

Trends Update – Issue 6 (23 February 2005)

Transport operator news

- CAA data shows that in January there were 3% fewer international passenger movements through UK airports – with a fall of 10% in passenger numbers to/from Western Europe but a 6% rise on US routes
- Flights from Italy to Britain were disrupted by industrial action at Alitalia on 10th and 21st February
- A defective berth in Calais resulted in significant disruption to Dover sailings over the course of a week
- Low-cost operator Germanwings will be flying direct to Birmingham from Cologne by mid April and new Polish operator Centralwings is offering services to Gatwick from both Warsaw and Krakow

Domestic Economic News

- The amount of car traffic on Britain's roads increase at an annual rate of 1.5% in the final 3 months of 2004

European Economic News

- The French economy is now thought to have grown by 2.3% in 2004, below earlier Government forecasts
- The German economy grew just 1.6% in 2004, with a 0.2% fall in economic activity during the final quarter

US Economic News

- The US trade deficit in 2004 is now estimated to have reached \$672bn

Global Economic News

- The South Korean economy grew 4.7% last year thanks to strong exports and improved consumer spending. However, 1 in 13 credit card accounts remain in default, but this is an improvement on 1 in 8 back in 2003
- Japan has posted a second successive quarter of declining economic activity meaning that it is technically in recession, but the fourth quarter decline was just 0.1%
- China has now overtaken the USA as the world's biggest consumer of grain, meat, coal and steel
- Provisional figures show Argentina's economy to have grown by 8.8% in 2004, better than Mexico's 4.4% but well below Venezuela's 17.3%, boosted by high yield oil exports
- Cold weather in North America and Europe has pushed the price of oil back above the \$50 the barrel mark

Domestic Tourism News

- Figures from the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions shows that in 2004 the top 3 "paid for" attractions were London Eye, Tower of London and National Portrait Gallery and the top 3 free attractions were Blackpool Pleasure Beach, National Gallery and British Museum

Global Tourism News

- Mexico enjoyed a record year in 2004 with an annual 10% rise in visitors. In total nearly 21 million inbound visitors spent £6bn
- EU Ministers met recently to discuss an aviation fuel tax that would be used to boost Development Aid
- Boeing unveils its long-range 777, capable of flying non-stop from London to Sydney, but due to high-altitude jet-streams the aircraft cannot fly non-stop from Sydney to London
- Improved passenger compensation for those affected by lengthy delays or cancellations have come in to force covering all flights that serve EU countries

Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%200312_tcm17-8615.doc

About "Trends Update"

Issued fortnightly 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 Forecast (Tourism, Economic, Demographic)

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

International Marketing Research

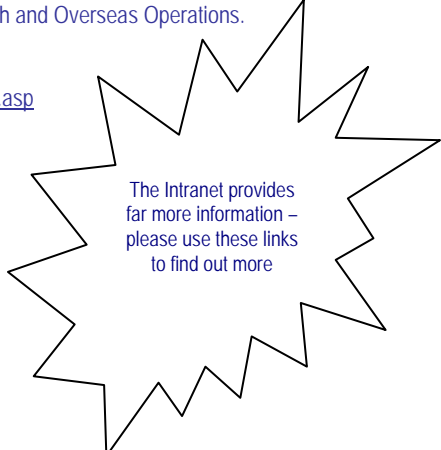
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