



MAFSI BUSINESS BAROMETER REPORTS +1.2% INCREASE IN SALES FOR Q1/04, Compared to the Same Time Last Year

he Northeast, South and Canada reported an increase in actual overall sales for first quarter 2004, while the Midwest reported a slight decrease and the West reported no change, compared to first quarter 2003. In looking ahead at second quarter 2004, MAFSI reps from across the U.S. and Canada forecast a 2.5 percent growth in sales. This is according to the latest results of the MAFSI Business Barometer.

Compared to Q1/03, the MAFSI Business Barometer revealed that during first quarter 2004 overall:

- Equipment sales increased +1.2%
- Supply sales increased +1.2%
- Tabletop sales increased +1.2%

- Furniture sales increased +0.6%
- Overall sales increased +1.2%

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.

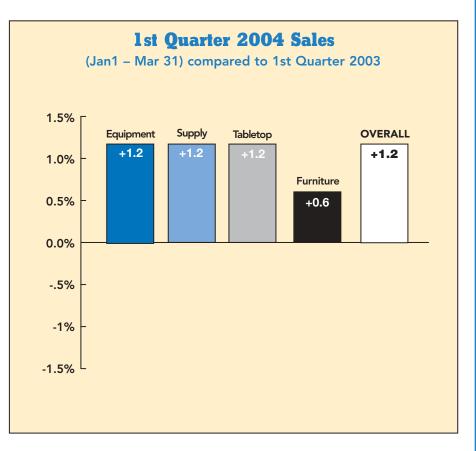
MAFSI releases the Business Barometer on a quarterly basis. Second quarter results will be released the first week in August.

businessbarometer

MAFSI Business Confidence Index for 2nd Quarter 2004

(Apr 1 – June 30) compared to 2nd Quarter 2003

All Regions
+2.5%



Projected 2nd Quarter 2004 Sales

(Apr 1 – June 30) compared to 2nd Quarter 2003

NORTHEAST +3.6%

south +2.4%

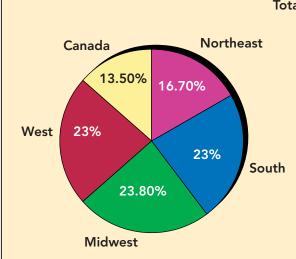
MIDWEST +2.0%

WEST +2.0%

CANADA +3.1%



Total Respondents 126



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