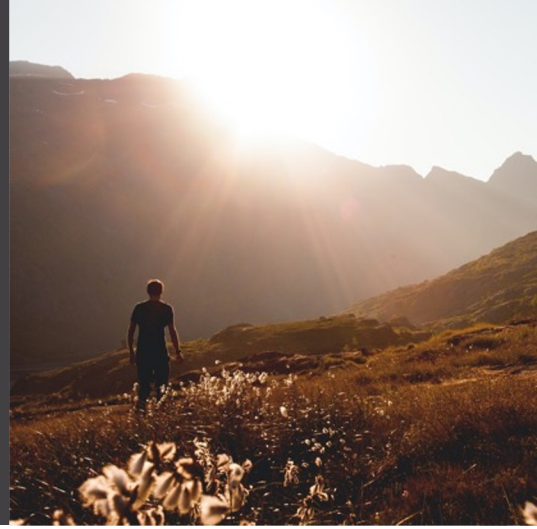


WEEKLY REPORT

18 November 2022



COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 infections numbers continue to fall across the United Kingdom. As restrictions no longer apply the number of people testing is also decreasing week on week. A study published by the Office of National Statistics has found those who had symptoms with their first infection are less likely to be reinfected, boosting natural immunity within the population

ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL UPDATE

Jeremy Hunt unveils the Autumn Statement 2022

On Thursday 17 November, the new chancellor of the exchequer Jeremy Hunt unveiled the Autumn Statement which included tax rises and billion pound spending cuts aimed at fixing the nation's economy. Other measures seek to tackle the cost-of-living crisis by imposing a legally-enforceable minimum wage increase and adding to the number of top earners who will have to pay the top 45% additional rate of income tax.

Climate talks continue at COP27

Talks between world leaders, advisors and activists are expected to overrun into the weekend as negotiations regarding phasing down the use of all fossil fuels continue to cause disagreement. Discussions have also centred around the creation of a fund contributed to by rich countries to give aid to those developing ones affected by the effects of climate change.

Ukrainian war intensifies

Following another round of Russian missile strikes across Ukraine, 10 million people have been left without electricity due to the damage of the country's energy infrastructure. Russia has admitted to be targeting such infrastructure, however, claiming the aim of the attacks was to cut off supplies only to the military. As temperatures continue to decline into sub-zero, fears for those who are fighting the war increase. The UK and EU have responded by sending power generators to

Ukraine In a bid to keep energy supplies running.

TRADE UPDATE

Abta report tips all-inclusive bookings to rise in 2023

Nearly a third of consumers are planning to take an all-inclusive holiday next year as they believe it will help them “manage” their finances during the cost-of-living crisis. Research published on 17 November in Abta’s Travel Trends 2023 report shows 29% of people want to take an all-inclusive holiday, rising to 40% among those aged 44 and under and 57% of young families. The trade association said members – including Travel Republic, Barrhead Travel, Tui, Jet2holidays and easyJet holidays – were all seeing all-inclusive bookings increase.

World Cup flights saved but Heathrow strikes continue

Qatar Airways flights from Heathrow to Qatar for the World Cup will no longer be impacted by strike action, but other services still face disruption after 350 workers walked out at 4am on Friday 18 November.

Associations welcome aspects of government’s Autumn Statement

Abta and the Business Travel Association have welcomed aspects of the government’s Autumn Statement, with the BTA saying it was a “move towards stabilising the economy”. Chancellor Jeremy Hunt today announced tens of billions in tax rises and spending cuts and acknowledged that the UK was in recession. Mark Tanzer, Abta chief executive, said: “We’re pleased the government has responded to our calls to extend the business rates support for retailers. This is something we have been consistently raising with the government for months and it is welcome that they have chosen to act on our recommendation.

Pandemic leaves people reluctant to cut back on spend in cost of living crisis

The cost of living crisis is undoubtedly impacting consumer spending – but many people are refusing to cut back in certain areas due to their experiences in the pandemic. That’s the consensus from a survey of consumers conducted by Global Media and Entertainment Group. Speaking at the Abta Travel Trends Conference in London, Hayley Fox Clarke, head of insight innovation at Global, unveiled the findings of recent audience insight which showed 83% of people admit they have been affected by the rising cost of living. At the same time, 38% said if they hadn’t experienced the pandemic, then they would be even more careful with their money. With that in mind, travel still ranks high as a priority purchase, particularly with families. In a list of top five priorities, holidays ranked second, behind TV subscriptions for families.

