

# Business & Finance

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## Expert Investor



Greg Secker, founder of trader coaching company Knowledge to Action

Q: I recently lost my job and now have an urge to get into trading. Where do I start?

Trading at a high level is generally viewed as inaccessible to anyone who doesn't have a strong background in the City – but that isn't the case. If you are willing to apply yourself to the discipline, trading can be a good way for people from any background to either supplement their income or, in some cases, to totally replace it. Those who make the best traders are simply everyday people who remain calm under pressure, listen to advice and instructions and learn from their mistakes. Most importantly, they have to be committed to learning and practising their skills over a period of time because, unless you're very lucky, you can't expect to make a million overnight. Taking an introductory course would be ideal so you can get experience of trading while being mentored by experts. If you are looking to start trading before you sign up to any courses, however, it is paramount that you begin by familiarising yourself with your chosen market.

# No U-turn on cutbacks despite stalling growth



Bumpy ride: George Osborne takes a keen interest during a visit to the Brompton Bicycle factory in Brentford, west London Picture: PA

RYANAIR has been rapped by a watchdog for misleading holiday-makers into believing they could fly for just £7 to Dublin to celebrate the new year. The advertisement stated: 'To be honest, we here in Dublin aren't that upset

about waving goodbye to the past year but that doesn't mean we won't be celebrating its final few breaths in typical Irish fashion.' But the smallprint added the offer was for travel between January and March, the ASA said.

PUBLIC spending cuts and falling wages are slowing economic growth but experts say scrapping the deficit reduction plans is not an option.

Britain's economy grew by 0.2 per cent between April and June – lower than the 0.5 per cent seen in the first three months of the year, according to the Office for National Statistics.

However, the ONS said the figures were heavily influenced by one-off factors such as the additional bank holiday for the royal wedding and record warm weather in April. These events knocked 0.5 per cent off the GDP figure, which otherwise may have shown growth of 0.7 per cent.

Chancellor George Osborne insisted low interest rates and Britain's credit status had justified his tough stance on the deficit.

Graeme Leach, chief economist at the Institute of Directors, said

By **Cheryl Latham**

the chancellor's plan for economic recovery should continue.

'We're not back in recession but with numbers like these it might feel as though we are,' he said.

'Weak GDP growth does not mean we should resort to Plan B with fiscal policy.'

Andrew Smith, chief economist at KPMG, acknowledged domestic demand was being weighed down by cutbacks and falling wages.

'Output has been broadly flat for the last nine months and – despite depressing special factors in this latest quarter – there is little reason to think that things have improved much since,' he said.

Experts say the economy is now unlikely to reach the 2011 growth target of 1.7 per cent, which was revised down in March from its original forecast of 2.1 per cent.

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**HEART OF ENGLAND:** Kidderminster, Leicester, Burton-upon-Trent, Norwich, Birmingham NEC<sup>^</sup>, Birmingham/Cannock<sup>^</sup>.  
**NORTH OF ENGLAND:** Hull, Bolton, Bradford, Wetherby, York, Manchester, Leeds (2), Chester, Southport<sup>^</sup>, Crewe<sup>^</sup>, Barnsley<sup>^</sup>, and Haydock<sup>^</sup>.  
**SCOTLAND:** Ayr, Edinburgh, Glasgow Airport, Glasgow City, Inverness, Livingston, Perth.  
<sup>^</sup> Associate hotels

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