



TOOL TALK

A Publication of the Michigan Tooling Association

From Rob's Roost

by: *Rob Dumont,*
Managing Director



Going Forward and Looking Back

The Annual Meeting of the Association will be held at noon on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at the offices of the Association. We will welcome Joe Padula of **Vicount Industries**, Farmington Hills as a new Director of the Association who will serve in that capacity for a three year term. He replaces Dennis Wilson of **Accum Matic Systems**, Livonia who, having served three terms as a Director, departs the Board having been 'term limited'. Certainly Dennis has made substantial contributions to the MTA during his long tenure as a Director and we are most grateful to him and wish him the very best in the future.

The date of the Annual Meeting was put off for a week from the originally scheduled April 19th in an effort to ensure no conflict with the Easter season and holidays related to it.

Some of you were inconvenienced by a mistake we made in communicating the date for a recent Seminar on Bankruptcy and the Lien laws. We promised to re-schedule another offering of the Seminar as soon as the speakers were again available. The new date is May 4, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. here at MTA. You will receive a flyer relative to the Seminar with this copy of Tool Talk. I apologize for the mix up and hope those who were inconvenienced will be able to attend on May 4th. This is a very worthwhile Seminar and has been exceptionally well received at the prior three presentations so if you haven't experienced it, please take advantage of this fourth offering.

I recently attended in Washington DC and visited the offices of several of our Michigan representatives including Senator Stabenow, Representatives Kilpatrick, Conyers, McCotter, Rogers, Miller, Knollenberg, Camp and Upton. I also saw Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland and Representatives Michael Oxley of Ohio (ever heard of Sarbanes/Oxley?) and Donald Manzullo of Illinois. They were all made aware of the grave concerns we have for manufacturing and the continuing problems of currency manipulation by China in particular.

It is easy to become frustrated with the apparent lack of progress in these areas but the reality is that persistence must be maintained and messages need repeating. Ultimately there will be progress and I can assure you that many representatives of other Associations were present and expressed the same concerns as the effort continues. There is strength in numbers and those numbers are being shown!

We are putting a link on our website to the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the official export credit agency of the U.S. They offer manufacturers a variety of products relative to the export of goods produced in the U.S. These range from Pre-export (Working Capital Guarantee); Short-term (Export Credit Insurance in Multi-Buyer, Small Business or Single-Buyer situations); Medium-term (Medium-Term Export Credit Insurance) to Medium-and-Long-Term (Loan Guarantee). For more information, contact Business Development at: 800-565-3946 (EXIM) fax 202-565-3930 or info@exim.gov or visit their website at www.exim.gov.

If you export you owe it to yourself to look into the products available to you from the Export-Import Bank. While they are not free, prices are reasonable and you might even view them as being at least in part pre-paid by your tax dollars.

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MTA Calendar of Events—April 2006

Remember to visit the Calendar on the MTA website at www.mtaonline.com for details and up-to-date information.

- 14 MTA & NTMA sponsored luncheon presentation: **"Lunch With Congressman Joe Knollenberg"**
11:00 am @ the Club Venetian in Madison Hts.
RSVP Anne Cairns 586-677-5568 / detroitntma@aol.com
- 17 MTA Salary & Hourly Wage Survey Data Due
- 20 MTA WCF Board of Trustees meets
- 26 MTA 72nd Annual Meeting & Open House at MTA

Mark's Remarks

by: Mark Tyler, General Manager
MTA Insurance Agency



BCN Groups Must Validate Medicare Information

To ensure that members' future Medicare claims are not delayed due to outdated data, Blue Care Network is asking groups to validate their members' Medicare information.

Medicare enrollment information from BCN's files was compared recently with a computer database from the federal government's Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Information for several BCN members did not match the information contained in the government database.

If the information in BCN's files for specific members does not match the information being used by the federal government beginning April 1, Medicare may delay processing claims for those members.

Action required by groups

BCN is sending a letter to those groups with members who need to validate their Medicare enrollment information. The letter contains the name of the member(s) along with the Medicare information in BCN's files.

Groups are being asked to validate the following member information **within 10 days of receipt of the letter**:

- Medicare Claim Number on Medicare ID card;
- Effective date of Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B coverage printed on Medicare ID card;
- First six letters of the last name;
- First letter of the first name;
- Birth date; and
- Gender.

