MACROECONOMIC OUTLOOK

US Total Industrial Production during the 12 months through March was up 3.8% from the year-ago level. All three major segments of the industrial economy are rising at a slowing pace. US Mining Production, up 12.9%, is growing at the fastest rate, followed by US Electric and Gas Utilities Production, up 2.9%, and US Total Manufacturing Production, up 2.6%. Total Industrial Production activity will peak around the middle of this year before declining into early 2020.

Ensure that you are not raising your own prices too rapidly during the next few quarters, as this could make your products less competitive.

Producer Prices are rising at a slowing rate, along with the industrial economy. This trend will likely persist into mid-2020. Although we are not expecting Producer Prices as a whole to decline during this time, prices for certain commodities, including steel and oil, will likely fall from their current levels. Ensure that you are not raising your own prices too rapidly during the next few quarters, as this could make your products less competitive. If your costs are falling, consider passing some of your savings on to your customers.

The OECD’s US Business Confidence Index is suggesting that companies’ opinions regarding their current situation and immediate future are growing less optimistic. This indicator, which typically leads Industrial Production by about two to three quarters, is signaling that business cycle decline in the industrial economy will persist through at least much of this year. As confidence in the economy wanes, it will become increasingly important to communicate the value of your products and services. Consumers will be increasingly interested in lower-cost options. Ensure that your clients understand the unique benefits that your company provides, so that they will be less inclined to seek substitutes as the business cycle declines.

MAKE YOUR MOVE™

Market your products with a lower cost basis to appeal to increasingly price-conscious consumers as the business cycle moves downward this year and in early 2020.

INVESTOR UPDATE

The stock market is showing positive signs despite cyclical decline in the industrial economy. However, it is too early to determine whether stock market conditions will improve further during this cycle.

ITR ECONOMICS’ LONG-TERM VIEW

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

Retail Sales
• Retail Sales during the 12 months through March were up 4.2% on a year-over-year basis
• Retail Sales will grow at a slowing rate into the middle of next year
• Slowing inflation will place downward pressure on Retail Sales during the next few quarters

Wholesale Trade
• Wholesale Trade was up 6.1% from a year ago
• Wholesale Trade of Durable Goods, up 6.5%, and Wholesale Trade of Nondurable Goods, up 5.7%, are both in slowing growth trends
• The Durable Goods segment will likely avoid recession during this cycle

Auto Production
• North America Light Vehicle Production was down 0.2% from the year-ago level
• Production will decline in the latter half of this year and into early 2020
• US Heavy-Duty Truck Production was up 16.0% but is unlikely to rise much further during this cycle

Manufacturing
• Total Manufacturing Production was up 2.7% from one year ago
• Production tentatively transitioned to a slowing growth trend
• The manufacturing sector will contract mildly in the latter half of this year and in early 2020

Rotary Rig
• The Rotary Rig Count was up 11.4% from a year ago
• The Rig Count has been relatively flat in recent months
• Oil Prices are unlikely to rise much above their current level, which will likely keep the Rig Count from rising much above its current level

Capital Goods New Orders
• Nondefense Capital Goods New Orders were up 5.2% year over year
• New Orders will decline in the latter half of this year and in early 2020
• Defense Capital Goods New Orders were up 19.5%
• Defense spending will be relatively flat in the second half of the year

Total Nonresidential Construction
• Nonresidential Construction was up 5.4% from a year ago
• Nonresidential Construction is growing at an accelerating pace
• The Warehouse and Manufacturing buildings segments will be areas of opportunity in 2019

Total Residential Construction
• Residential Construction was down 0.3% from the year-ago level
• Construction recently transitioned to a recessionary trend
• Both Single-Unit Housing Starts and Multi-Unit Housing Starts are declining, but the Single-Unit segment will recover later this year

