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

New Orders. New orders for manufactured durable goods in October decreased \$1.4 billion or 0.7 percent to \$197.7 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This decrease, down two consecutive months, followed a 1.5 percent September decrease. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 0.7 percent. Excluding defense, new orders increased 0.2 percent. Transportation equipment, also down two consecutive months, had the largest decrease, \$2.4 billion or 4.8 percent to \$47.2 billion.

Shipments. Shipments of manufactured durable goods in October, up five of the last six months, increased \$2.6 billion or 1.3 percent to \$203.0 billion. This followed a 0.5 percent September decrease. Transportation equipment, up following two consecutive monthly decreases, had the largest increase, \$2.4 billion or 5.2 percent to \$48.4 billion.

Unfilled Orders. Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in October, up eighteen of the last nineteen months, increased \$1.9 billion or 0.2 percent to \$886.0 billion. This followed a 0.6 percent September increase. Machinery, up twenty one consecutive months, had the largest increase, \$1.8 billion or 1.5 percent to \$117.7 billion. This was at the highest level since the series was first published on a NAICS basis in 1992 and followed a 0.3 percent September

Inventories. Inventories of manufactured durable goods in October, up twenty two consecutive months, increased \$1.8 billion or 0.5 percent to \$367.2 billion. This was at the highest level since the series was first published on a NAICS basis and followed a slight September increase. Transportation equipment, also up twenty two consecutive months, had the largest increase, \$0.8 billion or 0.7 percent to \$113.6 billion.

Capital Goods. Nondefense new orders for capital goods in October decreased \$3.5 billion or 4.6 percent to \$71.6 billion. Shipments increased \$0.1 billion or 0.2 percent to \$70.9 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$0.7 billion or 0.1 percent to \$521.9 billion. Inventories increased \$1.3 billion or 0.8 percent to \$168.6 billion. Defense new orders for capital goods in October decreased \$1.7 billion or 19.8 percent to \$6.7 billion. Shipments decreased \$0.5 billion or 7.2 percent to \$7.0 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$0.3 billion or 0.2 percent to \$152.3 billion. Inventories increased \$0.2 billion or 1.0 percent to \$20.2 billion.

Revised September Data. Revised seasonally adjusted September figures for all manufacturing industries were: new orders, \$451.8 billion (revised from \$453.5 billion); shipments, \$453.1 billion (revised from \$452.7 billion); unfilled orders, \$884.1 billion (revised from \$886.3 billion); and total inventories, \$601.0 billion (revised from \$601.3 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 December 5, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. EST. The advance report on durable goods for November is scheduled for release on December 23, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. EST. See back page for survey description.

