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HEARTLAND EXPRESS INC

Form 8-K

January 25, 2008

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event  
reported):  
January 24, 2008

HEARTLAND EXPRESS, INC.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Commission File Number - 0-15087

NEVADA  
(State of other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

93-0926999  
(IRS Employer ID No.)

901 NORTH KANSAS AVE, NORTH LIBERTY, IA  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

52317  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number (including area code):  
319-626-3600

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

Exhibit 99.1 - Heartland Express, Inc. press release dated January 24, 2008 with respect to the Company's financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2007.

Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

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On January 24, 2008, Heartland Express, Inc. announced its financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2007. The press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

### SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

HEARTLAND EXPRESS, INC.

Date: January 24, 2008

BY:/s/ John P Cosaert

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JOHN P. COSAERT  
Vice-President  
Finance and Treasurer

Exhibit No. 99.1

Thursday, January 24, 2008, For Immediate Release

Press Release

Heartland Express, Inc. Reports Revenues and Earnings for the Fourth Quarter of 2007.

NORTH LIBERTY, IOWA - January 24, 2008 - Heartland Express, Inc. (Nasdaq: HTLD) announced today financial results for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2007. Operating revenues for the quarter increased 4.1% to \$152.8 million from \$146.8 million in the fourth quarter of 2006. Net income decreased 15.4% to

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\$16.6 million from \$19.6 million in the 2006 period. Earnings per share were \$0.17 compared to \$0.20 for the fourth quarter of 2006. Operating income during the fourth quarter of 2007 was negatively impacted approximately \$4.6 million or \$0.03 per share due to an increase in fuel cost, net of fuel surcharge revenue.

For the year ended December 31, 2007, operating revenues increased 3.5% to \$591.9 million from \$571.9 million during the same period in 2006. Net income decreased 12.6% to \$76.2 million from \$87.2 million in the 2006 period. Earnings per share were \$0.78 compared with \$0.89 for the 2006 period. Operating income for the year was negatively impacted by an \$8.0 million decrease in gains on disposal of property and equipment. In addition, operating income for the year ended December 31, 2007 was negatively impacted approximately \$10.5 million or \$0.07 per share due to an increase in fuel cost, net of fuel surcharge revenue.

For the quarter, Heartland Express, Inc. posted an operating ratio (operating expenses as a percentage of operating revenues) of 83.9% and a 10.9% net margin (net income as a percentage of operating revenues). The Company reported an operating ratio of 81.3% and a 12.9% net margin for the year ended December 31, 2007. The Company ended the year with cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments of \$196.6 million, a \$134.7 million decrease from the \$331.3 million reported on December 31, 2006 due to the special \$196.5 million dividend paid in 2007. The Company's balance sheet continues to be debt-free.

The average age of the Company's tractor fleet was 2.1 years at December 31, 2007 with the entire tractor fleet consisting of 2005 or newer model year International tractors. The average age of the Company's trailer fleet was 3.8 years at December 31, 2007 with the entire trailer fleet consisting of 2002 or newer model year Wabash trailers.

During the quarter, Heartland Express declared a regular quarterly cash dividend. The quarterly dividend of approximately \$1.9 million at the rate of \$0.02 per share was paid on January 3, 2008 to shareholders of record at the close of business on December 21, 2007. The Company has now paid cash dividends of \$224.6 million over the past eighteen consecutive quarters. Interest income decreased in the fourth quarter of 2007 and for the year ended December 31, 2007 primarily due to the payment of the special dividend.

The Company purchased 1.3 million shares of its outstanding common stock during the year. Our strong cash position has allowed us to improve shareholder return with share repurchases and cash dividends without effecting growth opportunities. This repurchase of shares demonstrates the Board of Director's confidence in the Company's performance and future prospects.

On October 11, 2007, Forbes magazine named Heartland Express one of the "Best 200 Small Companies in America." The Company has been recognized sixteen times during its twenty one years as a public company, and has made the list the past six consecutive years.

This press release may contain statements that might be considered as forward-looking statements or predictions of future operations. Such statements are based on management's belief or interpretation of information currently available. These statements and assumptions involve certain risks and uncertainties. Actual events may differ from these expectations as specified from time to time in filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Contact: Heartland Express, Inc.  
Mike Gerdin, President  
John Cosaert, Chief Financial Officer  
319-626-3600

HEARTLAND EXPRESS, INC.  
AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME  
(in thousands, except per share amounts)

	Three months ended December 31,		Twelve months ended December 31,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
	-----	-----	-----	-----
OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 152,786	\$ 146,804	\$ 591,893	\$ 571,919
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OPERATING EXPENSES:				
Salaries, wages, benefits	\$ 49,243	\$ 48,842	\$ 196,303	\$ 189,179
Rent and purchased transportation	5,304	5,322	21,421	24,388
Fuel	47,029	36,519	164,285	146,240
Operations and maintenance	2,357	3,017	12,314	12,647

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Operating taxes and licenses	2,283	2,613	9,454	9,143
Insurance and claims	4,006	5,077	18,110	16,621
Communications and utilities	992	913	3,857	3,721
Depreciation	12,532	13,546	48,478	47,351
Other operating expenses	4,344	4,243	17,380	17,357
Loss (gain) on disposal of property & equipment	113	(572)	(10,159)	(18,144)
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	128,203	119,520	481,443	448,503
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Operating income	24,583	27,284	110,450	123,416
Interest income	2,322	3,178	10,285	11,732
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Income before income taxes	26,905	30,462	120,735	135,148
Federal and state income taxes	10,274	10,814	44,565	47,978
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Net Income	\$ 16,631	\$ 19,648	\$ 76,170	\$ 87,170
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Earnings per share	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.78	\$ 0.89
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Weighted average shares outstanding	96,953	98,252	97,735	98,359
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Dividends declared per share	\$ 0.020	\$ 0.020	\$ 2.080	\$ 0.075
	=====	=====	=====	=====

## HEARTLAND EXPRESS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

### CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (in thousands, except per share amounts)

	December 31, 2007	December 31, 2006
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ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,960	\$ 8,459
Short-term investments	188,643	322,829
Trade receivables	44,359	43,499
Prepaid tires	4,764	5,076
Other prepaid expenses	1,692	1,635
Income tax receivable	57	--
Deferred income taxes	30,443	29,177

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Total current assets	\$ 277,918	\$ 410,675
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	\$ 370,358	\$ 344,324
Less accumulated depreciation	132,545	96,293
	\$ 237,813	\$ 248,031
OTHER ASSETS	\$ 10,563	\$ 10,364
	\$ 526,294	\$ 669,070
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 12,747	\$ 15,076
Compensation & benefits	15,024	15,028
Income taxes payable	--	21,419
Insurance accruals	60,882	56,652
Other accruals	6,719	8,248
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Total current liabilities	\$ 95,372	\$ 116,423
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LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
Income taxes payable	\$ 37,593	\$ --
Deferred income taxes	50,570	57,623
	-----	-----
	\$ 88,163	\$ 57,623
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COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Capital stock; common, \$.01 par value; authorized 395,000 shares; issued and outstanding 96,949 in 2007 and 98,252 in 2006	\$ 969	\$ 983
Additional paid-in capital	439	376
Retained earnings	341,351	493,665
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	\$ 342,759	\$ 495,024
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	\$ 526,294	\$ 669,070
	=====	=====

END OF REPORT