LEADING INDICATOR SNAPSHOT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>3Q18</th>
<th>4Q18</th>
<th>1Q19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITR Leading Indicator™</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITR Retail Sales Leading Indicator™</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Leading Indicator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US ISM PMI (Purchasing Managers Index)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Total Capacity Utilization Rate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Green denotes that the indicator signals cyclical rise for the economy in the given quarter. Red denotes the opposite.
- The majority of these leading indicators are signaling that US Industrial Production will trend along the back side of the business cycle through at least the end of this year
- The new ITR Retail Sales Leading Indicator™ is showing that cyclical decline will persist throughout this year, but rise could take hold around mid-2020
- The US ISM PMI has shown some positivity in recent months, which would bode well for cyclical rise in early 2020, but more data is needed to confirm this trend
A CLOSER LOOK: Tax Reform

The Impact of Tax Reform on Small Business

By: Alex Chausovsky

What you need to know: We now have evidence confirming that 2018’s tax code changes did have a positive impact on the economy.

Tax reform was a notable economic development in 2018, with changes to the codes for both corporate taxes and individual income taxes receiving substantial coverage in the mainstream press as well as by ITR Economics. We now have evidence confirming that these tax code changes did have a positive impact on the economy, extending the Phase B, Accelerating Growth, trend by approximately six months. We also have evidence that the boost from tax reform is waning; we will not see the same impact on the economy in 2019.

One important component of last year’s tax reform received relatively little attention, even though it affected a great deal of small businesses, and individuals, in America. This critical piece focuses on Qualified Business Income (QBI) deductions.

A body of evidence, some of which is provided below, shows that while the QBI deduction component of 2018’s tax reform package likely did stimulate small business optimism and investment, primarily in the latter part of last year, its effects are already fading and it is unlikely to yield similar levels of investment activity in 2019.

This aligns with ITR Economics’ expectations of a general macroeconomic slowdown over the course of this year, and the likelihood of a mild downturn in the US industrial economy in the first half of 2020. It underscores the need for small businesses to shift their mindsets and their actions to reflect the reality of being on the back side of the business cycle.

QBI is income derived from a pass-through entity, which is a business that “passes through” all or most of its income to the owner, who then claims it as income on his or her personal tax return. QBI includes business income after accounting for W-2 wages paid to employees, owner-guaranteed payments related to business activity, and other forms of business-related expenses incurred by the company owner.

Firms that qualify for the deduction include all pass-through businesses with incomes below $157,500 for those who file taxes as individuals, or $315,000 for those who file jointly. Many sole proprietorships, S corporations, and partnerships, as well as some trusts and estates, meet these criteria. Business owners are subject to restricted or lesser benefits from the deduction when their incomes exceed the $157,500/$315,000 threshold.

The QBI deduction is calculated as the lesser of:

1. 20% of a business’ qualified business income, plus 20% of qualified real estate investment trust (REIT) dividends and qualified publicly traded partnerships (PTPs) income.
2. 20% of taxable income minus net capital gains (net capital gains are defined differently for the purposes of the QBI; it includes dividends and investment income).

These amounts are written off from the business income that must be reported by the owner/taxpayer before any other deductions.

Although information that directly reflects the effects of the QBI deduction on small business investment is limited, data that measures overall planned small business investment and actual small business investment is readily available for analysis.

There are two primary datasets that illustrate small business investment intentions and actual activity: Small Business Capital Expenditure Plans and Small Business Actual Capital Expenditures.

US Small Business Capital Expenditure Plans reached a cyclical peak in November of 2017, with a year-over-year growth rate of 10.9%. This highlights the optimism for the future exhibited by small businesses during that time. For the following nine months, the year-over-year comparison declined, reaching a low of 2.4% by August 2018 and mirroring waning small business optimism.

However, starting in September and lasting through the end of last year, capital expenditure plans by small businesses accelerated, partially reflecting the positive momentum associated with the boost from the QBI deduction. That momentum did not carry over into this year, with the year-over-year growth rate generally slowing through April of 2019, the latest month with available data. This indicates waning small business capital investment plans during the first four months of this year.

US Small Business Actual Capital Expenditures data, which measures the percentage of US small businesses making actual capital expenditures during the last six months, illustrates that the slowdown in investment intent has already translated to a decline in actual investment. The raw data for this series peaked at 61.0% in December 2018 and has since declined to 58.0% as of this April. When assessed on a rate-of-change basis, the April figure is 4.9% lower than the April 2018 figure, showing that fewer small businesses are pulling the trigger on capital investments so far this year.