If the information matches

If the information the member provides **matches** the information in the letter, the group should advise the member that CMS has the wrong information and he or she must validate the information by visiting their local Social Security office. BCN nor the group can correct the information in the CMS database.

If the information does not match

If the new information the member provides **does not match** the information in the letter, groups should update the BCN member's Medicare information via the standard process for submitting updates to BCN. Groups should provide a copy

of the member's Medicare card when applicable. A self-addressed envelope for groups is included in each letter.

Medicare law requirement

BCN is required under federal Medicare law to process member Medicare claims for up to two years after a member has left their group or become deceased. As a result, it is still necessary for groups to validate Medicare information for those members listed in the letter who are no longer employed by the group or are deceased.

In addition, if a group is no longer enrolled with BCN, they still need updated Medicare information on the group's members.

Questions?

If you have questions about the mailing, contact BCN Group Inquiry at 1-800-970-6684.

BCN To Allow Prior Deductible Credit For New Groups

New BCN groups enrolling in a plan with a deductible will be able to request credit for deductible amounts paid by subscribers to their former carriers. Once approved, the subscriber would then be responsible for BCN's deductible amount less the amount already paid to the former carrier.

Groups need to meet certain BCN requirements to be eligible for the credit. The criteria include:

- The payment to the former carrier must have been for an in-network deductible, not for a copayment.
- The group must provide BCN with claims information from the prior carrier within one month of the group's effective date with BCN.

Note: The maximum credit from the prior carrier may not exceed the current deductible dollar amount of the BCN coverage.

Welcome New Members!



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

- ❖ **Mitchell Equipment Corporation** of Dundee, specializing in machining; welding; engineering; assembly; and manufacturing of tooling and special railroad products for work trucks and construction equipment.



In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that we note the sudden passing of Lowell E. Smith, long-time employee and Personnel Director of **Metro Machine Works** in Romulus, on March 11, 2006. Mr. Smith is survived by his wife; 2 children; 1 grandchild; and 6 siblings. He served for 30 years as the Police and Fire Civil Service Commissioner in Taylor where he resided.

Mr. Smith served on several boards and committees at MTA throughout the years and was well known. Metro Machine Works has been a member of MTA since 1969.

Our sincere condolences go out to his family and friends.



In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of Patrick A. Smith, founder and CEO of **Piece Maker Company** on March 9, 2006 while skiing in Colorado at the age of 70. Mr. Smith is survived by his wife of 45 years, Marjorie; 3 children; and 6 grandchildren.

The family asks that memorial contributions be sent in his name to either the Little Traverse Conservancy, 3264 Powell Rd., Harbor Springs, MI 49740, phone 231-347-0991; or the Christ Child Society of Detroit, 15751 Joy Rd., Detroit, MI 48228, phone 248-435-3616.

Our sincere condolences go out to his family and friends.

Legislative Update

by: *Judy Augenstein*
Legislative Consultant, Lansing



The legislature is working on a package of bills designed to encourage the increased production capacity and consumption of “alternative fuels” such as E85, biodiesel blends and hydrogen fuel. The legislation creates the “Fuels of the Future Commission Act” to create the Fuels of the Future Commission within the Department of Agriculture to investigate and recommend strategies for encouraging the use of alternative fuels.

The bills would provide a motor fuel tax of 12 cents per gallon on gasoline that is at least 85 percent ethanol and on diesel fuel that contains at least 5 percent biodiesel. The current 19 cent per gallon tax would remain on other gasoline and the 15 cent per gallon tax would remain on other diesel fuel.

The package would also allow for the designation of up to ten additional renaissance zones, specifically for renewable energy facilities. A renewable energy facility would be defined as a system that creates energy from a process using residues from agricultural products, forest productions, paper products industries and food production and processing; trees and grasses grown specifically to be used as energy crops; and gaseous fuels produced from solid biomass, animal wastes, municipal wastes or landfills. A renaissance zone could only be created with the consent of the appropriate city, village, or township, or a combination and the county in which the facility is located. By January 2002 the state would have to install the necessary infrastructure for alternative fuel used at all state motor transport facilities.

