Pubs, hotels and restaurants have enjoyed their strongest three months of trading since 2007, according to a new quarterly survey from the business lobby group CBI.

Within consumer services, the survey shows that a balance of 15 per cent of businesses saw a rise in business volumes, while a balance of 28 per cent were optimistic about their future prospects.

It is thought the increase was in part due to the warm weather witnessed in the UK this summer.

Queens Park Rangers Football Club (QPR) has begun initial talks over the possibility of building a new 40,000-capacity stadium.

It’s believed the club is looking into a site at Old Oak Common in West London – close to its current home of Loftus Road, which has a capacity of 18,400 and has been deemed too small to fit in with QPR’s plans of becoming a regular Premier League club.

The club’s discussions with Hammersmith and Fulham Council – and the Greater London Authority – are thought to be at an “advanced stage”, although a spokesperson declined to comment on the exact nature of the talks. If the talks are successful, once built, the stadium could form a part of a larger redevelopment of Old Oak Common, where a 100-acre area has been identified as being suitable for regeneration.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=B2H0n

The company’s managing director Norbert Lieder said: “Cromlix will be one of Scotland’s leading luxury hotels and Chez Roux will be among the best restaurants in the area.”

ICMI already manages eight other renowned independent properties in Scotland, including Inverlochy Castle near Fort William, the Greywalls Hotel in Gullane and the Atholl in Edinburgh.

Plans were held up in July after a colony of rare bats was found in the roof and walls of the historic building, meaning work could only be carried out during certain hours.

The Cromlix Hotel, which is now taking bookings, is set to reopen in the first quarter of 2014 and will create 40 new jobs for the area.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=M8d5m

Andy Murray’s Scotland hotel nears completion

The refurbishment of a luxury hotel in Kinbuck, Perthshire, Scotland, owned by Wimbledon 2013 Champion, London 2012 Olympic Gold Medalist and British tennis number one, Andy Murray, is nearing completion. The five-star Cromlix Hotel, located near Murray’s home town of Dunblane, will feature five suites, 10 bedrooms, a chapel, reception hall, two drawing rooms, a conservatory, library, meeting rooms and a Chez Roux restaurant using locally sourced produce.

The hotel, which sits in 36 acres of landscaped grounds, was bought by Murray in February for £1.8m.

“I have obviously been pretty busy recently,” he said, “but I’ve been keeping in touch with the refurbishment work at Cromlix and am delighted with its progress.”

Murray bought the hotel near his hometown of Dunblane in February for £1.8m

Cromlix House was built in 1874 as the family home for the Edens, who own the surrounding 2,000 acre estate.

The hotel will be managed by Inverlochy Castle Management International (ICMI).

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SPORT

SRA: focus on disability sports

The Sport and Recreation Alliance (SRA) has called for disability sport to be made a priority after revealing that less than a third of UK sports clubs cater for disabled people. The Alliance's nationwide sports club survey – the biggest ever conducted in the UK – shows that while clubs are keen in theory to provide for disabled people, many are struggling to offer the basic equipment and infrastructure.

Only 32 per cent of the UK's sports clubs have access to appropriate equipment for disabled people to participate fully in sporting activities, compared with 89 per cent that have access to equipment for non-disabled people.

There is room to improve in providing trained coaches too, as only 8 per cent of volunteers and staff at UK sports clubs have received training to amend and adapt their sport to make it more inclusive. Commenting on the new figures, Andy Reed, chair of SRA, said: “A big culture change still needs to take place in many mainstream sports clubs. “The lack of trained staff and appropriate equipment are also glaring issues – and these things can be remedied far more easily than is often perceived.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=X3T3x

Sport to deliver social change for Shankill, Belfast

A partnership of local and central governments is using sport to deliver social change in the Shankill area of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The Department for Social Development has teamed up with Belfast City Council (BCC), Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) and Sport Northern Ireland to fund a £770,000, full-size 3G pitch and floodlit facility at the Hammer Complex, off Agnes Street.

The facility will be leased to Springfield Star Football Club, who will manage the site.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=H8Q5Z

Sports participation up in Scottish school

There has been a 13 per cent increase in the number of school children in Scotland getting involved in sports during term time.

Sportscotland figures show that participant sessions increased to 5,063,000 during the academic year 2012-13 from 4,499,000 in 2011-12 – a rise of more than half a million.

The increase has been attributed to the government's Active Schools campaign, which aims to provide more and higher quality opportunities for children to participate in school sport and to increase capacity through the recruitment of volunteers who deliver the activity sessions. In 2012-13 Sportscotland invested a total of £11.9m into the Active Schools Network, which delivers the programme. As a result of the investment, the number of people delivering Active Schools supported sessions has risen by 22.3 per cent from 15,792 in 2011-12 to 19,321 in 2012-13, with more than 16,000 being unpaid volunteers.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=B6j6p
World Cup 2014 tickets go on sale

Tickets for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil have gone on sale – despite worries that some of the stadia are still under construction.

FIFA, the world governing body for football, expects demand for tickets to match that of the 2006 Germany World Cup, when more than 3.3 million tickets were sold.

