

TOURIST SPENDING IN THE UK

JUNE 2008 VS JUNE 2007

Data supplied by Global Refund (www.globalrefund.com)

The number of transactions coming from Middle Eastern tourists continued to show steady growth, jumping 29 per cent against last year and now representing a 31 per cent share of total sales – 36 per cent up on June last year.

In second place, Russia's share of spend rose 17 per cent, while Nigeria's share (sixth) soared 40 per cent year on year.

June was a disappointing month for transactions from the US, with a 26 per cent drop in sales. This has not come as a surprise, as concerns over deepening mortgage losses continue to cause a decrease in US spending. The average spend for Americans, £415, is now the lowest in the top 10 list, which is less than half the average non-EU spend.

The Chinese market continues to grow – the 5 per cent share of total spend and sales increase of 53 per cent is indicative of an emerging group with greater personal wealth.

Overall, transactions were up 7 per cent year on year and sales were up 25 per cent. The performance reinforces the importance of international spend to UK retail.

● *The top 10 Global Refund Index ranking is now determined by total sales rather than number of transactions.*

	Sales amount		Transactions		Average spend
	Share of total	Change vs last year	Share of total	Change vs last year	
MIDDLE EAST	31%	36%	19%	29%	£1,524
RUSSIA	8%	17%	5%	-9%	£1,532
INDIA	7%	-1%	8%	-10%	£851
US	5%	-26%	11%	-14%	£415
CHINA	5%	53%	5%	27%	£956
NIGERIA	4%	40%	4%	22%	£1,045
AZERBAIJAN	4%	1,133%	0.2%	-14%	£15,351
AUSTRALIA	4%	37%	8%	41%	£437
MALAYSIA	2%	13%	3%	19%	£870
HONG KONG	2%	16%	4%	0%	£598
OTHERS	28%	18%	34%	4%	£769
TOTAL	100%	25%	100%	7%	£942