

Conveyor Equipment Manufacturers Association

Semi-Annual Press Release

CONVEYOR INDUSTRY LOOKS FOR RECOVERY IN 2002

March 20, 2002

NAPLES, FLORIDA — The Conveyor Equipment Manufacturers Association (CEMA) reports that, after six consecutive years of record-setting growth, booked and billed sales were down for the conveyor industry as they were for most industries in 2001. Booked sales totaled \$5.5 billion for 2001, and shipments totaled \$6.8 billion. Shipments outpaced booked orders by 20% and were down only slightly from the prior year record of \$7.3 billion according to Fred Sytsma, CEMA President, who announced the results at the Association's annual meeting in Rancho Mirage, California, in March.

While shipments for unit handling conveyors (light to medium) increased by 3% and shipments for trolley (light to medium) increased by 35%, shipments in all other unit categories (unit conveyors-heavy duty, trolley-heavy duty, tow conveyors, unit components and conveyor chain) were down 22% on average. Bookings were down an average of 34%.

Bookings and shipments for bulk conveyor accessories increased by 20% from 2000 levels. However, shipments and bookings for all other bulk categories (screw conveyor, bulk components, bulk systems and bulk equipment) were down an average of 20% and 25%, respectively.

Founded in 1933, CEMA is the national trade association of leading North American conveyor equipment manufacturers. CEMA tracks seven classes of unit handling equipment and five classes of bulk handling equipment.

Executives representing CEMA member companies attending the annual meeting expected a partial recovery of business during 2002.

CEMA also makes available to both member and nonmember companies, safety labels for all types of conveyor equipment as well as useful technical information and manuals. For further information on CEMA or its member companies, or to order safety labels or technical information, visit our web site at <http://www.cemanet.org>.

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