According to FIFA, there were about seven applicants for every ticket of the 64-match tournament in 2006.

Prices for the 2014 World Cup tickets range from around £58 for group stage matches to £633 for the most expensive final tickets at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

However, there has been concern over the fact that some of the stadia are to host matches are still being built. Last week, sports minister Aldo Rebelo admitted he was “worried” about delays to the construction of some of the new facilities. Rebelo warned that five of the venues – in Manaus, Curitiba, Cuiaba, Porto Alegre and Natal – will not be delivered on time unless construction work is accelerated on the venues. Details: http://lei.sr?a=5x5R3

Brazil will become the fifth country to host the FIFA World Cup twice

The three-day event will feature 1,700 athletes

Football’s first ever rule book goes on display

The British Library in London has put the 1863 FA Minute Book, containing the first written rules of association football, on display alongside the Magna Carta and a copy of Shakespeare’s First Folio.

Handwritten and compiled 150 years ago, the rulebook has been valued at £2.5m and is considered one of the most significant documents of modern social history.

The book has gone on display at the library’s Sir John Ritblat Treasures Gallery and is the centrepiece of a larger exhibition on football, marking the 150th anniversary of The Football Association (FA).

Greg Dyke, chair of The FA, said: “The importance of the 1863 FA Minute Book cannot be underestimated. Without it, quite simply, the world would be without its most popular sport.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=woE6x

Football’s first ever rule book goes on display

The UK’s national minimum wage laws make it illegal not to pay people classed as workers.

In April, Reading FC made headlines after it advertised a year-long internship with no salary or expenses. Details: http://lei.sr?a=V6w7c

HM Revenue and Customs is to write to around 50 professional UK football clubs as part of efforts to ensure they pay the minimum wage to the armies of staff they rely on delivering their match day experiences and team analysis.

Tax officials have warned clubs that failure to pay staff – such as mascots, ball boy supervisors, physio interns and performance analysts – could result in fines worth £5,000 and even prosecution.

The clubs are to receive the warning letters directly from tax inspectors, who will also be conducting spot checks on earnings. It is understood that the action has been prompted following allegations by mascots that they were not paid.

£190,000 investment for Special Olympics

Sport England is to invest £190,000 of National Lottery funding for this year’s Special Olympics GB National Summer Games. More than 1,700 disabled athletes from England, Scotland and Wales will take part in the Games, competing in 12 sporting disciplines over three days.

Sport England CEO, Jennie Price, said: “The Special Olympics offer athletes the opportunity to realise their potential and experience the thrill of competing in a major multi-sport event.

We’re committed to making sport a practical choice for many more disabled people, and hope the Special Olympics in Bath will encourage more young people with intellectual disabilities to get involved in sport. Details: http://lei.sr?a=K4p2K

BAE Systems to continue as innovation partner to UK Sport

Aerospace and technology giant BAE Systems will continue to act as UK Sport’s official research and innovation partner in the run up to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The £800,000 agreement means athletes will have access to BAE technology as they seek to apply scientific innovation to their competition performance as well as training, recovery and injury prevention. It’s the second phase of a partnership which has so far benefited more than 20 Olympic and Paralympic sports. Details: http://lei.sr?a=h6z4Q

The three-day event will feature 1,700 athletes

Some clubs avoid paying match staff such as mascots and game analysts

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Not enough exercise for UK kids

Half of UK children could be at risk of suffering from poor health in later life due to sedentary lifestyles.

Figures published in the BMJ Open journal show that 50 per cent of all seven year olds spend an average of 6.4 hours a day sitting down, failing to reach recommended exercise levels.

The report – the first objective, UK-wide study of children’s physical activity levels – also shows that girls are significantly more inactive than boys. Only 38 per cent of all girls achieve current recommendations for daily exercise, compared with 63 per cent of boys.

There are social and demographic variations too – overall activity levels were lowest in children of Asian (Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi) origin.

"Half of the UK’s seven-year-olds are failing to get enough exercise," Scotland is the most active of UK nations while children in Northern Ireland are the least active.


‘Inspiring’ storytelling platform for gyms

A new project has been launched to bring together stories, insight and inspiration from the health and fitness industry encouraging gyms and their members to have a wider reaching social impact.

The digital storytelling platform was developed by Ray Algar of Oxygen Consulting to capture the social impact of projects powered by gyms and gym-goers worldwide. Inspiring stories of gyms doing social good have already been published from the UK, Denmark, Italy, Brazil and Canada.

The project encourages clubs to collaborate with their members and other stakeholders in fundraising to create a positive social impact for those in need. By doing this, clubs can also enhance their image as well as reputation.

"I believe Gymtopia can help the global health and fitness industry to connect, engage and strengthen communities," said Algar. Details: http://lei.sr?a=t8C2E

Dundee University centre reopens after revamp

The University of Dundee has completed a redesign and refurbishment of its Institute of Sport and Exercise.

The six-week, £450,000 redevelopment has included the addition of a training suite, re-flooring, re-wiring, extending network capabilities, redecoration and new equipment.

