



California Clutch & Gear presents

The Gear Gazette

Standard Transmissions * Differentials * Drivelines * Clutches * Flywheels
Removal & Replacement * Axle Shafts * For Mid-Range and Heavy Duty

Number 15 – August 2012

National Truck Driver Shortage?

According to the Truckload Carriers Association, there is a nationwide shortage of truck drivers. They estimate the shortage at 200,000 drivers.

There are several contributing causes for the shortage, according to FreemontTribune.com:

- Lifestyle concerns and home time
- Increasing number of retiring drivers
- The high cost of training
- The national distribution of driver safety records

Summer Means Lubricant Levels Critical

With the summer heat in full swing, lubricant levels is more critical than ever.

A low oil level might not cause much damage in cooler times, but in hot summer months with a high ambient temperature, low oil levels can mean an expensive breakdown.



Call Toll-Free:

(800) 432-7348 #1

Local # (562) 921-7754

Transportation Services Index

The Transportation Services Index published by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics is an indicator that describes the total amount of freight carried by for-higher freight carriers.

Month	TS Index	Change from Prev. Month
May 2011	105.2	-2.1%
Jun 2011	107.8	+2.5%
Jul 2011	107.6	-0.2%
Aug 2011	108.0	+0.4%
Sept 2011	109.1	+1.1%
Oct 2011	108.8	-0.3%
Nov 2011	108.9	+0.1%
Dec 2011	113.7	+4.4%
Jan 2012	109.7	-3.6%
Feb 2012	110.3	+0.5%
Mar 2012	109.4	-0.8%
April 2012	109.6	+0.02%
May 2012	109.6	0.0%

Two Key Transportation Indexes Tell a Grim Tale

The American Trucking Associations' Advanced Seasonally Adjusted For-Hire Truck Tonnage Index decreased by .7% in May, It's second consecutive month of decline. The index fell by 1.1% in April.

Freight Transportation Research Associates' Trucking Conditions Index fell 4 points and is now at its lowest level in six months.

Despite the gloomy news, FTR Associates expects slow improvement in the industry for the remainder of the year, and the ATA forecast states that trucking will grow significantly through 2023.

Transmission Work and Speedometers

Many drivers expect a rebuilt transmission will mean that speedometer that hasn't worked for months will finally get fixed.

Exchange transmissions normally don't come with any speedometer parts, so the problem may persist, even with another transmission.

We often find the speedometer drive gears (also called the exciter gear) and speedometer sensors in transmission exchange cores when they arrive in our shop.

Both the speedometer drive gear and sensor must be switched from the old transmission to the new, and because they are often reused, your speedometer might still be broken.



More Trucking Regulations Coming?

The federal Environmental Protection Agency and the National Transportation Safety Administration are preparing regulations for greenhouse gas emissions and fuel economy.

Voluntary targets take effect in 2014 and become mandatory in 2017.

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Core Charges – Watch Your Invoices

At California Clutch & Gear, we assume your transmission or differential core will have a certain amount of damage when we receive it – otherwise, you wouldn't need an exchange.

Other rebuilders offer reduced prices over the phone that turn out to be more expensive once the core charge is assessed.

We've had numerous customers tell us that they have been core charged for damaged cores that we would have considered acceptable.

Some customers tell us that some rebuilders core charge for differentials with a broken ring and pinion set.

Generally, we only core charge on differentials if the housing is bad, and we only core charge on heavy duty transmissions if there are three rows of bad gears or a bad housing. Mid-range transmissions have differing core evaluation requirements depending on model.



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