



PRESS RELEASE

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2014 NABE INDUSTRY CONFERENCE WILL EXAMINE THE FUTURE OF THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

The National Association for Business Economics (NABE) will hold its 2014 Industry Conference at the Detroit Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago on May 29. Centered around the theme of "Looking Down the Road: The Future of the Automobile Industry," the program will include keynote speeches by Visteon CEO **Tim Leuliette** and US Economics and Statistics Administration Chief Economist **Susan Helper**.

"The automobile industry plays a crucial role in the US economy, and we wanted to provide economists and journalists alike with the opportunity to better understand the industry's importance to the manufacturing sector, and to the economy as a whole," said NABE President **Jack Kleinhenz**, chief economist of the National Retail Federation. The Detroit conference is the third in NABE's annual series of events focusing on a specific industrial sector of the US economy. The inaugural NABE Industry Conference, held in Cleveland in 2012, concentrated on the manufacturing sector, and the 2013 event met in Houston, and explored the energy sector.

"We've put together a one-day program that will take a broad look at the future of the auto industry, its contributions to the US economy, the evolving regulatory environment, demographic trends of consumers, and the impact of technological and energy-sector breakthroughs on production and planning," said Industry Conference Planning Committee Co-Chair **Bill Strauss**, senior economist and economic advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

"Over the course of the conference, attendees will receive an excellent overview of the state of the auto industry. We'll have panelists and speakers discussing such topics as long-term trends, next-generation automobiles, the evolving geography of auto manufacturing, and the Internet's impact on vehicle buying and pricing," said **Emily Kolinski Morris**, Industry Conference co-chair and senior economist at Ford Motor Company. The Industry Conference Planning Committee also includes Co-Chair **Chad Moutray**, chief economist at the National Association of Manufacturers, and **Martin Lavelle**, associate economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Detroit Branch; **Arun Raha**, vice president and chief economist at Eaton Corporation; **Kevin Swift**, chief economist and managing director at the American Chemistry Council; and **Paul Traub**, business economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Detroit Branch.

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Confirmed presenters and panelists include: **Jonathan Banks**, executive automobile analyst at the National Automobile Dealers Association; **Jay Baron**, president and CEO of the Center for Automotive Research; **Julie Becker**, vice president of environmental affairs at the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers; **Mark Gaffney**, former president of the Michigan State AFL-CIO; **Britta Gross**, director for Advanced Vehicle Commercialization Policy at General Motors; **Erica Klampfl**, technical leader of Strategy and Sustainability Analytics at Ford Motor Company; **Thomas Klier**, senior economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; **Sean McAlinden**, executive vice president of research and chief economist at the Center for Automotive Research; **Nick Nigro**, senior manager of transportation initiatives at the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES); **Charlie Riedl**, director for transportation and equipment at the American Gas Association; **Bill Strauss**, senior economist and economic advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; **Rick Walker**, president and CEO of the Georgia Automotive Manufacturers Association; and **Susan Zielinski**, managing director, SMART (Sustainable Mobility & Accessibility Research & Transformation), the University of Michigan.

WELCOME RECEPTION: Credentialed media who have registered for the conference are invited to attend the evening NABE Industry Conference Welcome Reception at the Detroit Marriott at Renaissance Center on Wednesday, May 28.

PRESS REGISTRATION: To register for the NABE Industry Conference, please complete the Survey Monkey registration form here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7HL3CSQ>. You will receive a registration confirmation via email within 48 hours.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

A regularly updated program may be found at: <http://nabe.com/IC2014/Program>.

ABOUT NABE: NABE is the premier professional association for business economists and those who use economics in the workplace. Since 1959, NABE has attracted the most prominent figures in economics, business, and academia to its membership with highly-regarded conferences, educational and career development offerings, industry surveys, and its unrivaled networking opportunities. The NABE membership is organized into subject-oriented roundtables, including: Corporate Planning, Energy, Financial, Health Economics, International, Manufacturing/Industry, Real Estate/Construction, Regional/Utility, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Technology, Transfer Pricing, and Transportation. Past presidents of NABE include former Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Federal Reserve System, Alan Greenspan, several former Federal Reserve Governors, and other senior business leaders. For more information, please visit www.nabe.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information regarding media attendance at the 2014 NABE Industry Conference, please contact NABE Press Officer Melissa Golding on 571-236-2820 or melissag@nabe.com. For information on hotels and travel to the conference, please visit <http://nabe.com/IC2014/Travel>.

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