

Trends Update – Issue 7 (9 March 2005)

Weather

- Despite the cold end to the month, overall temperatures and amounts of sunshine in February were close to average and the amount of rainfall was a little below average
- Snow caused disruption to road, rail and air travel, especially in eastern districts at the end of February and again in early March

Transport operator news

- US operator Skylink Airways says it will be the first to offer a low-cost international network, including a service from Baltimore to Stansted opening in the spring
- easyJet will fly Berlin to Gatwick from September
- BA revenue passenger kilometres rose at an annual rate of 1.4% in February, easyJet 16.3%
- Brittany Ferries announce that they no longer plan to take over operation of the P&O Le Havre to Portsmouth route, meaning that services will cease in September
- Daily Air India services will link Toronto, Amritsar and Delhi to Birmingham from May
- BAA passenger figures for February (distorted by leap day in 2004) show annual increases of 1.5% on European scheduled routes, 0.9% on North Atlantic routes and 5.1% on other long-haul routes

Domestic Economic News

- New figures show that UK GDP grew 2.9% in 2004, but much of the growth was courtesy of strong government spending, consumer expenditure growth rates fell back to pre Iraq War levels, and latest British Retail Consortium figures show like-for-like sales fell at an annual rate of 0.3% in February

European Economic News

- German unemployment rose to another new record high in February, and 2005 economic growth forecasts have been revised downwards to just 1.0% by the government

US Economic News

- Provisional figures show US GDP grew 4.4% in 2004, the best since before 2001

Global Economic News

- Oil continues to trade at above \$50 a barrel, confounding earlier forecasts that 2005 would bring lower prices

Domestic Tourism News

- BAA domestic passenger movements in February fell by 1.8% compared with a year ago, but this figure is distorted by the extra leap day in 2004

Global Tourism News

- The World Health Organisation announces 13 deaths in Vietnam due to bird flu since December, and warns that the virus poses the greatest threat of a global pandemic for forty years
- Many governments, including the UK authorities, announce that they are to stockpile anti-viral drugs in case of a bird flu outbreak, with sufficient supplies to cover ¼ of the population

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

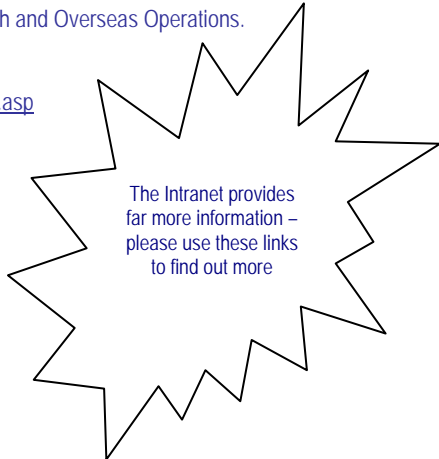
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