Table 1. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments and New Orders 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			Year to Date		
	Oct 2011 ²	Sep 2011 ^f	Aug 2011	Sep - Oct ²	Aug - Sep ^f	Jul - Aug	Oct 2011 ²	Sep 2011 ^f	Oct 2010	2011	2010	Change 11/10
DURABLE GOODS												
Total:												
Shipments.....	203,042	200,410	201,505	1.3	-0.5	0.1	207,404	212,545	190,102	1,979,541	1,835,553	7.8
New Orders ⁴	197,676	199,085	202,215	-0.7	-1.5	0.1	195,143	210,562	182,501	1,957,355	1,793,172	9.2
Excluding transportation:												
Shipments.....	154,602	154,348	154,562	0.2	-0.1	1.7	157,832	162,069	143,794	1,513,547	1,387,877	9.1
New Orders ⁴	150,452	149,469	148,518	0.7	0.6	-0.2	149,733	157,324	134,119	1,476,808	1,351,829	9.2
Excluding defense:												
Shipments.....	193,844	190,667	191,605	1.7	-0.5	-0.2	198,466	201,866	179,470	1,880,996	1,716,258	9.6
New Orders ⁴	188,844	188,386	191,720	0.2	-1.7	-0.1	188,141	199,236	174,353	1,854,658	1,678,206	10.5
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:												
Shipments.....	145,732	145,323	144,855	0.3	0.3	0.8	145,788	154,965	133,872	1,423,719	1,318,443	8.0
New Orders.....	147,607	150,667	152,469	-2.0	-1.2	0.8	143,208	158,507	134,774	1,469,355	1,337,328	9.9
Primary metals:												
Shipments.....	25,298	24,573	24,217	3.0	1.5	-0.6	25,416	25,323	18,893	239,285	185,100	29.3
New Orders.....	25,615	24,878	24,432	3.0	1.8	0.0	24,727	25,112	17,820	238,527	189,202	26.1
Fabricated metal products:												
Shipments.....	25,264	25,323	25,055	-0.2	1.1	0.8	26,138	26,882	24,447	251,478	237,239	6.0
New Orders.....	25,762	25,838	25,477	-0.3	1.4	-0.7	25,941	27,069	23,097	257,110	238,109	8.0
Machinery:												
Shipments.....	29,968	30,841	31,461	-2.8	-2.0	5.8	29,397	31,984	26,064	292,606	260,847	12.2
New Orders.....	31,727	31,223	32,007	1.6	-2.4	-1.9	31,439	31,598	28,334	315,369	275,364	14.5
Computers and electronic products⁴:												
Shipments.....	31,311	30,927	31,185	1.2	-0.8	0.6	33,543	32,992	32,993	306,298	299,957	2.1
New Orders.....	24,488	24,507	24,075	-0.1	1.8	1.4	23,978	28,736	23,167	238,259	239,293	-0.4
Computers and related products:												
Shipments.....	6,111	5,986	5,794	2.1	3.3	-0.5	6,549	6,845	6,050	56,954	51,298	11.0
New Orders.....	6,081	6,105	5,773	-0.4	5.8	5.0	6,519	6,964	5,952	56,687	51,239	10.6
Communications equipment:												
Shipments.....	2,975	3,164	3,069	-6.0	3.1	1.2	2,627	3,797	3,122	30,536	36,188	-15.6
New Orders.....	2,971	3,018	2,929	-1.6	3.0	7.1	2,722	4,039	2,955	29,180	35,931	-18.8
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:												
Shipments.....	10,203	10,280	10,305	-0.7	-0.2	3.9	10,213	11,089	9,869	101,303	95,327	6.3
New Orders.....	10,127	10,686	10,550	-5.2	1.3	3.8	10,153	11,136	9,924	104,393	99,157	5.3
Transportation equipment:												
Shipments.....	48,440	46,062	46,943	5.2	-1.9	-4.9	49,572	50,476	46,308	465,994	447,676	4.1
New Orders.....	47,224	49,616	53,697	-4.8	-7.6	0.8	45,410	53,238	48,382	480,547	441,343	8.9
Motor vehicles and parts:												
Shipments.....	30,176	28,371	28,870	6.4	-1.7	-9.1	32,619	30,943	29,589	294,523	268,716	9.6
New Orders.....	30,080	28,333	29,031	6.2	-2.4	-9.0	32,641	31,023	29,882	294,180	267,787	9.9
Nondefense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	8,732	8,043	7,804	8.6	3.1	3.4	7,635	8,689	6,031	70,960	64,414	10.2
New Orders.....	8,451	10,114	13,814	-16.4	-26.8	26.2	5,419	10,437	10,285	85,411	70,656	20.9
Defense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	3,779	3,795	4,053	-0.4	-6.4	6.1	3,667	4,335	4,400	40,198	49,047	-18.0
New Orders.....	3,651	3,314	5,086	10.2	-34.8	24.3	3,167	3,535	4,061	41,800	48,888	-14.5
All other durable goods:												
Shipments.....	32,558	32,404	32,339	0.5	0.2	0.5	33,125	33,799	31,528	322,577	309,407	4.3
New Orders.....	32,733	32,337	31,977	1.2	1.1	-0.7	33,495	33,673	31,777	323,150	310,704	4.0
Capital goods³:												
Shipments.....	77,927	78,359	79,029	-0.6	-0.8	3.0	76,326	84,082	71,556	753,679	714,006	5.6
New Orders.....	78,297	83,430	86,199	-6.2	-3.2	4.7	73,804	88,623	74,517	792,243	727,693	8.9
Nondefense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	70,880	70,766	71,470	0.2	-1.0	3.0	69,536	75,878	63,152	676,744	617,920	9.5
New Orders.....	71,579	75,056	78,159	-4.6	-4.0	5.4	68,788	80,008	68,377	711,055	636,509	11.7
Excluding aircraft:												
Shipments.....	65,297	66,029	66,689	-1.1	-1.0	3.1	64,718	70,937	59,638	635,765	579,955	9.6
New Orders.....	66,907	68,120	67,495	-1.8	0.9	0.9	66,787	72,960	60,978	657,996	592,641	11.0
Defense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	7,047	7,593	7,559	-7.2	0.4	3.3	6,790	8,204	8,404	76,935	96,086	-19.9
New Orders.....	6,718	8,374	8,040	-19.8	4.2	-2.0	5,016	8,615	6,140	81,188	91,184	-11.0

