
Auto Industry Hot Topics Conference | September 18, 2008 | The McGraw-Hill Companies

7:15 a.m. **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

8:15 a.m. **Welcome & Introduction**
Thomas Kelly, Managing Director, Standard & Poor's

8:20 a.m. **The U.S. Economic Outlook: Are We There Yet?**
It has been a bumpy year for the U.S. economy in general and the auto industry in particular. Rebate checks are being spent now, but the looming election and the still-anxious consumer make the outlook even more uncertain than usual. We expect the economy to stage a sluggish recovery, but the risk of sliding back into recession remains high.

David Wyss, Chief Economist, Standard & Poor's

The U.S. Automotive Outlook: Is the Market Leading or Lagging the Economy?

U.S. automotive sales got off to a weak start in 2008 and appears to be struggling across virtually all segments of the market. With the weakness of the economy still in doubt, the severity of the sales decline this year and next remains a hotly debated issue. If the automotive market is leading the economy downward, will it be able to lead the turnaround or will the market continue to slide even as the economy begins to improve? Once again, the automotive industry seems to be in the eye of the storm.

Robert Schnorbus, Chief Economist, J.D. Power and Associates

8:50 a.m. **Current Trends in the U.S. New Vehicle Market**
This presentation will review the major trends currently taking place in the U.S. new vehicle industry, including trends at the total industry, segment and manufacturer levels. The presentation will also make use of sales, incentive and transaction data from several J.D. Power and Associates databases.

Tom Libby, Senior Director of Industry Analysis, J.D. Power and Associates

9:05 a.m. **Outlook/Forecast for Vehicle Sales and Production**
Vehicle sales and production in North America are at 15 year lows, consumers still in the market have quickly changed what they buy and the shift of power outside of North America continues. What does this mean for the automotive market over the next three years?

Tom Libby, Senior Director of Industry Analysis, J.D. Power and Associates
Robert Schnorbus, Chief Economist, J.D. Power and Associates

9:20 a.m. **Q&A for First Session**

9:35 a.m. **Outlook for U.S. Auto Makers & Suppliers**
The challenges for the Michigan-based automakers and their suppliers keep mounting and now include softer industry demand and chaos in the credit markets. Meanwhile, the existing problems of sliding market shares, shifting product

mix, high gas prices, and rising raw material costs continue. Will these forces combine to derail the turnaround plans of General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC? Or will their still-adequate liquidity remain sufficient long enough for their restructuring plans to take root in North America, allowing them to reduce their cash outflows and beginning in 2010 recap the benefits of last year's groundbreaking U.S. labor agreements?

Robert Schulz, CFA, Managing Director, Standard & Poor's
Gregg Lemos Stein, Associate Director, Standard & Poor's

10:15 a.m. **Outlook for European Auto Makers & Suppliers**

After a period of credit stability, European auto makers are starting to feel the pinch from ongoing challenges, including softening demand, high competitive pressure, continued high raw material prices, and the unfavorable foreign exchange rate situation for export activities. Adding to this the longer-term threat of looming CO2 legislation, it is now increasingly unclear where European auto makers and suppliers are headed, and whether they have the right cure for these various malaises. Some industry players are better positioned than others to weather the storms ahead.

Maria Bissinger, Senior Director, Standard & Poor's

10:45 a.m. **Q&A for Second Session**

11:00 a.m. **Break**

11:15 a.m. **Outlook for the Auto Finance Companies - Captives and Independents**

Auto finance companies continue to face myriad challenges: declining consumer credit quality; lower residual values; less stable funding. This panel discusses the outlook for auto finance lender credit quality focusing on access to funding, liquidity management, and asset-quality trends.

Ernest Napier, Managing Director, Standard & Poor's
Jack Bartko, Director, Standard & Poor's

11:40 a.m. **Asset-Backed Securities - Performance of Detroit Captive ABS: Market and Ratings Outlook**

The resiliency of the auto ABS markets is being challenged in 2008. This session will answer the following questions: How is new issue volume and market access during 2008? How are rated auto loan, lease and floorplan transactions performing? What structural features protect them against defaults? How are the ratings faring and what is the ratings outlook?

Michael Binz, Managing Director, Standard & Poor's
Felix Herrera, Director, Standard & Poor's
Amy Martin, Senior Director, Standard & Poor's

12:25 p.m. **Q&A for Third Session**

12:40 P.M. **Standard & Poor's / J.D. Power and Associates Panel Discussion**

Standard & Poor's and J.D. Power and Associates will share their perspective on questions supplied by conference attendees.

1:00 p.m. **Conference Conclusion and Buffet Lunch**