

## Trends Update – Issue 8 (23 March 2005)

### Transport and tour operator news

- A general strike in France disrupts air, sea and rail transport to Britain, the strike coincided with the IOC's visit
- Another Alitalia strike disrupts flights to Britain
- EUJet is to axe its route from Madrid to Kent International due to low demand
- Virgin Atlantic will be adding 2 extra weekly flights from Las Vegas to Gatwick during 2005
- UKInbound figures show January visitor arrivals up 6.1% but forward bookings up just 0.9% on January 2004
- bmi announce they are to start a thrice weekly service from Riyadh to Heathrow after BA pull out of the route
- CAA data show a fall of 6.8% in the number of passengers on international flights to/from Britain in February compared with a year ago, but if we allow for the Leap Day in 2004 the fall was closer to 3%
- The collapse of a berth at Calais continues to severely disrupt sailings to Dover with no day return tickets being sold and some sailings taking up to 14 hours according to P&O, problems that have been exacerbated by further industrial action by French seamen
- From the summer low-cost Canadian operator Zoom is to add weekly flights from Toronto to Belfast and Cardiff, twice weekly flights from Toronto and Vancouver to Manchester and a weekly flight from Calgary to Manchester to its schedule
- BA to increase its fuel surcharge from 28 March by £6 per long-haul sector and £2 per short-haul sector

### Domestic Economic News

- Interest rates held at 4.75%

### European Economic News

- An EU report says that by 2030 the EU will have 35 million people over 80, twice today's number, but 18 million fewer children – underlining the need for both continued migration and more "family friendly" policies

### US Economic News

- January's trade deficit figures were again close to \$60bn but a further ¼ point increase in interest rates helps the US\$ to strengthen slightly

### Global Economic News

- International Energy Agency warn that demand for oil will remain high throughout 2005
- The Thai Government warns that the continued drought may damage economic growth prospects

### Domestic Tourism News

- Travelodge is to expand its UK operation by adding 15,000 rooms, generating 4,500 jobs over 6 years
- The number of long-distance rail journeys in Britain between October and December 2004 were 6.1% up on the equivalent period of 2003
- The lure of "new" destinations on offer following EU enlargement is evidenced by the fact that 1,200 passengers are now flying from Stansted to Bratislava a week

### Global Tourism News

- UK to join the World Tourism Organisation

### Summary of Prevailing Conditions for British Tourism

[http://vbnet/Images/Communications/pie%200312\\_tcm17-8615.doc](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

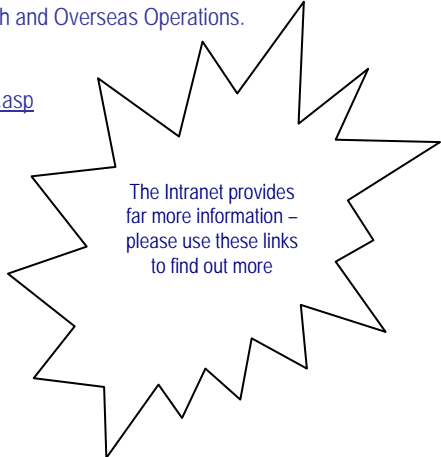
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#### England Marketing Research

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