

News Digest

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company reported a loss of \$5.1 million for the quarter, compared to a profit of \$9.7 million the prior year.

BlueLinx Holdings Inc., Atlanta, GA, reported sales for the first quarter of \$474.3 million, an increase of 4.3 percent year-over-year. The company reported a loss of \$6.1 million for the quarter, compared to a loss of \$8.9 million in the prior year quarter.

A. M. Castle & Co., Franklin Park, IL, a global distributor of specialty metal and plastic products, reported sales for the first quarter of \$163.8 million, down 13.1 percent year-over-year. The company reported a loss of \$36.9 million for the quarter, compared to a loss of \$15.1 million the same quarter a year ago. In February the company said it would close its Houston, TX, and Edmonton, Alberta, facilities, which primarily serviced the energy sector.

Veritiv Corp., Atlanta, GA, reported sales for the first quarter of \$2 billion, a 5.5 percent decrease from the prior year. Profit was \$3.3 million, compared to \$2.2 million the same quarter a year ago.

Electrical distributor **Van Meter Inc.**, Cedar Rapids, IA, has appointed Lura McBride to president and CEO.

Turner Supply Co., Mobile, AL, has appointed Christopher Pratt to vice president and to its management team. Pratt succeeds Kent Crosthwait, who is retiring after 46 years in industrial distribution.

HVAC & plumbing distributor **APR Supply Co.**, Harrisburg, PA, plans to relocate its Harrisburg branch to a joint branch location with **Schaedler Yesco Distribution**.

Economic News

March U.S. manufacturing technology orders totaled \$371 million according to AMT – The Association for Manufacturing Technology. This total, as reported by companies participating in the USMTO program, was up 36.9 percent from February and down 11.8 percent from March 2015.

March U.S. cutting tool consumption totaled \$184.1 million, according to the U.S. Cutting Tool Institute and AMT – the Association for

Calculation of MDM Inflation Index for April 2016

	BLS Price Indices Apr '16	BLS Price Indices Mar '16	BLS Price Indices Apr '15	Weighted % Sales Weight	Weighted Indices Apr '16 (1)X(4)	% Change Apr '16 Mar '16	% Change Apr '16 Apr '15	
1136	Abr. Prod.	584.2	584.2	575.9	19.1	111.58	0.00	1.44
1135	Cutting Tools	508.4	507.3	506.0	18.9	96.09	0.21	0.48
1145	Power Trans.	811.0	811.3	811.6	15.4	124.90	-0.04	-0.08
1081	Fasteners	517.4	517.7	511.0	9.0	46.57	-0.05	1.27
1149.01	Valves, etc.	965.5	961.9	962.7	7.6	73.38	0.37	0.29
1132	Power Tools	379.1	379.7	368.7	6.5	24.64	-0.18	2.82
1144	Mat. Handling	599.8	598.3	593.2	6.2	37.19	0.24	1.11
0713.03	Belting	831.8	826.9	834.0	6.1	50.74	0.58	-0.27
1042	Hand Tools	782.2	782.2	784.6	8.1	63.36	0.00	-0.30
108	Misc. Metal	469.8	469.8	478.0	3.1	14.56	0.00	-1.71

"New" April Index	335.9	April Inflation Index	643.00	0.12	0.51
"New" March Index	335.6	March Inflation Index	642.26		
		April 2015 Inflation Index	639.76		

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