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|  | http://i1.cmail3.com/ei/r/EA/E19/21C/csimport/PaulEveritt_SMMTChiefExecutive191814.jpg |  | Welcome ONS figures out this week showed that the UK economic recovery remained fragile, up 0.2% in quarter two despite the impact of the Japanese earthquake which led manufacturing output to drop by 0.3%. While this trend was reflected in April and May’s automotive production figures, June’s data showed a return to growth for car manufacturing, a pattern we expect to continue through the rest of this year.This week the European Commission’s latest car price report revealed that UK new car prices fell by 3.7% in real terms in 2010. This underlines the competitiveness of the UK new car market and the opportunities consumers have to secure good value motoring from the franchise dealer networks.SMMT will leave Forbes House tomorrow after 52 years. Our new headquarters, at 71 Great Peter Street, is in the heart of Westminster and aims to better reflect the dynamism of the modern motor industry. The new offices are more contemporary and are open to all members, so I look forward to welcoming you to our new home in the coming months.[Follow Paul on Twitter](http://smmtacuknewsletters.cmail3.com/t/r/l/tludjjk/xdkkjflt/t/) |  |
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|  |  |  | Prime Minister reveals £25 million boost to UK apprenticeshipsPrime Minister David Cameron has unveiled plans for a £25 million fund that will support up to 10,000 apprenticeships in industry sectors such as manufacturing, engineering and IT. On a visit to Jaguar Land Rover’s global headquarters in Gaydon, Warwickshire, Mr Cameron announced the new scheme, outlining that The Higher Apprenticeships Fund will promote the development of apprenticeships up to degree equivalent in companies where there is unmet demand for the higher level skills. To read the full story, click [here.](http://smmtacuknewsletters.cmail3.com/t/r/l/tludjjk/xdkkjflt/a/) |  |
|  |  |  | Open Forum event: The Suppliers' ViewSMMT has announced that the next instalment in the popular series of Open Forum events will take place on 20 September at the University of Warwick, Coventry. The theme for this event is ‘The Suppliers’ View’, following on from the March event that focused on the ‘Vehicle Manufacturers’ View’. Held in the Warwick Manufacturing Group Auditorium, the event will include presentations from industry suppliers as well as the Automotive Council and its supporting bodies. For more information and to book your place, contact Claire Balch, cbalch@smmt.co.uk or 020 7344 9225. |  |
|  |  |  | Car manufacturers to receive carbon credits for ‘eco-innovation’The European Commission has adopted legislation that will enable car manufacturers to receive CO2 emissions credits if their new cars are fitted with approved ‘eco-innovations’. The credits, for innovations that reduce carbon emissions, will be usable within the EU’s Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). It is hoped that the new legislation will assist the automobile industry in meeting the EU’s goal of limiting CO2 emissions from new cars to an average of 130g/km by 2015, around one fifth below 2007 levels. To read the full story, click [here.](http://smmtacuknewsletters.cmail3.com/t/r/l/tludjjk/xdkkjflt/f/) |  |
|  |  |  | Week in Brussels and WestminsterThis week in Brussels, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), announced that demand for new commercial vehicles rose 1.5% in June, compared to the same month a year ago. In total, 165,767 new vehicles were registered in the EU. To read all the news from Brussels, click [here.](http://smmtacuknewsletters.cmail3.com/t/r/l/tludjjk/xdkkjflt/z/) This week in Westminster, London Assembly Liberal Democrats put forward a programme to convert high mileage buses, taxis and light goods vehicles to electric power by 2020. 'The Big Switch' launched at City Hall with support from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP. To read all the news from Westminster, click [here.](http://smmtacuknewsletters.cmail3.com/t/r/l/tludjjk/xdkkjflt/v/) |  |
|  |  |  | Diary datesSMMT Annual Dinner, London Hilton Park Lane, 22 November 2011 - annualdinner@smmt.co.ukCV Show 2012, NEC, Birmingham,24-26 April 2012 - enquiries@cvshow.comSMMT International Automotive Summit,12 June 2012 - summit@smmt.co.uk  |  |
|  |  |  | Automotive informationTo download SMMT's 2011 new vehicle and UK automotive manufacturing release dates, click [here.](http://smmtacuknewsletters.cmail3.com/t/r/l/tludjjk/xdkkjflt/e/)To download Industry Forum's latest information on sustainable business improvement, click [here.](http://smmtacuknewsletters.cmail3.com/t/r/l/tludjjk/xdkkjflt/s/)To download the latest Automotive Council newsletter, click [here.](http://smmtacuknewsletters.cmail3.com/t/r/l/tludjjk/xdkkjflt/g/) |  |
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