



# TOOL TALK

A Publication of the Michigan Tooling Association

## From Rob's Roost

by: Rob Dumont,  
Managing Director



## What's Been Going On

In May the Association took the Bankruptcy and Lien Act seminar on the road to Lansing where we had a very active group of attendees who were obviously paying close attention to the presentation and who eagerly engaged in the opportunity to pose in depth questions of the Attorneys presenting the materials.

It was the kind of participation that verifies both the topical subject matter and the benefit of going out to the membership. We will continue to do so in the future and I thank our members who were in attendance.

I left the seminar before its conclusion to attend a meeting at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) at their headquarters in downtown Lansing. The meeting was informational in nature and was focused on the Tool & Die Recovery Zone legislation and the procedures involved in applying for a Recovery Zone designation. The MEDC has posted on its website the new Application Form and a comprehensive list of FAQs (frequently asked questions). The next set of Applications that will be reviewed must be into the MEDC by September 12, 2005. If you hope to be in that group up for consideration your efforts should by now be in full swing, and, if they are not you had better go to after burners immediately. Remember you need a resolution from your local taxing authority, you must be in a Collaborative Agreement and all your

paper work has to be in Lansing by the deadline. I stand ready to assist in whatever way I can so please do not hesitate to call with questions.

A huge part of assisting our industry lies in educating our legislators on not only the state of the industry, but indeed on what the industry does on a day to day basis. One very useful tool is the "Plant Tour" and once again our member company A.B. Heller Inc. of Milford Michigan accepted the chore and hosted a visit by Representative Chris Ward (R) District 66 on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The function was well attended and afforded an opportunity for participants in the industry to give first hand witness of the issues faced daily and the impact that outsourcing imposes on manufacturing. We owe a debt of gratitude to the hosts, Jim Heller and Pete Rosenkrands the gracious hosts and leaders of the function.



*Rep-Chris Ward speaks to an audience of MTA members.*



*(Rob's Roost continues on Page 5)*

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## MTA Calendar of Events – June 2005

All seminars this month are being held at the MTA Training Center in Farmington Hills unless otherwise noted. See [www.mtaonline.com](http://www.mtaonline.com) 'Calendar' for more information on any event.

- 09 MTA 70th Annual Golf Outing  
Held at Fox Hills Golf Club in Plymouth
- 15 MTA Board of Directors meets
- 16 MTA WCF Board of Trustees meets



## Mark's Remarks

by: Mark Tyler, General Manager  
MTA Insurance Agency



### Important Rate Notification

The Michigan Tooling Association's life, short-term disability, and long-term disability programs have been reviewed for our renewal date of July 1, 2005.

Our program remains extremely strong in both the benefit levels and premium rates in comparison to the current marketplace. We did not have a rate increase in any of these programs between 1999 and 2004.

This tradition will continue for the short-term disability and the long-term disability. These two programs have not had an increase since 1999. As our population of the Michigan Tooling Association ages, the impact of this will be a 10% rate increase effective July 1, 2005 for the life insurance program only.

This rate increase effects just the life insurance program and nothing else.

The program will not be reviewed again for any of the coverages until next year. We are very fortunate to have such a strong program with the rates as consistent over the years as they have been.

This increase will effect the average MTA participating member by approximately \$15.00 per month.

If you have any questions regarding this program review, please contact Mark Tyler at the MTA Insurance Agency, 1-866-489-8505.



### Blues on track with conversion to new ID cards

To protect our members' privacy and meet legislative mandates, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network will replace Social Security numbers on ID cards and all correspondence in 2005.

Beginning in June, BCBSM will issue ID cards with new contract numbers to members in Michigan. National Accounts started the process last year. BCN will issue new ID cards after July 1, 2005, and Blue Choice® Point of Service will issue

new cards after Oct. 1, 2005. Your gro up will be converted as quickly as possible, but no later than Jan. 1, 2006.

The contract number on members' new cards will be changed from their Social Security number to a randomly selected, computer-generated subscriber number. The new contract numbers will be nine-digit numbers with three-letter prefixes. The alphabetical prefix identifies the member as either a BCBSM or BCN member. There will be no spaces in the nine-digit number. Otherwise the format and appearance of the ID card will remain the same.

