

Weather

- Met Office figures reveal that January brought exceptionally below average temperatures and amounts of precipitation across the UK, while the amount of sunshine was well above average

Transport news

- BAA's six UK airports handled 3.1% fewer passengers in January than a year ago, the operator estimates that were it not for the disruption caused by snow the decline would have been 0.3%; the only route sector to see growth was long haul traffic to Africa, the Middle East and Asia Pacific
- The new owners of Gatwick Airport say they have no plans to develop a second runway at the airport
- BA carried 8% fewer passengers in January than a year earlier, with declines across all geographic regions
- Flights to Britain from the northeast of the USA disrupted by heavy snowfall in early February
- A nationwide strike by public sector workers in Greece causes disruption to flights
- Kingfisher has been granted traffic rights to start operating flights between New Delhi and London, no start date for the route has been set
- For July and August flybe will operate three flights per week from Perpignan to Birmingham
- Wizz Air will fly three times a week from Belgrade to London Luton from July
- From March LD Lines will operate a double-daily ferry service from Ostend to Ramsgate
- The Port of Dover handled 15% fewer passengers in January than a year earlier
- Figures from the Department for Transport show that the volume of car traffic on Britain's roads decreased by 1% in the final three months of 2009 compared with the same period of 2008

Domestic Economic News

- UK consumer credit was 0.5% down on a year before during December
- UK retail sales were reported to be very weak in January, largely due to snowy weather and the increase in VAT
- The Bank of England warns that in the short-term UK inflation is likely to increase further

European Economic News

- Global stock markets continue to be spooked by whether or not national debt can be repaid, with the latest spotlight falling on Portugal
- The EU indicates that it will support Greece through its debt crisis but currency markets remain sceptical
- The Spanish economy remained in recession in the final three months of 2009, with economic activity declining 0.1% on the previous quarter
- The German economy failed to grow in the final quarter of 2009 compared with the previous three months

US Economic News

- US unemployment falls in January to 9.7%, however the number of persons in employment remains 2.6% lower than a year ago

Global Economic News

- The Indian government says that the economy will have grown by 7.2% in the year to March

Tourism News

- The latest TRI Hospitality Consulting Hotel Confidence Monitor found that hotel general managers are more cautious now than three months ago about the outlook, but remain considerably more optimistic than was the case a year ago
- London Theatreland had a record year in 2009 with more than 14 million visits to 52 theatres, up 5.5% on 2008
- UK government announces tighter controls aimed at reducing the number of student visa applications that are granted to non-EU citizens
- The UK Government says that the risk of a swine flu pandemic has now passed

Factors contributing to tourism trends in Britain, February 2010

