

**News Digest**

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**Privately-owned housing starts** in March were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 946,000. This is 2.8 percent above the revised February estimate of 920,000 and 5.9 percent below the March 2013 rate of 1,005,000.

**Wholesale prices** increased 0.5 percent in March, seasonally adjusted, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

February **U.S. cutting tool consumption** was \$157 million, according to the U.S. Cutting Tool Institute and the Association for Manufacturing Technology. This total was down 1.2 percent from January and down 6.8 percent from February 2013.

February **U.S. manufacturing technology orders** totaled \$354.4 million, according to the Association for Manufacturing Technology. This total was down 6.2 percent year-over-year. With a year-to-date total of \$733.82 million, 2014 is down 0.6 percent compared with 2013.

The March composite index in the **Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation Business Outlook** improved to 69 from 67 in the December survey – the fifth straight quarterly

advance and the highest level since the March 2011 reading of 72.

**Canadian manufacturing sales** increased 1.4 percent in February to \$51.2 billion, according to Statistics Canada.

First-quarter **Canadian investment in non-residential building construction** decreased 0.6 percent from the previous quarter to \$12.9 billion.

**Canadian municipalities issued building permits** worth \$6.1 billion in February, down 11.6 percent from January, according to Statistics Canada.

**Manufacturer News**

Private equity funds managed by **Blackstone** have agreed to buy **Gates Corp.**, a manufacturer of power transmission belts and fluid power products.

**Atlas Copco's U.S.-based Quincy Compressor LLC** has agreed to acquire the compressor business of **National Pump & Compressor Ltd.** and **McKenzie Compressed Air Inc.** in the U.S.

**Calculation of MDM Inflation Index for March 2014**

	BLS	BLS	BLS	Weighted	%	%		
	Price	Price	Price	%	Indices	Change		
	Indices	Indices	Indices	Sales	Mar. '14	Mar. '14		
	Mar. '14	Feb. '14	Mar. '13	Weight	(1)X(4)	Feb. '14		
						Mar. '14		
1136	Abr. Prod.	572.3	572.0	553.6	19.1	109.32	0.05	3.38
1135	Cutting Tools	493.2	492.9	487.8	18.9	93.22	0.06	1.11
1145	Power Trans.	800.4	803.2	795.7	15.4	123.26	-0.35	0.59
1081	Fasteners	510.7	510.1	503.9	9.0	45.96	0.11	1.34
1149.01	Valves, etc.	963.4	962.6	941.9	7.6	73.22	0.08	2.28
1132	Power Tools	360.7	360.7	349.2	6.5	23.44	0.00	3.30
1144	Mat. Handling	576.3	575.1	565.9	6.2	35.73	0.20	1.82
0713.03	Belting	838.8	838.8	864.6	6.1	51.17	0.00	-2.98
1042	Hand Tools	779.2	777.1	767.9	8.1	63.11	0.26	1.46
108	Misc. Metal	478.3	476.6	475.5	3.1	14.83	0.36	0.59

"New" March Index	330.9	March Inflation Index	633.25	0.01	1.34
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"New" February Index	330.8	February Inflation Index	633.18		
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		March 2013 Inflation Index	624.88		
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New index reflects 1977-100 base other #: 1967 To convert multiply by .52247