

Investment News



Investment News is kindly sponsored by: [HSBC](#)

1. Economic Indicators:

- [UK / London](#)
- [US / NY](#)

2. Investment Indicators:

- [UK/US](#)

3. New Investments:

- [US Investments into UK](#)
- [UK Investments into US](#)

4. Trade Shows:

- [UK](#)
- [US](#)

1. **ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

UK

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted by 0.6% in the third quarter of 2008, revised down from the previous estimate of 0.5% and down from 0.0% in the second quarter of 2008. The level of GDP in the third quarter of 2008 is now 0.3% cent higher than the third quarter of 2007.

- Consumer Prices Index (CPI) annual inflation was 4.1% November 2008, down from 4.5% in October. Retail Prices index (RPI) inflation slowed to 3% in November 2008, down from 4.2% in October.

- In December 2008, output price annual inflation for all manufactured products fell to 4.7%. Input price annual inflation fell from 8.6% in November to 4.3% in December.

- Manufacturing output decreased by 3.3% in the three months to November 2008 compared with the three months to August 2008.

- Employment rate for people of working age was 74.2% for the three months to October 2008, down 0.4% from the previous quarter and over the year. The number of people in employment for the three months to October 2008 was 29.38 million, down 115,000 over the quarter but up 57,000 over the year. The unemployment rate was 6% for the three months to October 2008, up 0.4% over the previous quarter and up 0.7% over the year. The number of unemployed people increased by 137,000 over the quarter and by 238,000 over the year, to reach 1.86 million.

- Average earnings, including bonuses, rose by 3.3% in the year to October 2008, unchanged from September. Average earnings, excluding bonuses or regular pay, rose by 3.6% in the year to October 2008, unchanged from September.

- Retail sales volume in the three months September to November 2008 rose by 0.5% compared with the previous three months.

- The public sector showed a deficit on current budget of £13 billion in November 2008, compared with a deficit of £8.1 billion in November 2007.

- There was a current account deficit of £7.7 billion in the third quarter of 2008, up from a deficit of £6.4 billion in

the previous quarter.

- The UK's deficit on trade in goods and services was £3.9 billion in October 2008, compared with a revised deficit of £3.5 billion in September (originally published as a deficit of £3.9 billion).

For previously released UK economic indicators visit National Statistics <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp>

LONDON

- In the most recent 28-day period (From October 12, 2008 to November 8, 2008), London's Underground and buses had 268.8 million passenger journeys; 180 million by bus and 88.8 million by underground.
- The moving average annual rate of growth in passenger journeys decreased to 3.7% from an upwardly revised 3.9% in the previous period.
- London's annual growth in output decreased to 1.3% in Q2 2008 from a downwardly revised 2.7% in Q1 2008.
- London's annual employment growth increased to 1.4% in Q2 2008 from an upwardly revised 1% in Q1 2008.
- Annual house price inflation in London decreased to -3.5% in Q3 2008 from 5.2% in Q2 2008. Annual house price inflation in the UK decreased to -3.7% in Q3 2008 from 2.7% in Q2 2008.
- The SPSL Retail Traffic Index of shoppers in London was 100.5 in the first week of December 2008 compared to 90.8 in the previous week.
- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) of business activity recorded 41.7 in November 2008 compared to 47.4 in October.
- The PMI for level of employment in London firms was 44.7 in November 2008 compared to 44.6 in October 2008.
- The PMI for new orders for London firms recorded 41.5 in November 2008 compared to 43.5 in October 2008.
- The RICS survey shows a negative net balance of -78 for London house prices over the past three months to November 2008. This net balance remained the same as October's revised balance. Surveyors reported a negative net house price balance for England and Wales of -76 in November 2008, from an upwardly revised -81 in October 2008.
- The net house price expectations balance in London was -71 in November 2008, down from -70 in October. For England and Wales, the net house price expectations balance was -64 in November 2008, up from -65 in October.
- For Greater London the consumer confidence score decreased to -36 in November 2008 from -27 in October. For the UK the consumer confidence score increased to -35 in November 2008 from -36 in October.

US

- Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) decreased at an annual rate of 0.5% in the third quarter of 2008.
- Personal income decreased \$20.7 billion, or 0.2% and disposable personal income (DPI) decreased \$11.8 billion, or 0.1% in November 2008.
- The US international trade deficit in good and services in October 2008 increased 1.1%, to -\$57.2 billion. Exports decreased 2.2%, to \$151.7 billion, and imports shrank 1.3%, to \$208.9 billion.
- The US current account deficit decreased to \$174.1 billion in the third quarter of 2008, down from \$180.9 billion in the second quarter.