The legislation would require the Michigan Strategic Fund to create and administer matching grant programs to provide owners and operators of service stations and bulk plants with up to 50 percent of the cost for creating fuel delivery systems capable of providing E85 fuel and biodiesel blends. The package extends provisions in the Motor Fuels Quality Act which regulate the sale and quality of gasoline sold or offered for sale in the state, to also apply to diesel fuel, biodiesel, biodiesel blends and hydrogen fuel.

We continue to work with Rep. Rick Baxter, R-Hanover, and Senator Jason Allen, R- Traverse City, to increase the employee cap on the Tool and Die Renaissance Recovery Zone Act. Last year we were able to increase the cap from 50 to 75 employees, this year we are attempting to increase it to 100 employees. The MEDC continues to resist supporting legislation to tinker with existing renaissance zones and legislation to create additional renaissance zones such as the 10 renaissance zones for renewable energy facilities cited above.

From the Desk of Gary Wood

MTA WCF Administrator



“Getting better all the time”

This is my usual “here comes the spring” mantra. Just think, the \$400 (plus) per month heating bills are behind us (at least until November) and all we have to worry about is the \$3.00 (plus) gasoline prices.

Last April I commented on the costs of things as they relate to the per capita income of the state, and not a lot has changed since then. We are now officially the worst economy in the United States as compared to the second worst a year ago. The building trades have even taken a sabbatical as the mortgage rates have increased because the federal government has tried to rein in the economy.

Last week one of the big three dumped a bunch of engineers as they tried to keep cash in the bank. The biggest of the three recently sold off controlling interest in their mortgage operation and has now sold off the controlling interest in their auto finance segment. This is the only area of their business that was reported to have made money in 2005.

At one time I suggested that the long term goal of companies with legacy issues would be the eradication of those legacy issues through bankruptcy or total reliance on foreign production. Is it getting closer to that time?

In living with my new three paragraph rule on the world as I see it, you will have to look at May to get the rest of the story.

Fund Business:

Cost Savings:

Last year the Fund reviewed many of the members with unfavorable loss ratios. You probably have heard some of these members complain about the perceived “shabby” treatment they received from the Fund when about seventeen of them were eliminated from the group.

To clarify what happened; the members that were costing the rest of the members money and were not aggressively pursuing a resolution to their unresolved problems were cancelled. Many more members were reviewed in the process, but were not eliminated due to the circumstances surrounding their losses and the attitude of the owners/management toward resolving the claims and the loss control issues that have exacerbated the claim situation.

How has that worked out? Last year at this time over 43% of the premium collected YTD had been allocated to pay claims; this year under 18% of the premium collected YTD has been

allocated to pay claims. Over the years the Fund’s loss ratio has moved up and down, but since the beginning of the year something has had a profound effect. If this trend is to hold, the Fund would save over one half of the money spent last year on claims; that means a whole lot more money would be available to the remaining Fund members for dividends or discounts. I don’t usually wish time away but this could be a very interesting year.

Payroll Audit:

The payroll audit for the 2005 Fund year is continuing on schedule and should be completed by the middle of May. This fact is important for two reasons; the Fund can then complete the annual CPA audit and, then once that is completed, the Fund will be in a position to distribute the previously approved dividend. This dividend is expected to exceed \$2,800,000 and will be a welcome addition to the continuing benefits of belonging to the Fund.

Loss Control:

The staff of the loss control department is busy adapting to being short-handed since the beginning of the year. Bill Hoke is continuing his search for a qualified candidate with the specialized skills and training that are necessary for successfully mastering the work of the loss control department. We are proud of the quality of the inspection you receive from the MTA WCF staff and would not want you to be short changed by just putting anyone on this important job. If you have any questions or feel that you need special assistance, please contact Bill Hoke or me at 248-488-1172.

The Trustees have again authorized the printing of the safety posters. These will be issued as soon as the final information is available in a printer-ready format. Many of you know that these posters are usually sold for over \$60 a set through catalogs; if you need a set, please contact your loss control consultant.

What do we do now?

