

Fourth Quarter GDP Increase Best Since 2Q 2010

If you ship a significant amount of your freight on flatbed trucks, then pay close attention to the economic data below. The bottom line is that all of the key economic indicators that directly or indirectly impact the flatbed sector of truck transportation were very positive in the 4th qtr 11! From a Melton Truck Lines perspective, the 4th qtr 11 was one of the best quarters on record.

While January was slightly down from December 2011, it was significantly better than January 2011 and much better than Januarys in previous years. Political posturing aside, the economy (especially the manufacturing and industrial output) is continuing its positive movement into 2012. This months unemployment figures are also beginning to reflect a delayed response to real GDP growth. New jobs and unemployment figures just released are the best we've seen in several months.

2012 is shaping up to be a very strong, steady year for the flatbed trade.

1/30/2012

Fourth Quarter Real GDP Increase Best Since 2Q 2010

The [Bureau of Economic Analysis reported](#) that real gross domestic product, the output of goods and services produced in the United States, increased at an annual rate of 2.8% in the fourth quarter of 2011.

According to the [American Trucking Associations'](#) Weekly Economic Report, although this increase was lower than expected, it was the fastest pace of growth since 2010's second quarter. Inventory restocking boosted the percentage a good deal by adding 1.9% to the reading.

Real exports of goods and services increased 4.7% in the fourth quarter, the same increase as in the third. Real imports of goods and services increased 4.4% in the fourth quarter, compared with an increase of 1.2% in the third.

In addition, the U.S. Census Bureau [reported](#) that December's new orders for manufactured durable goods, products with a shelf life of three years, increased \$6.2 billion or 3.0% to \$214.5 billion.

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in December, up two of the last three months, increased \$4.3 billion or 2.1% to \$207.3 billion.



Dan Taylor

Senior Vice President
Sales & Marketing

Office : (918) 234-8000, x600

Fax : (918) 439-2920

taylor@meltontruck.com

www.meltontruck.com



Melton
Truck Lines