**Once members receive the new card, they should destroy the old card and use the new one. Members should make sure to present the new card to their health care providers (such as physicians, hospitals and pharmacists) on their first visit after receiving the new card.**

### Let your fingers do the walking for Walking Works CD-ROM materials

How many of you greeted 2005 with yet another resolution to eat well and exercise? How many have gotten off track? Your employees may be more willing to actually move toward a healthier lifestyle by following a program in which they have the support of their co-workers and company.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan makes it easy to get started with an exercise program by offering their **WalkingWorks<sup>SM</sup>** CD-ROM and resource guide. The CD-ROM contains everything you need to motivate your employees to "dump the plump" with ready-to-use posters and flyers.

Groups of 10 or more are eligible for the free CD-ROM of WalkingWorks materials. To obtain your CD-ROM and resource guide, e-mail [walkingworks@bcbsm.com](mailto:walkingworks@bcbsm.com) or call BCBSM's Community Affairs hotline at 1-800-733-2583.

### Help BCBS members save on medical bills while traveling out of state

When your members need health care while away from Michigan, they can reduce their out-of-pocket expenses by receiving services from a participating provider. Participating providers accept BCBS's payment for covered medical services as payment in full. To find a participating provider, visit [www.bcbsm.com/directories/physician/search.shtml](http://www.bcbsm.com/directories/physician/search.shtml), or call 1-800-810-BLUE (2583).

Treatment by providers in other states who don't participate with Blues plans in their areas is likely to cost your members additional out-of-pocket expenses.

## BCN Roundup

### Blue Care Network means excellence

Blue Care Network members can rest assured that their health plan has met a rigorous evaluation and been judged excellent by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. The NCQA has given BCN excellent accreditation since 2000.

BCN received four stars—the highest level awarded—in all five categories listed on NCQA's Health Plan Report Card. The categories are Access and Service, Qualified Providers, Staying Healthy, Getting Better and Living with Illness.

"The NCQA again affirmed what our members already know: Blue Care Network provides high quality health care and service, whenever members need it and wherever they need it," said Kevin Seitz, BCN president and CEO.

BCN's excellent status is based on 2004 HEDIS® and CAHPS® scores and the NCQA's 2002 onsite survey that focused on clinical and administrative service performance improvement as well as member and physician satisfaction.

### Asthma program earns prestigious national award

How do you rate your asthma care program? If you carry a BCN card, you can expect excellence in design, development, implementation and measurement methodology, and favorable outcomes. BCN received an award of excellence for its commitment to disease management by the Disease Management Association of America.

BCN's program has resulted in decreased hospital admissions and emergency room visits, increased medication compliance and improved functional status. The program began in 1999 and has approximately 18,000 enrolled members.

### Weight management program for adults

Blue Care Network has introduced an innovative new program to help its adult members lose weight and keep it off. Weight reduction and increased activity levels are essential for avoiding or minimizing the effects of serious medical conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

**Weigh to Go™** is a comprehensive approach to weight management that includes a program offered in partnership with the Michigan Institute for Health Enhancement.

BCN and MIHE collaborated on a pilot program in early 2004 for a select group of BCN physicians and members. The 2004 pilot population achieved ongoing weight loss, increased physical activity levels and improved blood pressure readings.

BCN and MIHE are now working together to provide weight management and lifestyle modification interventions to obese

adult members statewide. Initially, the program will target BCN members with diabetes, those taking prescription weight loss medications and other select at-risk members.

For members who don't qualify for the MIHE program, BCN offers a separate Weigh to Go™ weight loss and fitness program through its health education department.

"People who have a healthy weight and activity level decrease their risk of developing problems such as high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease," said Pam Reinert, BCN director of Quality Management.

To enroll in either of the Weigh to Go™ programs, BCN members can call MIHE at (248) 844-1004 or visit the MIHE website at [www.miteam.org](http://www.miteam.org).

## Legislative Update

by: *Judy Augenstein*  
*Legislative Consultant, Lansing*



The House, the Senate and the Governor all want to create jobs, but all three powers have different ideas of how to go about creating them. Governor Jennifer Granholm has her rewrite of the Single Business Tax which incorporates her "Jobs Today Jobs Tomorrow" plan. The Senate Republicans have outlined their "Jobs III" plan. The House Republicans have announced a plan cornerstoned by a proposal to eliminate the so-called "add back" tax on health care benefits. In 2003 and 2004, the Republican leadership in the House and Senate championed a pair of packages known as Jobs I and Jobs II. The effort was best remembered as a so-called collection of specially targeted tax breaks for the manufacturing sector. Nearly all of the bills were signed into law after Republican leaders consented to some of the administration's suggestions. Now, the Governor, the Republican Senate and Republican House are positioned to go in three separate directions to create new Michigan jobs.