The state recently handed the Fund some unwelcome news when we were notified that two companies involved with an existing member were denied coverage in the group due to an underwriting technicality. The two related companies were performing the exact operations of the existing member; but, due to governmental intervention, the members were required to be cancelled. This is not the first time we have been the unfortunate recipient of over-regulation and it will be the basis for considerable discussion amongst the Trustees in the very near future.

The Fund is not being permitted to change as the industry changes and this is in effect limiting future growth and, in some cases, actually forcing members to seek coverage else-

where. It is hard to accomplish the goal of providing consistent cost effective workers' compensation coverage with the regulations required of the Fund by the Workers' Compensation Agency.

Other issues not of our making:

Many of you may know of David Plawecki; he was a champion of workers' compensation groups and a good friend of the businesses in them. Mr. Plawecki recently took a sabbatical from state government and left in his place a more liberal leaning bureaucracy.

New on the table are:

Activity to keyhole voluntary compensation payments as admission of liability for a claim.

Require pre-approval by the Agency Director to terminate benefits to an allegedly injured employee.

A plan to Fund the Workers' Compensation Agency through fees and penalties (now it is funded by the general funds).

Development of a facility (funded by assessments) for employees that work for uninsured employers.

The liberalization of the system—at a time when we should be closely monitoring costs—is a luxury we cannot afford. We are continuing to monitor the attempts at liberalization as we seek to find a way to improve our profitability and return on investment to the Fund members.

Work hard and be safe!

The OSHA Top Ten List

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released their 'Top Ten List' of the ten most violated OSHA standards for fiscal year 2005. There is little change in the list from 2004. The most cited standard continues to be Scaffolding—General Requirements. New to the list is Ladders, bumping out Mechanical Power Transmissions Apparatus. The list includes data about citations issued from October 1, 2004 through August 30, 2005.

Overall, according to OSHA, the number of violations among the ten most cited standards is down from last year. However, both scaffolding and hazard communication violations rose 6% from last year and fall protection violations rose more than 15% from last year. Of these top ten most cited violations, 10% involved the failure to establish a written safety program or failure to provide adequate training and 50% of all violations are attributable to the top ten list.

OSHA looks at the Bureau of Labor Statistics data to determine illnesses and injuries common to an industry. OSHA inspectors look for hazards that are a common problem. The director of OSHA's enforcement programs noted that violations per inspection have increased. Employers should investigate the Bureau's list common to their industries and structure their safety program and compliance efforts accordingly.

Here is The OSHA Top Ten List:

1. Scaffolding (General Requirements) (1926.451)—Employers are bound to protect employees from falls and falling objects while working on or near scaffolding at heights of 10 feet or more. (8,130 violations)
2. Hazard Communications (1910.1200)—Failure to develop and maintain a written program is by far the most pervasive type of this standard violation. (6,641 violations)
3. Fall Protection (General Requirements) (1926.501)—Employers are required to provide protection for employees working above 6 feet. (5,504 violations)
4. Respiratory Protection (1910.134)—Employers are required to establish and maintain a respiratory protection program. The majority of the violations involved failure to establish a program, failure to provide medical evaluations to determine employee ability to use a respirator and failure to provide respirators. (3,904 violations)
5. Lockout/Tagout (1910.147)—This standard outlines minimum performance requirements for controlling hazardous energy during machinery maintenance. (3,711 violations)
6. Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178)—Most violations were due to inadequate training. (2,871 violations)
7. Electrical (Wiring Methods, Components, and Equipment for General Use) (1910.305)—This standard covers the grounding of electrical equipment. (2,785 violations)
8. Machine Guarding (General Requirements) (1910.212)—Most violations were due to failure to provide and use proper safety guarding procedures. (2,743 violations)
9. Electrical (General Requirements) (1910.303)—This differs from the electrical wiring standard in that it covers general safety requirements for designing electrical systems. (2,120 violations)
10. Ladders (1926.1053)—This standard covers the general requirements for ladder safety. (2,054 violations)

Sources: Occupational Hazards; FASC Safety Council News; Bureau of Labor Statistics

Governor Granholm, Charter One Bank Announced a Partnership to Spur Job Creation

Governor Jennifer Granholm and Charter One Bank have announced an unprecedented partnership in which Charter One Bank will offer \$200 million in loan funds at a very low interest rate to companies that commit to creating or expanding jobs in Michigan.