AIRLINE UPDATE

Virgin Atlantic unveils new services to Maldives and Turks and Caicos

Virgin Atlantic will offer new services to the Maldives and Turks and Caicos islands in 2023. The Maldives service will start on 22 October 2023, operating three times a week from Heathrow during the winter season. A year-round twice-weekly Heathrow service to the Turks and Caicos will begin on 15 November 2023. This new destination is the latest addition to Virgin's Caribbean portfolio which follows new flights to the Bahamas in December 2021, St Vincent and the Grenadines in October 2021 and a return to St Lucia.

Wizz Air joins European 'green' aircraft alliance

Wizz Air has joined a voluntary European Commission initiative designed to pave the way for next-generation sustainable aircraft. The Alliance for Zero-Emission Aviation (Azea) includes a range of public and private aviation stakeholders working to decarbonise the industry via the commercialisation of hydrogen and electric aircraft. Members will work together to identify barriers to advancing zero-emission aircraft, establish recommendations and a roadmap to address them, and promote investment projects.

Eastern Airways returns to East Midlands with Newquay link

Eastern Airways is returning to East Midlands airport for the first time since 2017 with new flights to Newquay. The regional carrier will run a daily service to Cornwall from 10 February in time for school half-term. A 72-seat ATR aircraft will be deployed on the route with one-way fares starting at £68.99. The air link will save almost ten hours compared to surface transport options on a round-trip. The new service will operate year-round and complement existing flights to Newquay Cornwall from Gatwick and Humberside.

TOUR OPERATORS, TRAVEL AGENCIES, OTA UPDATE

Jet2holidays to bring back resort flight check-in service

Jet2holidays plans to bring back its resort flight check in service from May 2023. The option allows holidaymakers to check in their bags at the hotel on their day of departure, leaving them luggage free for the rest of the day and at the airport. Prior to the pandemic, the service was offered in 10 destinations, but it was suspended in 2020 as the company was unsure when travel restrictions would be lifted.

Celebrity Cruises reports biggest-ever booking day

Celebrity Cruises reported its biggest-ever booking day on 15 November as its 2024-25 programme went on sale in the UK and Ireland. The line also achieved its highest average booking value per passenger from the UK on the same day. The season

features Edge-series ship Celebrity Apex's ex-UK sailings, which commence in May 2024.

Classic Package Holidays partners with SunExpress

Classic Package Holidays is offering new routes to Turkey from regional UK airports after sealing a partnership with SunExpress, the Antalya-based joint airline venture of Turkish Airlines and Lufthansa. The trade-only operator is offering flights from seven UK airports to a selection of Turkish destinations for summer 2023.

Royal Caribbean unveils summer 2024 European deployment

Royal Caribbean will base seven ships in nine European ports next summer. Oasis of the Seas, which was revamped in 2019, will sail from Barcelona and Rome during the season as it makes its European debut. Prices for the seven-night Spain, France & Italy sailing, departing from Barcelona on 25 August 2024, start from £936. Anthem of the Seas will again operate sailings from Southampton, including seven-night voyages from Spain, France or the Norwegian Fjords.

SOCIAL UPDATE

TikTok launches new audience insights tools

TikTok has added Audience Insights to its Ads Manager allowing advertisers to establish specific details about their audience via filters. The filters available are: age demographics, gender splits, interest categories, video interactions, creator interactions, hashtag interactions and device type. Access to a greater wealth of audience insights will allow for ads strategy to be more refined.

Instagram provides the capacity to add music to still image posts

Instagram has created another way to integrate music into the app's experience by allowing music to be added to still images. The 'add music' feature will be incorporated into the post composer flow, allowing you to search for a song of your choice to add to an image. However, brands will only have access to a restricted selection of music, as is the case with music for Reels and Stories on business accounts. In providing this feature, the app hopes that it will create atmosphere and bring photos to life.

MICE UPDATE

IAPCO creates team of researchers for new global wellbeing survey project

IAPCO and the 14 national PCO Association members of the IAPCO Strategic Association Task force have combined to create a team of researchers to gather data on employee and team member wellbeing and feelings towards work,

connections to others and perceived belonging to the meetings industry. The research team is backed by academics at Manchester Metropolitan University in the UK and expert social scientists from across the globe. Martin Boyle, ceo of IAPCO, said ““The analysis of responses gathered from the survey will not only help to form a clearer picture of factors influencing our workforce and what they are looking for from their employers and connections, but it will also, more importantly, help IAPCO and others in the industry to create educational, personal and professional programmes to support workforce development globally.”

LIGHTER NOTE

Baby elephant interrupts Kenyan TV report

At a baby elephant orphanage in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, a reporter filming his segment is disrupted by a curious tap on the shoulder of a trunk. For more information, see [here](#).