^f Revised data due to late receipts and concurrent seasonal adjustment.¹ Estimates of shipments and new orders are for the duration of the period, while estimates of unfilled orders and total inventories are for the end of the period. Not seasonally adjusted estimates of shipments and new orders include adjusted data for non-calendar reporters. Seasonally adjusted estimates include concurrent adjustments for holiday and trading-day differences, where appropriate, as well as seasonal variation, based on the results of the latest annual review of the model parameters. Estimates are not adjusted for price changes.² Based on advance sample. Estimates of manufacturers' shipments, inventories, and orders are subject to survey error and revision. One major component of survey error is nonsampling error, which includes errors of coverage, response and nonreporting. Since the survey panel is not a probability sample, estimates of sampling error cannot be calculated. For further details on survey design, methodology, and data limitations, see <http://www.census.gov/manufacturing/m3>.³ The Capital Goods Industries include Nondefense: small arms and ordnance; farm machinery and equipment; construction machinery; mining, oil, and gas field machinery; industrial machinery; vending, laundry, and other machinery; photographic equipment; metalworking machinery; turbines and generators; other power transmission equipment; pumps and compressors; material handling equipment; all other machinery; electronic computers; computer storage devices; other computer peripheral equipment; communications equipment; search and navigation equipment; electromedical, measuring, and control instruments; electrical equipment; other electrical equipment, appliances, and components; heavy duty trucks; aircraft; railroad rolling stock; ships and boats; office and institutional furniture; and medical equipment and supplies.

Defense Capital Goods include: small arms and ordnance, communications equipment, aircraft; missiles, space vehicles, and parts, ships and boats, and search and navigation equipment.

⁴ Estimates of shipments for the semiconductor industry are no longer shown separately. Estimates and percent changes of shipments and inventories for the semiconductor industry are included in computers and electronic products, and all other applicable aggregate totals. Estimates and percent changes for new orders and unfilled orders exclude semiconductor industry data.

