

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
NEWS**
WASHINGTON, DC 20230

**ECONOMICS
AND
STATISTICS
ADMINISTRATION**

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

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M3-1(03)-04

For Release 8:30 A.M. EDT
May 28, 2003
CB-03-88

**ADVANCE REPORT ON DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS
April 2003**

(Figures in text, other than year-to-date, are in seasonally adjusted current dollars. All figures **exclude data for semiconductor manufacturing**)

● **NEW ORDERS** for manufactured durable goods in April decreased \$4.2 billion or 2.4 percent to \$168.9 billion, the Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau reported today. This followed a 1.4 percent March increase. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 1.2 percent. Excluding defense, new orders decreased 1.5 percent. Year-to-date, new orders for 2003 were 0.6 percent above the same period a year ago.

Transportation equipment had the largest decrease, \$2.8 billion or 5.4 percent to \$49.6 billion, led by defense aircraft and parts, which decreased by \$1.5 billion. Machinery decreased \$0.8 billion or 3.7 percent to \$21.8 billion.

● **SHIPMENTS** of manufactured durable goods in April decreased \$1.3 billion or 0.7 percent to \$170.3 billion. This followed a 0.5 percent March increase. Year-to-date, shipments for 2003 were 0.6 percent below the same period a year ago.

Transportation equipment had the largest decrease, \$1.4 billion or 2.8 percent to \$49.7 billion, led by motor vehicles and parts, which decreased by \$1.1 billion.

● **UNFILLED ORDERS** for manufactured durable goods in April decreased \$1.4 billion or 0.3 percent to \$476.6 billion. This followed a 0.3 percent March increase.

Machinery, down twenty-nine of the past thirty-one months, had the largest decrease, \$0.4 billion or 1.0 percent to \$44.4 billion.

● **INVENTORIES** of manufactured durable goods, down twenty-six of the past twenty-seven months, in April decreased \$0.3 billion or 0.1 percent to \$263.9 billion. This followed a 0.2 percent March decrease.

Computers and electronic products, down five consecutive months, had the largest decrease, \$0.5 billion or 1.2 percent to \$40.0 billion.

● **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, DEFENSE** New orders in April decreased \$2.1 billion or 19.4 percent to \$8.8 billion. Shipments, at the highest level since October 1993, increased \$0.3 billion or 3.7 percent to \$7.4 billion. Unfilled orders, at the highest level since October 1993, increased \$1.3 billion or 1.0 percent to \$130.0 billion. Inventories increased \$0.2 billion or 1.1 percent to \$19.3 billion.

● **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, NONDEFENSE** New orders in April decreased \$0.2 billion or 0.3 percent to \$55.6 billion. Shipments increased \$0.3 billion or 0.5 percent to \$56.1 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$0.5 billion or 0.2 percent to \$208.7 billion. Inventories, down twenty-six of the past twenty-seven months, decreased \$1.0 billion or 0.9 percent to \$109.8 billion.

● **REVISED MARCH DATA** Revised seasonally adjusted March figures for all manufacturing industries are: new orders, \$329.7 billion (revised from \$330.0 billion); shipments, \$328.1 billion (revised from \$328.7 billion); unfilled orders, \$477.9 billion (revised from \$477.6 billion); and total inventories, \$433.1 billion (unrevised).

With the cooperation of the Semiconductor Industry Association and many of its member companies, the Census Bureau will again be able to publish shipments data on this important sector of our economy. The Census Bureau will not publish orders data and will only publish inventory data at higher level aggregates. The first monthly press release which will contain the semiconductor data is the July advance report on durable goods to be issued on August 26. However, historic data up through June 2003 for all data series will be released, along with benchmark revisions, on August 19, 2003.