The 150 capacity, 450sq m (4,800sq ft) gym, has 88 Precor fitness machines, 75 of which are cardiovascular. There is also a 50sq m (540sq ft) training suite, for personal training.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=f8T4d

Details: http://lei.sr?a=v4gb9

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Smith and Campbell to headline REPs National Convention 2013

LIW will once again play host to the REPs National Convention on the 25th and 26th of September with headlining keynotes from Life Fitness master trainer, Keith Smith and, Dr Ian Campbell MBE.

Additional programme highlights include a choice of 30 workshops with topics including GP referrals, nutrition advice, new equipment and succeeding in the field of social media marketing.

Attendance will earn participants CPD points and can be booked on the LIW site.

Physical Company chooses LIW to launch new products to the UK market

Physical Company will be launching two new products at LIW as part of its expansion to the UK this year. The products on show will be the resistance band systems from Stroops Performance – for sports specific power, strength and agility training, and X-Lab – the customisable, modular functional training rig from Torque Fitness.

Physical Company will be at stand H420 where eight demonstrations from its very own master trainers will occur each day, including displays integrating functional exercises with Stroops, X-Lab and Total Gym.

Power Hour launches at LIW

Power Hour, supported by PT magazine, will rank fitness professionals against one another in unique challenges across LIW’s health and fitness section. The challenges have been designed by some of the leading fitness suppliers in Europe with performance data from MYZONE®.

Exhibitors taking part include Matrix, Escape Fitness, Physical Company, Queenax and Precor. Each company has designed 15 minute group exercise challenges which visitors can sign up for in advance of the event.

Leisure-net to offer advice on FLAME success

In two seminars, taking place on Tuesday 24 September in LIW Theatre One, Leisure-net Solutions – which carries out the FLAME award assessments in conjunction with Right Directions – will be giving insider tips on how to improve your FLAME score and work towards success in next year’s awards.

David Stalker, ukactive’s CEO, will outline the major new developments planned for next year’s awards. He will then be joined by Mike Hill, MD of Leisure-net Solutions, and Caroline Constantine, director of Right Directions, which together independently assess the awards each year.

Hill and Constantine will take delegates through examples of best practice from previous FLAME award winners and offer insights into what makes a successful entry.

Session one runs 12:30-13:15 in LIW Theatre One, followed by Session two from 14:30-15:15.

Scott Brown confirmed to headline BALPPA FEC Day at LIW 2013

The British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions (BALPPA) has confirmed that attractions specialist and FEC guru Scott Brown will be flying over from the US to present at LIW on 25th September as part of BALPPA’s FEC Day.

Scott Brown, from WDD online, will deliver a keynote entitled “Selling Memories: Creating birthday party experiences that increase sales” where play centres will be able to discover how to increase their party bookings and thus revenue, creating a service-centred experience for all. Scott previously delivered customer service training as well as Social Media and Group Sales sessions to UK audiences.

The FEC Day will start with a panel session aimed at start-ups. Led by BALPPA FEC chairperson Janice Dunphy, guests will hear from single and multi site operators about the daily challenges and realities of owning an indoor play centre as well as the hurdles that they overcame when setting up.

Also speaking is Tony Sefton of Vision XS who specialises in understanding the science of a visitor experience.

Additional topics include the ever-evolving public health agenda and how play centre operators can unlock business opportunities through partnerships and collaborations.

Tony Sefton specialises in the visitor experience
Register today for free entry (saving £30) at liw.co.uk

24-26 Sept 2013 · NEC Birmingham UK

Get show updates on the move. Download the LIW 2013 APP

SCAN ME

Register today for free entry (saving £30) at liw.co.uk
Where the leisure industry meets...

Leisure Industry Week (LIW) is the UK’s leading event for the entire leisure industry.

This September discover the latest products and services that could give your facility the edge. From low maintenance rigs and the latest training and sports equipment to new group exercise methods and pool programming techniques, LIW will help keep you ahead of the game.

24-26 Sept 2013 · NEC Birmingham UK liw.co.uk @l_i_w
First thermal spa hotel for Bath

YTL Hotels, part of Malaysian conglomerate YTL Corporation Berhad, has announced a new hotel and spa project in the UNESCO World Heritage City of Bath.

The Gainsborough Bath Spa, the company’s first Classic Hotel in the UK, will open early in 2014. The hotel will have direct access to Bath’s natural thermal waters.

The 99-room property is located on Beau Street and made up of three historical buildings, each with a Grade II listed Georgian façade. It was originally built as the United Hospital in 1824, with designs by renowned 18th century architect, John Pinch.

The lower levels of the new hotel will be home to the Spa Village Bath and thermal pools. Located over two floors, the 1,300sq m (14,000sq ft) spa will offer guests the opportunity to bathe in Bath’s thermal waters in three therapeutic pools.

