# American News

## Fastener Distributor Index Up for June 2026

The seasonally adjusted Fastener Distributor Index jumped to 60 in June – the strongest reading since mid-2021 and the 14th consecutive month in expansionary territory. The FDI showed an acceleration in sales and improvement in customer inventory levels. The sales index accelerated to 79.8 (from 72.4 in May), with 63% of respondents indicating sales came in above seasonal expectations – up from 59% last month and well ahead of the ~51% average over the past year – with 33% reporting in-line sales (up from 28% in May) and just 4% indicating below (vs. 13% last month).

Customer inventory levels again acted as a drag on the index (sixth consecutive sub-50 reading, at 45.8) but improved sharply from 40.6 in May as the share of respondents saying "lower than seasonal norms" fell to 21% (from 25%), while the "too high" share rose to 12% (from 6%, signaling some restocking), and the overwhelming majority (67%) continue to say customer inventories are in line. The employment index eased to 60.4 (from 62.5); the percentage noting levels "higher than seasonal norms" held at 29% (vs. 28%), though "in line" slipped to 63% (from 69%) and 8% noted lower levels (vs. 3%). Supplier deliveries also slipped to 56.3 (from 57.8), as 21% of participants reported slower lead times/deliveries (down from 25%), with the majority (71%) indicating similar levels.

On pricing, 38% of respondents saw higher m/m pricing (down from 56% in May and 48% in April) while the remaining 62% reported stable m/m pricing; notably, 0% saw lower m/m pricing for a fifth consecutive month – in other words, pricing has either increased or held steady m/m for five straight months. Year-over-year pricing, however, accelerated, increasing for 92% of participants and remained stable y/y for 8% (vs. 84% and 16% in May, respectively).

The Forward-Looking Indicator (FLI) declined to 56.7 in June (from 58.9 in May), signaling a more measured forward view. The slight m/m moderation was driven by a rebuild in customer inventories (45.8 vs. 40.6 in May), with a slight easing in employment, only partially offset by a firmer six-month outlook.

Expectations improved modestly – 54% of respondents now anticipate higher six-month activity levels vs. today (up slightly from 53% last month), while only 8% expect lower levels (down from 13%) and 38% foresee similar levels (up from 34%). Commentary suggests demand remained generally healthy through quarter-end, supported by new business wins and continued data center activity, even as cost pressures and demand-visibility concerns drew more attention.

## Fastenal Reports Ongoing Fastener Sales Growth

Fastenal reported direct fasteners/hardware sales increased 16.8% to US$501.2 million in the second quarter of 2026. Indirect fasteners/hardware (MRO) sales gained 14.6% to US$231.5 million. Those results included a 13% gain in direct fasteners/hardware (OEM) sales to US$174.9 million (20.7% of overall sales) in June, while indirect fasteners/ hardware (MRO) sales grew 15.5% to US$79.4 million. The latest results extend a record of fastener sales growth that began in July 2025 after two years of decline.

Overall Q2 sales increased 14.7% to US$2.4 billion on improved contract signings, product pricing, and industrial production. Daily sales rose 14.7% to US$37.3 million. Q2 gross profit improved 12.8% to US$1.06 billion, while operating income rose 15.1% to US$501.8 million and net income grew 15.9% to US$382.8 million.

## ASTM Honors King with Merit Award

ASTM International honored Bill King, retired technical sales manager at Brighton-Best Int'l, with the 2026 Award of Merit for contributions to its F16 fasteners committee. An ASTM member since 1995, King has previously been honored by the committee with the 2007 Fred F. Weingruber Award. King's career focus has been fastener quality, quality management, testing, lab accreditation and management, and applications engineering. Prior to 1994, King served in various roles in quality assurance for aerospace and defense companies. In addition to ASTM, he has contributed to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), and the British Standards Institution fastener committees.

## MWFA Names '26 Hall of Fame Class

The Mid-West Fastener Association (MWFA) announced its 2026 Hall of Fame class, recognizing seven individuals and two companies for their contributions to the fastener industry and the association.

Individual inductees include: Robert Baer, Abbott Interfast; Rich Cavoto, Metric & Multistandard Components; Joe L. Davis Jr., ISSCO, Inc.; Paula Evitts, Avante Imports; David Gawlik, Stelfast; Becky Russo-Botti, Sems & Specials; and Nick Viggiano, Brighton-Best International. Companies inducted are Sems & Specials Inc. and SWD Inc. The Hall of Fame Awards has been presented during FSTNR Week '26 on September 2 at the MWFA's 80th anniversary.

## SFS Acquiring Heartland Precision Fasteners

Switzerland-based SFS Group has agreed to acquire Kansas-based Heartland Precision Fasteners Inc., a manufacturer of specialized fasteners for aircraft structures and engines. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. With this acquisition, SFS enters the North American aerospace market, giving the Swiss group access to an important market for its high-performance components. Founded in 1994, Heartland employs 70 people to manufacture precision fasteners for civil and military aerospace applications. The company reported sales of US$30 million in 2025. The deal is expected to close by the end of September 2026.