The loan program is an integral part of the Governor's comprehensive Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow economic plan for Michigan. The program is available to borrowers starting immediately and will be serviced through Charter One Bank offices located in twelve counties throughout Michigan—primarily Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb.

Eligible companies include any public or privately owned business in an array of industry sectors, including manufacturing, distribution centers, and more. The company may use the money for investing in equipment, machinery, building acquisition or remodeling. A minimum of one full-time job for every \$40,000 borrowed must be created within three years of the completion of the project. The minimum loan size is \$1 million and the maximum is \$10 million. The interest rate is at a fixed rate of 4.99% (2.51% below prime rate) for the life of the loan for those loans granted during the first year of the program. After 12 months, the offering rate for the program may be reset and would be available for any loan booked in the second year of the program. No fees or points are charged if the loan is approved and closed. The terms of the loan for machinery and equipment are five years, fully amortized and for building acquisition and remodeling, five years, amortized on a 15-year schedule.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) will market this unique program to companies already in Michigan and those businesses considering relocating to the state. The agency will also conduct annual audits to certify that borrowers fulfill job creation commitments. Companies interested in obtaining more information about the program can log onto www.michigan.org or e-mail to medceconomic@michigan.org or contact MEDC at 888-522-0103.

Happy Easter
from
MTA!



MTA's 72nd Annual Meeting and Open House

We are holding the 72nd Annual Meeting and Open House of the Michigan Tooling Association on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at the Association's offices in Farmington Hills.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 11:45 a.m. and will be followed by a luncheon. Members will have an opportunity to meet the MTA Board of Directors, ask questions and provide input to the Association. There will be no charge for MTA members attending this event.

If you didn't receive your invitation, please call Ron at 248-488-0300 ext. 1306 or to download a faxable reservation form or map to our office, visit our website at www.mtaonline.com.

Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act Signed

President Bush signed the Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act on March 16, 2006. This legislation helps protect the rights of American consumers, workers, and entrepreneurs by strengthening our laws against counterfeit labels and packaging; by strengthening penalties for counterfeiters; and by giving prosecutors new tools to stop those who defraud American consumers.

The law covers a diverse spectrum of manufactured goods from aerospace, automotive, electrical imaging supplies, pharmaceutical, apparel and footwear to groceries and distilled spirits. The law provides not only for the forfeiture of counterfeited goods, but also the equipment used to make them.

The law also addresses the "import hole" loophole. While it was already illegal to manufacture, ship or sell counterfeit products, this law closes the loophole that allowed the shipment of falsified labels or packaging, which counterfeiters then attach to fake products in order to pass off poorly made items as brand-name goods.

Sources: White House news release; NAM



Governor Granholm has signed a bill to **increase Michigan's minimum wage** by \$1.80 an hour to \$6.95 effective October 1, 2006. Under the bill, the wage would jump to \$7.15 an hour on July 1, 2007 and to \$7.40 an hour on July 1, 2008. This will be the first increase in minimum wage since 1997.

Income taxes must be postmarked by midnight Monday, April 17, 2006. The extra 2 days is due to the 15th falling on a Saturday this year.

Don't forget that if you have an adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less, you can file your federal income tax form electronically for free. For more information, visit the website www.irs.gov.

Taxpayers who file on time can access information about the status of their income tax return online. For State of Michigan returns, click on the 'Check My Income Tax Info' box on the state's treasury website at www.michigan.gov/treasury. For Federal Income Tax returns, click on 'Where's My Refund?' on the IRS website at www.irs.gov.



Remember to visit the MTA website at www.mtaonline.com for all the up-to-date news and information you need to stay competitive in the tooling industry!

THE MARKETPLACE



Personnel Available:

Accounting Professional with CPA certification seeks position that will challenge and utilize skills, experience and education. Background includes: 6 years controller experience, full P&L responsibility, benefit administration and extensive computer skills. Over 9 years experience in the tool & die industry. **Ask for Resume 06-03.**

Equipment for Sale:

1984 Metlsaw Plate Saw. Cuts up to 4" thick. Carbon and alloy as well as stainless and aluminum.

**Contact: Don Sazama @ Pioneer Steel Corporation
313-933-9400 ext. 305**

Building for Sale:

Building for sale near I-696 and Groesbeck.

