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| **Welcome** |
| Paul Everitt_NEWDespite today's reported dip in consumer confidence, the economy saw tentative signs of growth, up 0.5% for quarter one. ONS figures show manufacturing grew 1.1% during the period, while automotive manufacturing out-performed all the indicators, recording around 10% growth for vehicle and engine production for January to March. There's no doubt that the events in Japan will have a short-term impact on manufacturing levels and I have written to Vince Cable to highlight areas where government support would help to sustain the UK supply chain during this difficult period. At the end of next week there will be a lot of interest in April's new vehicle registration figures as these will give us a better indication of confidence in the market place.Paul Everitt, Chief Executive |

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| **Automotive manufacturing up in March**  |
| Car output rose by 14.8% in March 2011, becoming the eighth consecutive monthly increase. Overall car output was up 13.0% over the first quarter, while engine production increased by 6.5% in March and by 9.4% over quarter one. This demonstrates encouraging growth across both car and engine sectors, despite recent announcements of short-term difficulties from manufacturers affected by the Japanese earthquake. The rise in output and robust export demand indicate long-term strength and stability in the industry.Click [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1105229663888&s=0&e=0014UxJfG29frJeHErWswvBZmHAI0g4FjvfIRrVAx77kGLvIvmhxmduxO6oHYAFYwRzy0Mp_2RZb3zyCSbgUsbAKHUa_bgLZ3QpGUlUKghLJtiKZp6obhhAOlwCPnzsIQixzdDNs1hKz_zgPVwh9AsPEznr1kRue-O2), to see the full data. |

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| **Logistics Forum continues to grow** |
| SMMT hosted the fourth UK Logistics Forum this week. Attendees included representatives from major OEMs, Tier 1 companies and service providers. Updates on Registration Peak Dates, Cabotage Commercial Vehicle Trailer Heights and the standardisation of CO2 measurement were among a selection of topics discussed by the group. Dates of the next two meetings were confirmed for 14 June and 13 September 2011. For further information about joining the Logistics Committee, contact memberservices@smmt.co.uk.  |

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| **Regional Growth Fund: Round two** |
| SMMT will host its next webinar on 11 May at 11:30, which will focus on the second round bidding for the Regional Growth Fund. This round opened on 12 April and will allocate the remainder of fund (nearly £1bn). The Department of Business Innovation and Skills will present a 30 minute session explaining the differences between rounds one and two and guide organisations through the application process, helping to ensure a successful bid. To register for SMMT's next free RGF webinar, click [here.](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1105229663888&s=0&e=0014UxJfG29frJeHErWswvBZmHAI0g4FjvfIRrVAx77kGLvIvmhxmduxC7vl7o2i9kxYuTHfaEA3HqGnRC5-gmzSZPa8h68B8Qs_fDQ4zy2yLUV4El9HYv-OYXhbhKJ4ejAao9arwAuHZM=) |

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| **Nominate eSafety achievers** |
| Organisers of the third eSafety Challenge event are calling for nominations for this year's excellence prizes. There are three awards available at this year's event, held in Vienna on 30 and 31 May including excellence in marketing and sales, driver training and car dealership. To nominate an organisation, contact s.rodriguez@eSafetyAware.eu. The eSafety Challenge is an annual event that promotes and highlights the life-saving potential of advanced vehicle safety technologies. Admittance to the event is free, but registrations will be handled on a first come, first served basis. To attend the event, click [here.](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1105229663888&s=0&e=0014UxJfG29frJeHErWswvBZmHAI0g4FjvfIRrVAx77kGLvIvmhxmduxO6oHYAFYwRzy0Mp_2RZb3zdz9uFFmg_eeeVnlJa4c6DR8Uil895nKcqSTMW80-glF8A3vE5IDqWKoUqngEXZ8ydaBDASBe2WDKK3WaVI-sySwBpwLEb2QJ_mnPqPYyvfE71xAUgNSgIzVsB47OmaooCwmh1SNAIg3BA2XuhNfzShne_HUtgmTY=) |

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| **Week in Brussels and Westminster** |
|  This week in Brussels, the European Commission issued a consultation on proposed changes to the monitoring and reporting guidelines for the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). The Commission will publish two new regulations by the end of 2011, which will replace the current guidelines as stated in the EU ETS directive from 2009. To read more, click [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1105229663888&s=0&e=0014UxJfG29frJeHErWswvBZmHAI0g4FjvfIRrVAx77kGLvIvmhxmduxO6oHYAFYwRzy0Mp_2RZb3zyCSbgUsbAKHUa_bgLZ3QpGUlUKghLJtizzpPbOCMX1zm1EMf9uokBqafos_RX3de6TX9EYOeOY6ixhTajgayW1eShM0o46OBVCVAFGMYWSWxGSR1-OKptq-PoCanKldnpzxd-y7jboQ==).   This week in Westminster, the CBI published a report looking at the attractiveness of the UK as a place to invest. The report 'Making the UK the best place to invest' makes the case for business investment in the UK, outlining strengths and opportunities for international investment. Particular drivers for investment include the UK's science base and R&D capabilities, with barriers to investment including the lack of a long term predictability in business incentives, skills shortages in science, technology and maths and the impact of regulation. To read more, click [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1105229663888&s=0&e=0014UxJfG29frJeHErWswvBZmHAI0g4FjvfIRrVAx77kGLvIvmhxmduxO6oHYAFYwRzy0Mp_2RZb3zyCSbgUsbAKHUa_bgLZ3QpGUlUKghLJtizzpPbOCMX104wUVcbg3UU_sJhu39Hv6gA1DSXhkwYEtrJBps6LUyYMtsxCrudJOfmqw47s9gY0_Wj_k8hhpRsYjzxdy1iAjFXBF8TCJZmSQ==). |

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| **Diary dates:**SMMT International Automotive Summit, Westminster, 28 June 2011 - [www.smmtsummit.co.uk](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&et=1105090549166&s=0&e=001eMALXY3GhAC45PzxUHPJPR7HDw7xmhO8R515Yle2WEa6LjnawM4DXi9cEOk7jROhfVcsEQ20WmiNpbp6bDIgLJW_IIrt8lUdly5AxzR7r8-1b5dpW5v0bA==&id=preview).SMMT Annual Dinner, London Hilton Park Lane, 22 November 2011 - annualdinner@smmt.co.uk.  **Automotive information:**To download SMMT's 2011 new vehicle and UK automotive manufacturing release dates click [here.](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&t=qutenkfab.0.0.6lo4vodab.0&id=preview&p=http%3A%2F%2Flib.smmt.co.uk%2Farticles%2Fnews%2FNews%2F2011%2520News%2520release%2520dates.docx) To download Industry Forum's latest information on sustainable business improvement click [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6lo4vodab&t=qutenkfab.0.0.6lo4vodab.0&id=preview&p=http%3A%2F%2Flibrary.constantcontact.com%2Fdoc203%2F1103225665917%2Fdoc%2Fpy9mtbWqPguBYhh8.pdf). Bottom banner  |

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