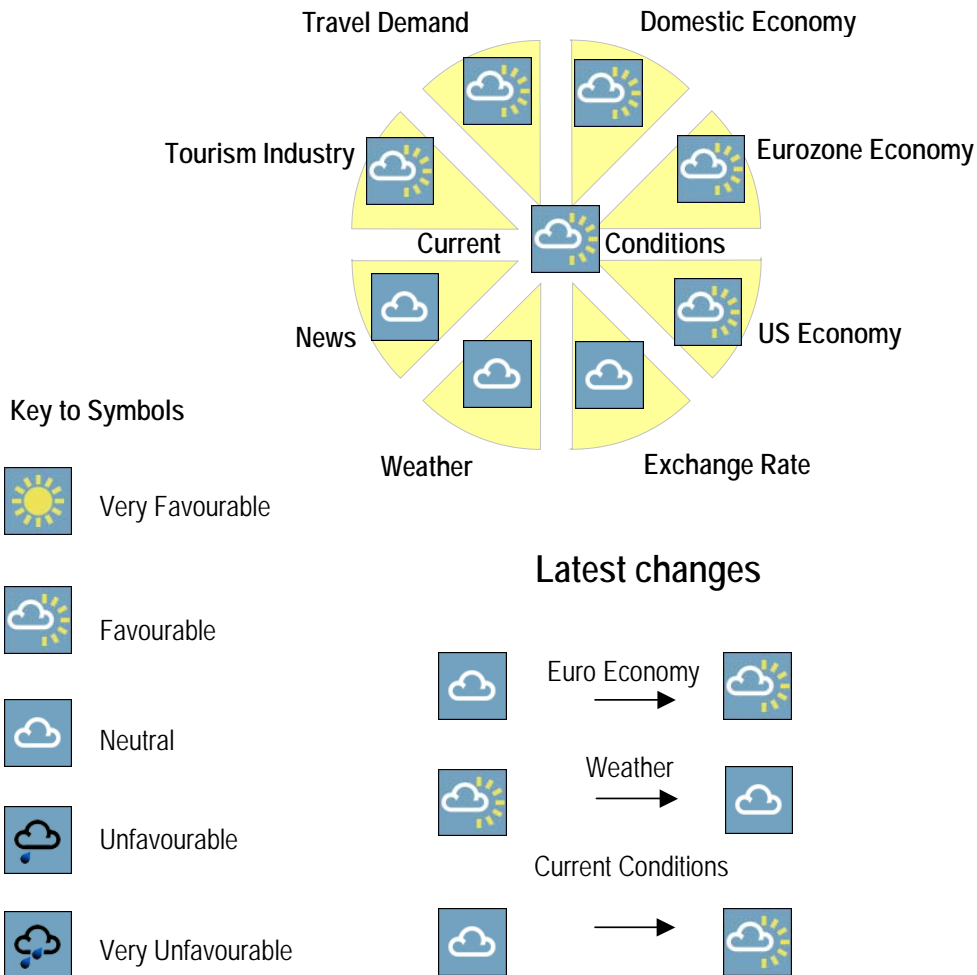
Trends and Forecasts: <http://vbnet/Communications/PartnershipsPlanning/ForecastingTrends/ForecastingAndTrends.asp>

International Marketing Research: http://vbnet/BritainInternational/InternationalMarketing/international_research/default.asp

England Marketing Research: <http://vbnet/EnglandMarketing/EnglandResearch/default.asp>

Market Intelligence Reports: <http://vbnet/BritainInternational/OverseasOperations/MarketIntelligenceReports/default.asp>

Factors Contributing to Current Tourism Trends in Britain September 2006



- Overall conditions continue to be assessed as 'Favourable'
- After two successive months of good weather in June and July, data for August shows the month to have been in line with the norm for this time of year
- There are increased signs of weakness in both the UK and US economy, but at present both continue to be assessed as 'Favourable'
- Strong hotel occupancy figures and improved figures from UKInbound for July have helped to keep the Tourism Industry segment in the 'Favourable' range
- Travel Demand has narrowly moved back into the 'Favourable' range, helped by a strong year-on-year jump in the number of passengers on international ferry routes to/from the UK