

U.S. Census Bureau News

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, D.C. 20233

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2011, AT 8:30 A.M. EDT

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M3-1 (11)-09
CB11-176

Advance Report on Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders September 2011

New Orders. New orders for manufactured durable goods in September decreased \$1.5 billion or 0.8 percent to \$200.3 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This decrease, down three of the last four months, followed a 0.1 percent August decrease. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 1.7 percent. Excluding defense, new orders decreased 1.1 percent. Transportation equipment, down following two consecutive monthly increases, had the largest decrease, \$4.0 billion or 7.5 percent to \$49.6 billion.

Shipments. Shipments of manufactured durable goods in September, down following four consecutive monthly increases, decreased \$1.4 billion or 0.7 percent to \$200.1 billion. This followed a 0.1 percent August increase. Transportation equipment, down two consecutive months, had the largest decrease, \$1.3 billion or 2.7 percent to \$45.6 billion.

Unfilled Orders. Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in September, up seventeen of the last eighteen months, increased \$6.9 billion or 0.8 percent to \$885.3 billion. This followed a 0.8 percent August increase. Transportation equipment, up nine consecutive months, had the largest increase, \$3.9 billion or 0.8 percent to \$512.1 billion.

Inventories. Inventories of manufactured durable goods in September, up twenty one consecutive months, increased \$0.4 billion or 0.1 percent to \$365.6 billion. This was at the highest level since the series was first published on a NAICS basis in 1992 and followed a 0.9 percent August increase. Transportation equipment, also up twenty one consecutive months, had the largest increase, \$0.5 billion or 0.5 percent to \$112.7 billion.

Capital Goods. Nondefense new orders for capital goods in September decreased \$1.8 billion or 2.3 percent to \$76.0 billion. Shipments decreased \$0.8 billion or 1.2 percent to \$70.6 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$5.4 billion or 1.0 percent to \$521.9 billion. Inventories increased \$0.3 billion or 0.2 percent to \$167.1 billion. Defense new orders for capital goods in September increased \$0.7 billion or 8.6 percent to \$8.7 billion. Shipments increased slightly or 0.5 percent to \$7.6 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$1.2 billion or 0.8 percent to \$153.0 billion. Inventories decreased \$0.5 billion or 2.2 percent to \$20.1 billion.

Revised August Data. Revised seasonally adjusted August figures for all manufacturing industries were: new orders, \$451.6 billion (revised from \$451.0 billion); shipments, \$451.2 billion (revised from \$450.2 billion); unfilled orders, \$878.4 billion (revised from \$878.8 billion); and total inventories, \$600.7 billion (revised from \$601.2 billion).

Figures in text are adjusted for seasonality but not for inflation. Figures on new and unfilled orders exclude data for semiconductor manufacturing. For data, call (301) 763-4673 or go to <<http://www.census.gov/m3>>.

Revised and more detailed estimates, plus nondurable goods data, will be published on November 3, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. EDT. The advance report on durable goods for October is scheduled for release on November 23, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. EST. See back page for survey description.

Table 2. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders and Total Inventories ¹

[Estimates are shown in millions of dollars and are based on data from the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey.]

