

Transport news

- IATA report that in July global aviation demand was 2.9% down compared with a year ago
- IATA report global premium class air travel was 14.1% down on a year ago in July, marking an improvement on recent months. However average premium fares remained 23% down on a year earlier and there was a less marked improvement in demand on intra-European routes
- Heathrow airport had its busiest August on record according to BAA; overall the operator's seven UK airports handled 3.1% fewer passengers, with domestic traffic down 5.9%, European scheduled up 0.4%, North Atlantic traffic down 7.7% and other long-haul traffic up 4.0%
- From January Delta Air Lines will axe its New York to Manchester route
- From November bmi is to reduce frequencies on its routes to Heathrow from Tel Aviv and Belfast
- From November bmi will axe flights to Heathrow from Palma and Venice
- American Airlines will operate a daily New York JFK to Manchester service between mid May and end September 2010
- Iceland Express will fly twice per week from Reykjavik to Stansted from November
- The number of long distance rail journeys undertaken in Britain during the period April to June was 4.9% down on the same period of last year

Domestic Economic News

- UK consumer confidence remained steady in August
- Bank of England keeps base rates steady at 0.5%
- UK unemployment increased to 7.9% of the workforce in the three months to July, with the number of working age people in employment being 2.3% down (equivalent to 652,000) on a year ago

European Economic News

- Eurozone consumer confidence picked up marginally in August

US Economic News

- The US Federal Reserve says that the economic outlook for the US is 'cautiously optimistic'
- US consumer confidence improved in August after two consecutive months of declines

Global Economic News

- OPEC decide to keep oil production at current levels leading to a further increase in the price of oil to \$72 per barrel
- The Japanese central bank says that some emergency support for the economy may soon be withdrawn as prospects for growth improve

Tourism News

- The French government reports that the number of foreign visitors to France was 14.5% down on 2008 during July and August, but domestic tourism in France was up by 6.3% over this period according to data from hotels, holiday homes and campsites
- According to Hotels.com the average price of a hotel room in the UK was 16% lower than a year ago in the first half of this year, meaning that room rates are now back at 2004 levels

Factors contributing to tourism trends in Britain, September 2009