The Governor and Legislature have agreed on a new budget cutting Executive Order to balance the 2004-05 books. The House and Senate Appropriation Committees are now struggling with balancing the 2005-06 budget. More budget cuts are expected!

Rep. Rick Baxter, R-Hanover, VC, House Commerce Committee, is sponsoring a series of bills designed to assist the tool and die industry. The plan is to move the bills through the legislature with HB 4483 sponsored by Rep. Chris Ward, R-Brighton. HB 4483 was introduced at the request of MTA and removes the 50 employee cap from the Renaissance Zone law passed in 2003. Senator Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond has sponsored SB 371. The bill also amends the Renaissance Zone law by adding pattern manufacturers to the industry code.

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## From the Desk of Gary Wood

MTA WCF Administrator



### MORE FUNDS RELEASED TO THE MEMBERS

The Trustees have released the previously approved \$3.3 million asset distribution! The checks will be cut and signed in the next several weeks as soon as the programming is completed and the physical act of compiling information, verifying information, printing checks and signing them can be completed.

Don't call just yet about when you will get yours! This is a time consuming process and has to be completed in addition to the everyday work that the staff has to do. By the time you see the July **Tool Talk**, you will either have your check (if you qualify) or the date the checks were released will be available to you.

This is really unprecedented. The volume of money that has flowed back to the members when many of them need it the most over the last several years has, I have been told, kept some of the members going when there was no work. The Trustees have made every attempt to keep this pipeline flowing as is evidenced by this additional reward for being a Fund member.

You need to recognize that even though this is mid-term on your coverage, this is a huge part of the specialized workers' compensation pricing structure you get from the Fund. Don't forget where you got the money when your renewal comes up in December!

What other provider has your best long term interests at heart? **The Fund is your program**, designed to assist you in the day to day operation of your business. With your continued support the MTA Workers' Compensation Fund will remain your long term partner for workers' compensation coverage.

### Fund Policy

You all should know that Fund membership requires a written drug and alcohol statement. We do not direct you as to what the program must say, just that you must have a program. Specifically:

- You must have a policy in writing.**
- The policy must be understood by all employees.**
- The policy must be strictly enforced.**

We often get questions about this requirement and the need to have a program.

Yes, drug and alcohol intolerance enforcement makes a

difference. We have recently obtained statistics which indicate that approximately 30% of work related injuries (state-wide, not just MTA WCF) where there have been drug and alcohol screenings have tested positive for the measurable amounts of drugs and/or alcohol. Nearly one third of the reported injuries! Look around you to see who is doing something that could affect your safety and relate that statistic; one in three could be affected by some sort of intoxicant. How safe do you feel about that?

The MTA Workers' Compensation Fund is located near the corner of 12 Mile Road and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. Just last month a guy left his work in Livonia and killed three people at that corner. His blood alcohol count was over .40! This is normally a toxic level that leads to alcohol poisoning but, he was out there in traffic on a busy afternoon driving a car at 70 miles per hour in a 35 mile per hour zone.

We can all concede that drugs and machines do not mix; but how many think "it's just a beer" before they run out and stick their hands and fingers in spinning or punching equipment in your plant facility?

Several members have asked what to use as a guideline for blood alcohol content if there is a test performed due to an injury, pre-employment physical or random sampling. I am not a doctor and I know alcohol affects different people in different ways but certainly there should be a standard.

The Michigan Secretary of State has included on their website the standards for "*Alcohol and Driving in Michigan*".

Operating Under the Influence of Liquor	.10% Blood Alcohol
Operating while Impaired	.08% Blood Alcohol
Under age 21	.02% Blood Alcohol
CDL Driver	.04% Blood Alcohol

Since a CDL Driver is in the course of his employment, there could be a good argument for using .04% as a work related guideline (unless the employee is a minor).

On the other hand, why tolerate any level at all? The last time I checked the Trustees of the MTA Workers' Compensation Fund paid us to work here, not have a drink! Shouldn't you expect the same thing from your employees? It is for their own safety, the safety of their co-employees and the financial well-being of your organization.

Give it some thought when you revise your employee handbook and always consult an attorney before you develop or implement standards of acceptable behavior in your company.

# Disasters Can Happen; Are You Prepared?

While you can't prevent natural disasters, you can take proper steps to minimize the loss to your business.

