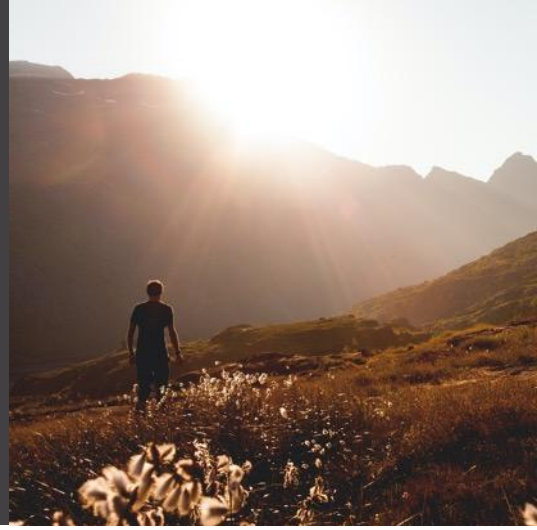


WEEKLY REPORT

30 May 2025



ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL UPDATE

Trump tariffs can stay in place for now, appeals court rules

U.S. President Donald Trump can keep collecting import taxes for now, a federal appeals court has said, a day after a trade ruling found the bulk of his global tariffs to be illegal. Wednesday's judgment from the U.S. Court of International Trade ruled that President Trump had overstepped his power by imposing the duties. The trade court's decision would void tariffs imposed by Trump in February on goods from China, Mexico and Canada, and dismiss a blanket 10% import tax that President Trump unveiled last month on goods from countries around the world. Following this ruling, a federal appeals court has granted a bid from the White House to temporarily suspend the lower court's order, as the administration said that the decision issued by the trade court a day earlier had improperly second-guessed the president and threatened to unravel months of hard-fought trade negotiations.

Source: [BBC](#)

UK Chancellor to announce billions in regional spending after Treasury rule changes

The government has fleshed out its plans for reforming the UK pension industry, including the creation of £25bn "megafunds" which will be instructed to make a portion of their investments locally to help fuel economic growth. The chancellor said the overhaul, designed to follow the example of Australia and Canada's huge pension investment funds, would also boost people's pension pots. The new approach would mean over £50bn of additional investment in UK infrastructure, new homes and businesses, as well as a £6,000 boost to workers' defined contribution pension pots, the Treasury said.

Source: [The Guardian](#)

Tariff tensions to drag down UK economy next year

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that ongoing global trade tensions, particularly linked to the U.S. tariffs, could reduce UK economic growth by 0.3 percentage points in 2026. Despite this, the global economics body has upgraded its forecast for the UK economy this year after a stronger-than-expected economic performance in early 2025, stating an "economic recovery is underway" in the UK, with GDP (gross domestic product) set to increase by 1.2% this year. In April, the organisation had previously pointed towards 1.1% growth for the year.

Source: [The Standard](#)

TRADE UPDATE

UK travellers booking for summer 'earlier than other Europeans'

European OTA eDreams Odigeo has reported record profits for the past financial year and highlighted that UK travellers are booking holidays earlier than those in any other European country. Its data shows 86% of UK holidaymakers are booking more than 90 days in advance, compared to just 61% in Italy. This trend reflects growing consumer confidence and a strong commitment to travel despite inflation and cost-of-living pressures. The company attributes the shift to increased certainty around travel and industry efforts to provide flexible booking and cancellation options.

Source: [Travelweekly.co.uk](https://www.travelweekly.co.uk)

All change: how and why travel to Europe is poised for a reset

British travellers to the EU will soon face significant post-Brexit changes, with biometric checks and visa waivers set to be introduced. From October 2025, the EU's long-delayed Entry-Exit System (EES) is expected to launch, requiring UK arrivals excluding those to Ireland and Cyprus, to provide facial and fingerprint data, potentially adding several minutes to border processing times. In 2026, the Etias visa waiver scheme will also take effect. Meanwhile, discussions continue around restoring posted working rights and increasing competition on cross-Channel rail routes. These changes mark a notable shift in travel norms a decade after the Brexit vote.

Source:

[TTGmedia.com](https://www.ttgmedia.com)

AIRLINE UPDATE

Aer Lingus - Aer Lingus will launch a new route from 'Dublin, Ireland' to Cancun for winter 2026, operating three weekly flights from 6 January to 29 April. The service will use Airbus A330-300 aircraft and offer connections from the UK and across Europe. The announcement coincides with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Mexico.