Both the recent slowdown in Small Business Capital Expenditure Plans and the decline in the Actual Capital Expenditures data illustrate what ITR Economics has been saying for quite some time: The downside pressure on the economy is real, it will likely persist into 2020, and companies large and small need to act accordingly.
In the news, it appears that tensions are rising again with China over trade. What’s going on, and what does this mean for my business?

Negotiations between the US and China over a possible trade deal appear to have suffered a setback in recent weeks. The US has since raised tariffs to 25% from 10% on about $300 billion worth of imports. China retaliated with tariffs of their own, and the US is now considering additional tariffs to retaliate for the retaliation. US businesses and consumers will see an inflationary effect from this trade war. However, this may be masked somewhat by the current slowing rise in inflation. US companies selling into China may find that their prices are less competitive than those of non-US firms. This could lead Chinese firms to switch from US goods to lower-cost alternatives. Fortunately, the two sides have not broken off communications, and further discussions are planned for June. A trade war harms both countries, incentivizing both governments to make a deal. In the event that no deal is reached, firms should plan for more expensive imports and less-competitive exports for at least the near term.

Please send questions to questions@itreconomics.com

James Giles, Economist at ITR Economics™, answers:

Negotiations between the US and China over a possible trade deal appear to have suffered a setback in recent weeks. The US has since raised tariffs to 25% from 10% on about $300 billion worth of imports. China retaliated with tariffs of their own, and the US is now considering additional tariffs to retaliate for the retaliation. US businesses and consumers will see an inflationary effect from this trade war. However, this may be masked somewhat by the current slowing rise in inflation. US companies selling into China may find that their prices are less competitive than those of non-US firms. This could lead Chinese firms to switch from US goods to lower-cost alternatives. Fortunately, the two sides have not broken off communications, and further discussions are planned for June. A trade war harms both countries, incentivizing both governments to make a deal. In the event that no deal is reached, firms should plan for more expensive imports and less-competitive exports for at least the near term.

Concerned about the slowing economy?

Our personalized programs will show you how this will impact your business directly! Contact us today to learn more about our services.
Executive Overview

Leading indicators are signaling that US Industrial Production will trend along the back side of the business cycle through the rest of 2019.

Permits are declining through much of the country.

Both Single-Unit and Multi-Unit Housing Starts are declining. Single-Unit Starts will recover later this year.

The US has reached an agreement with Canada and Mexico to lift tariffs on steel and aluminum, which will allow for the import of less-expensive metals.

Prices for the commodities included in this report are generally declining.

