

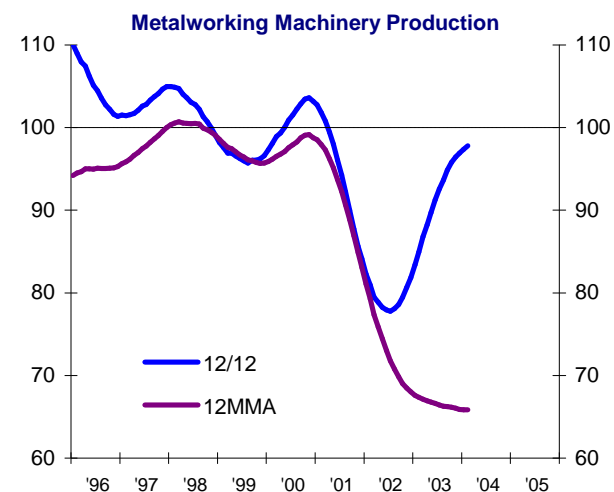
Section 2 Sample—*NFPA Forecast: U.S. Customer Markets Detail Supplement*

Metalworking Machinery Production

The industry status has turned **positive** since the last report with the rise going on in the rates-of-change and the nascent recovery trend in the 12MMA. The production 12MMA is forecasted to rise a mild 5.3% between now and the anticipated mid-2005 peak. The word “mild” will be a good one to remember, though any ascent will feel great after the disaster of the last three years. The forecast calls for 2004 to come in 3.2% above 2003. 2005 is estimated at 0.8% ahead of 2004. Look for a 3.5% contraction to characterize 2006.

Production is currently 2.2% below the year-ago level but is expected to break into positive territory around April 2004. Production for the last three months is just 1.1% below the year-ago level, which does not sound like much until you realize that this is the best year-over-year comparison in three years. Now would be a good time to gear up for better times ahead while remembering that the upside activity will end around mid 2005.

The 3MMA is in a sustainable rising trend and should be tracking above the comparable year-earlier figures beginning in the next month or two and continuing through mid 2005.



Industries Covered By Section 2—*NFPA Forecast: U.S. Customer Markets Detail Supplement*

Metalworking Machinery Production
Farm Machinery & Equipment Production
Material Handling Equipment Production
General Industrial Machinery New Orders
Construction Equipment Production
Mining & Oil Field Machinery
Class 8 Truck Production
Packaging Machinery
Fabricated Metal Products
Rubber & Plastics Production
Internal Combustion Engines
Lawn & Garden Machinery
Random International Industrial Production Index