
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
NEWS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

ECONOMICS
AND
STATISTICS
ADMINISTRATION

BUREAU OF THE
CENSUS

Bureau of the Census
For Data - (301) 457-4673
For Questions - Kathy Menth or Gloria Cable
(301) 457-4832 or (301) 457-4814
M3-1(97)-08

For Release 8:30 A.M. EDT
September 25, 1997
CB97-160

ADVANCE REPORT ON DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS
August 1997

(All figures in text below are in seasonally adjusted current dollars)

• **NEW ORDERS** New orders for manufactured durable goods in August increased \$4.9 billion or 2.7 percent to \$186.6 billion, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census reported today. This follows a 0.1 percent July increase and is the third consecutive monthly increase. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 2.0 percent, also the third consecutive monthly increase. Year to date, new orders are 6.5 percent above the same period a year ago.

Electronic and other electrical equipment, up for the first month since May, had the largest increase, \$7.5 billion or 28.4 percent to \$33.8 billion, mostly due to electronic components. This follows a 12.3 percent July decrease. Transportation equipment, up two of the last three months, increased \$2.2 billion or 5.2 percent to \$43.9 billion, as a large increase in aircraft and parts more than offset decreases in the other components. This follows a 2.7 percent July decrease. Primary metals, down for the first month since May, decreased \$0.6 billion or 3.6 percent to \$15.7 billion, following a 3.6 percent July increase. Industrial machinery and equipment, down for the first month since May, decreased \$0.5 billion or 1.4 percent to \$34.6 billion. This follows a 6.0 percent July increase. Instruments and related products, down for the first month since May, also had a large decline.

• **SHIPMENTS** of durable goods in August, down for the first month since May, decreased \$2.6 billion or 1.4 percent to \$181.3 billion, following a 1.8 percent July increase. Year to date, shipments are 7.5 percent above the same period a year ago.

Transportation equipment, down for the first month since May, had the largest decrease, \$1.0 billion or 2.3 percent to \$43.0 billion, due to aircraft and parts and motor vehicles and parts. This follows a 3.6 percent July increase. Industrial machinery and equipment, also down for the first month since May, decreased \$0.8 billion or 2.3 percent to \$34.1 billion, following a 1.9 percent July increase. Primary metals decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.8 percent to \$15.5 billion, following increases of 1.1 percent in July and 1.7 percent in June. Electronic and other electrical equipment, up three of the last four months, increased \$0.6 billion or 2.2 percent to \$30.0 billion. This follows a 0.6 percent July decrease.

• **UNFILLED ORDERS** Unfilled orders for durable goods in August increased \$5.3 billion or 1.1 percent to \$501.1 billion. This follows a 0.5 percent July decrease and is the third increase in the last four months.

Electronic and other electrical equipment, up three of the last four months, had the largest increase, \$3.8 billion or 7.4 percent to \$55.2 billion. This follows a 5.6 percent July decrease. Transportation equipment increased \$1.0 billion or 0.4 percent to \$250.6 billion, due to aircraft and parts. This follows a 0.9 percent July decrease and is the second increase in the last three months. Industrial machinery and equipment, up for the second consecutive month, increased \$0.5 billion or 0.6 percent to \$73.4 billion, following a 0.2 percent July increase. Primary metals, up for the eighth consecutive month, increased \$0.2 billion or 0.7 percent to \$31.9 billion, following a 2.1 percent July increase.

• **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, DEFENSE** New orders in August increased \$0.1 billion or 1.1 percent to \$6.0 billion, following a 4.7 percent July decrease. Shipments, down three of the last four months, decreased \$0.2 billion or 2.6 percent to \$6.2 billion, following a 4.7 percent July decrease. Unfilled orders, down for the eighth consecutive month, decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.1 percent to \$107.5 billion, following a 0.3 percent July decrease.

• **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, NONDEFENSE** New orders in August, up for the fourth consecutive month, increased \$0.4 billion or 0.9 percent to \$47.8 billion, following a 0.4 percent July increase. Shipments, down for the first month since May, decreased \$1.1 billion or 2.4 percent to \$46.9 billion. This follows a 2.7 percent July increase. Unfilled orders, up two of the last three months, increased \$0.9 billion or 0.4 percent to \$252.5 billion, following a 0.3 percent July decrease. Excluding aircraft and parts, new orders decreased \$2.3 billion or 5.4 percent to \$39.8 billion, the first decrease since May; shipments decreased \$0.5 billion or 1.2 percent to \$40.0 billion, the first decline since January; and unfilled orders decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.1 percent to \$99.0 billion, the third decrease in the last four months.

