



MEASUREMENT, CONTROL & AUTOMATION ASSOCIATION

Two Economic Newsletters Reinforce Continued Economic Growth

Poquoson, Virginia – September 2017 For Immediate release

Two economic newsletters published by the Measurement, Control & Automation Association (MCAA) reinforce the widespread news of continued US economic growth through 2017 and 2018—barring any interference from other geopolitical or black swan events. The recent impacts of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma are yet to be measured in this calculus.

Measuring Markets is a quarterly economic newsletter published by the Association which this quarter indicates that the 2.6 percent GDP bounce back in the 2nd quarter of this year is attributable to solid consumer spending, an uptick in government spending and still solid business investment spending and exports. Capital spending during the second quarter increased at a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of 5.2% which is very encouraging against the historical backdrop of a weak 2.3% growth over the course of 2015 and an actual decline of 0.6% in 2016. Additionally, business spending in the equipment category expanded at an 8.2% annualized rate during the quarter—almost double the 4.4% rate in 1Q17 and the strongest quarterly increase recorded during the past two years.

In a special Economic Report prepared exclusively for MCAA members by ITR Economics, five manufacturing categories were reviewed in depth—chemical and chemical products, food, paper and paper products, mining, and electric power. ITR projects that chemical production will grow during 2018 and paper production will expand for a slight period. Food and mining production will both grow in 2018 although at slowing rates during the first half of next year. ITR noted that accelerating growth in the manufacturing sector (up 0.7% year-over-year) and recovery in the mining sector (virtually even with the year-ago level) are contributing to the accelerating growth in US Industrial Production (up 0.5%). However, US Electric and Gas Utilities Production is slowing, up 0.7% year-over-year and is expected to contract mildly during the next two quarters. US electric power generation, transmission and distribution is expected to transition to a rise by early 2018.

In addition to these periodic economic outlooks, MCAA collects data (confidentially) from member companies and publishes to the participants monthly and quarterly bookings reports which provide far more granular information about specific product categories and end-user industries. Aggregated data from those reports is provided to the editors of the economic newsletters to analyze and compare with broader economic data available from a variety of sources.

MCAA is the voice of the measurement, control and automation industry. The Association provides the best community and resources for manufacturers and distributors of instrumentation and systems, used by industry around the world. MCAA members run and grow their businesses by utilizing unsurpassed market and business insights, unique networking opportunities, effective employee development programs and unbiased, affordable market data.



Measurement, Control & Automation Association

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