The spa village was designed to reflect Bath’s Roman history and the pools are set within an atrium which is flooded with natural light. The spa will also have Malaysian influences. YTL Corporation Berhad is listed on both the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange and the Tokyo bourse and trades internationally in construction-related industries and power generation. Details: http://lei.sr?a=s9A6s

New spa for London’s Berkeley hotel

Maybourne Hotel Group has launched the new Bamford Haybarn Spa at the Berkeley Health Club on the 7th floor of the The Berkeley hotel in Knightsbridge, London.

The Bamford Haybarn’s aim is to provide a “warm sanctuary committed to caring for the mind, body and spirit” and to bring “the essence of the English countryside to the city.”

Bamford Body Collection – created with naturally sourced and organic ingredients certified by the soil association – will be used during treatments.

Treatments will include the 85-minute Bamford Body Signature Treatment combining shiatsu, meridian and Swedish massage, reflexology and yogic breathing to revitalise the whole body. This is a new massage created exclusively for the Berkeley and uses hot and cold jade stones.

The spa has also partnered with natural British skincare company, OSKIA, to create facials. OSKIA’s 75-minute signature facial uses specialised facial massage techniques in addition to acupressure.

Designed by architect Spencer Fung, the spa’s treatment rooms have been themed with names such as Willow, Beehive and Log Cabin, incorporating touches that echo their titles.

A spa food menu has been designed and visitors can enjoy a glass of wine from vineyard Chapel Down. Details: http://lei.sr?a=d5c2X
Craftsman and Garran Lockers
A formidable partnership

Craftsman Lockers has a generation’s experience in designing, manufacturing and fitting great changing rooms that match provision with customer expectations and patterns of use.

Garran Lockers, the UK’s fastest growing locker manufacturer, has over 50 years experience designing and manufacturing top quality steel lockers for the working environment, emergency services, education and leisure markets.

The key to keeping your members happy
Make the right choices in changing provision

Operators expect changing rooms to last between 12 and 20 years, up to three times longer than gym equipment. Designing the right combination of lockers from the start and changing rooms deliver exceptional value for money. Get it wrong and your members have to live with the consequences. Your changing rooms provide two key opportunities; to retain existing and attract new members. That’s why more leisure operators are calling on Craftsman to help design their locker rooms, incorporating a host of innovative ideas to make the changing experience more enjoyable.

To draw on the Craftsman experience in helping design changing rooms that work:
Call: 01480 405396 Email: johng@cqlockers.co.uk Web: www.cqlockers.co.uk
Alington Road, Little Barford, St. Neots, Cambs PE19 6WE
Building on 75 years of putting your future first

THE INSTITUTE OF HOSPITALITY

Peter Ducker is chief executive of the Institute of Hospitality.

The Institute of Hospitality is the home of continuous professional development. It’s what we have been doing for 75 years.

It is the great fortune of our industry that eating, drinking and sleeping will never go out of style. There will always be a need for hospitality and leisure managers because the fundamental nature of hospitality provision has changed little over time – not in the last 75 years, not since there was ‘no room at the inn’ for Mary and Joseph.

But what has changed enormously is the increased professionalism of our industry and for this we must thank those dedicated pioneers who, at a time of immense social upheaval, realised that the key to their many problems was education and who had the vision to establish our founding organisations.

The Institute of Hospitality traces its origins back to the founding of the Institutional Management Association (IMA) in 1938 and the Hotel and Catering Institute (HCI) in 1949. Both organisations came to life under very difficult circumstances and yet many of the issues they faced, such as skills shortages and international migration, were exactly the same as those we confront today, albeit greatly magnified by the ravages of war. Indeed, the IMAs first office in Gordon Square, Bloomsbury, was destroyed during the London Blitz.

The HCI and the IMA merged in 1971 to form the HCIMA which was re-named the Institute of Hospitality in 2007.

Although we are firmly focused on the future – both yours and ours – we think that our anniversary is a good occasion to get together for a spectacular Gala Dinner to celebrate our 75th on 20 November at the Westminster, London. Any excuse for a party! On the night, we will showcase high-achievers within the hospitality and leisure industries by announcing the winners of the 75th Anniversary Awards. The entry process for the awards is very simple and a wide range of prizes have been kindly donated by a selection of London’s finest hotels.

HOTELS

Plans for Titanic-themed Liverpool hotel

Developer Signature Living has acquired Albion House, the old Liverpool headquarters of the doomed Titanic liner in Liverpool, with plans to turn the historic building into a Titanic-themed hotel.

A planning application was recently submitted, for a scheme envisaging the use of 350,000 sq ft of floor space to create a luxury 350-bedroom aparthotel with a gym, bar and restaurant, named Signature Living Hotel – The Home of The Titanic.

It is thought Signature Living wants to make use of some of the building’s existing features – such as the structure’s columns and steel rivets – which were created by the same engineers who worked on the ship which sank in 1912.

If plans are approved, the developers hope to begin construction sometime in October, with part of the hotel being open by April 2014. Details: http://lei.sr?a=y6A5V

Two new London hotels for citizenM

Netherlands-based hotel company citizenM has revealed plans to open two new hotels in London during 2014.

