

RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC  
Form 6-K  
July 17, 2008

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 6-K**

**Report of Foreign Private Issuer**

**Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16  
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the month of July, 2008

**RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC**  
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

**c/o Ryanair Ltd Corporate Head Office  
Dublin Airport  
County Dublin Ireland**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F..X.. Form 40-F.....

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes ..... No ..X..

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82- \_\_\_\_\_

**RYANAIR ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF OPERATIONS AT  
SEVEN BASES**

Ryanair, Europe's leading low fares airline, today, Thursday

,  
17  
th  
July  
2008

, announced the temporary closure of its operations at  
the following airports  
for the period from Tuesday, 4  
th  
November until Friday, 19  
th  
December:

- Basel
- Budapest
- Krakow
- Palma
- Rzeszow
- Salzburg
- Valencia

Ryanair explained the decision to close its operations and cancel these flights for the following reasons;

- Costs at these airports  
are amongst  
the most expensive in Europe and far outweigh the potential revenue which passengers are prepared to pay,  
particularly during the  
off peak  
winter period.
- With oil at \$140 a barrel, flights at expensive airports must be reduced this winter when fares are very low.

Ryanair confirmed that it had written to  
the airports

seeking a reduction on the costs of these flights this winter but  
their response was wholly inadequate

. The loss of this passenger traffic will now cost the airport authority significant commercial revenue and

Announcing this closure, Ryanair's Deputy Chief Executive, Michael Cawley, said;

"

*We very much regret temporarily closing our operations at  
these airports*

*during this November and December period. However, a combination of  
high airport charges*

*and the massive increases which we face in fuel prices, makes it more profitable for Ryanair to ground aircraft rather  
than fly them at*

*these airports*

during this period.

"

*These flights the passengers would not be lost to these cities or tourism if they had responded adequately to Ryanair's proposals for cost reductions on these flights for the winter season.*

"

*Ryanair, with the lowest costs and lowest guaranteed fares in Europe, is the only airline capable of retaining year round international tourism and business links for such regional cities. However, low airport costs and local support are required to sustain these operations, particularly through the low yielding months in the winter. In the absence of this support, Ryanair has no alternative but to cancel these routes and develop its business elsewhere.*

"

*We will continue our discussions with the airport authorities in order to convince them that this type of interruption to our services need not happen in the future if costs are reduced and hopefully we can develop an agreement on how they can support the year round continuation of our services on a viable basis for the benefit of the airports and the regions they serve*

"

The lost passenger traffic and

numbers

of

flight

s

is outlined as follows:

| <b>Airport</b>  | <b>Lost Flights</b> | <b>Lost Passengers</b> |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Basel</b>    | 204                 | 31,000                 |
| <b>Budapest</b> | 180                 | 27,000                 |
| <b>Krakow</b>   | 444                 | 67,000                 |
| <b>Palma</b>    | 372                 | 56,000                 |
| <b>Rzeszow</b>  | 192                 | 29,000                 |
| <b>Salzburg</b> | 84                  | 12,500                 |
| <b>Valencia</b> | 504                 | 80,000                 |

**Ends.**

**Thursday, 17  
th  
July 2008**

**For further information  
please contact:**

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

**RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC**

Date: 17 July, 2008

By:\_\_\_\_/s/ James Callaghan\_\_\_\_\_

James Callaghan  
Company Secretary & Finance Director