

News Digest

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Essendant Inc., Deerfield, Illinois, has promoted Guy Unterberg the role of senior director of vertical markets.

Sonepar USA, a subsidiary of the privately held France-based **Sonepar Group**, has named Ryan Sasscer as director of ecommerce and digitization, effective January 1, 2020. Sasscer was most recently at OneSource as the director of marketing and digital business.

Episerver, a customer-centric digital experience company, has agreed to acquire B2B commerce leader **Insite Software**.

The deal continues Episerver's momentum heading into 2020 after the company's November 2019 acquisition of content personalization and analytics company Idio and its December 2019 hiring of longtime SAP executive Alex Atzberger as CEO.

Economic

Economic growth in the United States will continue in 2020, say the nation's purchasing and supply management executives in the December 2019 *Semiannual Economic Forecast*. Expectations are for a continuation of

the growth that began in mid-2009, as indicated in the monthly *ISM Report On Business*. The manufacturing sector is optimistic about growth in 2020, with revenues expected to increase in all 18 manufacturing industries, and the non-manufacturing sector also indicates that 17 of its industries will see higher revenues. Capital expenditures are expected to decrease by 2.1% in the manufacturing sector (after 6.4% growth in 2019) and increase by 3.4% in the non-manufacturing sector. Manufacturing expects that its employment base will grow slightly, by 0.1%, while the outlook for the next 12 months is predominately growth oriented.

Nonfarm business sector labor productivity decreased 0.2% in the third quarter of 2019, according to the revised report from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Output increased 2.3% and hours worked increased 2.5%. From the third quarter of 2018 to the third quarter of 2019, productivity increased 1.5%, reflecting a 2.3% increase in output and a 0.9% increase in hours worked.

Manufacturing sector labor productivity increased 0.1% in the third quarter of 2019, as output increased 1.3% and hours worked increased 1.2%. Total manufacturing sector

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Calculation of MDM Inflation Index for November 2019

		BLS	BLS	BLS		Weighted	%	%
		Price	Price	Price	%	Indices	Change	Change
		Indices	Indices	Indices	Sales	Nov '19	Nov '19	Nov '19
		Nov '19	Oct '19	Nov '19	Weight	(1)X(4)	Oct '19	Nov '18
1136	Abr. Prod.	627.0	633.2	609.4	19.1	119.75	-0.98	2.87
1135	Cutting Tools	533.6	534.4	527.1	18.9	100.85	-0.15	1.23
1145	Power Trans.	877.2	877.2	857.6	15.4	135.10	0.00	2.30
1081	Fasteners	566.9	566.9	540.7	9.0	51.02	0.00	4.85
1149.01	Valves, etc.	1074.0	1070.9	1047.0	7.6	81.63	0.29	2.58
1132	Power Tools	395.5	395.5	389.0	6.5	25.71	0.00	1.65
1144	Mat. Handling	648.8	646.8	640.5	6.2	40.23	0.31	1.30
0713.03	Belting	948.9	948.9	914.8	6.1	57.88	0.00	3.73
1042	Hand Tools	837.8	835.7	815.3	8.1	67.86	0.24	2.76
108	Misc. Metal	504.3	504.3	499.5	3.1	15.63	0.00	0.96
	"New" Oct Index	363.5				695.65	-0.12	2.51
	"New" Sept Index	363.9				696.47		
						October Inflation Index		
						678.65		
						September Inflation Index		
						October 2018 Inflation Index		

New index reflects 1977-100 base other #: 1967 To convert multiply by .52247