Trends At-a-Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2005-present</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Current Growth Rate</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freight Industry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Truck Tonnage Index</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>Tonnage is in a slowing growth trend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Trucking Conditions Index</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>The Index reading is declining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Transportation Services Freight Index</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>Freight Services are rising at a slowing pace.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## National Housing Industry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Housing Industry</th>
<th>2005-present</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Current Growth Rate</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Single-Unit Housing Starts</td>
<td>D ▼</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
<td>Starts are falling but will recover later this year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Multi-Unit Housing Starts</td>
<td>D ▼</td>
<td>-2.3</td>
<td>Activity will decline through the remainder of 2019.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Remodeling Index</td>
<td>D ▼</td>
<td>-7.5</td>
<td>The pace of decline for remodeling activity is increasing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Regional Housing Industry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Housing Industry</th>
<th>2005-present</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Current Growth Rate</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Housing Permits</td>
<td>D ▼</td>
<td>-5.0</td>
<td>Permits were below the year-ago level in every state in the region with the exception of Arizona.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest Housing Permits</td>
<td>D ▼</td>
<td>-2.4</td>
<td>Permits in Minnesota were up 14.6%, but the region as a whole is in a recession.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central Housing Permits</td>
<td>A =</td>
<td>-1.3</td>
<td>Michigan Permits, down 11.0%, were declining at the fastest rate in this region.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Housing Permits</td>
<td>A ▼</td>
<td>-2.7</td>
<td>Massachusetts and New Jersey are areas of weakness, down 23.3% and 11.1%, respectively.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Housing Permits</td>
<td>C =</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>Florida Permits, up 17.1% year over year, are leading the region.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central Housing Permits</td>
<td>C =</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>Texas is an area of opportunity. Permits were up 11.3%.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Commodities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodities</th>
<th>2005-present</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Current Growth Rate</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steel Prices</td>
<td>D ▼</td>
<td>-11.6</td>
<td>Prices will decline through the remainder of 2019.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum Prices</td>
<td>D ▼</td>
<td>-12.2</td>
<td>Prices are generally declining and will likely decline further during the next few quarters.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastics Pipe, Pipe Fitting, and Unlaminated Profile Shape Prices</td>
<td>C ▼</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Prices have declined mildly in recent months but are still above the year-ago level.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Prices</td>
<td>D =</td>
<td>-9.6</td>
<td>Prices have been relatively flat for the past three months.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Leading Indicator Signals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leading Indicator Signals</th>
<th>2005-present</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Current Growth Rate</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITR Leading Indicator</td>
<td>C ▼</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>The Indicator rose in April after generally declining over the last year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Leading Indicator</td>
<td>C =</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>The US Leading Indicator is signaling cyclical decline in US Industrial Production will persist into at least late 2019.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing Managers Index</td>
<td>D ▼</td>
<td>-8.8</td>
<td>The PMI is signaling that Industrial Production will trend along the back side of the business cycle throughout 2019.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nondefense Capital Goods New Orders</td>
<td>C ▲</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Spending is unlikely to rise much further during this business cycle.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Moving Total/Moving Average

Monthly Moving Total (MMT) vs Monthly Moving Average (MMA):

Averages are used when the data cannot be compounded, such as an index, percent, price level, or interest rates. Totals are used for things where it makes sense to add the data together. For example, units sold or total dollars spent.

3MMT/A and 12MMT/A:

A 3-month or 12-month moving total/average is the total/average of the monthly data for the most recent 3 and 12 months, respectively. The 3MMT/A illustrates the seasonal changes inherent to the data series. The 12MMT/A removes seasonal variation in order to derive the underlying cyclical trend. It is also referred to as the annual total or annual average.

Rate-of-Change:

A rate-of-change figure is the ratio comparing a data series during a specified time period to the same period one year ago. Rates-of-Change are expressed in terms of the annual percent change in an MMT or MMA, 3MMT/A, and actual monthly data.

Rates-of-change reveal whether activity levels are rising or falling compared to last year. A rate-of-change trend illustrates and measures cyclical change and trends in the data.

ITR Economics' three commonly used rates-of-change are the 1/12, 3/12, and 12/12, which represent the year-over-year percent change of a single month, 3MMT/A, and 12MMT/A (respectively).

A rate-of-change above 0 indicates the data is higher than one year prior, while a rate-of-change below 0 indicates the data is below one year earlier.

Business Cycle:

The data trends and rates-of-change identify positions in the business cycle. Those positions are:

- **A** (Recovery): 12/12 is rising below 0 and the data trend is either heading toward a low or is in the early stages of recovery. This is the first positive phase of the business cycle.
- **B** (Accelerating Growth): 12/12 is rising above 0, data trend is accelerating in its ascent, and growth is occurring above year-ago levels. This is the second positive phase of the business cycle.
- **C** (Slowing Growth): 12/12 is declining but remains above 0 and the data trend is decelerating in its ascent or has stopped its rise, but it is still above last year. This is the first negative phase of the business cycle.
- **D** (Recession): 12/12 is below 0 and the data trend is at levels below the year-earlier level. This is the final phase and second negative phase of the business cycle.
Phase A Management Objectives™