For previously released US economic indicators visit US Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

<http://www.bea.gov/index.htm>

NY

- Private employment fell by 6,500 jobs in October 2008, after a decrease of 3,700 jobs in September (Source: New York State Dept. of Labor).
- The unemployment rate fell to 5.7% in October 2008 from 5.8% in September (Source: New York State Dept. of Labor).
- The Manhattan hotel occupancy rate in October 2008 was 86.4%, down from 91% in October 2007

(Source: New York State Dept. of Labor).

- The Direct Class A office vacancy rate was 5.6% in October 2008, while the average asking rent was \$88 per SF (Source: New York State Dept. of Labor).

- Passengers in NYC's airports totaled 8.1 million in September 2008, down 6.3% from September 2007 (Source: New York State Dept. of Labor).

- In November 2008, the Manhattan Class A direct vacancy rate rose to 5.6% and the average asking rental rate fell to \$88 PSF (Source: Cushman and Wakefield).

- In November 2008, the Downtown Class A direct vacancy rate fell to 3.4%, while average direct office rental rate fell \$1 to \$61 PSF (Source: Cushman and Wakefield).

- The total Manhattan sublease vacancy rate was 2.6% in November 2008, up from 2.5% in October (Source: Cushman and Wakefield).

- For the four months ending October 2008: Building projects (including new, additions and alterations) that started construction fell by 23.2% and, infrastructure (non-building) project starts increased by 49.1% from the four months ending October 2007 (Source: McGraw Hill Construction).

- 988 residential buildings with 6,040 units of housing started construction, decreases of 23.6% and 37.6% respectively from the previous year (Source: McGraw Hill Construction).

- There were approximately 894,000 tickets sold during the four weeks ending November 30, 2008, a 99.5% increase from the same period last year, in which the stagehand strike took place. Broadway revenue during this period was roughly \$72.7 million, a 120.7% increase from last year (Source: The Broadway League).

- In September 2008, 8.1 million passengers flew into and out of the region's airports, a decrease of 6.3% from September 2007 (Source: Port Authority of New York and New Jersey).

- In October 2008, the average daily hotel room rate was \$358, a 2.9% decrease from October 2007 (Source: PKF Consulting).

- Hotel occupancy was 86.4% in October 2008, down from 91% in October 2007 (Source: PKF Consulting).

- Total ridership on MTA subways, trains and buses in October 2008 was roughly 231 million, an increase of 0.4% from October 2007. In October 2008, subway ridership was roughly 145 million, an increase of 1.2% from October 2007 (Source: Metropolitan Transportation Authority).

2. INVESTMENT INDICATORS

UK/US

UK/US Investment Brief

Currently, the UK direct investment position in the US is over \$410bn, and investors from the US now hold nearly \$400bn in direct investment in the UK.

In 2007 alone, the UK received over \$31bn in foreign direct investment from the US, while UK investors staked over \$36bn of foreign direct investment in the US economy.

UK Investment Position: Third Quarter 2008

The UK surplus on direct investment income was £17 billion in Q3 2008, down £1 billion on the £18.1 billion surplus in the previous quarter. UK earnings on direct investment abroad were £23.4 billion in Q3 2008, down £2.7 billion on Q2 2008. Foreign earnings on direct investment in the UK fell to £6.4 billion, in Q3 2008, compared with earnings of £8 billion in Q2 2008.

Portfolio investment income recorded a deficit of £2.4 billion in Q3 2008, little changed from the previous quarter. UK earnings on holdings of foreign securities increased by £0.7 billion in Q3 2008, to £16.9 billion and foreign earnings on portfolio investment in the UK also increased by £0.7 billion in Q3 2008, to £19.3 billion.

The deficit on earnings from other investment fell by £0.2 billion to £7.1 billion in Q3 2008. UK earnings on other investment abroad were £29.5 billion, a decrease of £0.6 billion on the previous quarter. Foreign earnings on other investment in the UK fell by £0.8 billion, to £36.6 billion.

The financial account showed a net inflow (inward investment) of £12 billion in Q3 2008, compared with a net inflow (inward investment) of £3.2 billion in Q2 2008. There was net investment abroad of £72.8 billion in Q3 2008, following net disinvestment of £351.1 billion in Q2 2008, the highest on record. There was net investment in the UK of £84.8 billion in Q3 2008, following net disinvestment of £347.9 billion in Q2 2008, also the highest on record.

Direct investment abroad showed net investment of £16.2 billion in Q3 2008, compared to net investment of £21 billion in Q2 2008. Direct investment into the UK showed net investment of £4.5 billion in Q3 2008, compared with net investment of £16 billion in Q2 2008.

