



## Conveyor Equipment Manufacturers Association Semi-Annual Press Release

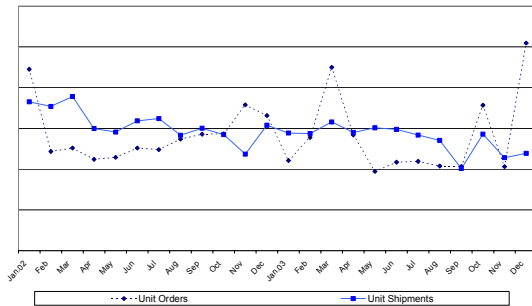
### CONVEYOR INDUSTRY SEES BEGINNING OF RECOVERY IN 2003

March 17, 2004

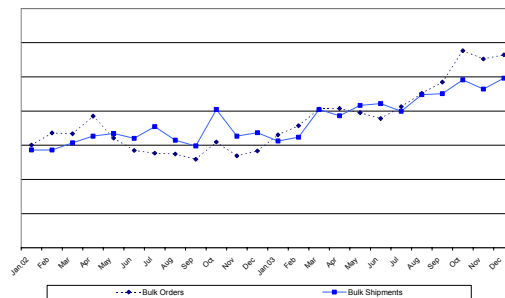
NAPLES, FLORIDA – The Conveyor Equipment Manufacturers Association (CEMA) reports that 2003 new orders were up for the conveyor industry for the first time in two years. CEMA estimates that new orders totaled \$4.8 billion for 2003, which represents a 6% increase over 2002. New orders outpaced shipments slightly (3%) this year. CEMA President, Bill Casey announced the results at the Association’s annual meeting in Palm Springs, California, in March.

CEMA tracks new orders and shipped sales volume in seven classes of unit handling equipment and five classes of bulk handling equipment. The graphs shown below plot monthly order and sales trends from reporting CEMA member companies from January 2002, through December 2003. Trends are totaled and graphed for all product classes in Bulk Handling Equipment, Unit Handling Equipment and Total CEMA members.

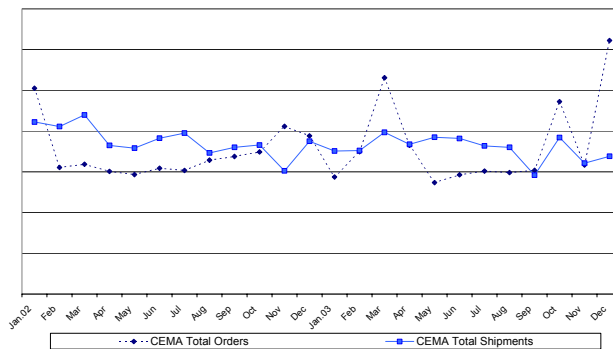
CEMA Unit Orders and Shipments - 2003



CEMA Bulk Orders and Shipments - 2003



CEMA Total Orders and Shipments - 2003



The executives representing CEMA member companies who attended the annual meeting were pleased to see an increase in orders in 2003, and were hopeful that the trend will continue for 2004. Founded in 1933, CEMA is the trade association of leading North American conveyor equipment manufacturers and engineering firms.

CEMA also makes available to both member and non-member companies, safety labels for all types of conveyor equipment as well as useful technical information and manuals. For example, CEMA will have available for purchase on 12/1/04 the revised 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Belt Conveyors For Bulk Materials book. This book will be the authoritative technical manual for bulk belt conveyor design worldwide. Please contact CEMA for special pre-publication purchase opportunities.