



The Voice of UK Airlines

Media Release

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Immediate use

Air travel tax soars by 16% while air passenger numbers dip to lowest for seven years

Official figures published today show total tax receipts from air passengers soared by 16% in the year to March to over £2 billion while total passenger numbers at UK airports dipped by 3% to their lowest level for seven years. Commenting, Simon Buck, Chief Executive of BATA said "Instead of hammering air travellers, HMG should follow the example of other EU States and cut this suffocating tax on tourism and economic growth to help stimulate recovery".

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Notes to Editors

- BATA is the trade body for UK-registered airlines, with members representing all sectors of the industry.
- In 2010, BATA members employed over 71,000 people, operated four-fifths of the UK commercial aircraft fleet and were responsible for some 96% of UK airline output, carrying 119 million passengers and 1 million tonnes of cargo.
- The eleven BATA member airlines are: Air Southwest, bmi, British Airways, DHL, easyJet, flybe, Jet2.com, Monarch, Thomas Cook, Thomson Airways and Virgin Atlantic.
- The official APD figures published by HMRC and National Statistics are available at: <https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullair>
- Total APD receipts reported in Financial Year 2009/10 were £1.856 billion. The provisional receipts total for the months April 2010 to March 2011 is £2.155 billion, an increase of £299 million or just over 16% on 2009/10.
- Passenger numbers liable for APD were 97,020,000 in 2009 and 93,777,000 in 2010, a drop of 3.34%. Passenger numbers for financial year 2010/11 are not yet available.
- The last time APD liable passenger numbers were as low as in 2004. This is correlated by the CAA 2010 Annual Airport statistics published on 8 March 2011, which showed that passenger numbers at UK airports have now fallen consecutively for three years to a level lower than that in 2004.

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