## Disaster Recovery Plan:

- ❖ Account for all employees and extent of injuries.
- ❖ Determine extent of physical damage.
- ❖ Categorize systems critical to business continuation.
- ❖ Evaluate damage to each system.
- ❖ Re-establish systems in orderly sequence.
- ❖ Keep employees informed of progress.

The plan should be documented and communicated to all employees. Depending on the size of your company, you may want to establish an emergency response team to develop and maintain a disaster recovery plan.

Your local fire, police and emergency management departments are also great resources.

## Loss Prevention Plan:

- ❖ Connect fire alarm system to local fire department.
- ❖ Meet damage-resistant building codes.
- ❖ Keep duplicate records of both computerized and written records. Keep copies off the premises.
- ❖ Identify critical business activities and resources needed to support them.
- ❖ Compile a list of important phone numbers and addresses. Keep copies off the premises.
- ❖ Decide on a communications strategy to prevent loss of customers.

Springtime is a welcome arrival for those who have braved months of inclement weather. But spring also brings a greater potential for floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, hurricanes and windstorms in various parts of the country. Other disasters such as fire can happen at any time.

The first step is to develop a plan that includes appropriate insurance coverage. Typically, property insurance excludes coverage for flood damage. If your business is located in a flood zone or is prone to flooding from nearby creeks or ditches, make sure you have a flood insurance policy.

Next, develop a written action plan with some of your key employees to deal with natural disaster. The plan should address two areas: a loss prevention plan, to minimize the potential risk to your business in advance of an emergency, and a disaster recovery plan.

*(Rob's Roost continued from Page 1)*

Just four days later Representative Ward and Representative Rick Baxter (R) District 64 hosted a meeting in the Capitol Building in Lansing to discuss in particular the removal of the 50 employee cap in the Recovery Zone legislation as well as other possible changes. I attended with Judy Augenstein our Lansing legislative assistant and had the very good fortune to have present as well Bill Carbary and Bruce Sech from **Mol-Son Inc.** in Mattawan Michigan together with Rick Heidrich of **Richard Tool & Die** of New Hudson and Gerald Flannery the immediate past president of MTA. The representatives and their staff reviewed a number of proposed amendments to the legislation and the rationale for each. Each of our members in attendance spoke about the removal of the 50 employee cap and the importance of such an amendment.

Regrettably when these amendments reached the State House Committee on Commerce hearing on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, the proposal to remove the cap had been removed from the Agenda. Bill Carbary was present at the time and he and I testified on the matter despite its absence from the Agenda.

A proposal that did make the Agenda relative to the 50 employee cap had to do with the head count of employees: if passed the amendment would provide that only people actually involved in the manufacture of tools and dies would be counted. Thus, janitorial staff, office staff and truck drivers for example would not be included. Better than nothing but we will continue the effort to remove the cap or at least have the bar raised significantly.

I attended a local function for Candice Miller (R-10<sup>th</sup>), member of the House of Representatives Washington. With the large turn out, the opportunity to speak with her on matters of concern was very limited indeed. Hopefully I will have a better chance the next time I go to the Hill.

As you can see, a great deal of time is being put into the Recovery Zone issue both in terms of amending the governing legislation and assisting our members who are attempting to avail themselves of the potential advantages. That is one of the reasons MTA exists so if you need assistance, give us a call.



# 2005 Third/Fourth Quarter Business Trends Survey Results

Many thanks to the 151 member companies that took the time to respond to the latest Business Trends Outlook survey, which was sent with last month's issue of **Tool Talk**. The figures in the brackets are the responses from the survey done six months ago.

## 1. Describe your company's operation:

Tools & Dies	14%	(11%)
Special Machinery	10%	(08%)
Precision Machining	24%	(34%)
Molds/Die Cast Dies	03%	(02%)
Metal Stamping/Fabrications	12%	(11%)
Prototypes	05%	(07%)
Cutting Tools	10%	(10%)
Others	21%	(16%)

## 2. How is your business now?

Excellent	10%	(03%)
Very good	17%	(28%)
Good	32%	(35%)
Fair	31%	(34%)
Bad	08%	(07%)
Very bad	02%	(00%)

## 3. Over the next six months, your company's business will:

Increase substantially	03%	(04%)
Increase moderately	38%	(46%)
Remain the same	50%	(40%)
Decrease moderately	08%	(10%)
Decrease substantially	01%	(00%)

## 4. Current average work week:

Hours per week	46.2	(45.7)
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## 5. Current employment:

Hourly:	32.9	(35.9)
Salaried:	06.8	(06.9)

## 6. Compare to one year ago your current level of business:

	Up	Same	Down
Quoting activity	79% (50%)	45% (37%)	24% (13%)
Shipments	67% (52%)	44% (31%)	36% (17%)
Order backlog	56% (38%)	46% (40%)	41% (24%)
Profits	46% (37%)	50% (30%)	50% (32%)
Employment	38% (32%)	74% (49%)	34% (19%)

## COMMENTS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Raw material from China a problem. (tools & dies)

Big question about future. (metal stamping/fabrication)

Tough to get orders and make a profit. (special machinery)

Quotes up due to Chapter 11. (precision machining)

Sales same as last year. Building tools for new projects—highest since 1990. (metal stamping/fabrication)

Things are better but uncertain. (cutting tools)

Outlook for FY05—dismal. (precision machining)

Charge 40% less for services and costs rise. (heat treating)

We are non-automotive. (foundry)

Who goes bankrupt next? (special machinery)

Very slow first quarter. (precision machining)

Have seen increase in work from a year ago. (cutting tools)

We need a good "up" run. (cutting tools)

Customers reject surcharge costs on iron and steel. (precision machining)

When is it going to end, everyday day is an "adventure". (special machinery)

Have seen a large increase in orders. (prototypes)

Hopefully it's not interm but long-term. (prototypes)

Something has to be done now about all the outsourcing to China and Indonesia. (precision machining)

Margins are getting lower; see more "target" numbers w/RFQ. (molds/die cast dies)

Hope it lasts. (precision machining)

First quarter best ever in terms of sales. (molds/die cast dies)

Even when things are good, I'm still not having fun. (precision machining)

Foresee things getting worse before they get better. (precision machining)

Expecting an increase in orders during second half of this year. (special machinery)

Going on 4 years of hell. Is manufacturing gone? (cutting tools)

We have used our cheap dollar to our advantage in world markets. Now selling in Japan, Korea, So. America. (cutting tools)

Very difficult environment—still about price. (cutting tools)

The amount of work going overseas continues to be a concern. (gear manufacturing)

As long as you are willing to work for nothing you'll have plenty of business, try to make a profit and you'll have none. (precision machining)



## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS! **Olympian Tool** of St Johns, Michigan, a member of the Michigan Tooling Association since January 1994, has achieved the ISO 9001-2000 Certification in December 2004. Olympian Tool manufacturers detail tooling, dies, jigs and fixtures. They also have jig grinding equipment and wire EDM. Thank you to all the employees for a job well done.

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In an effort to provide better sales and service coverage to the East Coast users of marking tools, stamps and the complete range of marking machine types, **Columbia Marking Tools** has added Doylestown, Pennsylvania-based Tuckahoe Trading Inc. to their national network of distributors and manufacturer's representatives.

Andy Ruzzin, Columbia Marking Tools vice president sales, says, "We continue to undertake an aggressive product development strategy and in support of that, are making a similar aggressive effort to establish sales contracts with top level distributor and manufacturer's representatives organizations whose product lines and markets are complementary to ours. We recently completed a new sales agreement with Tuckahoe Trading Inc., a well-known Pennsylvania sales company, to

sell our marking products in Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Southern New York, Delaware, Maryland and Washington D.C."

"Tuckahoe was formed in 1991, and has become a major machine tool distributor of grinding machine tools representing companies like Studer, Blohm, Ewag, Jung, Magerle and Schneeberger as well as the Virtek line of engraving and laser marking machines. We are confident they will be able to provide the knowledgeable and technical support required for our types of marking tools and machine products," Ruzzin adds.

Chris Cowan, president of Tuckahoe Trading Inc., says, "We are extremely pleased to have Columbia Marking Tools as a principle. Their high-quality products are very complementary to our other areas of expertise in the markets that we serve. From talking with our customers, we expect to see strong growth in the demand for marking systems."

Columbia Marking Tools is a leading designer and manufacturer of metal and plastic marking equipment including stamps, roll marking dies, roll marking and impact marking machines, fully programmable peen/scribe marking and UID12DMatrix™ marking systems, numbering heads and special marking machines.

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*Our congratulations and best wishes to the above members. Let us know what is happening at your company. We would like to share it with all our readers.*

## MTA's 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF OUTING



Would you like a chance to win a million dollars (\$1,000,000.00)? Well, you can. You just have to make a hole-in-one at the MTA 70th Annual Golf Outing June 9, 2005 at Fox Hills Golf Club in Plymouth, Michigan. We have seen MTA members and their guests golf in the past, so we know it's not impossible for one of them to win.