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent
	Sep 2011 ²	Aug 2011 ^r	Jul 2011	Aug - Sep ²	Jul - Aug ^r	Jun - Jul	Sep 2011 ²	Aug 2011 ^r	Sep 2010	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	885,299	878,395	871,117	0.8	0.8	0.9	877,906	873,924	816,656	7.5
Total Inventories.....	365,555	365,183	362,100	0.1	0.9	1.1	363,846	368,393	324,314	12.2
Excluding transportation:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	373,183	370,188	369,564	0.8	0.2	1.0	370,317	368,806	331,149	11.8
Total Inventories.....	252,829	252,964	251,236	-0.1	0.7	0.9	251,691	255,162	228,615	10.1
Excluding defense:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	713,103	707,542	700,886	0.8	0.9	1.0	708,201	705,059	654,538	8.2
Total Inventories.....	339,880	339,133	336,154	0.2	0.9	1.1	338,259	342,414	299,794	12.8
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:										
Unfilled Orders.....	885,299	878,395	871,117	0.8	0.8	0.9	877,906	873,924	816,656	7.5
Total Inventories.....	299,848	299,891	297,399	0.0	0.8	1.1	298,521	302,622	264,234	13.0
Primary metals:										
Unfilled Orders.....	32,374	31,845	31,600	1.7	0.8	0.3	31,490	31,853	28,876	9.1
Total Inventories.....	34,752	34,572	34,282	0.5	0.8	1.3	34,843	34,930	29,439	18.4
Fabricated metal products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	65,342	64,783	64,378	0.9	0.6	1.3	65,063	64,874	60,875	6.9
Total Inventories.....	45,918	46,021	45,689	-0.2	0.7	0.9	45,780	46,262	41,193	11.1
Machinery:										
Unfilled Orders.....	116,940	115,429	114,963	1.3	0.4	2.6	116,043	115,303	88,529	31.1
Total Inventories.....	59,464	59,395	58,562	0.1	1.4	1.4	58,853	59,685	51,524	14.2
Computers and electronic products⁴:										
Unfilled Orders.....	123,575	123,609	123,961	0.0	-0.3	-0.3	123,152	122,269	122,566	0.5
Total Inventories.....	48,028	48,438	48,568	-0.8	-0.3	0.6	47,637	49,314	45,009	5.8
Computers and related products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	3,531	3,298	3,319	7.1	-0.6	-8.9	3,531	3,298	3,583	-1.5
Total Inventories.....	5,989	5,971	6,061	0.3	-1.5	4.8	6,033	6,297	5,557	8.6
Communications equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	27,818	28,164	28,369	-1.2	-0.7	-1.0	27,875	27,898	29,481	-5.4
Total Inventories.....	9,696	10,031	9,923	-3.3	1.1	-0.2	9,515	10,094	9,097	4.6
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:										
Unfilled Orders.....	26,786	26,267	26,040	2.0	0.9	0.9	26,522	26,336	22,406	18.4
Total Inventories.....	15,653	15,617	15,529	0.2	0.6	0.1	15,584	15,829	14,778	5.5
Transportation equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	512,116	508,207	501,553	0.8	1.3	0.8	507,589	505,118	485,507	4.5
Total Inventories.....	112,726	112,219	110,864	0.5	1.2	1.6	112,155	113,231	95,699	17.2
Motor vehicles and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	13,975	13,877	13,725	0.7	1.1	1.0	13,459	13,351	12,678	6.2
Total Inventories.....	26,216	25,775	25,485	1.7	1.1	1.9	26,198	26,026	22,853	14.6
Nondefense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	355,888	353,548	347,650	0.7	1.7	1.0	353,933	352,220	333,067	6.3
Total Inventories.....	61,237	61,253	60,313	0.0	1.6	1.9	60,725	61,895	48,485	25.2
Defense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	55,250	55,681	54,627	-0.8	1.9	0.5	54,245	55,027	51,251	5.8
Total Inventories.....	14,613	14,423	14,368	1.3	0.4	0.7	14,681	14,484	13,807	6.3
All other durable goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	8,166	8,255	8,622	-1.1	-4.3	0.3	8,047	8,171	7,897	1.9
Total Inventories.....	49,014	48,921	48,606	0.2	0.6	0.3	48,994	49,142	46,672	5.0
Capital goods³:										
Unfilled Orders.....	674,902	668,388	661,559	1.0	1.0	0.9	669,867	664,545	620,927	7.9
Total Inventories.....	187,215	187,388	185,440	-0.1	1.1	1.2	185,778	189,116	162,340	14.4
Nondefense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	521,898	516,546	510,225	1.0	1.2	0.9	518,955	514,237	476,204	9.0
Total Inventories.....	167,136	166,854	165,025	0.2	1.1	1.3	165,855	168,714	142,978	16.0
Excluding aircraft:										
Unfilled Orders.....	208,047	205,240	204,690	1.4	0.3	1.1	206,762	204,116	180,967	14.3
Total Inventories.....	114,516	114,265	113,218	0.2	0.9	1.0	113,695	115,614	102,308	11.1
Defense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	153,004	151,842	151,334	0.8	0.3	0.6	150,912	150,308	144,723	4.3
Total Inventories.....	20,079	20,534	20,415	-2.2	0.6	0.5	19,923	20,402	19,362	2.9

See footnotes at end of Table 1

Survey Description

This report is compiled from results of the U.S. Census Bureau's Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3) survey. This survey provides statistics on manufacturers' value of shipments, new orders (net of cancellations), end-of-month order backlog (unfilled orders), end-of-month total inventory (at current cost or market value), and inventories by stage of fabrication (materials and supplies, work-in-process, and finished goods). The M3 includes approximately 4,300 reporting units. Units may be divisions of diversified large companies, large homogenous companies, or single-unit manufacturers in 89 industry categories. Due to the small monthly sample, these 89 categories have been combined into 65 publication levels. The survey methodology assumes that the month-to-month changes of the total operations of those companies in the monthly survey effectively represent the month-to-month movements of all establishments that make up the category. The current coverage levels in the survey show that reported data in the monthly survey represent approximately 60 percent of the shipments estimates at the total manufacturing level. Data published represent manufacturing in a calendar month. The data collection is based on a voluntary survey authorized by Title 13 of the United States Code.

The data presented in this release are based on data obtained from a panel of 4,300 reporting units and provide an indication of the activity within the manufacturing sector. The results differ from what would be obtained from a complete enumeration of all manufacturing companies. In addition, a different panel of 4,300 companies would yield different results. The M3 panel is comprised of companies with \$500 million or more in shipments and a limited number of smaller companies. From a statistical perspective, the panel is not a probability sample; therefore, the sampling errors that are normally provided with sample surveys cannot be measured. Nonsampling errors are attributable to many sources. The use of company or divisional reports to estimate the monthly change for establishments is one source of nonsampling error. The use of primarily large companies to represent the month-to-month movement of all companies is another potential source. Any corrections will be published in the full report. Corrections received after the full report will be released in the next month's advance report. Any revisions made later than two months will be reflected in the annual benchmark publication.

Additional survey documentation can be found on our web site: <http://www.census.gov/m3>.