

News Digest

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ary 2014, while 27 states experienced construction employment gains between December and January, according to an analysis of government data by the Associated General Contractors of America.

Construction employers added 15,000 workers to payrolls in February despite harsh winter working conditions, raising industry employment to the highest level since June 2009, according to the Associated General Contractors of America.

January **U.S. manufacturing technology orders** totaled \$365.1 million, according to the Association for Manufacturing Technology. This total was down 25.2 percent from December but up 1.3 percent when compared with January 2013.

January **U.S. cutting tool consumption** was \$158 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 up 14.5 percent from December, but down 10.6 percent from January 2013.

Heating, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Distributors International has reached a settle-

ment in the lawsuit regarding **Regional Efficiency Standards** for residential gas furnaces and central air-conditioners finalized by the Department of Energy in Oct. 2011.

The **Conference Board Leading Economic Index** for the U.S. increased 0.5 percent in February to 99.8, following a 0.1 percent increase in January and a 0.1 percent decrease in December. The **coincident economic index** increased 0.2 percent and the **lagging economic index** increased 0.3 percent in February.

Inflation-adjusted gross domestic product will expand 2.8 percent in 2014 and 3.2 percent in 2015, according to the **Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation Quarterly Economic Forecast**.

Manufacturers are showing the highest level of business optimism since late 2012, according to the latest **National Association of Manufacturers / IndustryWeek Survey of Manufacturers**. The survey found that 86.1 percent of respondents were either somewhat or very positive about their company's outlook.

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Calculation of MDM Inflation Index for February 2014

	BLS Price Indices Feb. '14	BLS Price Indices Jan. '14	BLS Price Indices Feb. '13	Weighted % Sales Weight	Weighted Indices Feb. '14 (1)X(4)	% Change Feb. '14 Jan. '14	% Change Feb. '14 Feb. '13	
1136	Abr. Prod.	572.0	573.5	544.7	19.1	109.26	-0.26	5.01
1135	Cutting Tools	492.9	492.7	488.1	18.9	93.17	0.06	1.00
1145	Power Trans.	803.2	803.2	788.2	15.4	123.69	0.00	1.90
1081	Fasteners	510.1	510.4	507.2	9.0	45.91	-0.05	0.59
1149.01	Valves, etc.	962.6	964.5	940.3	7.6	73.16	-0.20	2.37
1132	Power Tools	360.7	359.1	348.9	6.5	23.44	0.43	3.37
1144	Mat. Handling	575.1	571.1	563.1	6.2	35.66	0.70	2.14
0713.03	Belting	838.8	836.9	871.7	6.1	51.17	0.23	-3.77
1042	Hand Tools	777.1	775.4	767.2	8.1	62.95	0.22	1.29
108	Misc. Metal	476.6	476.6	475.2	3.1	14.77	0.00	0.30

"New" February Index	330.8	February Inflation Index	633.18	0.03	1.73
"New" January Index	330.7	January Inflation Index	632.98		
		February 2013 Inflation Index	622.42		

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