## Novaria to Acquire Avantus Aerospace

Arcline Investment Management has agreed to acquire Avantus Aerospace Group from Inflexion for an undisclosed sum. The deal adds a manufacturer of engineered shims and specialty fasteners to Arcline's aerospace and defense portfolio and further expands the capabilities of Novaria Group.

Avantus and its operating companies will become part of Novaria Group, Arcline's Texas-based aerospace components business purchased for US$2.2 billion cash in 2025. The acquisition strengthens Novaria's position in the global aerospace supply chain by adding highly engineered products that are integrated into virtually every major commercial, business jet and defense aircraft currently in production.

Avantus serves more than 1,600 customers worldwide and delivers over 25 million components annually across a portfolio of more than 37,000 active SKUs. UK-based Avantus manufactures engineered shims, solid fillers, detail parts and specialty fasteners that play critical roles in aircraft assembly. For Novaria, the transaction broadens its portfolio of niche engineered aerospace components while expanding manufacturing capabilities across both Europe and North America. The company supplies specialized products and manufacturing services to more than 3,000 aerospace and defense customers and has pursued acquisitions to strengthen its position throughout the aerospace supply chain.

Novaria CEO Bryan Perkins said Novaria's "operational discipline, deep customer relationships, and leadership positions in shims and specialty fasteners are a natural complement to our capabilities."

Avantus will continue operating through its eight established brands, which include Lamsco, Attewell, Bolsan, ShimCo and PSC Global in engineered shims and detail parts, along with Fastener Technology Corporation, Fastener Innovation Technologies and CalScrew in engineered fasteners.

The acquisition underscores continued private equity investment in aerospace and defense suppliers as aircraft manufacturers increase production rates and defense spending supports demand for highly engineered components. Suppliers with specialized manufacturing capabilities, long qualification cycles and embedded positions on major aircraft platforms have become attractive acquisition targets because of their recurring revenue profiles and strategic importance to original equipment manufacturers. Arcline manages more than US$30 billion in assets and focuses on building long-term industrial platforms through acquisitions and operational improvements. The addition of Avantus further expands Novaria's scale and product breadth, positioning the business to capitalize on sustained demand across commercial aviation and defense markets.

## Distribution Solutions Group Going Private

Distribution Solutions Group has agreed to be taken private by its controlling shareholder, LKCM Headwater Investments, four years after DSG was assembled as a publicly traded specialty distribution platform. LKCM currently owns approximately 79% of DSG's common stock, and will acquire all outstanding shares for US$35 per share in cash. Upon completion, DSG will become wholly owned by LKCM and its affiliates.

The agreement values DSG at approximately US$2.4 billion, with LKCM expected to pay roughly US$500 million for the remaining stake it does not already own. DSG formed in April 2022 through the combination of Lawson Products, Gexpro Services and TestEquity, spanning MRO supplies, OEM supply-chain services and industrial technology products.

## MW Components Sold to UK Investment Firm

MW Components has been sold to UK investment firm Rosebank Industries for $950 million. North Carolina-based MW Components operates 24 manufacturing facilities in the U.S., employing 1,750 people to produce fasteners, springs, and precision metal components for aerospace & defense, electronics, semiconductors, medical, energy, agriculture, and other industrial markets. MW generated revenues of $500 million in 2025, with a 15% operating margin. The company was acquired by American Securities in 2017.

## Supply Technologies Automates

Supply Technologies announced a US$50 million investment in infrastructure, systems and automation, including robotics. Included is a new 375,000 sq ft distribution center in Ohio, which supports Supply Technologies' global network of more than 70 locations, including 46 in North America, by reducing inventory duplication, streamlining product flows and supporting growing demand from emerging markets such as AI data centers — a segment that has expanded from virtually no revenue two years ago to approximately US$150 million annually.

The new facility will be the company's flagship location, with advanced warehouse operations, labs, and an innovation center. Warehouse processes are also being modernized, with a shift from paper-based ticket-picking to digital tools, including scanning and voice-directed systems. Ohio-based Supply Technologies is a Park-Ohio Holdings Corp. company providing supply chain management for fasteners and class-C parts to OEMs on three continents.

## GI Unveils 360-Degree Inspection System

General Inspection, LLC announced the launch of the Gi-307, a powerful new fastener inspection and sorting platform designed to redefine quality control for manufacturers producing mission-critical screws and bolts. Built for applications where failure is not an option, the Gi-307 provides 360-degree inspection using a revolutionary combination of sequenced front and back lighting with seven high-speed inspection cameras.

Unlike conventional inspection systems that struggle to balance dimensional accuracy with reliable surface defect detection, the Gi-307 performs both simultaneously — at production speeds up to 300 parts per minute. The system inspects every critical fastener feature, including threads, diameters, lengths, angles, radii, and straightness, while also detecting visual defects such as cracks, plating failures, corrosion, metal chips, and porosity. The Gi-307 also incorporates an on-axis inspection camera to analyze fastener head recesses, allowing manufacturers to detect defects and dimensional issues in slotted, Torx®, and Phillips® drive systems.

