

Transport and tour operator news

- Ryanair to operate three flights per week between Nantes and Bournemouth from mid June
- Ryanair to axe its double-daily flights between Stansted and Blackpool from early June
- Jet2.com to suspend flights from Amsterdam to Newcastle due to a lack of demand
- Clickair to launch a daily service from Barcelona to Edinburgh from 1st August
- From October Ryanair will operate flights from both Budapest and Riga to East Midlands
- easyJet to launch flights between Paris CDG and Edinburgh from 1st September
- Sterling.dk is to launch flights from Copenhagen, Stockholm and Oslo to East Midlands and also from Oslo to Gatwick from this winter
- Ryanair announces that from November it will open a new base at Bristol with routes from; Bratislava (3 weekly), Budapest (4 weekly), Derry (daily), Dinard (3 weekly), Katowice (3 weekly), Knock (4 weekly), Milan (daily), Porto (3 weekly), Poznan (3 weekly), Riga (3 weekly) Rzeszow (2 weekly), Salzburg (2 weekly) and Wroclaw (4 weekly)

Domestic Economic News

- UK consumer price inflation falls to 2.8% in the year to April
- The rate of UK job creation continues to fall with the number in employment up just 0.1% in the period January to March compared with the same period of 2006
- In the three months to April the volume of UK retail sales was 4.8% up compared with a year ago, the strongest growth since November 2004, but below market expectations

European Economic News

- The German economy grew at 3.3% in the first quarter of 2007
- Eurozone economic growth stood at 3.1% in the first quarter of the year, slightly above expectation
- Malta and Cyprus set to adopt the Euro as their unit of currency on 1st January 2008

US Economic News

- The pound continues to trade at close to US\$2

Global Economic News

- Chinese retail sales increased at an annual rate of 15.5% in April, reinforcing the message that Chinese economic growth is no longer being driven solely by exports

Tourism News

- According to the Marine Conservation Society bathing water at 63% of the UK's beaches is rated as 'excellent'
- Cutty Sark badly damaged by fire
- The World Health Organisation confirms 15 new human cases of H5N1 in Indonesia, of which 13 have proved fatal

Factors Contributing to Current Tourism Trends in Britain May 2007



- Overall conditions have edged back into the Neutral range
- Exceptionally above average temperatures and sunshine totals in April are responsible for keeping the Weather segment in the 'Very Favourable' range
- Sterling continues to trade at around \$2, meaning that the Exchange Rate is still judged as Very Unfavourable
- Despite fragile consumer confidence higher consumer credit in the US has helped to move the US Economy back into the Favourable range
- Of note in the Tourism Industry segment is strong growth in UKinbound figures on visitor arrivals and forward bookings, along with VisitBritain enquiries
- Travel Demand continues to see slower growth in air traffic and has now fallen back into the Neutral range