



MAFSI BUSINESS BAROMETER REPORTS -1.1% DECREASE IN SALES FOR Q3/03, Compared to the Same Time Last Year

Il regions of the country reported a decrease in actual sales overall for third quarter 2003, compared to the same time last year. Canada reported an increase at 2.8 percent. In looking ahead at fourth quarter 2003, MAFSI reps from across the U.S. and Canada forecast no growth in sales. This is according to the latest results of the MAFSI Business Barometer.

Compared to Q3/02, the MAFSI Business Barometer revealed that during third quarter 2003 overall:

- Equipment sales decreased -1.4%
- Supply sales decreased -0.8%
- Tabletop sales decreased -0.7%

- Furniture sales increased +1.1%
- Overall sales -1.1%

For further details on your region of the country please see graphs.

Manufacturers' representatives were surveyed from agencies across the United States and Canada for the MAFSI Business Barometer Survey. The quarterly survey is a leading economic indicator in the foodservice industry that provides an invaluable outlook on sales trends and forecast regionally and nationally. This survey is the industry's most definitive non-food sales/trend indicator.

MAFSI releases the Business Barometer on a quarterly basis. Fourth quarter results will be released the first week in February.

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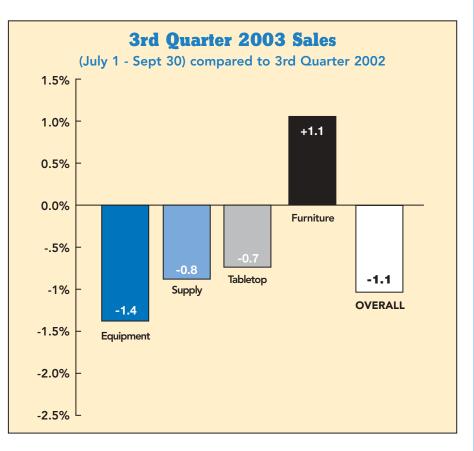
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businessbarometer

MAFSI Business Confidence Index for 4th Quarter 2003

(Oct 1 – Dec 31) compared to 4th Quarter 2002

All Regions



Projected 4th Quarter 2003 Sales

(Oct 1 – Dec 31) compared to 4th Quarter 2002

NORTHEAST +0.5%

SOUTH -1.7%

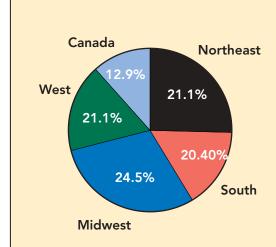
MIDWEST -1.6%

WEST +0.7%

CANADA +3.6%

Regions Represented

Total Respondents 147



NORTHEAST — ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, DE, NJ, NY, PA, DC, MD, VA

SOUTH — NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, TN, MS, AR, LA, OK, TX

MIDWEST — KY, W. PA, WV, ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO, WI, IL, IN, MI, OH

WEST — WA, OR, ID, MT, WY, CO, NM, UT, AZ, NV, CA, AK, HI

CANADA — Includes all of Canada