The first to open will be citizenM Tower of London, a design-led “pod hotel” which will be built over the exit hall of the Tower Hill London Underground Station.

The nine-storey hotel will comprise 370 luxury modular bedrooms over eight floors, a ground floor café, bar, living room spaces and a SocietyM business club on the eighth and ninth levels.

Balfour Beatty has been appointed to construct the £30m development, which will be built over the exit hall of the Tower Hill London Underground Station. Construction will include a number of sustainable features and the development is designed to achieve a BREEAM Excellent rating.

CitizenM has also revealed plans to build a new hotel located near to St. Paul’s Cathedral, north of the River Thames in central London. Describing itself as a ‘smart luxury’ hotel group, citizenM opened its first UK hotel in Glasgow in 2010 and last year opened its first London site. Details: http://lei.sr?a=K4n7k

£5m boutique hotel scheme planned for Colchester

The Elysium Group has announced plans for a new £5m boutique hotel, bar and restaurant to be built in the centre of Colchester.

The hotel will be Elysium’s first venture into the hospitality sector. It currently operates six bars in Colchester.

The plans will see most of the existing River Lodge venue on Middleborough demolished, with a 50-bed hotel, wine bar and restaurant built in its place. Plans will be submitted to Colchester Council’s planning team later this year. Details: http://lei.sr?a=g4M9R

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Read Leisure Opportunities online: www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/digital

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Details: http://lei.sr?a=K4n7k

Details: http://lei.sr?a=y6A5V

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Details: http://lei.sr?a=g4M9R
Scottish economy on the rise

As Glasgow prepares for the 2014 Commonwealth Games, VisitScotland has announced that its two main marketing campaigns have brought almost £310m in additional economic benefit for Scotland since January 2012.

The figures represent a rise of 14 per cent on the same period the year before.

VisitScotland’s international campaigns target Scotland’s main markets including North America, Germany and France as well as emerging markets such as India and China.

The organisation utilised a range of cross media marketing such as eazines, multi-lingual websites, competitions and social media.

The domestic market, which accounts for 84 per cent of Scotland’s annual visitor numbers, has been targeted since 2012 through the organisation’s Surprise Yourself campaign. The promotion includes a series of TV advertisements narrated by TV presenter, Neil Oliver.

These figures come as the country gears up to for Homecoming 2014, Ryder Cup 2014 at Gleneagles and the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Newcastle, County Down to become tourist town

Northern Ireland’s social development minister, Nelson McCausland, has announced plans costing £287,000 to transform Newcastle in County Down into a tourist destination.

The project will include the purchase of a portable cinema, provision of a covered event space to promote events all year round and the erection of a gateway feature for the town.

The funds also cover the development of a marketing and branding strategy to create a unique identity for the area.

Details: http://lei_sr?a=H8j2z

British tourists fuel Spain’s tourism boom

British tourists made up almost a quarter of all international visitors to Spain between January and the end of July 2013, according to figures published by Spain’s Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism.

The figures revealed that the country has witnessed a 2.9 per cent increase in visitor numbers since 2012, with Spain attracting 34 million international visitors this year.

The number of British tourists who visited the country has increased by 3.4 per cent compared with last year.

Holidaymakers are opting to stay in forms of accommodation other than hotels this year, with the number of people not staying in a traditional hotel last year rising by 4.3 per cent.

For those who choose to visit Spain, 40 per cent decided to stay with family or friends, or opted for rented accommodation instead of staying in a hotel.

Details: http://lei_sr?a=w8r7W

Tourism industry has been ‘underestimated’

The Tourism Alliance has always maintained that the tourism industry is a UK success story and one of the country’s main prospects for providing much needed growth for the UK economy.

Now, the release of the Office for National Statistics’ Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) figures for 2011 show that not only was this view right but, if anything, we underestimated the tourism industry’s contribution to the UK’s economic recovery.

The Tourism Satellite Accounts operate by looking at the sectors of the economy were tourists spend money and assigning a percentage of the expenditure to tourism. These are then aggregated to provide an overall figure for tourism expenditure and employment.

For example, around 90 per cent of expenditure on accommodation is classified as tourism related while only 30 per cent of expenditure on restaurants is counted because most people who go to restaurants are locals. As a result, 90 per cent of hotel employment is classified as tourism employment while 30 per cent of restaurant employment is classified as tourism employment.

The latest TSA figures show that tourism expenditure rose by £8.3bn (7.6 per cent) to £120.8bn in 2011 and that tourism employment rose by 7.7 per cent from 1.35 million to 1.67 million.

The creation of 120,000 new jobs in a single year (the equivalent of the population of Gloucester) is certainly significant. But what is even more impressive is when this level of job creation is compared with other sectors of the economy.

The revenue and employment figures for the UK economy as a whole during 2011 do not make good reading. While total expenditure in the economy increased by 3 per cent, overall employment in the UK fell by 30,000. There were only three sectors that recorded a growth in employment – the finance sector and the two sectors of the economy which are dominated by tourism (entertainment & recreation and transport and accommodation).
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£15m plans for Forth Bridge viewing area

Plans have been revealed to build a £15m viewing platform on the Forth Bridge in Scotland, opening the railway route to the public for the first time.