• **REVISED JULY DATA** Revised seasonally adjusted July figures for all manufacturing industries are: shipments, \$332.8 billion (revised from \$332.9 billion); new orders, \$331.1 billion (revised from \$330.3 billion); unfilled orders, \$522.3 billion (revised from \$521.4 billion); and total inventories, \$446.4 billion (revised from \$447.0 billion).

Our internet site address is: <http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/indicator/www/m3/index.htm>

Table 1. DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS
(Millions of dollars)

	Seasonally adjusted						Not seasonally adjusted ¹			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent change Aug. 97/96
	Aug 1997 ²	July 1997 ²	June 1997	July- Aug. ²	June- July ²	May- June	Aug. 1997 ²	July 1997 ²	Aug. 1996	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total :										
Shipments	181,314	183,931	180,687	-1.4	+1.8	+2.7	179,016	156,331	167,484	+6.9
New orders	186,598	181,677	181,584	+2.7	+0.1	+2.9	183,630	155,475	164,086	+11.9
Unfilled orders	501,141	495,857	498,111	+1.1	-0.5	+0.2	500,720	496,106	479,089	+4.5
Excluding defense :										
Shipments	175,130	177,585	174,025	-1.4	+2.0	+2.6	173,087	150,732	161,659	+7.1
New orders	180,555	175,700	175,313	+2.8	+0.2	+2.6	179,054	151,662	160,287	+11.7
Unfilled orders	393,625	388,200	390,085	+1.4	-0.5	+0.3	395,120	389,153	372,323	+6.1
With unfilled orders :										
Shipments	147,954	149,591	148,046	-1.1	+1.0	+2.4	145,570	129,905	135,334	+7.6
New orders	153,238	147,337	148,943	+4.0	-1.1	+2.6	150,184	129,049	131,936	+13.8
Primary metals :										
Shipments	15,458	15,589	15,425	-0.8	+1.1	+1.7	15,428	14,102	14,463	+6.7
New orders	15,674	16,256	15,694	-3.6	+3.6	+1.1	15,471	14,830	14,709	+5.2
Unfilled orders	31,947	31,731	31,064	+0.7	+2.1	+0.9	31,824	31,781	29,632	+7.4
Industrial machinery and equipment:										
Shipments	34,142	34,941	34,284	-2.3	+1.9	+3.7	31,775	29,600	29,817	+6.6
New orders	34,608	35,089	33,103	-1.4	+6.0	+1.1	32,204	30,025	30,107	+7.0
Unfilled orders	73,398	72,932	72,784	+0.6	+0.2	-1.6	72,675	72,246	72,418	+0.4
Electronic and other electrical equipment :										
Shipments	30,016	29,383	29,561	+2.2	-0.6	+2.9	29,517	25,348	26,037	+13.4
New orders	33,842	26,352	30,045	+28.4	-12.3	-2.6	34,074	23,460	25,828	+31.9
Unfilled orders	55,222	51,396	54,427	+7.4	-5.6	+0.9	56,248	51,691	50,986	+10.3
Transportation equipment :										
Shipments	42,950	43,946	42,415	-2.3	+3.6	+3.3	42,097	32,024	39,759	+5.9
New orders	43,937	41,754	42,905	+5.2	-2.7	+8.8	42,195	28,904	36,738	+14.9
Unfilled orders	250,634	249,647	251,839	+0.4	-0.9	+0.2	249,292	249,194	242,528	+2.8
CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES³										
Total :										
Shipments	53,088	54,396	53,435	-2.4	+1.8	+2.9	49,736	46,892	45,660	+8.9
New orders	53,886	53,374	53,482	+1.0	-0.2	+7.5	49,254	44,737	41,505	+18.7
Unfilled orders	359,986	359,188	360,210	+0.2	-0.3	0.0	357,610	358,092	349,245	+2.4
Nondefense :										
Shipments	46,904	48,050	46,773	-2.4	+2.7	+2.6	43,807	41,293	39,835	+10.0
New orders	47,843	47,397	47,211	+0.9	+0.4	+6.8	44,678	40,924	37,706	+18.5
Unfilled orders	252,470	251,531	252,184	+0.4	-0.3	+0.2	252,010	251,139	242,479	+3.9
Excluding aircraft and parts :										
Shipments	39,957	40,445	40,000	-1.2	+1.1	+3.8	37,406	34,595	34,471	+8.5
New orders	39,845	42,120	39,512	-5.4	+6.6	+3.1	37,226	36,554	33,765	+10.3
Unfilled orders	99,016	99,128	97,453	-0.1	+1.7	-0.5	98,556	98,736	95,936	+2.7
Defense :										
Shipments	6,184	6,346	6,662	-2.6	-4.7	+5.5	5,929	5,599	5,825	+1.8
New orders	6,043	5,977	6,271	+1.1	-4.7	+13.5	4,576	3,813	3,799	+20.5
Unfilled orders	107,516	107,657	108,026	-0.1	-0.3	-0.4	105,600	106,953	106,766	-1.1