Portfolio investment abroad showed net disinvestment of £2.8 billion in Q3 2008, following net investment of £1.4 billion in Q2 2008 and Portfolio investment in the UK showed net investment of £51.3 billion in Q3 2008, compared with net investment of £105.6 billion in Q2 2008.

Other investment abroad showed net investment of £74 billion in Q3 2008, following net disinvestment of £362.9 billion in Q2 2008. Other investment in the UK showed net investment of £29.1 billion in Q3 2008, compared with net disinvestment of £469.5 billion in Q2 2008.

The UK international investment position showed net external liabilities of £151.9 billion at the end of Q3 2008 compared with net external liabilities of £207.2 billion at the end of the previous quarter. UK assets abroad increased by £273.7 billion from the end of the Q2 2008 to a level of £6690.5 billion at the end of Q3 2008. UK liabilities increased by £218.4 billion over the same period to a level of £6842.4 billion.

US Investment Position: Third Quarter 2008

In Q3 2008, income receipts on US owned assets abroad decreased to \$193.9 billion from \$195.7 billion. Income payments on foreign owned assets in the United States decreased to \$161.3 billion from \$165.7 billion.

Net financial inflows- net acquisitions by foreign residents of assets in the United States less net acquisitions by US residents of assets abroad were \$135.2 billion in Q3 2008, up from \$122.9 billion in Q2 2008. Net acquisitions by foreign residents of assets in the United States picked up, and transactions by US residents resulted in a smaller decrease in US owned assets abroad in Q3, than in Q2.

US owned assets abroad decreased \$9.5 billion in Q3 2008, following a decrease of \$102.7 billion in Q2. Foreign owned assets in the United States increased \$125.7 billion in Q3 2008, following an increase of \$22.7 billion in Q2.

US direct investment abroad increased \$56.9 billion in Q3 2008, following an increase of \$84 billion in Q2 Foreign direct investment in the United States increased \$66.1 billion in Q3 2008, following an increase of \$105.3 billion in Q2.

3. NEW INVESTMENTS

US Investments into the UK

DNA2.0 Expands European Presence By Opening UK Office

California-based gene synthesis firm DNA2.0 is expanding by opening an arm in the UK called DNA2.0 Ltd. The company, which supplies synthetic genes to academic and government customers, as well as companies in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, chemical, and agricultural fields. DNA2.0 is the leading synthetic genomics company. It is the fastest provider of synthetic genes, based in the US with a global customer base encompassing academia, government and the pharmaceutical, chemical, agricultural and biotechnology industries.

DNA2.0 Headquarter, 430 O'Brien Drive, Suite E, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Tel: 001- 650 853 8347 Fax: 001- 650 853 8351 Email: info@DNA20.com Website: www.DNA20.com

DNA2.0 Ltd, 12 York Gate, London NW1 4QS

Coventry Opens Office in the United Kingdom

Coventry announced that it has expanded its global platform in the longevity and mortality market with the opening of its London office. Drawing on Coventry's expertise in the origination, financing, structuring, and servicing of life insurance, life settlements, annuities, and life and policy linked indices, the company offers counterparties a suite of solutions. The solutions range from warehousing and liquidity facilities to note and swap structures, as well as other services designed to achieve counterparties' specific needs. Coventry is the leading company in the US longevity and mortality market offering a wide range of investor and fund services to a diversified client base that includes pensions, endowments, insurers and funds.

Coventry, Corporate Center, 7111 Valley Green Road, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Tel:

001- 215 233 5100 Fax: 001-215 233 3201 Email: info@coventry.com Website: www.Coventry.com

Stratavia Opens London Office

Data center automation software developer Stratavia has officially opened its European operations with a London office, letting Stratavia become closer to existing customers and develop a local presence to meet the growing demand for automation and compliance solutions in Europe.

Stratavia, Corporate Headquarters, 707 17th Street, Suite 2100, Denver, CO 80202. Tel: 001- 303 991 4850 Fax: 001- 303 991 4847 Website: www.stratavia.com

MSI Opens London Office

US-based Market Strategies International (MSI) has confirmed news of its expansion into Europe with the official opening of an office in London, UK. Founded in 1989, MSI employs more than 325 staff at its US HQ in Livonia, Michigan and regional US offices, as well as in Hong Kong. Market Strategies International is a full-service market research and consulting firm with extensive experience in the communications, energy, financial services, healthcare, and technology sectors.