The bridge, which will celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2015, will see a visitor centre built of its northern Fife tower. A glass panelled lift will lead up to the 330ft (100m) high viewing platform. A second centre will also be opened in South Queensferry, which will act as a base for guided walks to the top of the bridge’s south tower.

The railway bridge, built in 1890, is currently seeking heritage listing with UNESCO and still remains a key part of Scotland’s railway network, linking Edinburgh with Fife and carrying more than 200 trains every day.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=E9S3K

Margate’s Turner on track for 1m visitors

The Turner Contemporary in Margate – a gallery dedicated to the life of 19th century artist JMW Turner, which opened in 2011 – is on track to welcome its millionth visitor this summer. Director Victoria Pomery said: “By the end of summer 2013 we’ll have had one million visitors, which is many more than we’d ever anticipated.”

Margate was hit hard by the recession. Until recently, one-third of its shops were vacant, with 800 empty retail properties and 20 per cent unemployment.

But a push by Kent County Council to regenerate the area led to the construction of the £17.5m gallery. Attention is now turning towards Dreamland, the old seaside amusement park which closed eight years ago. The park will re-open at Easter 2015 as a heritage amusement park, following a £10m investment. Details: http://lei.sr?a=f1F4d

British Geological Survey presents 3D fossils online

The British Geological Survey (BGS) has launched a web database billed as the world’s first 3D fossil collection.

The BGS has been using 3D scanners since May 2012 to create copies of the thousands of items stored in its fossil archive.

Users can now view the models online, along with collections of data, high-quality images and stereo anaglyphs. There is also the option to access the fossils using tablets and smartphones. Instructions for 3D printing have also been released. Details: http://lei.sr?a=c4Q7g
Hand Picked Hotels buys Fawsley Hall Hotel & Spa

Hand Picked Hotels (HPH) has acquired Fawsley Hall Hotel & Spa near Silverstone in Northamptonshire, expanding its country house hotel portfolio to 20 properties.

The Grade I listed hotel was purchased for an undisclosed amount and is part of a strategic expansion by HPH.

HPH was created in 2001 by former lawyer turned hotelier Julia Hands, the wife of financier Guy Hands.

The acquisition is the second this year by the group, following a deal for St Pierre Golf and Leisure Resort in Guernsey in June.

The existing museum will triple in size as part of the £21m investment

Plymouth City Museum to get £21m expansion

Plymouth City Council has announced plans for a £21m historic and cultural centre to transform the existing Plymouth City Museum in North Hill.

The existing museum will become an interactive centre, three times its current size. The council plans to bid for up to £13m from the Heritage Lottery’s national funding programme, plus smaller bids to other funds. However, due to the economic benefits to the city, the cabinet is being asked to agree to a financial commitment of £3.5m from its Investment Fund.

The project will collaborate with Plymouth University, Plymouth College of Art, the Ministry Of Defense, the Register Office, the South West Film and Television Archives and the South West Image Bank Archive.

Council leader Tudor Evans, said: “It’s time to think big. If we want to compete for national and international tourism we must have attractions that people want to visit.

When we launched Plymouth as Britain’s Ocean City, we meant it. This is one of the major pieces of work that will ensure we live up to our new title.

“This new attraction will transform the way people discover the city’s history and culture using the very latest in audio and visual technology. The £21m project will see the museum turned on its head. It will attract visitors in its own right.”

Seaside towns will be given a share of £29m to help boost growth, with next year’s Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) being given a 5 per cent increase on last year.

The CCF was launched in 2012 to invest in seaside towns and villages, to assist them in reaching their economic potential, reduce unemployment and create opportunities for young people in the local area relevant to the project.

Projects from the first year of funding have been forecast to generate more than 5,000 new jobs and create 500 new apprenticeships in the coming years.

Projects which have benefited from the fund include heritage railways in north York and Swanage, pier regenerations in south Wales and training programmes for green tourism.

The fund is financed by the government through the allocation of funding equivalent to 50 per cent of the revenues from the Crown Estate’s marine activities in that area.

Successful bids are chosen because of their impact on local jobs, training and their ability to drive forward growth. Successful bids from round two will be announced during Q4 of 2013, while nominations for round three will be open to apply in early 2014.

Communities Secretary, Eric Pickles, commented: “This will help our coastal towns make the most of their potential by diversifying their economies and industries so they can become year-round success stories.”

Coastal towns to recieve share of £29m
Stafford Borough Council invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced organisations who are willing to work in partnership with the Council to secure the re-development of outdoor sporting and recreational facilities at Wildwood Park, Stafford.

The project will need to be completed by Summer 2014 and has a budget up to £425k. The scheme involves the design, supply and installation of innovative facilities including concrete wheeled sports opportunities, dynamic and intuitive play provision, an outdoor gym, a MUGA, refurbishment of existing tennis court, tree works, pathways and hard and soft landscaping.

