

## Continued Growth Expected for the Construction Industry

*Adapted from information by the Association of Equipment Manufacturers*

AEM (the Association of Equipment Manufacturers) expects the 2011 construction industry to close out with double-digit increases over last year in the U.S., Canada, and worldwide. Continued growth is expected for the industry between 2012 and 2014, but at a slower pace, according to AEM's annual business outlook survey.



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*WWR photo from ICUEE 2011.*

AEM, the North American-based international trade group representing the off-road equipment manufacturing industry, polls construction equipment manufacturers each year. Respondents are asked to rank several factors affecting future business.

The results this year indicated the state of the overall economy, including consumer confidence and credit availability, steel prices, and the slump in the housing market are significant factors

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influencing future sales. Responders also indicated a key positive factor was the continued strength in export demand.

Here are the highlights of the AEM construction equipment outlook survey:

- For 2011, overall business in the U.S. is expected to reflect an 18.6% increase compared to last year. Canadian business is forecast to show an increase of 14.7%. The industry business in the rest of the world is also expected to reveal a gain of 14.7%.
- U.S. construction machinery business is predicted to grow 10.8% in 2012, 9.9% in 2013, and 8.1% in 2014.
- Canadian business is expected to see an increase of 9% in 2012, a 9.8% increase in 2013, and a 7.3% increase in 2014.
- Industry-related business for the rest of the world should also see an anticipated gain of 10.5% in 2012, 9.5% in 2013, and 8.2% in 2014.

"In 2011, construction equipment manufacturing kept improving from the depths of the recession as the economy stabilized. Earlier this year it looked like the economy was truly turning around, but we still have some uncertainty in both U.S. and international markets, and this is hampering stronger, more sustainable growth," stated AEM President Dennis Slater.

Many believe the fact 2012 is an election year will not bode well for meaningful action in Washington. "Both sides are already in full campaign mode, it seems, and this presents a real danger of a stalling economy," Slater added.

Rather than focusing on unnecessary and excessive regulations and tax policies, Congress should focus on policies to create and maintain jobs. According to Slater, "Action on federal highway funding will bring some stability to an important industry segment. A well-maintained and adequate transportation system is critical not just for our sector but for business and our nation overall; it is essential for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods, and to keep the U.S. competitive in the global marketplace.

"Export sales have been crucial to help many manufacturers get through the recession, and they still contribute greatly to positive balance sheets for many companies. That's why export-friendly policies such as free trade agreements are important to keep American companies in business," Slater concluded.

## Veterans Find Help from Construction Industry

*Adapted from information provided by ABC*

The trade association, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (ABC) and nonprofit organization USA Cares have come together in a joint effort to put veterans back to work. The groups have pledged to help at least 1000 veterans find work this year.

ABC and USA Cares will help veterans gain the knowledge necessary to be placed in a job in the construction industry. The two groups will help veterans with classroom and on-the-job training in particular areas of construction. Once the veteran has completed a particular program's coursework, he or she is guaranteed a job.

This past November, ABC's 2011 National Chairman Michael J. Uremovich and USA Cares' Executive Director Bill Nelson joined First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden to promote the cause at the Ford 400 NASCAR Race in Florida.



*Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden at the Ford 400 NASCAR Race.*

*Photo by Chris Trotman.*

"We can think of no finer calling than to help those men and women who have served our country in defending our liberty and freedom than to help train them for a meaningful career," said Uremovich. "The merit shop construction industry is ready to welcome them with open arms."

Kentucky-based USA Cares is a nonprofit organization assisting post-9/11 military veterans in finding jobs, getting through a financial crisis, and saving homes. Virginia-based ABC, is a national trade association representing almost 2 million employees and 23,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firm.

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