# The Dealers' Outlook 

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## New Light-Vehicle Sales over 14 Million Units Expected for 2012 by NADA

12.7 Million Units in 2011, 14.4 Million Estimated for 2012


## Vehicle Sales Growth in 4-months 2012 compared to 2011

## Faster Pace for Light Vehicle Sales Expected in 2012

Over 14 Million Likely for 2012
Crossover Utility Vehicles


Change

| Performance of existing U.S. housing prices <br> (FHFA index: year over I first quarter 2012) | $+0.5 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Negative growth expected in Eurozone, 1st-quarter 2012: <br> Germany, 1st-quarter 2012 GDP growth: <br> U.S., 1st-quarter 2012 real GDP growth (estimated): | Estimated to be Flat <br> $+0.5 \%$ <br> $+2.2 \%$ |
| Lack of control of U.S. spending <br> (U.S. elected officials, a long- and short-term concern) | Very modest progress |
| Lack of light-vehicle inventory, first-quarter 2012 | Significant progress <br> expected overall |
| Interest rates for light vehicles | Will Remain low during <br> 2012 |
|  | Increase to 64.5 in <br> Consumer Confidence Index <br> (Conference Board) |
| $1985=100), 44.2$ in | August 2011, <br> 68.7 in April dropping to <br> 64.9 in May 2012 |
| Unemployment rate | December 2011 rate was |
|  | $8.5 \%$, versus |

First Quarter, 2012

## Housing Prices Find a Bottom in Most States

Four-Quarter Price Change by State: Purchase-Only Index (Seasonally Adjusted)


| New Car Dealership Performance <br> Improves in Slow-growth <br> Economy <br> (Q1 2012 compared to 2011 for typical dealership) | First Quarter: 2011 | 2012 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Total sales | $\$ 8,318,022$ | $\$ 9,158,600$ |
| Net pretax profit | $2.4 \%$ | $2.6 \%$ |
| Floorplan expense per new retail unit sold <br> at retail | $-\$ 67$ | $-\$ 27$ |
| Net debt-to-equity ratio | 0.99 | 0.95 |
| Current ratio | 1.35 | 1.36 |
| Service \& parts absorption | $58.5 \%$ | $56.1 \%$ |
| Return on equity | $29.3 \%$ | $32.6 \%$ |

## Optimism index vs. new-vehicle sales



Source: NADA Industry Analysis Division

## Short-term and Long-term Issues for the U.S. Economy

- Interest rates remain low and will stay low through 2012-13. Government gridlock and the corrosive impact of government debt restrains economic growth, price recovery of the housing market and employment growth.
- Downgrade in the credit ratings in Europe, the U.S. and various states and cities slows U.S. economic recovery only slightly.
- Europe's Economy and the Euro currency are a concern to the U.S. through our trade accounts. Dollar rising versus the Euro eventually hurts exports from the U.S.


## Supply of 1- to 2-Year-Old Vehicles:

Down Significantly as a Result of Recession, Short Duration Leases Expected during 2012

Returning used supply: Vehicle age 12-24 months
3-month moving average


## Higher Used Car Average "AuctionNet" Prices by Segment support New Car Sales 1- to 5-Year-Old Used Vehicles, 2005-2011

Average AuctionNet segment price 1- to 5-Year old vehicles


## Used Vehicle Prices

Strong demand, declining supply, and positive new market symbiosis have pressured used vehicle prices to historic highs.

## AuctionNet Wholesale Market Index

Price change relative to January 2007.


## Short-term and Long-term Issues: Part 2

- Stabilizing prices of residential real estate assists consumer confidence on expenditures on big-ticket items as a price bottom occurs for housing prices in most states. Stable home prices help new car sales. Home prices increase in some states. Pacific states home prices mostly falling.
- Gasoline prices favorable to light-vehicle sales but international concerns for future crude oil prices remain. Recession in Europe should moderate oil prices, but concern focuses on Iran and Syria.
- Low interest rates, moderate gasoline prices and high values for used cars all support higher new-car sales ahead.


