

Weather

- Met Office figures show that December temperatures were exceptionally below average, but that amounts of sunshine were exceptionally above average and rainfall totals well below average

Transport news

- Further snowfall during the second week of January disrupted some airports and train services
- BAAs six UK airports handled 0.9% fewer passengers in December than a year before, with the airport operator estimating that poor weather resulted in a 1.9% reduction in passenger numbers. Passenger volumes by route sector show; domestic -6.5%, European scheduled +1.6%, North Atlantic -5.7% and other long-haul 3.5%
- In December British Airways carried 4.4% fewer passengers than was the case twelve months earlier
- British Airways and the Unite Union hold fresh negotiations aimed at resolving the dispute between the airline and its cabin crew
- Taiwan's China Airlines will start a three times per week flight from Taipei to Heathrow from end March
- easyJet to launch new routes from Dubrovnik and Split to Stansted from May operating 3 and 4 times per week respectively
- Aer Lingus to axe routes to Gatwick from Zurich, Vienna, Munich, Faro and Nice, but will introduce a service to Gatwick from Cork
- From end March bmi to reduce its daily schedule from Dublin to Heathrow from six to four flights
- P&O say that they will withdraw their service from Bilbao to Portsmouth from the end of September

Domestic Economic News

- Bank of England again hold base rates at 0.5%
- UK consumer confidence deteriorated slightly in December

European Economic News

- Eurozone unemployment continued to increase slightly in November, reaching 9.8% of the workforce
- Eurozone consumer confidence improved in December for the ninth consecutive month
- The German economy shrank by 5% in 2009, the worst performance for more than half a century, with growth of 1.2% forecast for 2010
- The European Central Bank continues to hold Eurozone interest rates at 1%

US Economic News

- The rate of unemployment in the US remained flat at 10.0% in December, however 3.8% fewer Americans were in employment than in December 2008
- In November consumer credit available in the US was 8.5% down on a year before

Global Economic News

- Preliminary data for December suggests that China has become the world's largest exporter, surpassing Germany
- New figures show that 13.6 million cars and vans were sold in China in 2009 making it the biggest car market in the world
- Price of oil hits \$84 a barrel on the back of rapidly expanding demand in China
- Unemployment in Australia fell to 5.5% of the workforce in December

Tourism News

- Travelodge is to invest £115m in opening 26 new hotels across the UK
- The UK Government announces successful bids for nine new offshore wind farm zones within UK waters

Factors contributing to tourism trends in Britain, January 2010

