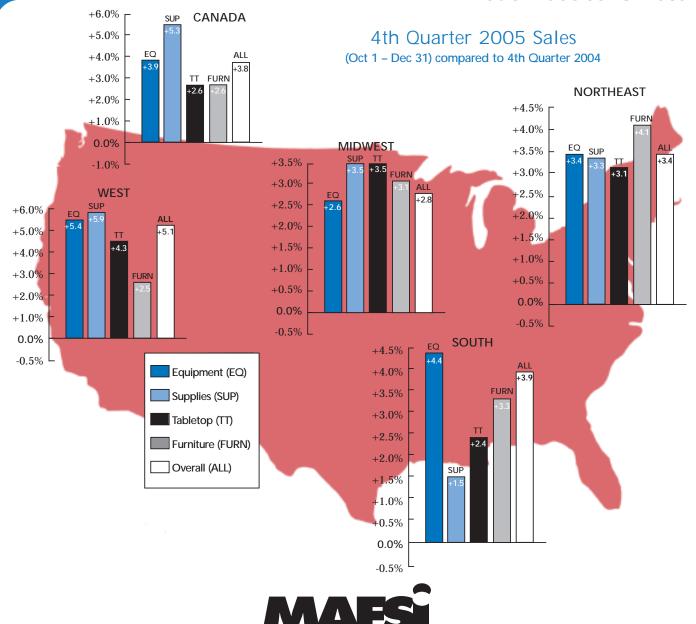
businessbarometer



MAFSI BUSINESS BAROMETER REPORTS OVERALL SALES INCREASE OF 3.8+ FOR Q4/05 Predictions for First Quarter 2006 and Year 2006 Very Optimistic

A ccording to just released 4th quarter 2005 results, the MAFSI Business Barometer reports equipment sales are up by 4.0 percent, supplies at 3.9 percent, tabletop and furnishings are both up at 3.1 percent, and overall sales are up by 3.8 percent. All four regions of the U.S. and Canada also saw an increase in each sales category.

The forecast for first quarter 2006 is just as optimistic, showing an overall increase in sales at 3.3 percent (compared to first quarter of last year). The outlook for 2006 is at a confident 5.4 percent increase (compared to 2005). Breakdowns for each region of the country and Canada are also positive for first quarter and the rest of 2006.

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. First quarter results will be released the first week in May.

businessbarometer

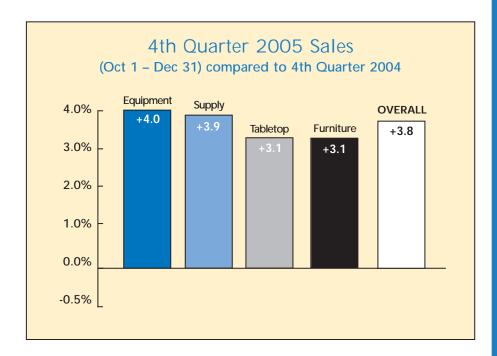
MAFSI Business Confidence Index for 1st Quarter 2006

(Jan 1 – Mar 31) compared to 1st Quarter 2005

+3.3%

MAFSI Business Confidence Index for 2006 Compared to 2005

+5.4%



Projected 1st Quarter 2006 Sales (Jan 1 - Mar 31) compared to 1st Quarter 2005

NORTHEAST +4.1%

south +2.8% $^{\text{MIDWEST}}_{+2.7\%}$

west +4.1%

CANADA +2.7%

Projected 2006 Overall Sales Forecast (Compared to Overall Sales for 2005)

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{NORTHEAST} \\ +5.8\% \end{array}$

south +5.2% $^{\text{MIDWEST}}_{+4.4\%}$

west +6.3% canada +5.1%

Regions Represented Total Respondents 132

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

