

Transport and tour operator news

- From early December the Civil Aviation Authority will stop regulating fares on all long-haul routes to and from the UK except for those between the UK and USA
- UK airport operator BAA announces it will employ 500 additional security staff and spend more money on x-ray machines following the security alert at airports in August
- UKInbound figures show visitor arrivals in September 8.3% up on last year, with forward bookings up by 2.9%
- US Airways announces that it has proposed a merger with Delta Air Lines which would take effect once Delta emerges from bankruptcy
- easyJet to introduce daily flights from Munich to Edinburgh
- Thomsonfly to introduce flights to Manchester from Lisbon and Marrakech, from Dubrovnik and Marrakech to Luton, from Jersey to Coventry, Cardiff, Doncaster/Sheffield, and Luton and to Bournemouth from Prague and Valencia
- From March BA to withdraw its services to Gatwick from Athens, Kiev, Newcastle and Riga, but to introduce flights to Gatwick from Port of Spain, Dresden and Sarajevo
- Jet2 will operate flights from Newcastle to Gatwick once BA withdraws from the route

Domestic Economic News

- UK unemployment increases to 5.6% of the workforce
- Gordon Brown will make his pre-Budget Report on 6 December

European Economic News

- Surprising most analysts the French economy stagnated in the third quarter of 2006, seeing zero year-on-year growth
- Spanish economic growth reached an annualised rate of 3.8% in the three months to September, the strongest performance for more than five years
- German economic output grew at an annual rate of 2.3% in the three months to October and business confidence is at a fifteen year high

US Economic News

- House building is at a six year low, indicating that the US economy may well be slowing, and the White House has revised down its economic growth forecast for 2006 to 3.1% from 3.6%

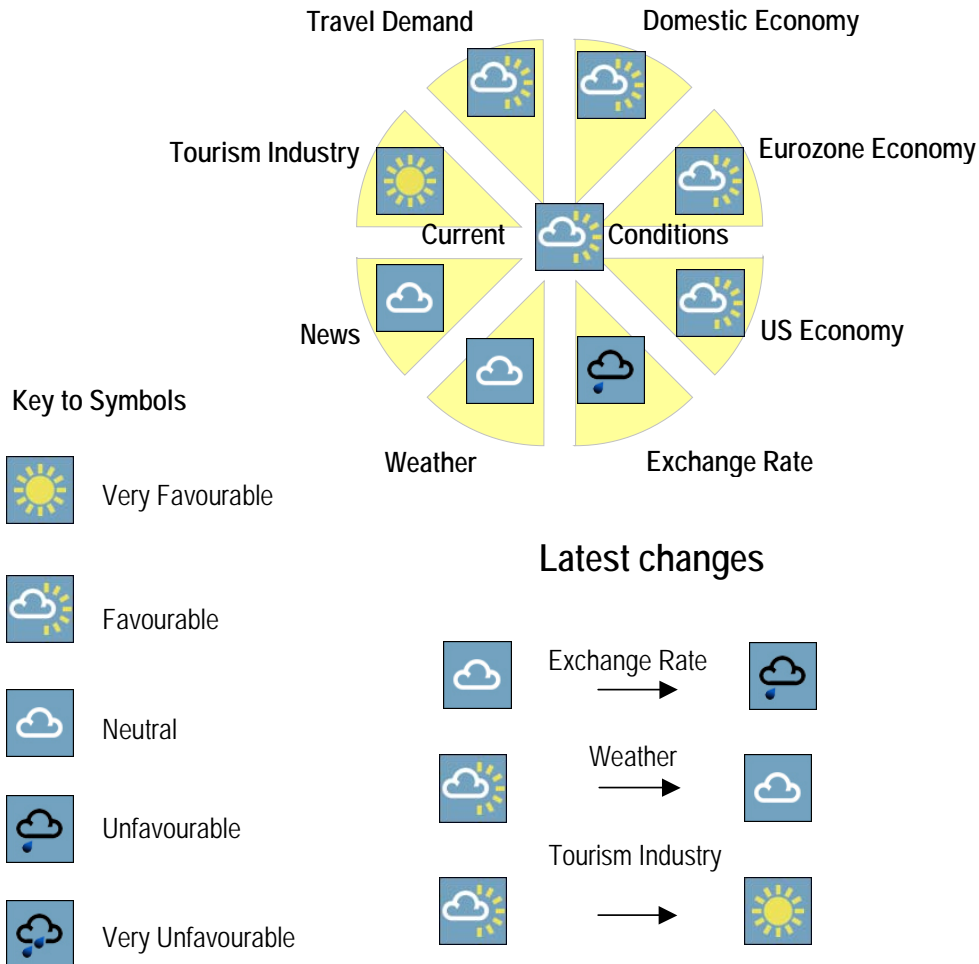
Global Economic News

- Australia's central bank warns that the drought will cut annual economic growth from 1.9% to 1.5%

Tourism News

- Eurostar will move from Waterloo to St Pancras on 14 November 2007
- The number of human cases of H5N1 this year now stands at 111, of which 75 have been fatal
- The number of passports issued in the US during fiscal year ending 30 September 2006 stood at 12,133,537, a 20% increase on 2005

Factors Contributing to Current Tourism Trends in Britain November 2006



- Overall conditions continue to be assessed as 'Favourable'
- Warm but wet weather in October means that the overall weather assessment for the month is Neutral
- With the Yen and US dollar weaker against Sterling the overall exchange rate situation is now judged to be 'Unfavourable'
- UK unemployment continues to edge up and interest rates are on the rise, but the overall assessment for the domestic economy is still considered as 'Favourable'
- Eurozone employment now increasing at an annual rate of 1.2%
- Strong hotel occupancy figures and growth in global VisitBritain enquiries help move the Tourism Industry segment into the 'Very Favourable' range
- Travel Demand remains in the 'Favourable' range, helped by continued strong year-on-year growth in demand for Eurostar services