

# MetaLife® NEWS



Volume 8 Issue 1

Preparing for a Tough Year

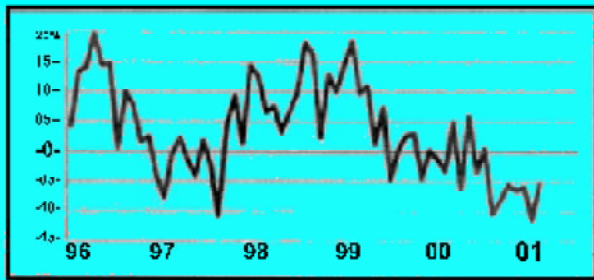
March 2001

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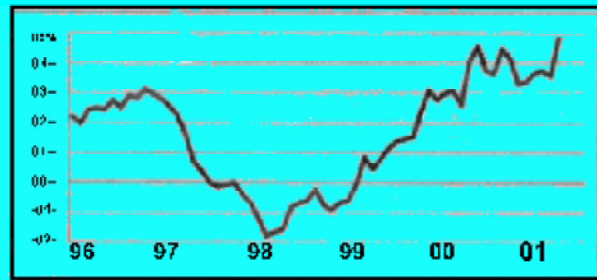
## Stagflation's Specter

Investors Business Daily - Jan 2001

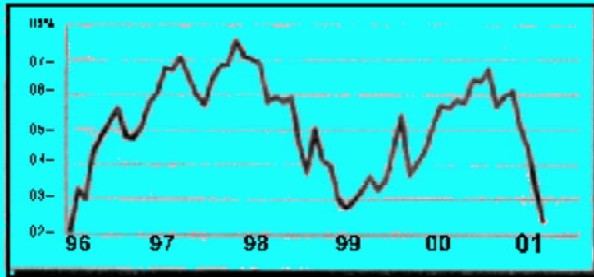
Some on Wall Street view January's surprising jump in producer prices as a fluke. But after looking at weakness in output, housing, and consumer confidence, others see a worst-of-all-possible-worlds scenario—1970's style stagflation, marked by a slowing economy and higher inflation.



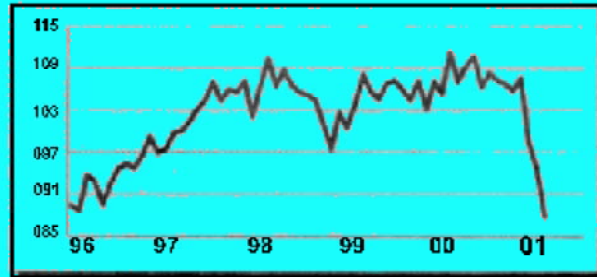
Housing Starts - Yearly Change



Producer Prices - Yearly Change



Industrial Production - Yearly Change



Michigan consumer sentiment index

Sources: University of Michigan, Federal Reserve Board, Labor Department, Commerce Department, economy.com

Unfortunately all of the above indicators are pointing to a recession, . What makes these economic times even more perplexing is the specter of **“Stagflation”** which the US economy has not seen since the early 70's. Stagflation is marked by increasing prices in a declining economic demand environment. It is important more than ever before to assure that all of us in the die casting industry posture ourselves in 2001 in such a way to stabilize costs as much as possible. In 2001, you will find customers who once said **“Just build a new tool”** will now be beating a different drum . This year you will be asked questions such as **“What can you do to make our existing tooling last longer?”** or **We do not have money in our budget to build a new tool, what can you do to get more production out of the existing tooling?**

When these questions are posed by your customers or when the end user is demanding more product for less cost, Metalife should be offered as a viable cost effective alternative. Badger tracked these business indicators for tough economic times since early 2000. Now they are upon us. **Metalife®** extends the life of NEW tooling by repeatable applications after sample approval and at periodic intervals. It refurbishes USED tooling that has shown signs of initial heat checking. **Send us your castings** from dies that are suspect or have a history of exhibiting these negative conditions or drawings that show complete di

2001-03 Recession Warning

are suspect or have a history of exhibiting these negative conditions or **drawings that show complete dimensions of the inserts for a ball park quote** so we can help you weather the storms of this coming year. We will respond with a firm or ball park quote within 24 hours from receipt of your request.

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