

WEEKLY REPORT



MMGY
Weekly Report for UK & Ireland
26 September 2025

ECONOMIC, POLITICAL & SOCIAL UPDATE

Trump says US will impose new tariffs on heavy trucks, drugs and kitchen cabinets

US President Donald Trump has announced a new round of tariffs effective from 1 October. The measures include a 100% levy on imported branded drugs, a 25% tariff on heavy-duty trucks, and 50% on kitchen cabinets. An exemption on the pharmaceutical tariff is planned for companies that are building or have broken ground on manufacturing plants in the United States. The move prompted concern from the UK government, which noted Britain exported over \$6bn in pharmaceutical products to the US last year and said it is "actively engaging with the US" on the matter for its industries.

Source: [The Guardian](#)

Starmer says people will not be able to work in UK without digital ID

The UK government is introducing a compulsory digital ID for anyone seeking to work, which will be stored on a smartphone much like a contactless card. While this will remove the need to carry physical documents for employment checks, key questions remain. The government has yet to confirm an exact launch date beyond "the end of the Parliament," whether addresses will be included, or what the alternative will be for those without a smartphone. Introducing the scheme, Starmer said: "Let me spell it out. You will not be able to work in the United Kingdom if you do not have digital ID. It's as simple as that".

Source: [BBC News](#)

UK forecast to have highest inflation among G7 nations

The UK will be hit by the highest inflation in the G7 this year, as the country absorbs the impact of higher payroll taxes, an increase in the minimum wage and rises in regulated prices, OECD forecasts have shown. Consumer prices will rise 3.5% in 2025, up from 2.5% last year, and will remain well above the Bank of England's 2% target in 2026. It also predicted UK growth of 1.4% this year, up from 1.1% last year, the second-fastest after the US among G7 countries. But next year's 1% pace will put the UK behind the US, Canada and Germany. The OECD's new outlook comes as chancellor Rachel Reeves is widely expected to raise taxes further in a difficult Budget in November, following disappointing productivity data and a deterioration in the public finances.

Source: [Financial Times](#)

TRADE UPDATE

IATA issues 'call to action' over drive towards net zero aviation emissions by 2050

IATA has issued an "urgent call to action" to governments and the energy sector to support efforts to drive net zero aviation emissions. The demand came as the aviation trade body published a study demonstrating that sufficient sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) feedstock exists to enable the airline industry to achieve net zero CO2 emissions by 2050. However, it will be essential to improve conversion efficiencies, accelerate technology rollout, enhance feedstock logistics, and invest in better infrastructure required to scale up commercial facilities across all regions to maximise SAF output, IATA noted.

Source: [Travel Weekly](#)

CAA starts consultation into UK airspace reforms

A consultation on reforms to the UK's airspace as part of a wider modernisation scheme has been instigated by the Civil Aviation Authority. Modernised airspace designs will improve the overall capacity of the infrastructure to safely deliver airport capacity limits established in planning decisions, strengthen the resilience of aviation operations, whilst taking account of the government's environmental objectives.

Source: [Travel Weekly](#)

Recruiter forecasts busy autumn for job placements

Travel recruitment company C&M says the next few months will be busy for job placements as companies prepare for the busy Peaks season. The latest figures from C&M reveal there was a 5% increase in travel placements last month compared to the previous August, although the number was 21% lower than July 2025.

Source: [Travel Gossip](#)

Hurricane Gabrielle triggers Azores travel advisory

A warning of hurricane force winds and flooding has been issued for the Azores. The Foreign Office travel advisory came ahead of Hurricane Gabrielle hitting the Portuguese archipelago in the mid-Atlantic. It carried a warning of disruption to services due to hurricane force winds and possible coastal flooding.

Source: [Travel Weekly](#)

AIRLINE UPDATE

Aer Lingus - The airline will fly its largest transatlantic schedule next summer with the addition of Raleigh-Durham in North Carolina to their Dublin network. The Raleigh-Durham connection starts on April 13, bringing the total number of routes to North America for Ireland up to 26. The year-round route will operate up to five times a week with new single-aisle Airbus A321 XLR aircraft.