Market Strategies International, Corporate Headquarters, 20255 Victor Parkway, Suite 400, Livonia, MI 48152. Tel: 001-734 542 7600 Fax: 001- 734 542 7620, Website: www.marketstrategies.com

Market Strategies International, 15 Old Bailey, London EC4M7EF, Tel: +44 (0) 20 3178 3537 Fax: +44 (0) 20 3178 5179

Tremor Media Opens UK Office

US online video advertising network Tremor Media has opened its first overseas office, setting up in the UK after raising US\$11m earlier this year to fund its international expansion. Germany is the next territory on Tremor's roadmap as it aims to capitalize on the anticipated reallocation of TV advertising money into the internet over the coming years. In the US, Tremor counts IBM, Mars, Disney, Ford and L'Oreal among the brands it has helped deploy online video ad campaigns for, working with its network of some 1,400 publisher partners globally. The US \$11m capital injection the firm received in January was its second round, led by Canaan Partners and Masthead Venture Partners, both of which contributed to its first round of US\$8.4m in September 2006.

Tremor Media, Corporate Office, 122 West 26th Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10001. Tel: 001-646 723 5300, Website: www.tremormedia.com

Tremor Media UK Ltd, Finsgate, 5-7 Cranwood Street, London EC1V 9EE

BTIG Ltd Opens London Office

BTIG LLC, an institutional broker dealer specializing in equity trading and related brokerage services, announced the next steps in its expansion with an office in London for its new BTIG Ltd. affiliate, which has received authorization by the FSA and obtained membership on the London Stock Exchange (LSE). BTIG LLC is a premier institutional brokerage and fund services company. Founded in 2002 BTIG has grown steadily from 5 employees to over 200. BTIG serves nearly 1,000 institutional customers and offers services from four divisions: Institutional Trading, Prime Brokerage, Outsource Trading and Direct Market Access. BTIG has offices in New York, San Francisco, Dallas, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Greenwich, Red Bank, Orinda and Aspen. The firm has affiliates in London, Hong Kong and Sydney. BTIG Ltd. is authorized and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and is a member of the London Stock Exchange

BTIG LLC, 825 Third Ave, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10022. Tel: 001- 212593 7510, Website: www.btig.com

BTIG London Ltd, 2nd Floor, Princes Court, 7 Princes Street, London EC2R 8AQ Tel: +44 20 7663 1700, Gary Hayes, CEO

UK Investments into the US

Enigma Diagnostics Opens New US Office

Enigma Diagnostics, the decentralized and point-of-care molecular diagnostics company, announced the opening of a new U.S. office in San Francisco. The San Francisco office opened on December 1 2008 and is Enigma's first overseas facility established to commercialize Enigma's range of rapid diagnostic instrument systems. Enigma's first product, the Enigma Field Laboratory (FL), was launched in November, and is a fully automated, real-time PCR (polymerase chain reaction) detection system designed for in-field testing by veterinarians, first responders and military personnel. Enigma Diagnostics Limited is a private UK based company specializing in developing the next generation of rapid molecular diagnostic instrument platforms for decentralized and point-of-care settings. Enigma Diagnostics Limited, Building 224 Tetricus Science Park, Dstl Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 0JQ. Tel: 01980 590131 Fax: 01980 590132 Email: info@enigmadiagnostics.com Website: www.enigmadiagnostics.com
Enigma Diagnostics Limited, 1750 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94111. Tel: 001-415 773 5319 Fax: 001- 415 954 8598

Muntons PLC Opens US Office

Muntons PLC, maltsters and malted ingredients manufacturers based in Stowmarket Suffolk, United Kingdom, have announced the opening of their first office in the United States. Muntons has enjoyed vigorous commerce in the United States, further expanding markets here necessitate a North American division. The brand is well-known in the baking, confectionary and brew markets around the world. The opening of Muntons US office marks the second stage of their overseas expansion, complementing the opening last year of their office in Singapore. Muntons has been producing high quality malt and malted ingredients for more than 80 years. During this time, the company has grown to become a major supplier of malts, malt extracts, homebrew kits, flours and flakes to the food and drinks industry. Based in Suffolk, UK, Muntons is organized into two operating divisions: Muntons Malt, which services the brewing and distilling industries worldwide, and Muntons Malted Ingredients, which focuses on food industries and non-alcoholic beverages.
Muntons PLC, Cedars Maltings, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 2AG. Tel: 01449 618300 Fax: 01449 677800. Alan Ridealgh, Group Managing Director, Email: alan.ridealgh@muntons.com Email: info@muntons.com Website: www.muntons.com