SEE BACK PAGE FOR SURVEY DESCRIPTION

Our internet site address is: <http://www.census.gov/m3>

Table 1. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments and New Orders
 (Millions of Dollars)

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted ¹					Percent Change 2003/2002
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Year to Date		
	Apr 2003 ²	Mar 2003 ^r	Feb 2003	Mar - Apr ²	Feb - Mar ^r	Jan - Feb	Apr 2003 ²	Mar 2003 ^r	Apr 2002	2003	2002	
DURABLE GOODS												
Total:⁴												
Shipments.....	170,294	171,564	170,675	-0.7	0.5	-1.9	167,830	185,645	174,259	673,066	676,835	-0.6
New Orders.....	168,929	173,159	170,833	-2.4	1.4	-1.1	168,370	188,431	170,890	685,187	680,887	0.6
Excluding transportation:⁴												
Shipments.....	120,546	120,393	118,694	0.1	1.4	-3.0	118,460	129,172	120,299	468,316	468,573	-0.1
New Orders.....	119,331	120,745	119,485	-1.2	1.1	-2.3	118,416	129,532	120,446	475,375	467,772	1.6
Excluding defense:⁴												
Shipments.....	161,426	163,060	161,964	-1.0	0.7	-2.1	159,632	176,144	167,330	640,324	648,170	-1.2
New Orders.....	158,903	161,365	160,283	-1.5	0.7	-2.9	158,187	174,418	164,797	642,652	644,757	-0.3
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:⁴												
Shipments.....	118,998	119,382	118,902	-0.3	0.4	-1.6	116,775	129,592	120,756	467,912	474,790	-1.4
New Orders.....	117,633	120,977	119,060	-2.8	1.6	-0.4	117,315	132,378	117,387	480,033	478,842	0.2
Primary metals:												
Shipments.....	10,719	10,957	10,985	-2.2	-0.3	-3.2	11,070	11,393	11,708	44,251	44,282	-0.1
New Orders.....	10,553	10,363	10,871	1.8	-4.7	-2.8	10,828	10,868	11,624	44,259	44,813	-1.2
Fabricated metal products:												
Shipments.....	20,408	20,641	20,606	-1.1	0.2	-1.3	20,481	21,048	21,349	80,664	81,684	-1.2
New Orders.....	20,236	20,496	20,247	-1.3	1.2	-1.7	20,532	21,050	21,219	80,775	81,738	-1.2
Machinery:												
Shipments.....	22,296	22,320	21,905	-0.1	1.9	-2.2	23,105	24,860	23,327	88,571	89,555	-1.1
New Orders.....	21,849	22,686	21,836	-3.7	3.9	-2.5	23,154	25,163	23,369	90,296	87,884	2.7
Computers and electronic products:⁴												
Shipments.....	27,023	26,075	25,492	3.6	2.3	-4.7	24,065	30,409	23,445	99,763	100,058	-0.3
New Orders.....	26,829	26,824	26,177	0.0	2.5	-4.2	24,205	31,184	23,615	104,172	100,491	3.7
Computers and related products:												
Shipments.....	7,489	6,233	6,608	20.2	-5.7	-14.0	6,303	7,877	5,320	25,939	24,485	5.9
New Orders.....	7,415	6,431	6,451	15.3	-0.3	-13.1	6,103	8,071	5,016	25,680	24,368	5.4
