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RVs begin to rebound

December shipments up 150 percent more than 2008.

By ED SEMMLER
Tribune Staff Writer

The terrible [sales](#) slide of 2009 is fast moving into the rearview mirror of the recreational vehicle industry.

The Recreation Vehicle Industry Association reported Tuesday that shipments to retailers hit 14,000 in December, a 2 percent increase compared to November but a whopping 150 percent increased compared to December 2008.

At the end of November, the trade group predicted that shipments could increase about 27 percent in 2010. But based on December orders, it's possible shipments could grow even more, reaching as high as 230,000.

Projections will be updated again in March, said Kevin Broom, a spokesman for the RVIA.

But it's becoming clear that the credit crunch and the lack of consumer confidence — both of which caused most of the problems for the industry — are showing signs of improvement, said Broom. "We've been showing year-over-year increases since August," he said, referring to RV shipments.

If the economy keeps showing signs of improvement, there's no reason to believe the RV industry won't continue rebounding, Broom said.

Even during the worst of the recession, there was evidence of pent-up demand for RVs, as shows and dealerships reported a [good deal](#) of traffic.

Such positive signs are good news to the RV industry as well as to those who work in the business.

Already RV manufacturers and suppliers have recalled hundreds of workers and have announced plans to bring back hundreds more as demand continues to increase.

The RVIA's December figures showed increases across all segments of the industry. Shipments of towables rose 148 percent to 12,400 in December; motor homes jumped 166.7 percent to 1,600.

Staff writer Ed Semmler:
esemmler @sbtinfo.com
(574) 235-6466