- ❖ Building size: 35,000 sq. feet;
- ❖ Lot size: 3.5 acres;
- ❖ High bays; heavy cranes; and
- ❖ Extremely well maintained.

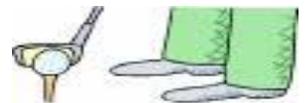
Contact: David Theuerkorn at (586) 778-8320 ext. 201

Can Tax Policy Curb Workaholism?

A University of Michigan economist from the Stephen M. Ross School of Business says tax policy may moderate workaholism, just as cigarette excise taxes can curtail smoking. Joel Slemrod proposes a progressive income tax burden (those with higher incomes pay a higher proportion of income tax) on workaholics, who tend to make more money. "High-income, highly educated people are particularly likely to suffer from workaholism with regard to deciding when to retire—going cold turkey on their addictive behavior." Workaholism has been linked to a variety of health problems, including exhaustion, stress and high blood pressure, and can take an emotional and mental toll on both the worker and his family.

Source: University of Michigan, School of Business

MTA's 71st Annual Golf Outing & Dinner



MTA's 71st Annual Golf Outing & Dinner is coming Thursday, June 22, 2006. It will be held at the Fox Hills Golf Club in Plymouth, Michigan. Check your mail in the very near future for your invitation and reservation form or check the MTA website at www.mtaonline.com for more information including a downloadable reservation form and map to be posted soon.

Plan to join us again this year at the longest running annual golf event in Michigan.

Be a Part of America's Waterways Watch Campaign!

The Michigan Secretary of State, Terri Land, announced that boaters and others can take a stand in protecting Michigan waterways by reporting suspicious activities as part of the America's Waterway Watch campaign.

Area residents are the best sources for identifying suspicious or unusual behavior around their hometown waterways because they are familiar with their communities and know when something is out of place, says Land. By reporting suspect behavior to authorities, everyone can help do their part to protect the state and the country.

Residents are asked to report activities such as unattended vessels or vehicles in unusual locations such as near bridges, tunnels or fuel docks; lights flashing between boats; unusual night operations; recovering or tossing items into/onto the waterway or shoreline; or people near critical facilities who do not fit the surrounding environment, such as individuals wearing improper attire.

Residents should report suspicious activities to the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 or, for immediate danger, call 911. For a brochure giving more information, visit one of the Secretary of State branch offices or visit www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mp/AWW_Website/need.htm.



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: Joseph Busby 800-428-4143
- ❖ **Freedom One Financial Group** (401(k) programs)
Provider contact: Leslie Goodwin 248-620-8100
- ❖ **John M. Packer & Associates** (unemployment)
Provider contact: Nathan Wiest 800-482-2971
- ❖ **Custom Telecom** (phone/communications)
Provider contact: Kathy Schaumburger 866-332-1200

MTA receives a benefit from its Endorsed Providers when you, as a member, patronize them. This is one way we are able to maintain the level of dues.

Inflation Talk

CPI-W Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
Feb 2006	194.2	578.6	672.8*
Jan	194.0	577.7	672.1*
Dec 2005	192.5	573.3	666.9*
Nov	193.4	576.1	670.0*
Oct	195.2	581.5	676.2*
Sept	195.0	580.9	675.5*
August	192.1	572.3	665.5*
July	191.0	568.8	661.7*

CPI-U All Urban Consumers

Month	82-84	1967	57-59
Feb 2006	198.7	595.2	692.2*
Jan	198.3	593.9	690.8*
Dec 2005	196.8	589.4	685.6*
Nov	197.6	592.0	688.4*
Oct	199.2	596.7	694.0*
Sept	198.8	595.4	692.6*
August	196.4	588.2	684.2*
July	195.4	585.2	680.7*

Note: February 2006 CPI-W represents a 3.7% increase from one year ago; CPI-U a 3.6% 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®

A Publication of the Michigan Tooling Association

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Farmington Hills, MI 48333 Fax (248) 488-0500

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Deadline for submission of news, articles, letters, cartoons and Marketplace items is the 15th of each month.

Send to MTA—Attention: **Tool Talk** Editor.