

**News Digest**

Continued from p. 1 of this section

Aerospace distributor **Wesco Aircraft Holdings Inc.**, Valencia, CA, has named Kerry A. Shiba as executive vice president and CFO, effective September 18. Shiba succeeds Richard J. Weller, who previously announced his intention to retire.

**ISSA**, Northbrook, IL, the worldwide cleaning industry association, and the **Workloader Benchmarking Alliance** have agreed to merge.

**Heating, Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Distributors International** has approved the development of a new division for wholesale distribution in Mexico. The expansion aims to strengthen wholesale distributors as the channel of choice for HVACR manufacturers and contractors.

**DPA Buying Group**, Cincinnati, OH, has launched a new public safety division, which will encompass the police, fire and EMS industries.

**Economic News**

**U.S. housing starts** in August were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,300,000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is 5.7 percent above the revised July rate and is 8.3 percent above the August 2016 rate.

**The Producer Price Index for final demand** increased 0.2 percent in August, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Final demand prices were down 0.1 percent in July and were up 0.1 percent in June. On an unadjusted basis, the final demand index increased 2.4 percent for the 12 months ended in August.

**Industrial production** declined 0.9 percent in August following six consecutive monthly gains. Hurricane Harvey, which hit the Gulf Coast of Texas in late August, is estimated to have reduced the rate of change in total output by roughly 3/4 percentage point. **Capacity utilization** for the industrial sector decreased 0.8 percentage point in August to 76.1 percent.

**July U.S. cutting tool consumption** totaled \$171 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 8.4 percent from June's

**Calculation of MDM Inflation Index for August 2017**

	BLS	BLS	BLS		Weighted	%	%	
	Price	Price	Price	%	Indices	Change	Change	
	Indices	Indices	Indices	Sales	Aug '17	Aug '17	Aug '17	
	Aug '17	July '17	Aug '16	Weight	(1)X(4)	July '17	Aug '16	
1136	Abr. Prod.	602.6	602.6	591.0	19.1	115.10	0.00	1.96
1135	Cutting Tools	509.5	509.2	508.9	18.9	96.29	0.05	0.11
1145	Power Trans.	820.4	818.2	812.6	15.4	126.34	0.27	0.96
1081	Fasteners	517.7	518.0	515.5	9.0	46.59	-0.05	0.42
1149.01	Valves, etc.	992.2	979.1	962.1	7.6	75.41	1.34	3.13
1132	Power Tools	382.0	382.0	379.1	6.5	24.83	0.00	0.76
1144	Mat. Handling	610.4	610.4	599.5	6.2	37.84	0.00	1.82
0713.03	Belting	879.4	883.6	833.7	6.1	53.64	-0.47	5.48
1042	Hand Tools	792.1	792.1	784.6	8.1	64.16	0.00	0.96
108	Misc. Metal	472.4	472.1	468.1	3.1	14.64	0.06	0.90

"New" August Index	342.1	August Inflation Index	654.85	0.17	1.61
"New" July Index	341.6	July Inflation Index	653.74		
		August 2016 Inflation Index	644.46		

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