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
	Oct 2011 ²	Sep 2011 ^r	Aug 2011	Sep - Oct ²	Aug - Sep ^r	Jul - Aug	Oct 2011 ²	Sep 2011 ^r	Oct 2010	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	885,950	884,075	878,731	0.2	0.6	0.9	875,094	877,674	817,558	7.0
Total Inventories.....	367,160	365,349	365,291	0.5	0.0	0.9	367,312	363,988	328,857	11.7
Excluding transportation:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	375,305	372,214	370,424	0.8	0.5	0.2	371,281	369,699	329,977	12.5
Total Inventories.....	253,603	252,629	252,922	0.4	-0.1	0.7	253,690	251,694	231,715	9.5
Excluding defense:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	714,534	712,293	707,905	0.3	0.6	1.0	707,538	708,182	657,924	7.5
Total Inventories.....	341,463	339,743	339,253	0.5	0.1	0.9	341,592	338,463	304,171	12.3
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:										
Unfilled Orders.....	885,950	884,075	878,731	0.2	0.6	0.9	875,094	877,674	817,558	7.0
Total Inventories.....	300,827	299,494	299,976	0.4	-0.2	0.9	301,171	298,532	268,430	12.2
Primary metals:										
Unfilled Orders.....	32,437	32,120	31,815	1.0	1.0	0.7	30,903	31,592	27,803	11.1
Total Inventories.....	34,432	34,434	34,512	0.0	-0.2	0.7	34,420	34,588	29,796	15.5
Fabricated metal products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	65,813	65,315	64,800	0.8	0.8	0.7	64,920	65,117	59,525	9.1
Total Inventories.....	46,112	45,875	45,982	0.5	-0.2	0.6	45,801	45,756	41,245	11.0
Machinery:										
Unfilled Orders.....	117,650	115,891	115,509	1.5	0.3	0.5	117,041	114,999	90,799	28.9
Total Inventories.....	60,011	59,665	59,467	0.6	0.3	1.5	59,910	59,116	52,495	14.1
Computers and electronic products⁴:										
Unfilled Orders.....	124,422	124,004	123,755	0.3	0.2	-0.2	123,654	123,538	121,243	2.0
Total Inventories.....	48,207	48,146	48,447	0.1	-0.6	-0.2	48,629	47,867	46,427	4.7
Computers and related products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	3,387	3,417	3,298	-0.9	3.6	-0.6	3,387	3,417	3,485	-2.8
Total Inventories.....	6,236	6,113	5,970	2.0	2.4	-1.5	6,338	6,211	5,760	10.0
Communications equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	28,079	28,083	28,229	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	28,235	28,140	29,314	-3.7
Total Inventories.....	9,696	9,730	10,039	-0.3	-3.1	1.2	9,773	9,557	9,475	3.1
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:										
Unfilled Orders.....	26,615	26,691	26,285	-0.3	1.5	0.9	26,342	26,402	22,461	17.3
Total Inventories.....	15,443	15,356	15,570	0.6	-1.4	0.3	15,415	15,234	14,971	3.0
Transportation equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	510,645	511,861	508,307	-0.2	0.7	1.3	503,813	507,975	487,581	3.3
Total Inventories.....	113,557	112,720	112,369	0.7	0.3	1.4	113,622	112,294	97,142	17.0
Motor vehicles and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	13,752	13,848	13,886	-0.7	-0.3	1.2	13,453	13,431	12,971	3.7
Total Inventories.....	26,617	26,252	25,774	1.4	1.9	1.1	26,562	26,172	23,118	14.9
Nondefense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	355,450	355,731	353,660	-0.1	0.6	1.7	351,867	354,083	337,321	4.3
Total Inventories.....	61,911	61,200	61,412	1.2	-0.3	1.8	61,930	60,884	49,601	24.9
Defense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	55,051	55,179	55,660	-0.2	-0.9	1.9	53,707	54,207	50,912	5.5
Total Inventories.....	14,295	14,565	14,414	-1.9	1.0	0.3	14,365	14,661	13,804	4.1
All other durable goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	8,368	8,193	8,260	2.1	-0.8	-4.2	8,421	8,051	8,146	3.4
Total Inventories.....	49,398	49,153	48,944	0.5	0.4	0.7	49,515	49,133	46,781	5.8
Capital goods³:										
Unfilled Orders.....	674,170	673,800	668,729	0.1	0.8	1.1	666,776	669,298	623,888	6.9
Total Inventories.....	188,853	187,325	187,564	0.8	-0.1	1.1	189,169	186,099	165,559	14.3
Nondefense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	521,903	521,204	516,914	0.1	0.8	1.3	517,851	518,599	481,429	7.6
Total Inventories.....	168,611	167,287	167,042	0.8	0.1	1.2	168,974	166,238	146,099	15.7
Excluding aircraft:										
Unfilled Orders.....	209,197	207,587	205,496	0.8	1.0	0.4	208,325	206,256	182,307	14.3
Total Inventories.....	115,381	114,704	114,294	0.6	0.4	1.0	115,861	113,919	104,489	10.9
Defense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	152,267	152,596	151,815	-0.2	0.5	0.3	148,925	150,699	142,459	4.5
Total Inventories.....	20,242	20,038	20,522	1.0	-2.4	0.5	20,195	19,861	19,460	3.8

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>.

2012 Release Dates for the M3 Survey

Survey month	Advance Report (8:30 a.m. release time)	Full Report (10:00 a.m. release time)
October 2011	November 23, 2011	December 5, 2011
November 2011	December 23, 2011	January 4, 2012
December 2011	January 26, 2012	February 3, 2012
January 2012	February 28, 2012	March 5, 2012
February 2012	March 28, 2012	April 3, 2012
March 2012	April 25, 2012	May 2, 2012
April 2012	May 24, 2012	June 4, 2012
May 2012	June 27, 2012	July 3, 2012
June 2012	July 26, 2012	August 2, 2012
July 2012	August 24, 2012	August 31, 2012
August 2012	September 27, 2012	October 4, 2012
September 2012	October 25, 2012	November 2, 2012
October 2012	November 27, 2012	December 5, 2012
November 2012	December 24, 2012	Not available at this time

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey

Last revised: November 2, 2011