(NA) Not available. ¹ Revised.¹ Shipments and new orders are the totals for the period and are adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations; unfilled orders are as of the end of the period and are not adjusted for trading-day or calendar-month variations.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 nonresponse. Since the survey panel is not a probability sample, estimates of sampling error cannot be calculated. Further details on survey design, methodology, and data limitations are contained in our most recent annual benchmark publication, Current Industrial Reports: M3-1(96), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 1987-1996."³ The Capital Goods Industries include Nondefense : ordnance and accessories, steam engines and turbines, internal combustion engines, construction mining and material handling equipment, metalworking machinery, special industry machinery, general industrial machinery, computer and office equipment, refrigeration, heating and service industry machinery, electrical transmission and distribution equipment, electrical industrial apparatus, communication equipment, complete aircraft, missiles, and space vehicles, aircraft missiles, and space vehicle engines and parts, ships and tank components, railroad equipment, and search and navigation equipment. Defense capital goods include : ordnance, communication equipment, aircraft, missiles, space vehicles, and parts, ships, tanks and tank components, search and navigation equipment.

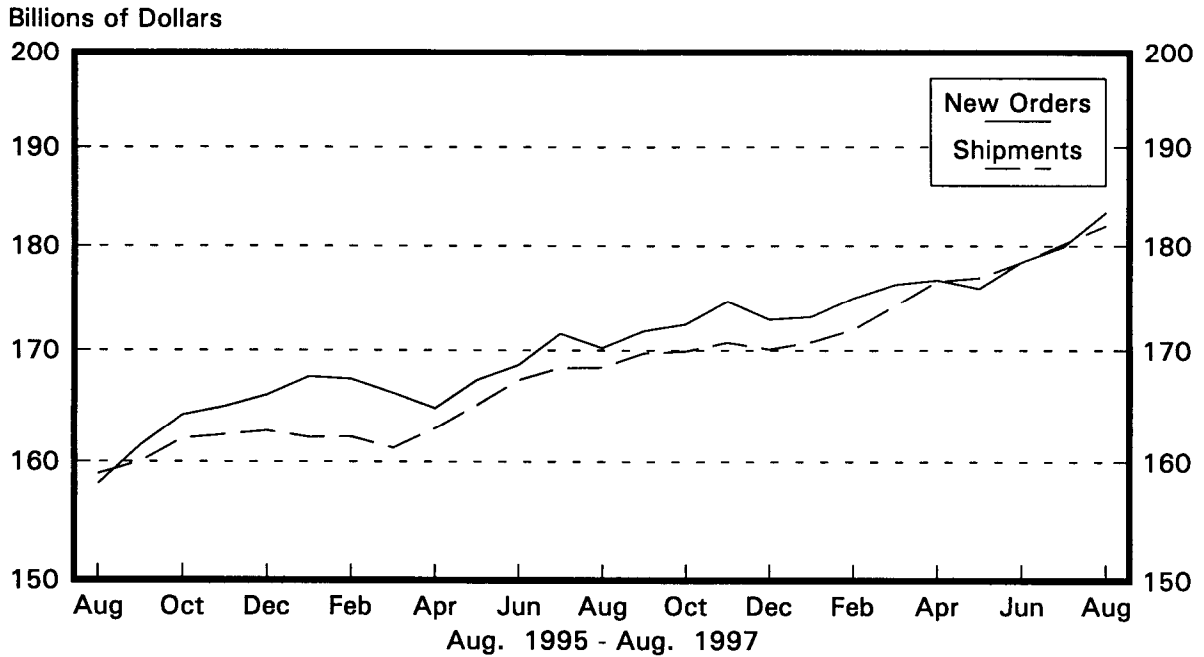
Table 2. AVERAGE REVISIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED MONTHLY PERCENT CHANGES
(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Industry	Shipments			New Orders			Unfilled Orders		
	Year ago Aug. 1996	Aug. 1992-1996	Aug. 1996- July 1997	Year ago Aug. 1996	Aug. 1992-1996	Aug. 1996- July 1997	Year ago Aug. 1996	Aug. 1992-1996	Aug. 1996- July 1997
	Durable goods	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1
Primary metals	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.3	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.2	0.4
Industrial machinery and equipment	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.3
Electronic and other electrical equipment	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.5	1.2	0.0	0.2	0.7
Transportation equipment	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.9	1.0	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
Nondefense capital goods	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.2
Defense capital goods	1.1	0.7	0.9	7.0	2.8	4.5	0.4	0.1	0.3

