

IAPD first quarter economic climate survey

Manufacturers and distributors/processors participating in the IAPD Economic Climate Survey reported an active first quarter with sales and production both showing increases. Overall, 84 percent of these members reported an increase in sales. The average change in sales was +10.5 percent.

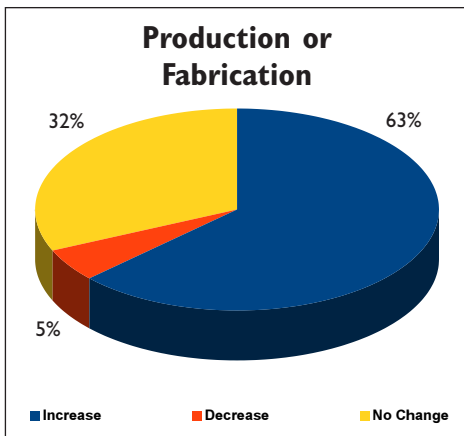
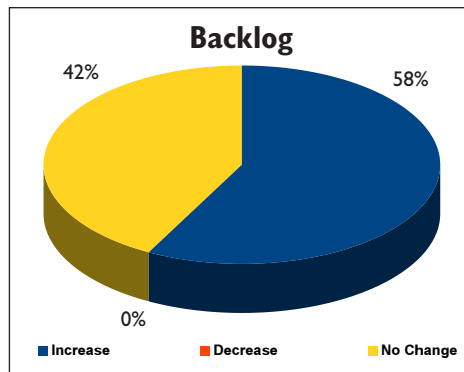
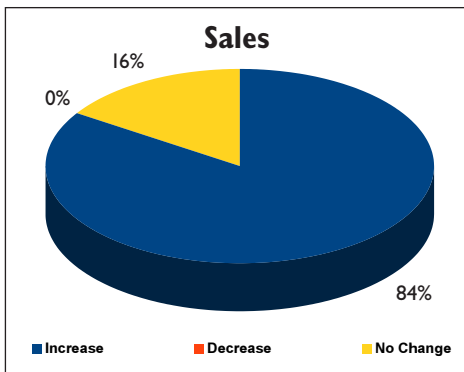
Members reporting a quarterly increase in production or fabrication rose to 63 percent, nearly 43 percent higher than the fourth quarter of 2009. Reported figures for backlog in the first quarter of 2010 increased by almost 58 percent.

Product prices were reported higher by 63.2 percent of responding members in the first quarter of the year, and they also anticipate keeping prices at this steady increase in the second quarter of 2010.

Nearly 68 percent of IAPD member respondents projected an increase in hiring for the second quarter. Almost 53 percent of the respondents believed the availability of labor was about the same as the prior quarter. While 27 percent reported that leverage with suppliers had improved, 15.8 percent indicated that their leverage with suppliers had weakened.

More than 73 percent perceived that credit availability had improved, and 78.9 percent reported that interest rates were similar to fourth quarter 2009 levels.

Reported increases for raw material prices showed a rise of 7.3 percent for acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS), 6.1 percent for styrene and 1.7 percent for acetal. According to data released by the American Chemistry Council, the North American resin-distribution market is on the road to recovery. Strategic alliances and partnerships characterized the U.S. resin-distribution market in 2009 as distribution-related sales slowed in the United States and Canada. However, the market for resins such as high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE) recovered significantly during the first quarter of 2010. Their report indicated that polypropylene (PP), polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and low-density polyethylene (LDPE) fared even better.



From Scranton to Sydney, IAPD members are creating a better world through plastics.



Won't you join us?

As partners in plastics distribution, IAPD members from throughout the industry channel combine their energies to grow the entire marketplace. This member collaboration makes IAPD the source for plastics distribution information and insight. If you're not already a member, you're missing out on something great!



iapd
international association
of plastics distribution

www.iapd.org