1. Model positive leadership (culture turns to behavior)
2. Establish tactical goals that lead to strategic achievement
3. Develop a system for measurement and accountability
4. Align compensation plans with objectives 2 and 3
5. Be keenly aware of the Break Even point and check it regularly
6. Judiciously expand credit
7. Check distributions systems for readiness to accommodate increased activity
8. Review and uncover competitive advantages
9. Invest in customer market research
10. Improve efficiencies with investment in technology and software
11. Start to phase out marginal opportunities
12. Add sales staff
13. Build inventories (consider lead time and turn rate)
14. Introduce new product lines
15. Determine capital equipment needs and place orders
16. Begin advertising and sales promotions
17. Hire "top" people
18. Implement plans for facilities expansion
19. Implement training programs

Phase B Management Objectives™

1. Accelerate training
2. Check the process flow for possible future bottlenecks
3. Continue to build inventory
4. Increase prices
5. Consider outside manufacturing sources if internal pressures are becoming tight
6. Find the answer to “What is next?”
7. Open distribution centers
8. Use improved cash flow to improve corporate governance
9. Use cash to create new competitive advantages
10. Watch your debt-to-equity ratio and ROI
11. Maintain/pursue quality; don’t let complacency set in
12. Stay in stock on A items, and be careful with C items
13. Consider selling the business in a climate of maximum “goodwill”
14. Penetrate new selected accounts
15. Develop plan for lower activity in traditional, mature markets
16. Freeze all expansion plans (unless related to “what is next”)
17. Spin off undesirable operations
18. Consider taking on subcontract work if the backside of the cycle looks recessionary
19. Stay realistic—beware of linear budgets
20. Begin missionary efforts into new markets
21. Communicate competitive advantages to maintain margins
Phase C Management Objectives™

1. Begin workforce reductions
2. Set budget reduction goals by department
3. Avoid long-term purchase commitments late in the price cycle
4. Concentrate on cash and balance sheet
5. Reduce advertising and inventories
6. De-emphasize commodity/services in anticipation of diminishing margins
7. Weed out inferior products (lose the losers)
8. Encourage distributors to decrease inventory
9. Identify and overcome any competitive disadvantages
10. Make sure you and the management team are not in denial
11. Cross train key people
12. Watch Accounts Receivable aging
13. Increase the requirements for justifying capital expenditures
14. Evaluate vendors for strength (don’t get caught honoring their warranties with no one to accept returned goods)
15. Manage the backlog through pricing and delivery; try to fill the funnel

Phase D Management Objectives™

1. Continue force reduction
2. Reduce advertising – be very selective
3. Continue to avoid long-term purchase commitments
4. Review all lease agreements
5. Increase the requirements for justifying capital equipment
6. Eliminate all overtime
7. Reduce overhead labor
8. Combine departments with like capabilities and reduce management
9. Select targets of opportunity where price will get the business
10. Tighten credit policies – increase scrutiny
11. Look for opportunistic purchases
12. Grab market share as your competitor dies
13. Prepare training programs
14. Negotiate union contracts, if possible
15. Develop advertising and marketing programs
16. Enter or renegotiate long-term leases
17. Look for additional vendors
18. Consider capital expenditures and acquisitions in light of market-by-market potential
19. Make acquisitions – use pessimism to your advantage
20. Lead with optimism and “can do” attitude to mitigate employee anxiety
Appendix - Market Definitions

US ATA Truck Tonnage Index - Index of freight tonnage hauled by trucks, published by the American Trucking Association. Index, 2015 = 100, NSA. The index represents the change in tonnage actually hauled by fleets.

US Trucking Conditions Index - FTR's Trucking Conditions Index, in which a number greater than zero equals a positive environment for trucking and a number less than 0 equals a negative environment (NSA).

US Transportation Services Freight Index - The Transportation Services Index Freight Index, created by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), measures the movement of freight. The index, which is seasonally adjusted, combines available data on freight traffic. The Transportation Services Index, or TSI, is a monthly measure of the volume of services performed by the for-hire transportation sector. The index covers the activities of for-hire freight carriers. The TSI tells us how the output of transportation services has increased or decreased from month to month. The movement of the index over time can be compared with other economic measures to understand the relationship of transportation to long-term changes in the economy. The Index consists of for-hire trucking (parcel services are not included); freight railroad services (including rail-based intermodal shipments such as containers on flat cars); inland waterway traffic; pipeline movements (including principally petroleum and petroleum products and natural gas); and air freight. The index does not include international or coastal steamship movements, private trucking, courier services, or the United States Postal Service. Index, 2000=100.