Organisations who can demonstrate a successful track record in this type of project wishing to express an interest must do so by completing a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire which can be obtained by writing to:
Sally McDonald, Leisure and Culture, Stafford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford, ST16 3AQ
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Virgin Active has employed eight new lifeguards at its new site in Falmer, Brighton, following free training and qualifications provided by Swin UK.

The eight new staff, all of which completed their Royal Life Saving Society National Pool Lifeguard Qualification for free with Swin UK as part of their Sporting Solutions programme, were previously receiving Job Seekers Allowance, but are now working part or full-time within the leisure industry.

Paul Smith MD, of Swin UK said: “I can’t think of better evidence to reflect the effectiveness of our short courses in getting people skilled and into a new career.”

Lucy Walton, training and quality manager at easyGym said: “Previously, our training was in-house, so working with Icon Training has taken this workload away and enabled us to take on more apprentices, which is growing all the time.” Details: http://lei.sr?a=E2A5C

The number of apprentices is growing at easyGym across the country

Swim UK helps unemployed lifeguards

Virgin Active has employed eight new lifeguards at its new site in Falmer, Brighton, following free training and qualifications provided by Swin UK.

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Paul Smith MD, of Swin UK said: “I can’t think of better evidence to reflect the effectiveness of our short courses in getting people skilled and into a new career.”

Formed by Paul Smith in 1995, the company originally aimed to provide training to the staff of Brighton Swimming School to become lifeguards and swimming teachers. Swim UK courses are now offered to those working within the leisure industry, schools and swimming clubs, as well as free courses to job seekers which have been introduced recently to help the unemployed develop careers in leisure. Details: http://lei.sr?a=Z7x2k

The new employees at Virgin Active in Falmer, Brighton

Wildwood Trust enters final year of Skills for the Future

Wildwood Trust – a charity that runs a highly successful programme of conservation projects – is inviting applications for its final year of the Skills for Future the Training programme.

The project, which has been running for four years, is funded by a £150,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The grant funds four trainees per year, with each trainee receiving a bursary of £10,000 for the year of training with Wildwood. The posts aim is to gain further academic training and develop careers. Details: http://lei.sr?a=m2n6w
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Tutor, Leisure Industry Academy, Nationwide, UK
Aquatics Co-ordinator, Aberdeen Sports Village, Aberdeen, UK
CRM and PCT Officer, League Football Education, Preston
Personal Training diploma, Leisure Industry Academy, Various, UK
Visitor Experience Manager, Southbank Centre, London, UK
Sales Consultant (TEMP), DW Sports Fitness, Warrington, UK
Sales and Retention Manager, DW Sports Fitness, Oldham, UK
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Active Lifestyle Officer, Walsall Council, Walsall, UK
Assistant Manager - Facilities, Valley Leisure Ltd, Andover, UK
Lead Officer - Commercial Leisure, Denbighshire County Council, Ruthin, UK
Sport and Physical Activity Development Officer, The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK
Operations Manager, Showcase Cinema, Predominantly southern UK / M4 corridor, UK
Managing Director, Sentinel Leisure Trust, Lowestoft, UK
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Personal Trainer, énergie group, Bromley, Kent, UK
Recreation Facilities Officer, Portsmouth City Council, Portsmouth, UK
Senior Marketing Officer, Leeds City Council, Leeds, UK
Leisure Operations Manager, Torfaen Leisure Trust, Torfaen, UK
Finance and Business Manager, Torfaen Leisure Trust, Torfaen, UK
Centre Operations Manager, Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), Nottingham, UK
Sports and Events Specialist, Fitness First, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Personal Trainers, Double Vision Conditioning Centre, Milton Keynes/Bedford, UK
Duty Manager, Parkwood Leisure, Derbyshire, UK
Duty Manager, Parkwood Leisure, Nottinghamshire, UK
Duty Manager with Legacy Leisure, Parkwood Leisure, Southend-on-Sea, UK
Business Development Manager, Oxford City Council, Oxford
Gymnastics Coach Required, Merton School
Sports Partnership, London, UK
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Sales and Retention Manager, DW Sports Fitness, Leeds, UK
Sales and Retention Manager, DW Sports Fitness, Preston, UK
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Sports Attendant - Full Time, Part Time and Casual, Aberdeen Sports Village, Aberdeen, UK
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Receptionist - Full Time and Part Time, Aberdeen Sports Village, Aberdeen, UK
Swimming Instructors - Casual, Aberdeen Sports Village, Aberdeen, UK
Assistant General Manager, DW Sports Fitness, Bristol, UK
Duty Manager, DW Sports Fitness, Widnes, UK
Sales Supervisor - Fixed Term Maternity Cover, GLL, Prestwood, UK
Sales Supervisor, GLL, Chilterns, UK
Property Manager, The National Trust for Scotland, Kirkcudbright, UK
Waterpark Sales Manager, Europe and Africa, Whitewater West Industries Ltd, Barcelona, Spain
Head of Culture and Tourism, Royal Borough of Greenwich, London, UK
Sales Manager, Asia, Whitewater West Industries Ltd, Vancouver, Canada or Asia Region
Sales Assistant, Whitewater West Industries Ltd, Shanghai, China
Head of Sport and Commissioning, Royal Borough of Greenwich, London, UK
Membership Sales Advisor, Impact
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Personal Trainer, Pure Gym Limited, Sheffield Millhouses, UK
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Personal Trainer, Pure Gym Limited, Holloway Road, London, UK
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Sales and Retention Manager, DW Sports Fitness, Cambridge, UK
Duty Manager, GLL, City of Westminster, UK
Swimming Teachers, Everyone Active, Shipston-on-Stour, UK
Duty Manager (Relief), Everyone Active, Tenbury Wells, UK
Duty Manager, DW Sports Fitness, Macclesfield, UK
Personal Trainer, Pure Gym Limited, Acton, UK
Sales Supervisor, GLL, West Oxfordshire, UK
General Manager, DW Sports Fitness, Poole, UK
Duty Manager, DW Sports Fitness, Cambridge, UK
Personal Trainers, The Gym Group, Cardiff, UK
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Food and Beverage Assistant, Everyone Active, Daventry, UK
Swimming Teacher ASA level 2, Everyone Active, Daventry, UK
Activity and Sport Development Manager, Everyone Active, Daventry, UK
Fitness Consultant (Temporary), DW Sports Fitness, Newport, UK
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Completed applications to be emailed or posted to David Bishop at the above address.

