

The Playground Contractors Role with the NPCAI!



As we come to the final link in the chain in becoming a True Playground Contractor.

The NPCAI Mission is: To professionally construct today's pre-manufactured playground equipment.



THE NPCAI IS: A worldwide partnership formed to contribute to the advancement of the playground building industry by promoting playground installation as a legitimate contracting profession within the playground industry.



THE NPCAI LENDS SUPPORT: To all playground safety programs, guidelines, and standards that promote playground safety by assisting the public in identifying the need for a professional playground installation.



THE NPCAI SEEKS: Active participation in and contributions from its membership and corporate sponsors for the development and growth of individual members, their contracting businesses, and the playground construction profession worldwide.



THE NPCAI OFFERS: MEMBERS A VOICE in the playground industry through leadership opportunity and networking to affect industry changes to address developing needs.



MEMBERS ANSWERS to everyday installation questions and immediate access to information regarding certification, licensing and industry standards.

Economists Predict Growth in 2011

Economists have grown more optimistic about the outlook for U.S. growth next year, predicting the expansion will accelerate as 2011 progresses, according to the latest forecasting survey.



The 55 respondents raised their growth projections for gross domestic product for nearly every period, including the current quarter. On average, the economists now predict GDP will grow 2.6 percent in the current quarter at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, up from the 2.4 percent growth they projected in last month's survey. The economy grew 2.5 percent in the third quarter.

For the year, they expect GDP will rise 3 percent. Meanwhile, they have reduced the odds of a double-dip recession to 15 percent, the lowest average forecast of the year, from 22 percent in September survey.

The majority of the respondents said there's a better chance the economy in 2011 will outperform their forecasts than that it will underperform. Thirty-five economists said the risks to their forecasts are more to the upside; 14 said the risk was to the downside.

Data on trade, retail sales, consumer sentiment and manufacturing have been looking better. Economists also were generally encouraged by news from Washington on a tax-cut compromise that included an unexpected temporary reduction in payroll taxes in addition an extension of the Bush-era tax cuts.

The survey was conducted from Dec. 3 to 8, so not all of the forecasts take the tentative tax deal into account. Strong data on exports also caused some economists to push up forecasts. Macroeconomic Advisers, for example, raised their fourth-quarter GDP tracking forecast by 0.3 percentage point to 2.3 percent.

- Courtesy of Wall Street Journal



Landscape Structures Honored With Disability Matters Marketplace Award

Springboard Consulting, LLC recently announced the Disability Matters honorees for 2011. Of 16 honorees in five categories, Landscape Structures Inc., a Delano, MN-based commercial playground equipment manufacturer, received the Marketplace Award for its commitment to providing inclusive playgrounds to children and families of all abilities.

The Disability Matters awards represent businesses that serve as role models for their peers in Corporate America, the U.S. Federal Government and small businesses alike for their initiatives to recruit, provide support and market to the disability community, which is now the largest and fastest growing minority segment in the world.

"It is so personally gratifying to see the incredible commitment of our honorees to the full inclusion of people with disabilities and their families in so many aspects of their organization," said Nadine Vogel, founder and president of Springboard Consulting and the Disability Matters Conference, and the mother of two children with special needs. "Their passion and dedication to high standards for this most important work, inspires employees and customers alike."

This year's winners will be honored at the 5th annual Disability Matters Awards Banquet & Conference to be held April 6-7, in San Jose, CA. In addition to Landscape Structures, Alaska Air Group, Inc.; AMC Entertainment; and The Braun Corporation were honored with the Marketplace Award. Cisco Systems, Inc. and KPMG LLP received the Employer of Choice Award, Morgan's Wonderland and Words, LLC received the Small Business Award while CSX Corporation Inc., Manpower Inc., Naval Sea Systems Command and The Procter & Gamble Company were honored with the Workforce Award, and Landscape Structures Honored with Disability Matters Marketplace Award and Best Buy Co., Inc., Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), EMC Corporation and QUALCOMM Incorporated received the Workplace Award. To learn more about Disability Matters, visit:

[www.consultspringboard.com/category/disabilitymatters-2011/](http://www.consultspringboard.com/category/disabilitymatters-2011/)

