



Americas Commercial Transportation Research Co. LLC
11545 North Marr Road, Columbus, Indiana 47203
Telephone: (812) 379-2085, Fax: (812) 378-5997
E-Mail: trucks@actresearch.net

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truckload Carrier Pricing Improvements A Key Component of Expected Rise in Heavy-Duty Commercial Vehicle Demand

COLUMBUS, IN – For the seventh consecutive month, truckload carriers are indicating that prices rose month-over-month, laying the foundation for increased heavy-duty equipment replacement in coming quarters, according to ACT Research Co. (ACT).

In the latest release of the *ACT North American Commercial Vehicle Outlook*, ACT projects full-year production of heavy-duty (Class 8) vehicles will be up 26 percent compared to 2009 and accelerate into 2011. Production of commercial trailers is expected to increase by 47 percent in 2010 and also post strong growth 2011. As it is closely tied to the health of the housing sector, the rebound in medium duty vehicle production is expected to be less robust, growing 12 percent in 2010 and continuing more modest growth going forward.

Additionally, ACT lowered its forecast for Real GDP growth to 2.6 percent in 2010 and 2.7 percent in 2011. This adjustment had no impact on projected Class 8 demand as the heavy-duty production forecast is still below economic modeling due to expected constraints in ramping up component supplies in the manufacturing supply chain.

“Our ACT-Echo Global Truckload Survey shows carriers are continuing to make progress raising freight rates as business volumes have improved,” said John Burton, vice president-transportation sector with ACT Research. “Carrier profitability was very strong in the second quarter and our survey results would indicate further improvement in the second half. This should lead to increasing orders of equipment to replace an aging fleet later this year and into the early part of 2011,” added Burton.

ACT is the recognized leading publisher of new and used commercial vehicle (CV) industry data, market analysis and forecasting services for the North American market, as well as the China CV market. ACT’s CV services are used by all major North American truck and trailer manufacturers and their suppliers, as well as the banking and investment community. For more information on ACT, please go to our web site at <http://www.actresearch.net>.

Media Contact:
Joyce Wire
812-379-2085
jkwire@actresearch.net