Tel: 01275-337416 Fax: 01275-340935
E-mail: cssc@clevedon.n-somerset.sch.uk

Closing date for applications:
Friday 20th September 2013
Interviews to be held 1st October 2013

Clevedon School Sports Centre is committed to safeguarding and all applicants will be vetted through ISA/CRB checks.
Simworx is world leader in the design, manufacture & development of 4D/5D based and immersive attractions for Theme Parks, Museums, Zoos & Aquariums, Family Entertainment Centres, and Visitor Attractions / Shopping Malls.

As a result of continued success and a planned program of strategic growth, we are now seeking to recruit, dynamic and highly self motivated Systems Engineers and Audio Visual Engineers to complement our established and successful team.

Sales Manager
EMEARI (Europe, Middle East, Africa, Russia and India), WhiteWater Attractions
Location: Barcelona, Spain
International Sales reporting to VP of Business Development, EMEARI

Waterpark Sales Manager
Europe and Africa
Location: Barcelona, Spain
International Sales reporting to VP of Business Development, EMEARI

Sales Manager
Asia (China, Japan and South East Asia), WhiteWater Attractions
Location: Vancouver, Canada or Asia Region
International Sales reporting to VP of Business Development, Asia

Sales Assistant
Location: Shanghai, China
Sales and Project Management jointly reporting to the Vice President Business Development – Asia & Director of Project Services

More information about these and other roles at www.WhiteWaterWest.com/careers.html

Application closing date is September 20, 2013. Include your cover letter and resume in your application with “Title of the Role” in the subject line of your email to careers@whitewaterwest.com

Thank you for your interest in these positions!
CIMSPA review progressing well

A business review of the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) is gathering pace, with a number of insights already being drawn from the three month process.

Following introductory and group meetings, the review of CIMSPA – the professional development body for the UK’s sport and physical activity sector – will now enter the electronic consultation phase before a final revision and review.

So far CIMSPA has learned that it must ensure development of management training, while many members have also said that it should be “a badge of quality.”

The institute has also been encouraged to “empower the regions”, with suggestions that regional budgets should be implemented.

Finally it’s been suggested that CIMSPA should support people at the start of their career, through provision of a career pathway.

CIMSPA trustee David Stalker said: “High numbers of organisations have come forward offering opinions, ideas and support for the institute. I have no doubt that should this support continue, the institute will flourish.”

Details: http://lei.sr?a=e4q2m

UK attractions see rise in visitors numbers this year

Continued from front cover: The Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA) which represents a variety of venues, revealed its members had seen a rise of 22 per cent in their visitor numbers this spring and summer when compared with last year. It is thought this is in part thanks to good weather, Britain’s hosting of successful events and the strength of the euro against the pound.

However, industry leaders feel visitor attractions are having to offer deals and keep prices down despite rising costs.

Next stage of Commonwealth legacy

The Scottish government has released the second round of grants from its Active Places Fund – a legacy project aiming to get people more active using next year’s Commonwealth Games as an inspiration.

A total of 40 projects across Scotland will share £2m in funding – the second allocation of grants from a total of £10m earmarked for the programme.

Projects to benefit from the funding include Bill McLaren Park in Hawick, which has been granted £77,000 to help build three all-weather tennis courts in the town.

Other projects to benefit from the funding include Arbroath Skate Park, Cycle Speedway at Queen Anne High School in Dunfermline, a play park climbing wall in Buchlyvie and a Trim Trail with play equipment at Elphinstone Primary School in East Lothian.

First minister for Scotland, Alex Salmond, said the Commonwealth Games being held in Glasgow in July and August next year would provide an “exceptional opportunity” to make Scotland and its people healthier.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=g6H6z