Source: [Travelweekly.co.uk](https://www.travelweekly.co.uk)

Delta Air Lines - Delta Air Lines may target Birmingham Airport for future transatlantic services, according to CEO Ed Bastian, who highlighted strong market potential from the region. The airline, which sponsors Birmingham City FC, is considering using its new Airbus A321LR aircraft to serve UK airports beyond London. Bastian acknowledged concerns about the U.S. appearing less welcoming to international visitors due to stricter border controls, urging efforts to ensure travellers feel comfortable. While domestic demand has levelled off, international – particularly premium – bookings remain strong, with Delta forecasting a profitable year despite not reaching record levels.

Source: [Travelweekly.com](https://www.travelweekly.com)

Kenya Airways - Kenya Airways will launch a new Gatwick–Nairobi route starting 2 July, operating three times weekly on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The approximately 8.5-hour flight offers one of the fastest UK connections to Nairobi. This launch coincides with British Airways increasing its Heathrow–Nairobi service from five weekly flights to daily from 7 June, then to 10 weekly from 14 July, and 11 from 28 July.

British Airways also upgraded its aircraft from the Boeing 787-8 to the larger Airbus A350-1000 in February, boosting capacity by up to 184 seats per flight—a 62% increase to meet rising UK demand.

Source: [Travelweekly.co.uk](https://www.travelweekly.co.uk)

TOUR OPERATORS, TRAVEL AGENCIES & OTA UPDATE

Blue Bay Travel - Blue Bay Travel's Personal Travel Consultants (PTCs) report a shift in booking behaviour, with "short, sharp" spikes occurring around post-payday periods, replacing traditional seasonal peaks. This trend reflects a more value-driven consumer base, likely influenced by the rising cost of living. The PTCs are also seeing fewer last-minute bookings and more customers planning high-value holidays – averaging £8,000 – up to two to three seasons in advance. This contrasts with Blue Bay's core agency business, which continues to perform well with late bookings. Long-haul destinations like the Maldives, Mexico, Mauritius, and Thailand are in high demand for summer 2026, and US bookings have risen 44% year-on-year, with New York and Las Vegas remaining strong performers.

Source: [LTTGmedia.com](https://www.lttgmedia.com)

Advantage Travel - Kelly Cookes, chief commercial officer at Advantage Travel Partnership, is set to leave the consortium to join IntelTravel as commercial director on 1 September. Having joined Advantage in 2019 and promoted to CCO in 2022, Cookes will now report to IntelTravel MD Tricia Handley-Hughes. In her new role, Cookes will focus on optimising commercial activity and partner engagement, supported by the marketing communications team. Handley-Hughes said the appointment supports the company's ongoing review of distribution channels and revenue-focused growth strategy.

Source: [Travelweekly.co.uk](https://www.travelweekly.co.uk)

Tui - Tui has promoted Jill Cunningham to director of retail, omnichannel and third-party sales, effective 2 June. Formerly head of retail operations and trade, Cunningham will now oversee all sales through third parties, including independent agents, as well as drive growth across Tui's own retail stores in the UK and Ireland. Reporting to UK & Ireland marketing and sales director Bart Quinton Smith, she emphasised the continued importance of independent agents to Tui's strategy. Cunningham, who has been with the company for 22 years, said her deep understanding of customers and partners will support the group's wider business goals.

Source: [TTGmedia.com](https://www.ttgmedia.com)

SOCIAL UPDATE

YouTube improves content review process for monetization eligibility

YouTube has updated its content review process for monetisation eligibility, removing the need for creators to request a review. Previously, videos were assigned a green, yellow, or red rating to indicate their suitability for ads, with creators able to appeal if they believed a rating was inaccurate. Under the new update, any video receiving a yellow rating will automatically be sent for review.

Source: [Social Media Today](#)

WhatsApp introduces iPad app

WhatsApp has launched an iPad app, offering users the ability to make audio and video calls with up to 32 participants, use front and rear cameras and share their screen. Previously only accessible on iPad via a browser, the new app has multitasking features allowing users to perform tasks such as browsing the internet whilst sending messages or viewing multiple apps at the same time and will work with Apple Pencil and Magic Keyboard.

Source: [TechCrunch](#)

MICE UPDATE

London's business events sector set for strong growth

London's business events sector is poised for a new phase of growth, thanks to the city's new London Growth Plan with ambitions to drive sustainable growth, productivity, and opportunity across the capital over the next decade. The announcement coincides with London being named the leading European destination for meetings and events for the third year running by Cvent. At the heart of the London Growth Plan is investment in the Experience Economy. Designed to regenerate local areas and create vibrant, sustainable places to live, work and visit.

Source: [Conference News](#)

LIGHTER NOTE

Lighter Note

Three endangered Barbary macaque monkeys have been born at a sanctuary in Staffordshire. Read more [here](#).