

KODA Distribution Group, Stamford, CT, has acquired **Colonial Specialty Chemicals** and plans to merge it with **Monson Companies**.

Economic News

April **U.S. cutting tool consumption** totaled \$183.5 million, according to the U.S. Cutting Tool Institute and the Association for Manufacturing Technology. This total, as reported by companies participating in the Cutting Tool Market Report collaboration, was down 4.6 percent from April 2014 and down 7.9 percent from March.

April **U.S. manufacturing technology orders** totaled \$384.8 million according to AMT – The Association for Manufacturing Technology. This total, as reported by companies participating in the USMTO program, was down 8.1 percent from March's \$418.7 million and down 1 percent when compared to April 2014.

The Producer Price Index for final demand rose 0.5 percent in May, seasonally adjusted, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. On an unadjusted basis, the final demand index declined 1.1 percent for the 12 months ended in May, the fourth straight 12-month decrease.

Real gross domestic product for the U.S. decreased at an annual rate of 0.7 percent in the

first quarter, according to the "second" estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

New orders for manufactured durable goods in April decreased 0.5 percent to \$235.5 billion, according to an advance report from the U.S. Census Bureau.

New orders for manufactured goods in April, down eight of the last nine months, decreased \$1.8 billion or 0.4 percent to \$476.7 billion, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Privately owned housing starts in May were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,036,000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Development. This is 11.1 percent below the revised April estimate, but 5.1 percent above the May 2014 rate.

The combined value of **distributive trade sales and manufacturers' shipments** for April, adjusted for seasonal and trading-day differences but not for price changes, was estimated at \$1,318.8 billion, up 0.6 percent from March and down 2.3 percent from April 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Prices for U.S. imports increased 1.3 percent in May following declines in each of the previous 10 months, according to the U.S. Bureau of

Calculation of MDM Inflation Index for May 2015

	BLS Price Indices May '15	BLS Price Indices Apr. '15	BLS Price Indices May '14	Weighted % Sales Weight	Weighted Indices May '15 (1)X(4)	% Change May '15 Apr. '15	% Change May '15 May '14	
1136	Abr. Prod.	576.8	575.9	575.3	19.1	110.17	0.15	0.26
1135	Cutting Tools	507.3	506.0	497.8	18.9	95.88	0.27	1.91
1145	Power Trans.	810.1	811.6	802.3	15.4	124.75	-0.19	0.97
1081	Fasteners	510.4	511.0	508.5	9.0	45.94	-0.11	0.37
1149.01	Valves, etc.	961.3	962.7	961.4	7.6	73.06	-0.15	-0.02
1132	Power Tools	371.8	368.7	362.2	6.5	24.16	0.84	2.63
1144	Mat. Handling	594.0	593.2	580.8	6.2	36.83	0.14	2.27
0713.03	Belting	835.0	834.0	838.8	6.1	50.93	0.12	-0.46
1042	Hand Tools	779.8	784.6	784.6	8.1	63.17	-0.61	-0.61
108	Misc. Metal	478.3	478.0	477.4	3.1	14.83	0.06	0.18
"New" May Index		334.2	May Inflation Index			639.72	-0.01	0.67
"New" April Index		334.3	April Inflation Index			639.76		
			May 2014 Inflation Index			635.44		

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