## New Hires for AFC Industries and EFC International

AFC Industries hired Joseph Czaja as VP of Sales for its Aerospace & Defense Group. Czaja's experience includes positions at Apollo Aerospace Components, ERIKS and Grainger. Ohio-based AFC provides supply chain management for fasteners, tooling and assembly components.

EFC International hired Tim Billingsley as Senior VP of Commercial & Industrial Markets. Billingsley's experience includes executive positions with LGG Industrial, 2J Supply Company, and Grainger. Founded in 1983, EFC is a global supplier of specialty engineered metal and plastic fasteners and other component parts to OEMs and distributors. Missouri-based EFC has locations in North America, Europe and Asia.

## FDH Aero Opens New Facility

FDH Aero opened a sales and distribution facility in Montreal. The new location will serve as a hub for FDH Aero's expanding business in Canada. "Opening our Montreal facility is an important milestone in our ongoing global expansion and strengthens our position as the leading independent, scaled supply chain solutions partner worldwide," said vice president Ian Locke.

California-based FDH Aero supplies C-class components that include hardware, electrical, chemical and consumable products and services for OEMs and Aftermarket customers. FDH's 12 companies include three specializing in fasteners: Aircraft Fasteners International, Blue Sky Industries and Calco Aerospace.

## Hillman Solutions Agrees to Acquire Kanebridge

Hillman Solutions Corp., Cincinnati, OH, USA,, a leading provider of hardware products and merchandising solutions, entered a definitive agreement to acquire Kanebridge Corporation, a leading master distributor of industrial fasteners for US$315 million, subject to customary adjustments for cash, indebtedness, working capital and transaction expenses. Kanebridge supplies more than 44,000 commercial and military-grade fastener SKUs to distributors throughout the USA and Canada from its warehouses in Illinois and California, selling exclusively to distributors in commercial and industrial channels. Following completion of the acquisition, Kanebridge will operate as part of Hillman's commercial and industrial business.

## Vamp Screw Products Joins Fastener Industries

Berea, OH, USA-based Fastener Industries, Inc. announced that Vamp Screw Products Company, Trenton, MI, USA, joined Fastener Industries as a wholly owned subsidiary. Vamp joins the company of employee-owned companies that includes Buckeye Fasteners, Modern Fasteners, The Ohio Nut and Bolt Co., Ohio Nut & Bolt of Canada, Ltd., Brainard Rivet, Joseph Industries, Inc. and Die Co., Inc. Founded in 1942, Vamp Screw Products is a supplier of high-quality fasteners to distributors throughout the Midwest, including Buckeye Fasteners Co., Fastener Industries' primary distribution company.

Bob Perry, Fastener Industries CEO, commented, "Vamp has been a reliable and trusted supplier to Buckeye Fasteners for more than 25 years. The company's name is well known as a high-quality supplier of nuts in the fastener industry. It makes perfect sense to welcome them as our latest acquisition." Vamp Screw Products was founded by Paul and Mary Topolewski, together with their sons, Vincent and Albert Topolewski. All of the current employees will be retained, and the firm will continue operating under the Vamp Screw Products name.

## Margiotta Named CEO of MW Fasteners

MW Fasteners, Charlotte, NC, USA, announced James Margiotta as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The company said Margiotta brings extensive leadership and manufacturing experience to the position, including several years as general manager of Accurate Screw Machine, where he focused on operational excellence, customer needs and business growth. Margiotta assumes the role as the MW Fasteners continues investing in its workforce, expanding its U.S.-based manufacturing operations and increasing production capacity and technical capabilities for customers. The company reports that it is installing new and modernized manufacturing equipment across its facilities as part of what it described as one of the largest capital investment programs in its history. MW Fasteners manufactures precision machined, cold-headed, NAS/MS/AN and custom fasteners for aerospace, defense, medical, electronics and other demanding industries.

## Field Fastener Expanding Tyler Center of Excellence


The Tyler Economic Development Council (TEDC), Tyler, TX, USA, reports that Field Fastener plans a US$2.875 million expansion and modernization project at its Tyler Center of Excellence in Tyler, TX, USA. The project is expected to retain 26 existing jobs and create 10 new full-time positions. Plans also call for the renovation of approximately 16,000 ft$^2$ of facility space. TEDC says that the investment reflects Field Fastener's long-term commitment to the Tyler and Smith County regions in Texas. The project was supported through a collaboration between Field Fastener, Smith County and Smith County Emergency Services District No. 2 (ESD2). Field Fastener leaders Anthony Ellis and Chris Pauli were recognized by TEDC for their roles in advancing the project and the company's continued investment in its operations, workforce and the future growth of the region. Field is a full-service, data-driven, on-demand fastener supply and engineering partner.

## Optimas Strengthens Distribution Network with Move to Facility

Optimas, Wood Dale, IL, USA, moved its Lockbourne, OH, USA, distribution center to a new facility in Grove City, OH, USA. The new distribution center is a 44,385 ft$^2$-site close to major transportation routes. The move also gives Optimas the chance to build the new site around 5S principles. Work areas, inventory locations and material flow have been set up to support safer and more efficient operations. The current Optimas team is running the new Grove City facility. This helps keep site knowledge in place, supports a smooth move and helps maintain service levels for customers and partners. ■

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