Note : The revisions are the differences between the month-to-month percent changes of the advance and final estimates. The monthly averages are the simple averages of the differences, without regard to the months specified.

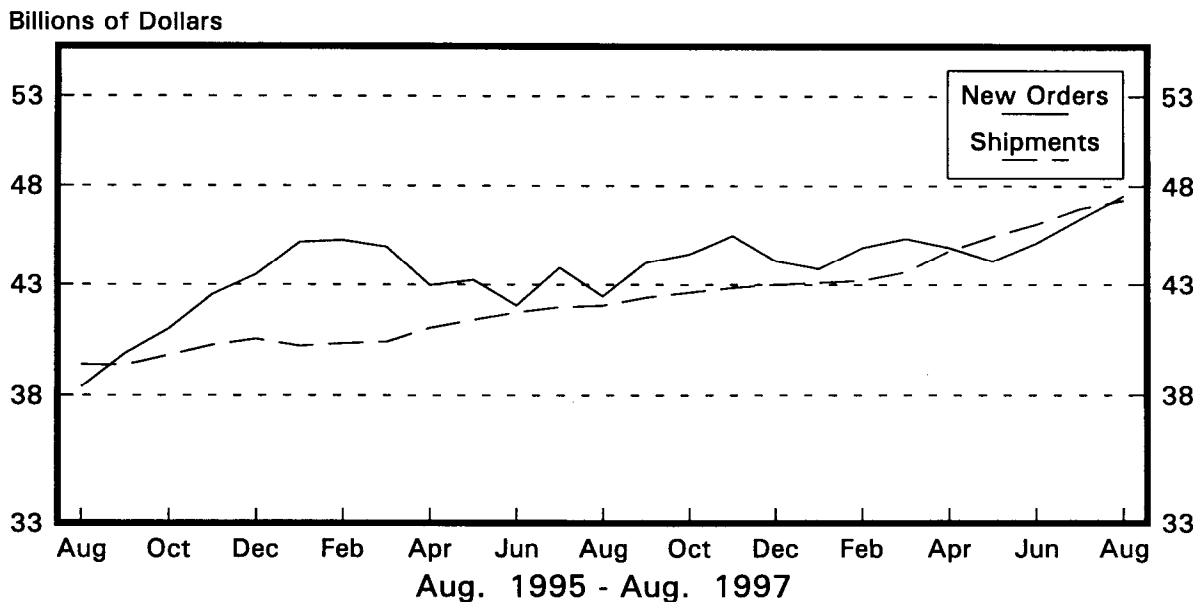
Total Durable Goods

New Orders and Shipments
Three Month Moving Averages



Nondefense Capital Goods

New Orders and Shipments
Three Month Moving Averages



Note: All Charts based on seasonally adjusted current dollars.