There are other prizes for the hole-in-one contest:

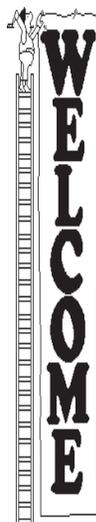
2005 Cadillac Escalade

2005 Cadillac XLR

The cost of the Association's Annual Golf Outing is \$185 per person. If you are interested in only the dinner, the ticket price is \$90 per person. Dinner includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, open bar and over 50 gifts and prizes.

## Welcome New Members!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to the Michigan Tooling Association:



- ❖ **Midwest Tool & Die Inc.** of Rockford, specializing in the designing and building of progressive line and transfer dies;
- ❖ **Treatment Corporation** of West Branch, specializing in low temperature heat treating process using titanium to improve the hardness of various metals; and
- ❖ **Tawas Plating Company & Tawas Powder Coating Inc.** of Tawas City, specializing in metal finishing services for automotive suppliers.



## 2005—4<sup>th</sup> Of July Holiday Survey Results

Our thanks to the 139 companies that took the time to complete our 4<sup>th</sup> of July survey. May we all remember the freedoms we enjoy as we celebrate this day.

	<u>Open</u>	<u>½ Open ½ Paid</u>	<u>Closed Paid</u>	<u>Closed Unpaid</u>
Thurs 6/30	137	0	0	2
Fri 7/1	133	2	2	4
Sat 7/2	17	4	0	118
Sun 7/3	3	0	0	136
Mon 7/4	0	0	143	2
Tues 7/5	126	0	4	6
Entire Week 7/4-7/8	44	0	3	9



### MTA List of Endorsed Service Providers

- ❖ **Assurant Benefits** (formerly Fortis) (life insurance)  
MTA contacts: Mark Tyler 248-489-8505  
Stella Krupansky 248-488-0300 ext. 1310
- ❖ **Blue Cross Blue Shield/BCN** (health insurance)  
MTA contacts: Mark Tyler 248-489-8505  
Elaine Burger-Laskosky 248-488-0300 ext. 1309
- ❖ **Federated Ins.** (property & casualty insurance)  
Provider contact: Todd Bishop 800-428-4143
- ❖ **Freedom One Financial Group** (401(k) programs)  
Provider contact: Leslie Goodwin 248-620-8100
- ❖ **Hertz** (car rentals)  
Provider contact: 800-654-2210
- ❖ **John M. Packer & Associates** (unemployment)  
Provider contact: Nathan Wiest 800-482-2971
- ❖ **LDMI/Custom Telecom** (phone/communications)  
Provider contact: Kathy Schaumburger 866-332-1200
- ❖ **Lower Electric, LLC** (energy supply)  
Provider contact: 866-569-3788
- ❖ **Office Depot** (office supplies)  
Provider contact: Ron Sorey 800-578-9675 ext. 5721
- ❖ **Total Energy Company** (energy auditor)  
Provider contact: Gary Haga 269-639-7402

## Inflation Talk

### CPI-W Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

<u>Month</u>	<u>82-84</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>57-59</u>
<b>April 2005</b>	<b>190.2</b>	<b>566.4</b>	<b>658.9*</b>
Mar	188.6	561.9	653.4*
Feb	187.3	557.9	648.8*
Jan	186.3	554.9	645.4*
Dec	186.0	554.2	644.3*
Nov	186.8	556.3	647.1*
Oct	186.5	555.7	646.1*
Sept	185.4	552.4	642.3*

### CPI-U All Urban Consumers

<u>Month</u>	<u>82-84</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>57-59</u>
<b>April 2005</b>	<b>194.6</b>	<b>582.9</b>	<b>677.9*</b>
Mar	193.3	579.0	673.4*
Feb	191.8	574.5	668.2*
Jan	190.7	571.2	664.4*
Dec	190.3	570.1	663.0*
Nov	191.0	572.2	665.4*
Oct	190.9	571.9	665.1*
Sept	189.9	568.7	661.6*

**Note:** April 2005 CPI-W represents a 3.7% increase from one year ago; CPI-U 3.5% increase.

\* Base Year 1957-59 is no longer released. BLS has issued the following conversion factors from the 82-84 year:

CPI-W—.2886674 CPI-U—.2870447

## TOOL TALK®

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