

GERDIN MICHAEL J  
Form 4  
December 21, 2011

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
GERDIN MICHAEL J  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
HEARTLAND EXPRESS INC [HTLD]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/14/2011

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
(Check all applicable)  
 Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
Chief Executive Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	12/14/2011		J <sup>(1)</sup>	V 515,000 A \$ 0 7,015,000		I	Beneficiary of Trust <sup>(2)</sup>
Common Stock	12/14/2011		J <sup>(3)</sup>	V 133,000 A \$ 0 2,043,372		I	Beneficiary of Trust <sup>(4)</sup>
Common Stock	12/21/2011		J <sup>(5)</sup>	V 877,477 D \$ 0 27,200,084		I	Trustee of GRATs
Common Stock					14,898	I	Trustee of Trusts <sup>(6)</sup>
Common Stock					562,669	I	Beneficiary of Trust <sup>(7)</sup>

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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Reporting Transaction (Instr. 6)
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## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
GERDIN MICHAEL J	X	X	Chief Executive Officer	

## Signatures

/S/Michael J.  
Gerdin 12/14/2011

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The 2009 Gerdin Children's Trust purchased 515,000 shares from the Ann S. Gerdin Revocable Trust.
- (2) The reporting person is one of the beneficiaries of the 2009 Gerdin Heartland Trust. Mr. Gerdin does not have voting and dispositive powers with respect to this trust. Lawrence D. Crouse serves as trustee. Beneficial ownership is disclaimed.
- (3) The 2005 Gerdin Children's Trust purchased 133,000 shares from the Ann S. Gerdin Revocable Trust.
- (4) The reporting person is one of the beneficiaries of the 2005 Gerdin Children's Trust. Mr. Gerdin does not have voting and dispositive powers with respect to this trust. Lawrence D. Crouse serves as trustee. Beneficial ownership is disclaimed.
- (5)

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An annuity distribution of 877,477 shares was made from a grantor retained annuity trust for the benefit of Ann Gerdin. These shares were distributed to the revocable trust of Mrs. Gerdin.

- (6) The reporting person is trustee over shares held by trusts created for the benefit of his children. As trustee, Mr. Gerdin has shared voting and dispositive powers with respect to each trust. Beneficial ownership is disclaimed.
- (7) The reporting person is one of the beneficiaries of the 2007 Gerdin Heartland Trust. Mr. Gerdin does not have voting and dispositive powers with respect to this trust. Lawrence D. Crouse serves as trustee. Beneficial ownership is disclaimed.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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