

News Digest

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Bearing Distributors Inc., Cleveland, OH, has acquired industrial distribution company **Munnell & Sherrill**, Portland, OR.

Northern Safety Co. Inc., Frankfort, NY, has acquired **Southland Industrial Supply Inc.**, Flowery Branch, GA, a distributor of safety and industrial supplies with locations in Georgia, Delaware, Missouri and Kansas.

United Stationers Inc., Deerfield, IL, reported 2014 sales of \$5.3 billion, an increase of 4.8 percent from the prior year. Profit decreased 3.2 percent to \$119.2 million. Fourth-quarter sales were \$1.3 billion, an increase of 8.9 percent from the prior-year period. Profit decreased 24.3 percent to \$25.8 million.

MRC Global Inc., Houston, TX, reported sales for 2014 of \$5.9 billion, an increase of 13.4 percent from the previous year. Profit decreased 5.3 percent to \$144.1 million. Fourth quarter sales were \$1.5 billion, an increase of 12.5 percent from the same period the previous year. Profit increased 33.7 percent to \$31.2 million.

Watsco Inc., Miami, FL, reported sales for 2014 of \$3.9 billion, an increase of 5 percent from the previous year. Profit increased 18.5 percent to

\$151.4 million. Sales for the fourth quarter were a record \$877 million, a 6 percent increase over the same period a year ago. Profit increased 39 percent to \$24.1 million.

Reliance Steel & Aluminum Co., Los Angeles, CA, reported sales for 2014 of \$10.5 billion, an increase of 13.3 percent from the previous year. Profit increased 15.5 percent to \$371.5 million. Fourth quarter sales were \$2.6 billion, an increase of 11.7 percent from the same period a year ago. Profit increased 49.4 percent to \$92.3 million.

Rexel, Paris, France, had sales of €13.1 billion (US\$14.9 billion) in 2014, up 0.5 percent on a reported basis and up 1.1 percent on a same-day basis. Profit for the year was down 5.2 percent to €200 million (US\$228.2 million). In the fourth quarter, sales in Europe were up 1.1 percent on a reported basis and down 0.8 percent on a constant and same-day basis. Sales in North America in the fourth quarter were up 12.8 percent on a reported basis and up 5.1 percent on a constant and same-day basis.

Lawson Products Inc., Chicago, IL, reported sales for 2014 of \$285.7 million, up 6 percent from the previous year. The distributor of MRO

Calculation of MDM Inflation Index for January 2015

	BLS Price Indices Jan '15	BLS Price Indices Dec '14	BLS Price Indices Jan '14	Weighted % Sales Weight	Weighted Indices Jan '15 (1)X(4)	% Change Jan '15 Dec '14	% Change Jan '15 Jan '14	
1136	Abr. Prod.	571.7	572.9	573.5	19.1	109.20	-0.21	-0.31
1135	Cutting Tools	505.7	497.6	492.7	18.9	95.57	1.63	2.64
1145	Power Trans.	808.2	806.3	803.2	15.4	124.46	0.23	0.62
1081	Fasteners	509.6	508.5	510.4	9.0	45.86	0.21	-0.16
1149.01	Valves, etc.	966.9	964.5	964.5	7.6	73.49	0.25	0.25
1132	Power Tools	367.1	362.5	359.1	6.5	23.86	1.28	2.22
1144	Mat. Handling	585.4	583.7	571.1	6.2	36.30	0.29	2.51
0713.03	Belting	833.4	832.1	836.9	6.1	50.84	0.15	-0.42
1042	Hand Tools	778.5	777.8	775.4	8.1	63.06	0.09	0.40
108	Misc. Metal	478.3	478.9	476.6	3.1	14.83	-0.12	0.36

"New" December Index 333.1 January Inflation Index 637.47 0.38 0.71

"New" November Index 331.8 December Inflation Index 635.07

January 2014 Inflation Index 632.98

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