

Weather

- Met Office figures indicate that October weather across the UK was characterised by close to average amounts of precipitation and sunshine, with temperatures that were well above average

Transport news

- The seven BAA airports handled 1.4% fewer passengers in October than a year earlier, results by market were; domestic -5%, European scheduled +1.1%, North Atlantic -4.8%, other long-haul +4.6%
- In October British Airways carried 2.8% fewer passengers than a year ago; the steepest decline was on routes to/from Asia Pacific whereas travel to/from the Americas improved slightly and to/from Middle East and Africa by a healthier margin
- A strike by cabin crew at Iberia results in some flights from Spain to Britain being cancelled on 10th and 11th November
- bmi mooted to be preparing to auction some of its Heathrow slots in order to raise funds
- Bmibaby flights from Malaga and Alicante to Manchester cease in mid November
- From early December Ryanair will axe flights from Basel to Stansted
- Eurostar to run one fewer train per day from both Brussels and Paris to London from mid December
- Eurostar services from Belgium to London disrupted by a rail workers strike in Belgium
- In the three months to September the volume of long distance rail journeys undertaken in the UK declined at an annual rate of 2%
- According to the Department for Transport the volume of car traffic on Britain's roads was 1% up on a year ago during the three months to September
- The number of passengers passing through the Port of Dover in October was 15.4% down on a year ago

Domestic Economic News

- UK consumer confidence improves slightly in October
- Latest figures from the Bank of England show that consumer credit in September was on a par with a year ago
- Bank of England keeps base rates at 0.5% in November
- UK unemployment increased by 30,000 in the three months to September, but this is the slowest rate of increase for 18 months

European Economic News

- Eurozone unemployment increased to 9.7% in September
- The number of employed persons in Eurozone markets was 1.8% lower in the second quarter of 2008 compared with a year ago, equivalent to 2.6 million fewer jobs
- Eurozone consumer confidence remains flat in October

US Economic News

- US unemployment increased by more than expected in October to stand at 10.2% of the workforce
- US consumer confidence deteriorates further in October
- In September US consumer credit decreased at an annual rate of 7.2%

Global Economic News

- China's manufacturing sector grew at its fastest pace for 18 months in October according to the Purchasing Managers Index, with indications that retail sales are also running above expectation
- Australia's central bank again increases interest rates as the economy improves, bolstered by increased demand from Asia

Tourism News

- UNWTO forecast that the volume of international tourism is likely to grow by between 1% and 3% in 2010
- According to PKF hotel occupancy during September stood at 85.1% in London compared with 82.6% a year ago, whereas outside of London occupancy declined from 76.2% in September 2008 to 73.5% this year; room rates fell 3% in London and by 7.4% outside of London
- According to the Quarter 4 TRI Hospitality Consulting Hotel Confidence Monitor 73% of hotel general managers are more optimistic about prospects than they were three months ago

Factors contributing to tourism trends in Britain, November 2009