David Begg Associates Opens New Office in Boston

David Begg Associates (DBA), has opened an office in Boston, Massachusetts. The new regional location will be home to DBA's pharmaceutical consulting, training, and auditing services in North America. DBA provides unmatched pharmaceutical regulatory and technical knowhow through its highly experienced team of partners and associates in Europe and now in the U.S. To help provide a smooth transition and enhance service offerings at the new U.S. office. DBA's U.S. team offers a broad range of skills and in-depth experience for pharmaceutical clients seeking both strategic and pragmatic solutions to their quality management, cGMP and regulatory compliance issues, as well as high-quality training for their staff. The U.S. office will be able to call upon the assistance of the DBA UK office to provide specific services, just as the UK office will now be able to offer the unique service offerings of the U.S. team to clients in Europe and beyond.
David Begg Associates, The Georgian House, 22/24 West End, Kirkbymoorside, York YO62 6AF. Tel: +44(0)1751 432999 Fax: Fax +44(0)1751 432450 Email mail@dba-global.com Website: www.dba-global.com

4. TRADE SHOWS

UK

January 9-18, 2009 - London Boat Show - Excel, London

Website: <http://www.londonboatshow.com/>

The London Boat Show will be back for its 55th year. The Show will feature around 650 exhibitors, over 1000 boats and too many brands to mention, making it the largest collection of marine based products in London.

Contact: Richard Stanbridge, Senior Commercial Specialist Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: Richard.Stanbridge@mail.doc.gov

January 14-17, 2009 - The Educational Technology Show (BETT) - Olympia London

Website: <http://www.bettshow.com>

BETT is the world's largest educational technology event.

Contact: Stewart Gough, Commercial Specialist Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: Stewart.Gough@mail.doc.gov

January 18-20, 2009 - DIY & Garden Show - Earls Court London

Website: www.diyandgardenshow.com

DIY & Garden Show welcomed a record number of exhibitors and visitors in 2008. More can be expected in 2009, as Brintex strives to bring you an event that is 100% focused on delivering benefit, and profit, to your business.

Contact: Cheryl Withers, Commercial Assistant Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: Cheryl.Withers@mail.doc.gov

February 15-17, 2009 - Moda UK & Moda Menswear, Moda Footwear & Moda Accessories - NEC, Birmingham

Website: <http://www.moda-uk.co.uk>

Moda 2009 is your opportunity to see the best of the season's collections from womenswear, menswear, footwear and accessories all under one roof. It is the most comprehensive trade fashion event in the UK.

Contact: Marcella Marcheso, Commercial Specialist, Tel: 020 7894 0419, Email: Marcella.Marcheso@mail.doc.gov

US

January 20-23, 2009 - International Builders Show 2009 - Las Vegas, NV

Website: <http://www.buildersshow.com>

The International Builders' Show is the largest annual building industry trade show in the United States and offers the largest number of construction related meetings, seminars, and workshops in the world.

Contact: Cheryl Withers, Commercial Assistant, Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: Cheryl.Withers@mail.doc.gov

January 28-30, 2009 - International Poultry Expo & International Feed Expo - Atlanta, GA

Website: www.ipe09.org

"The International Poultry Expo is the networking hub of the world for the poultry industry! Every segment of the poultry and egg industry is represented: feed milling, live production, hatchery, processing, further processing, packaging, commercial egg, marketing, and all support activities.

Contact: Marcella Marcheso, Commercial Specialist, Tel: 020 7894 0419 Email: Marcella.Marcheso@mail.doc.gov

February 3-6, 2009 - World of Concrete 2009 - Las Vegas, NV

Website: <http://www.worldofconcrete.com/WOC2009/public/enter.aspx?left=0&Nav=0>

"World of Concrete 2009—the industry's only annual international event dedicated to the commercial concrete and masonry construction industries with 1,700+ leading industry suppliers in more than 900,000 net square feet of exhibits featuring innovative products, technologies, tools and equipment to give you new ways to sustain and grow your business".

Contact: Cheryl Withers, Commercial Assistant, Tel: 020 7894 0419, Email: Cheryl.Withers@mail.doc.gov

February 26-28, 2009 - Graphics of Americas/Xplor 2009 - Miami Beach, FL

Website: <http://www.graphicsoftheamericas.com>

Graphics of the Americas is co-located with Xplor International, the worldwide electronic documents systems association and the premier provider of educational products and programs for the printing and the global authority in digital printing and electronic communications. The combined event promises to be an international showcase for the convergences of knowledge, products and technology.

Contact: Andrew Williams, Commercial Specialist, Tel: 020 7894 0417, Email: Andrew.Williams@mail.doc.gov



*Members of the British American Business Council
and the European Council of American Chambers of Commerce*