

Trends Update – Issue 9 (5 April 2005)

Weather

- Across England and Wales March brought temperatures that were well above average, rainfall totals that were below average and amounts of sunshine that were well below average
- In Scotland temperatures were exceptionally above average, with amounts of rainfall and sunshine close to average

Transport and tour operator news

- Figures show that in the September to December period of 2004 the number of international sea passengers travelling to and from Britain fell by 5% compared with the same period of 2003. The number of passengers travelling through the Channel Tunnel (both Eurostar and Le Shuttle) increased by 4% compared with the same period of 2003
- IATA estimate that airline losses will be in the region of £3bn during 2005

Domestic Economic News

- Consumer confidence picks up slightly in March

European Economic News

- German unemployment increased by a further 92,000 in March, 12% of the labour force

US Economic News

- Consumer confidence falls for the second successive month

Global Economic News

- Figures for Japan show that in February consumer spending fell sharply, unemployment increased and there was a fall in manufacturing output
- Economic growth rates in India slipped to 6.2% in the final quarter of 2004 due to poor monsoon rainfall totals hurting the agricultural sector – this is the slowest rate of growth for 18 months
- A new threat to oil prices emerges in the form of a planned one-day strike by Nigerian oil workers on 11 April

Domestic Tourism News

- The number of visits to cinemas in 2004 stood at 171 million, the second highest in nearly 30 years
- Figures from PKF show that room occupancy in regional hotels during February stood at 68.9%, marginally up on the 68.7% achieved in February 2004, but London put in a stronger performance with room occupancy increasing from 73.3% in February 2004 to 74.4% this year

Global Tourism News

- Cambodia reports a new human death from bird flu, with Vietnam confirming eight additional human cases. Meanwhile North Korea admits that the virus has been found in the nation's poultry population but that there are no human cases. The US announces that it will detain and isolate anyone trying to enter the country who is believed to be suffering from bird flu

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

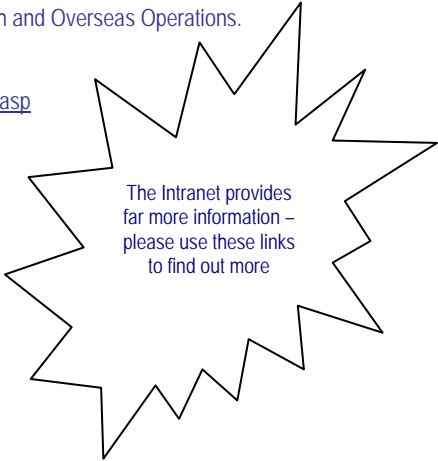
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