

WEEKLY REPORT



MMGY
Weekly Report for UK & Ireland
1 August 2025

TRADE UPDATE

Last minute offers drive late sales for August and September

Last-minute offers from major operators to shift excess summer stock are fuelling ultra-late sales but a desire to avoid ‘giveaway’ prices is resulting in more shorter-duration and shoulder season bookings, according to the trade. Free child places and discounted breaks and flights for August have been advertised across TV, radio and online in the past week by operators including Jet2holidays, easyJet holidays and Tui. The Travel Network Group commercial director Katharina Peck said 45% of last week’s bookings were for August, but 30% were for September. Peck noted average booking values “remained high”, with “more customers holding back or shopping around due to price sensitivity”.

Source: [Travel Weekly](#)

UK airports back to normal after Air Traffic Control problems

Figures from aviation analytics firm Cirium showed 84 departures and 71 arrivals to and from UK airports were cancelled on Wednesday with other flights diverted. The most affected airport was Heathrow with 29 departures and 17 arrivals cancelled. Most flights using UK airspace were subject to delays and cancellation after technical problems with air traffic control. Systems were disabled for only around 30 minutes but because it affected the London area airspace, over which most Europe-bound flights must pass, the majority of flights departing and arriving in the UK were impacted.

Source: [TTG Media](#)

UK travellers urged to check passports ahead of new Schengen rules

UK holidaymakers are being advised to check both the issue date and expiry date of their passports before travelling to Schengen Area countries. Under the updated rules, a passport must have been issued within the past ten years *and* remain valid for at least three months beyond the date of departure. Early renewals that carry over unused validity from old passports may not meet these criteria, particularly among documents issued before September 2018. Experts recommend renewing passports 6–8 weeks before travel and using the UK government’s passport validity checker to avoid last-minute issues.

Source: [Travel Weekly](#)

Severe weather grounds 50 European flights

Widespread adverse weather conditions have caused more than 50 flight cancellations and significant delays across key European hubs including Charles de Gaulle, Amsterdam Schiphol, Heathrow, Munich, and Zurich. Airlines such as British Airways, Air France, Lufthansa, Delta, KLM, Emirates, easyJet, and Brussels Airlines were heavily impacted by low visibility, rain, and high winds. Passengers faced long queues, rebooking difficulties, and extended delays as airport operations struggled to cope with the knock-on impact. While not a result of extreme storms, the persistent weather has exposed vulnerabilities in Europe’s air traffic resilience.

Source: [Travel and Tour World](#)

ECONOMIC, POLITICAL & SOCIAL UPDATE

Britain set for minor boost as world economy growth forecast upgraded

The British economy could experience a small boost, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) upgrading its growth predictions by just 0.1 per cent for 2025. Growth is expected to sit at 1.2 per cent this year and 1.4 per cent for 2026, according to the organisation's latest World Economic Outlook forecasts. It came as the IMF said the global economy would be more resilient than it expected in May. Global growth is set to be 3 per cent this year and 3.1 per cent next year, up from 2.8 per cent and 3 per cent respectively.

Source: [The Independent](#)

UK house prices rebound as market recovers from June dip

House prices in the UK returned to growth last month, as the market recovered from a dip in June after the end of a tax break on stamp duty. The average price of a home rose 0.6% in July to £272,664, bouncing back from the biggest month-on-month fall in more than two years in June, according to Nationwide. Nationwide also noted that buying a property is now the most affordable it has been in more than a decade, although it is still almost six times the average UK wage.

Source: [The Guardian](#)

Heathrow Airport's expansion plans to cost £49bn

Heathrow Airport has revealed details of its plan to expand and modernise the airport at a cost of £49bn. Thomas Woldbye, CEO of Heathrow Airport, said expansion was "urgent" as the airport was currently working at capacity, "to the detriment of trade and connectivity". The work would be funded by private finance. The government has backed plans for a third runway, with Chancellor Rachel Reeves saying it would "make Britain the world's best connected place to do business". However, the plans face opposition from environmental groups, politicians, and locals. London's mayor Sir Sadiq Khan said it would have a "severe impact on noise, air pollution and meeting our climate change targets".