Communications equipment:												
Shipments.....	5,473	5,595	5,496	-2.2	1.8	-1.6	4,893	6,622	5,226	20,662	21,892	-5.6
New Orders.....	6,039	6,365	6,371	-5.1	-0.1	0.8	5,653	7,579	5,292	24,981	22,446	11.3
Semiconductors:⁵												
Shipments.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
New Orders.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:												
Shipments.....	8,609	8,644	8,568	-0.4	0.9	-4.3	8,406	9,324	8,981	33,598	34,979	-3.9
New Orders.....	8,553	8,871	8,574	-3.6	3.5	-1.7	8,371	9,402	9,158	33,895	34,856	-2.8
Transportation equipment:												
Shipments.....	49,748	51,171	51,981	-2.8	-1.6	0.8	49,370	56,473	53,960	204,750	208,262	-1.7
New Orders.....	49,598	52,414	51,348	-5.4	2.1	1.8	49,954	58,899	50,444	209,812	213,115	-1.5
Motor vehicles and parts:												
Shipments.....	35,538	36,655	37,013	-3.0	-1.0	-2.6	36,417	39,750	40,847	150,269	151,783	-1.0
New Orders.....	35,412	36,515	37,117	-3.0	-1.6	-2.2	36,151	39,526	40,823	150,543	152,448	-1.2
Nondefense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	5,306	5,980	6,071	-11.3	-1.5	28.0	4,819	7,099	6,015	21,465	26,972	-20.4
New Orders.....	4,427	2,980	3,588	48.6	-16.9	-30.5	4,125	4,387	3,224	17,067	21,631	-21.1
Defense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	3,362	3,299	3,249	1.9	1.5	0.4	2,898	3,671	2,474	11,968	10,177	17.6
New Orders.....	4,285	5,822	2,449	-26.4	137.7	3.4	4,706	6,386	1,977	16,862	16,657	1.2
All other durable goods:												
Shipments.....	31,491	31,756	31,138	-0.8	2.0	-2.7	31,333	32,138	31,489	121,469	118,015	2.9
New Orders.....	31,311	31,505	31,780	-0.6	-0.9	-0.9	31,326	31,865	31,461	121,978	117,990	3.4
Capital goods:³												
Shipments.....	63,567	62,997	62,328	0.9	1.1	-1.2	60,356	71,324	59,716	243,790	243,656	0.1
New Orders.....	64,404	66,665	63,431	-3.4	5.1	-0.4	62,438	75,692	56,365	256,326	240,876	6.4
Nondefense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	56,121	55,817	55,035	0.5	1.4	-1.4	53,341	63,307	53,874	215,897	219,306	-1.6
New Orders.....	55,644	55,801	54,098	-0.3	3.1	-4.9	53,601	63,327	51,329	219,343	211,312	3.8
Excluding aircraft:												
Shipments.....	54,042	53,155	52,193	1.7	1.8	-3.5	51,529	59,905	50,745	206,759	205,139	0.8
New Orders.....	53,874	55,516	53,006	-3.0	4.7	-2.4	52,098	62,302	50,939	213,795	204,240	4.7
Defense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	7,446	7,180	7,293	3.7	-1.5	0.5	7,015	8,017	5,842	27,893	24,350	14.6
New Orders.....	8,760	10,864	9,333	-19.4	16.4	37.4	8,837	12,365	5,036	36,983	29,564	25.1

