

Transport news

- In the three months to September Eurostar carried 7% more passengers on inbound visits to Britain with an 11% increase in outbound travel. The figures are in part due to the fire in the Channel Tunnel in September 2008
- The Association of Train Operating Companies calls for the electrification of ten stretches of track covering 400 miles over the period to 2014 thereby cutting carbon emissions but increasing capacity on the routes by 35%
- IATA report that demand for international air travel in September was 0.3% up on a year ago
- The volume of passengers travelling to/from the UK on scheduled flights during August was 3.1% lower than a year ago according to CAA figures
- Gatwick Airport sold by BAA to Global Infrastructure Partners for £1.51bn
- BA cabin crew to be balloted on possible strike action
- From mid December Ryanair will fly from Bordeaux to Edinburgh

Domestic Economic News

- The Ernst & Young Item Club forecast very sluggish economic growth in the UK in 2010 as consumers pay off debt and face higher taxation after the election
- The UK economy shrank by 0.4% in the third quarter of 2009 meaning that the recession is now the longest on record

European Economic News

- Norway becomes the first European nation to increase base rates following the global financial crisis

US Economic News

- US unemployment climbs to a 26 year high of 9.8%
- US consumer confidence deteriorates further in October
- The US economy moved out of recession in the third quarter of the year with annualised growth of 3.5%

Global Economic News

- Price of oil reaches \$80 per barrel
- South Korea's economy came out of recession in the third quarter of 2009

Tourism News

- Global Refund report that sales to overseas visitors reclaiming tax on departure from the UK declined by 21% on a year earlier, but this can be explained by a sharp fall in sales to visitors from the Middle East due to Ramadan falling in September this year
- TRI Hospitality Consulting report that London hotel occupancy stood at 83.4% in September up from 82.1% a year earlier, while provincial hotel occupancy stood at 75.7%, down from 77.2% in September 2008

Factors contributing to tourism trends in Britain, October 2009