Source: [BBC](#)

US President Trump imposes global trade tariffs as he raises Canada tariff to 35%

President Trump reignited global trade affairs as the President unveiled his new plan with 92 countries facing higher rates and Canada being hit with a 35 percent levy. With just hours to go before the self-imposed August 1 trade deadline, the President signed executive orders to impose tariffs between 15 and 41 percent on goods from dozens of countries. Trump signed a second order raising tariffs on Canada, from 25 to 35 percent for goods that are not compliant with the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Source: [The Independent](#)

AIRLINE UPDATE

Pegasus Airlines

Turkish carrier Pegasus Airlines is boosting its UK-Turkey connectivity this winter, increasing flights across three key routes. Frequency from London Stansted to Ankara will rise from three to four weekly services, while the Stansted–Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen route expands to 36 weekly flights. Additionally, the Bristol–Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen service increases to four flights per week, having launched earlier in 2025.

Source: [Travel Gossip](#)

Qatar Airways

Qatar Airways is boosting its winter 2025 schedule with a record 10 daily flights from Heathrow to Doha, up from eight in summer. Services from Manchester will increase from 21 to 24 weekly, while Dublin rises from 14 to 17 weekly flights. The expanded UK and Ireland network aligns with wider growth from Doha, as the airline raises capacity to 15 destinations this winter. CCO Thierry Antinori highlighted strong demand for key routes including London, Dublin, and Cape Town.

Source: [Travel Weekly](#)

Riyadh Air

Start-up airline Riyadh Air has secured daily take-off and landing slots at Heathrow following IAG's divestment linked to its takeover of bmi. The new London–Riyadh service is expected to launch on 26 October, operating a leased Boeing 787. Riyadh Air will compete directly with British Airways and Saudia on the route. The move also strengthens ties with Virgin Atlantic, which entered a codeshare agreement with Riyadh Air last year and began its own Heathrow–Riyadh flights in March.

Source: [Travel Gossip](#)

TOUR OPERATORS, TRAVEL AGENCIES & OTA UPDATE

Barrhead Travel

Barrhead Travel is set to open its third Northern Irish store this autumn at Rushmere Shopping Centre in Craigavon, following over £1 million of investment. Managing Director Nicki Tempest-Mitchell highlighted Northern Ireland as a key growth region, with the new store expected to benefit from high footfall and reinforce the brand's retail presence alongside existing sites in Belfast and Coleraine. Recruitment is underway for the final roles at the new location.

Source: [TTG Media](#)

Hays Travel

Hays Travel has acquired Victoria Travel Group, the parent company of Cruise.co.uk, marking its first-ever online travel agency purchase and most significant acquisition since Thomas Cook. The £252 million-turnover group also includes Seascanner and German cruise specialist Kreuzfahrtberater.de. The deal sees former majority shareholder Bridgepoint exit, while Victoria's leadership team - including CEO Chris Gardner - will remain in place. Hays' Dame Irene Hays described the move as 'key to its cruise growth strategy', strengthening its international digital presence and bringing in a high-calibre, values-aligned team.

Source: [Travel Gossip](#)

TUI

TUI adds new in-flight technology to allow Tui Airways passengers to browse and book holiday activities whilst on board. They will also be able to watch films and chat directly from their smartphone or tablet as part of the digital platform. Holidaymakers will be able to use their own devices to explore and secure places on more than 1,500 Tui Musement experiences during flights.

Source: [Travel Weekly](#)

SOCIAL UPDATE

Meta Q2 performance shows increases in revenue and users

In its latest performance report for Q2 2025, Meta has announced increases in revenue and usage. Family Daily Active People, which is users across Instagram, WhatsApp, Threads, Messenger and Facebook, increased by 5 million (compared to Q1) to 3.48 billion. Meta also reported a quarterly revenue of \$47.52 billion, representing a 22% year-over-year increase.

Source: [Social Media Today](#)

MICE UPDATE

Excel London hosts first event in new 25,000sqm expansion

Excel London, part of ADNEC Group, has successfully hosted the inaugural event in its new expansion making it the largest fully integrated conference and exhibition centre in Europe. The weekend's season finale of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship marked the opening of the new 25,000sqm purpose-built space, built by McLaren Construction, expanding the venue's existing world-class facilities by a further 25% totalling 125,000sqm (1.3m sqft). Developed due to growing demand from the UK, Europe and North America, the expansion forms part of a wider £350m investment programme from ADNEC Group in London's business tourism economy, and forms part of Excel's mission to become the best event destination in the world.

Source: [Conference News](#)

LIGHTER NOTE

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England's Lionesses celebrate their Euro's win with a victory parade in London. Read more [here](#).