Source: [ITTN](#)

Air Canada - The airline has announced they will be extending their London-Ottawa service to operate year-round. Flights between Heathrow and the Canadian capital will continue into the winter season. The service will run three times a week between November 2 and March 27, 2026 before increasing up to four flights a week for next summer.

Source: [Business Travel News Europe](#)

British Airways - BA CityFlyer is adding Madrid to its network from London City airport this winter. The Spanish capital will be served 11 times a week from December 1. The BA carrier will also resume partial winter services to Innsbruck ahead of the Christmas holidays and bring back ski connections to Geneva and Chambéry in addition to Milan and Zurich.

Source: [Travel Weekly](#)

TOUR OPERATORS, TRAVEL AGENCIES & OTA UPDATE

Dnata UK - Earlier this month, Dubai-based company Dnata Travel Group, which is part of Emirates Group, confirmed it was “exploring strategic options” for UK leisure brands Gold Medal, Netflights, Travelbag and Travel Republic. Consulting firm AlixPartners has been hired to oversee the process, with reports suggesting a sale is the likeliest outcome. Dnata Travel Group’s UK chief executive said her team is “very excited” at the prospect of exploring new ownership options, adding “we are the proponents of this”.

Source: [Travel Weekly](#)

Mercury Holidays - Mercury Holidays will expand its solo tours portfolio next year, after seeing a 55% year-on-year increase in bookings for the programme. The operator currently offers 24 dedicated solo group tours, each with a private room as standard and no single supplement. It will launch six additional solo itineraries for 2026, which will be available to book from January. India is the most popular destination, representing almost 30% of all solo bookings in the past month.

Source: [Travel Weekly](#)

On The Beach - Classic Collection, the B2B arm of On The Beach has announced it will close to focus on its core B2C activities. No further bookings will be taken for Classic Collection but agent partners will be assisted with ongoing bookings. A statement released on 24 September said the non-core B2B operations would be “discontinued”, adding: “The Board has taken the strategic decision to commence an orderly wind down of the B2B segment trading as Classic Collection, to focus on the higher growth potential of the B2C business trading as On the Beach.”

Source: [ITG](#)

MEDIA & SOCIAL UPDATE

Meta launches 'Vibes,' a short-form AI video feed

Meta has rolled out Vibes, a new feed within the Meta AI app and on meta.ai, offering AI-generated short videos. Users can browse, remix, or create new videos, post them to the Vibes feed, and cross-post to Instagram and Facebook. While the move leans heavily into AI content, some critics are calling it "AI slop," especially since Meta previously encouraged creators to focus on authentic storytelling.

Source: TechCrunch

Key Media Movers & Shakers

Delicious Magazine has ceased: Food publisher and content agency Eye to Eye Media ceased trading at the end of August 2025. Eye to Eye published the monthly food magazine Delicious., which ceased publication following the company's closure.

Katherine Masters, TTG: Katherine Masters has been promoted to Senior Editor at TTG. Katherine was previously Features Editor at the magazine.

Sam Ormiston leaves the Daily Express: Sam has left his role as Deputy Features Editor, and he is yet to announce his next role.

Sources: [Diary Directory](#), [Roxhill Media](#)

MICE UPDATE

ICCA and SANCBE launch joint study on industry academic offerings

The International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) and the Strategic Alliance for the National Convention Bureaux of Europe (SANCBE) have announced a new partnership that involves jointly launching a survey focussed on understanding the future of learning and the academic landscape in the European business events industry. The initiative aims to provide a data-driven overview of current educational offerings, identify critical skill gaps, and look at evolving industry needs as part of ICCA's strategy to support lifelong learning and to offer valuable educational programmes to its community. The initiative should provide convention bureaus and DMOs throughout the European region with actionable information they can use to bolster educational offerings and partnerships with relevant academic stakeholders.

Source: [Conference & Meetings World](#)

LIGHTER NOTE

Britain's Strongest Grandmother Breaks 4 World Records Just Months After Taking Up Powerlifting. Learn more [HERE](#).