

#### Weather

- Further falls of snow cause disruption to flights to/from airports including Birmingham and Luton

#### Transport news

- According to the CAA the number of passengers on international flights to/from the UK during December was 1.6% lower than a year before
- Gatwick Airport handled 5.4% fewer passengers in January than a year before
- From end May flybe will operate a daily return flight (except Saturdays) between Manchester and Bournemouth
- From end May flybe will operate daily flights between Kent International and Edinburgh
- From end May flybe will operate four flights per week between Belfast City and Humberside
- From early March Viking Hellas will operate four flights per week from Athens to Manchester
- Etihad is to use larger aircraft on its Abu Dhabi to Manchester route in response to rising demand
- The Unite Union loses its high court bid to overturn BA's decision to cut the number of cabin crew by one on long-haul flights
- BA cabin crew again vote in favour of taking strike action
- Lufthansa and Germanwings flights severely disrupted for four days from 22 February due to a pilots strike
- Strikes by air traffic control staff in France disrupts some flights from Paris to the UK
- Eurostar services between Brussels and London suspended for seven days following a derailment on the domestic rail network in Belgium
- The number of long-distance rail journeys undertaken in Britain in the final three months of 2009 was 4% up on the same period of 2008

#### Domestic Economic News

- One group of leading economists indicate that the UK needs to set out a clear plan for how to tackle the national debt now, while a second group says that any cuts should be delayed until 2011
- UK unemployment fell by 3,000 in the three months to December

#### European Economic News

- Eurozone officials forecast economic growth across the 16 country bloc of just 1% in 2010
- Eurozone unemployment climbed to 10% in December

#### US Economic News

- The Federal Reserve warns that despite economic recovery US unemployment will remain high throughout 2010

#### Global Economic News

- Japan's economy grew at a faster than expected annualised rate of 4.6% in the final quarter of 2009
- The South African government forecast economic growth in 2010 of 2.3%
- Taiwan's economy grew at an annualised rate of 18% in the final quarter of 2009
- Price of oil again climbs to over \$80 a barrel

#### Tourism News

- The British Chambers of Commerce says that a third runway at Heathrow would benefit the UK economy by £30.7bn
- According to Global Blue, sales to non-EU citizens reclaiming tax increased at an annual rate of 19% in January, brought about by a 23% increase in transactions and a 3% decline in average spend per transaction
- The World Health Organisation reports that there have been 10 human cases of H5N1 avian flu so far this year, with 4 deaths (3 in Egypt and 1 in Indonesia)

# Factors contributing to tourism trends in Britain, February 2010

