

Weather

- Prolonged cold weather and snow continues to disrupt travel in many parts of Britain, with many parts of the country having had the coldest December since 1981

Transport news

- IATA report that demand for international scheduled flights in November was 2.1% up on a year ago, however European carriers experienced an annual decline in traffic of 3%
- A spate of train failures brought on by extreme weather in northern France resulted in Eurostar services being suspended from 19 to 21 December
- Heavy snow on the Eastern Seaboard of the USA resulted in disruption to flights to the UK in the days before Christmas
- CAA figures reveal that the number of passengers travelling to and from the UK on scheduled air services in October was 3.5% down on a year before
- Japan Airlines may file for bankruptcy with the government saying it will not provide any additional loans
- From March Ryanair will operate four new routes to Bournemouth (many targeted primarily at outbound travel) including from Valencia and Malta
- Brittany Ferries to withdraw its service between Cherbourg and Poole from spring 2010
- The number of passengers using the Port of Dover was 21.1% down on a year earlier during December

Domestic Economic News

- The UK economy shrank by 0.2% in the third quarter of the year according to revised figures from the Office for National Statistics
- The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development forecast unemployment will peak at 2.8 million in 2010

European Economic News

- Eurozone broad money supply was 0.3% lower in November than a year earlier suggesting that credit conditions remain tight

US Economic News

- US consumer confidence continued to see modest improvements in December

Global Economic News

- Chinese manufacturing grew at its fastest pace in five years during December
- Government spending helps deliver economic growth of 6.8% in Vietnam in the fourth quarter of 2009

Tourism News

- Failed attack on US airliner travelling from Amsterdam to Detroit results in review of airport security with full body scanners to be gradually introduced at UK airports
- Lower tax rates on hotel stays will come into force in Germany from early January
- The US Air Transport Association takes court action to sue the European Union over its planned Emissions Trading Scheme which is due to be implemented from 2012
- BAA wins its appeal against the order to sell three of the seven airports that it operates in the UK
- TRI Hospitality Consulting report that in November London hotel occupancy stood at 84%, up from 79.3% a year ago, while occupancy outside London at 69.1% was down from 70.6%. Average room rates in London were up nearly £2 on a year ago whereas in the provinces rates were £5 lower
- According to TRI Hospitality Consulting growth in occupancy and room rates during November meant that London moved ahead of most other European cities in terms of profit per available room
- During December sterling was 5.5% cheaper than a year before for the typical inbound visitor

Factors contributing to tourism trends in Britain, January 2010