US Single Family Housing - Total number of privately owned single-family housing units started in the United States. Start of construction occurs when excavation begins for the footings or foundation of a building. Source: US Census Bureau. Measured in millions of units, not seasonally adjusted (NSA).

US Multi Family Housing Starts - Total number of privately-owned multi-family housing units started in the United States. Start of construction occurs when excavation begins for the footings or foundation of a building. Source: US Census Bureau. Measured in thousands of units, not seasonally adjusted (NSA).

National Remodeling Market Index for Current Market Conditions - Remodeling Market Index of Current Market Conditions in the United States. The Current Market Conditions Index is a weighted average of 3 components: .3 × Major Additions & Alterations +.4 × Minor Additions & Alterations + .3 × Maintenance & Repair. An index over 50 indicates higher activity than the previous quarter. (SA)


Midwest Region Permits - New privately owned housing units authorized by permit in the Midwest region of the United States, measured in thousands of units, NSA. The Midwest region includes Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

North Central Region Permits - New privately owned housing units authorized by permit in the North Central region of the United States, measured in thousands of units, NSA. The North Central region includes Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania.

Appendix - Market Definitions

Southeast Region Permits - New privately owned housing units authorized by permit in the Southeast region of the United States, measured in thousands of units, NSA. The Southeast region includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

South Central Region Permits - New privately owned housing units authorized by permit in the South Central region of the United States, measured in thousands of units, NSA. The South Central region includes Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Arkansas, and Louisiana.


US Plastics Pipe, Pipe Fitting, and Unlaminated Profile Shape Manufacturing Producer Price Index - Producer price index for plastics pipe, pipe fitting, and unlaminated profile shape manufacturing in the US. This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in manufacturing plastics pipes and pipe fittings, and plastics profile shapes such as rod, tube, and sausage casings. NAICS code: 32612. Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Index, Dec 2003 = 100, (NSA).


ITR Leading Indicator - The ITR Leading Indicator is a proprietary index comprised of consumer, industrial, financial, and global components. Movements in the Leading Indicator suggest the possible course of business cycle movements in US Industrial Production, a measure of the overall economy's activity, approximately three quarters in advance. A reading of zero or lower is indicative of recession.

US Leading Indicator - Comprised of 10 components: average weekly hours, manufacturing; average weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance; manufacturers' new orders, consumer goods and materials; ISM® new orders index; manufacturers' new orders, nondefense capital goods excluding aircraft orders; building permits, new private housing units; stock prices, 500 common stocks; Leading Credit Index™; interest rate spread, 10-year Treasury bonds less federal funds; and average consumer expectations for business conditions. Source: The Conference Board. Expectations index, seasonally adjusted.

US Purchasing Managers Index - The Institute for Supply Management's US manufacturing index is based on: new orders (seasonally adjusted), production (seasonally adjusted), employment (seasonally adjusted), supplier deliveries (seasonally adjusted), and inventories. Source: Institute for Supply Management. Diffusion index: a reading above 50 percent indicates that the manufacturing economy is generally expanding; below 50 percent indicates that it is generally declining.

US Nondefense Capital Goods New Orders (Excluding Aircraft) - New orders for nondefense capital goods, excluding aircraft, in the United States. Includes farm machinery and equipment, construction machinery, mining machinery, nondefense small arms and ordnance, industrial machinery, commercial and service industry equipment, other general purpose machinery, photographic equipment, metalworking machinery, turbine and generator manufacturing, power transmission equipment, pumps and compressors, material handling equipment, electronic computers, computer storage devices and peripheral equipment, communications equipment, nondefense search and navigation equipment, electrometrical equipment, electrical equipment, heavy duty truck manufacturing, railroad rolling stock, nondefense ship and boat building, office and institutional furniture, and medical equipment and supplies. Source: US Census Bureau. Measured in billions of dollars, not seasonally adjusted (NSA).