NA Not Available ^r Revised

¹ Shipments and new orders are the totals for the period and are adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations; unfilled orders and total inventories 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 nonreporting. 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(01), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 1992-2001."

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 Aggregate estimates and percent changes exclude semiconductor industry data. Due to the number of large semiconductor manufacturers choosing not to participate in this voluntary monthly survey, the Census Bureau cannot currently produce monthly estimates of semiconductor shipments, orders, or inventories.

⁵ Due to the number of large semiconductor manufacturers choosing not to participate in this voluntary monthly survey, the Census Bureau cannot currently produce monthly estimates of semiconductor shipments, orders, or inventories.

Table 2. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders and Total Inventories
 [Millions of Dollars]

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted ¹			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent Change 2003/2002
	Apr 2003 ²	Mar 2003 ^r	Feb 2003	Mar - Apr ²	Feb - Mar ^r	Jan - Feb	Apr 2003 ²	Mar 2003 ^r	Apr 2002	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total: ⁴										
Unfilled Orders.....	476,584	477,949	476,354	-0.3	0.3	0.0	484,526	483,986	506,010	-4.2
Total Inventories.....	263,850	264,127	264,681	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1	264,507	262,233	268,416	-1.5
Excluding transportation: ⁴										
Unfilled Orders.....	229,238	230,453	230,101	-0.5	0.2	0.3	233,000	233,044	247,526	-5.9
Total Inventories.....	190,328	191,020	191,430	-0.4	-0.2	-0.2	191,265	190,371	196,623	-2.7
Excluding defense: ⁴										
Unfilled Orders.....	327,294	329,817	331,512	-0.8	-0.5	-0.5	330,952	332,397	357,847	-7.5
Total Inventories.....	239,882	240,515	241,678	-0.3	-0.5	-0.3	240,654	239,101	246,251	-2.3
Manufacturing with unfilled orders: ⁴										
Unfilled Orders.....	476,584	477,949	476,354	-0.3	0.3	0.0	484,526	483,986	506,010	-4.2
Total Inventories.....	214,196	214,542	214,973	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	214,658	212,773	219,394	-2.2
Primary metals:										
Unfilled Orders.....	13,889	14,055	14,649	-1.2	-4.1	-0.8	14,313	14,555	16,634	-14.0
Total Inventories.....	18,969	19,039	19,091	-0.4	-0.3	0.8	18,775	18,850	18,144	3.5
Fabricated metal products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	36,849	37,021	37,166	-0.5	-0.4	-1.0	37,053	37,002	39,863	-7.0
Total Inventories.....	30,806	30,827	30,779	-0.1	0.2	0.0	31,088	31,121	31,315	-0.7
Machinery:										
Unfilled Orders.....	44,426	44,873	44,507	-1.0	0.8	-0.2	45,339	45,290	51,743	-12.4
Total Inventories.....	44,086	44,135	44,101	-0.1	0.1	-0.5	44,385	44,304	46,065	-3.6
Computers and electronic products: ⁴										
Unfilled Orders.....	109,736	109,930	109,181	-0.2	0.7	0.6	111,806	111,666	114,384	-2.3
Total Inventories.....	40,049	40,536	41,300	-1.2	-1.8	-1.1	40,124	39,493	44,627	-10.1
Computers and related products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	7,513	7,587	7,389	-1.0	2.7	-2.1	7,444	7,644	6,687	11.3
Total Inventories.....	6,646	6,892	6,863	-3.6	0.4	-0.3	6,722	6,609	7,185	-6.4
Communications equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	40,943	40,377	39,607	1.4	1.9	2.3	41,989	41,229	42,807	-1.9
Total Inventories.....	8,024	8,146	8,328	-1.5	-2.2	-3.2	8,048	7,961	10,696	-24.8
Semiconductors: ⁵										
Unfilled Orders.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Total Inventories.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:										
Unfilled Orders.....	14,363	14,419	14,192	-0.4	1.6	0.0	14,496	14,531	14,753	-1.7
Total Inventories.....	12,342	12,384	12,379	-0.3	0.0	-0.5	12,670	12,464	13,511	-6.2
Transportation equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	247,346	247,496	246,253	-0.1	0.5	-0.3	251,526	250,942	258,484	-2.7
Total Inventories.....	73,522	73,107	73,251	0.6	-0.2	0.4	73,242	71,862	71,793	2.0
Motor vehicles and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	12,127	12,253	12,393	-1.0	-1.1	0.8	12,517	12,783	12,858	-2.7
Total Inventories.....	20,750	20,680	21,170	0.3	-2.3	0.7	20,724	20,424	20,076	3.2
Nondefense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	107,218	108,097	111,097	-0.8	-2.7	-2.2	107,592	108,286	118,002	-8.8
Total Inventories.....	29,619	29,315	29,555	1.0	-0.8	-1.8	29,424	28,784	29,913	-1.6
Defense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	59,061	58,138	55,615	1.6	4.5	-1.4	61,193	59,385	57,763	5.9
Total Inventories.....	11,777	11,626	11,294	1.3	2.9	3.6	11,638	11,351	10,660	9.2
All other durable goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	9,975	10,155	10,406	-1.8	-2.4	6.6	9,993	10,000	10,149	-1.5
Total Inventories.....	44,076	44,099	43,780	-0.1	0.7	0.3	44,223	44,139	42,961	2.9
Capital goods: ³										
Unfilled Orders.....	338,759	337,922	334,254	0.2	1.1	0.3	344,193	342,111	352,658	-2.4
Total Inventories.....	129,063	129,833	129,860	-0.6	0.0	-0.7	129,482	128,346	136,569	-5.2
Nondefense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	208,728	209,205	209,221	-0.2	0.0	-0.4	210,858	210,598	222,794	-5.4
Total Inventories.....	109,770	110,757	110,955	-0.9	-0.2	-1.1	110,103	109,601	117,619	-6.4
Excluding aircraft:										
Unfilled Orders.....	127,103	127,271	124,910	-0.1	1.9	0.7	129,233	128,664	136,008	-5.0
Total Inventories.....	87,271	88,258	88,468	-1.1	-0.2	-0.7	87,864	87,562	94,196	-6.7
Defense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	130,031	128,717	125,033	1.0	2.9	1.7	133,335	131,513	129,864	2.7
Total Inventories.....	19,293	19,076	18,905	1.1	0.9	1.2	19,379	18,745	18,950	2.3

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), and end-of-month total inventory (at current cost or market value). The M3 includes approximately 3,500 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 59 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 3,500 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 3,500 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.

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