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**ADVANCE REPORT ON DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS  
April 2004**

(Figures in text, other than year-to-date, are in seasonally adjusted current dollars. Figures on new and unfilled orders exclude data for semiconductor manufacturing.)

● **NEW ORDERS** for manufactured durable goods in April decreased \$5.7 billion or 2.9 percent to \$191.3 billion, the Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau reported today. This followed a 5.7 percent March increase. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 2.1 percent. Excluding defense, new orders decreased 2.4 percent. Year-to-date, new orders for 2004 were 12.4 percent above the same period a year ago.

Transportation equipment, down following two consecutive increases, had the largest decrease, \$2.7 billion or 4.7 percent to \$54.5 billion. Computers and Electronic Products, down following four consecutive increases, decreased \$1.4 billion or 4.1 percent to \$31.7 billion.

● **SHIPMENTS** of manufactured durable goods in April, down following 2 consecutive increases, decreased \$1.7 billion or 0.8 percent to \$195.3 billion. This followed a 4.3 percent March increase. Year-to-date, shipments for 2004 were 10.8 percent above the same period a year ago.

Transportation equipment had the largest decrease, \$2.2 billion or 3.9 percent to 54.0 billion.

● **UNFILLED ORDERS** for manufactured durable goods in April, up eight of the last nine months, increased \$3.0 billion or 0.6 percent to \$520.4 billion. This followed a 1.3 percent March increase.

Fabricated metal products increased \$1.1 billion or 2.6 percent to \$43.9 billion.

● **INVENTORIES** of manufactured durable goods in April, up five consecutive months, increased \$1.3 billion or 0.5 percent to \$266.9 billion. This followed a 0.4 percent March increase.

Transportation equipment, up four of the last five months, had the largest increase, \$0.3 billion or 0.4 percent to \$68.3 billion. Primary metals, up six consecutive months, increased \$0.3 billion or 1.4 percent to \$18.3 billion.

● **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, DEFENSE** New orders in April decreased \$1.0 billion or 10.9 percent to \$8.4 billion. Shipments decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.7 percent to \$8.2 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$0.2 billion or 0.2 percent to \$141.6 billion. Inventories decreased \$0.2 billion or 1.0 percent to \$19.5 billion.

● **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, NONDEFENSE** New orders in April decreased \$1.7 billion or 2.7 percent to \$62.9 billion. Shipments increased \$0.1 billion or 0.1 percent to \$62.0 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$0.8 billion or 0.4 percent to \$223.9 billion. Inventories increased \$0.3 billion or 0.3 percent to \$105.7 billion.

● **REVISED MARCH DATA** Revised seasonally adjusted March figures for all manufacturing industries are: new orders, \$362.2 billion (revised from \$360.7 billion); shipments, \$362.1 billion (revised from \$361.3 billion); unfilled orders, \$517.4 billion (revised from \$516.8 billion); and total inventories, \$444.5 billion (revised from \$444.3 billion).

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR SURVEY DESCRIPTION**

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**Table 1. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments and New Orders**  
[Millions of Dollars]

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted <sup>1</sup>					
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Year to Date		
	Apr 2004 <sup>2</sup>	Mar 2004 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2004	Mar - Apr <sup>2</sup>	Feb - Mar <sup>r</sup>	Jan - Feb	Apr 2004 <sup>2</sup>	Mar 2004 <sup>r</sup>	Apr 2003	2004	2003	Percent Change 04/03
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>												
<b>Total:</b>												
Shipments.....	195,267	196,935	188,798	-0.8	4.3	1.4	193,257	217,853	170,450	761,361	686,995	10.8
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	191,341	196,993	186,419	-2.9	5.7	3.9	190,376	219,803	166,129	761,845	677,572	12.4
<b>Excluding transportation:</b>												
Shipments.....	141,286	140,773	133,367	0.4	5.6	-0.9	138,968	153,439	121,198	539,885	482,672	11.9
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	136,795	139,749	131,430	-2.1	6.3	1.1	136,241	152,424	115,903	536,574	467,842	14.7
<b>Excluding defense:</b>												
Shipments.....	185,855	187,073	177,954	-0.7	5.1	0.7	184,262	207,080	162,167	723,243	653,962	10.6
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	181,829	186,374	175,122	-2.4	6.4	3.1	180,982	205,543	155,814	716,484	634,803	12.9
<b>Manufacturing with unfilled orders:</b>												
Shipments.....	131,851	132,712	127,525	-0.6	4.1	0.4	130,314	146,331	115,746	513,933	466,767	10.1
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	134,834	139,564	131,876	-3.4	5.8	3.9	133,845	155,535	116,727	540,929	479,477	12.8
<b>Primary metals:</b>												
Shipments.....	13,142	13,208	12,051	-0.5	9.6	2.0	13,676	14,250	11,215	51,750	44,807	15.5
New Orders.....	13,106	13,837	12,753	-5.3	8.5	4.8	13,431	15,126	10,993	54,558	44,843	21.7
<b>Fabricated metal products:</b>												
Shipments.....	22,748	22,791	20,553	-0.2	10.9	-1.8	22,744	23,782	20,168	86,051	80,149	7.4
New Orders.....	23,867	24,142	21,925	-1.1	10.1	-0.6	23,927	25,379	19,755	92,356	79,729	15.8
<b>Machinery:</b>												
Shipments.....	23,896	23,872	22,530	0.1	6.0	-0.5	25,164	27,228	21,404	93,590	82,627	13.3
New Orders.....	23,893	25,116	23,903	-4.9	5.1	4.2	25,667	28,646	21,363	98,851	83,891	17.8
<b>Computers and electronic products:</b>												
Shipments.....	38,154	37,810	37,192	0.9	1.7	-1.9	34,522	43,049	29,941	144,871	125,064	15.8
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	31,683	33,042	31,702	-4.1	4.2	1.6	29,201	37,749	25,131	124,732	108,303	15.2
<b>Computers and related products:</b>												
Shipments.....	8,805	8,282	8,167	6.3	1.4	-2.7	7,658	9,881	6,431	31,563	26,224	20.4
New Orders.....	8,481	8,048	8,104	5.4	-0.7	2.2	7,136	9,631	6,207	30,268	25,907	16.8
<b>Communications equipment:</b>												
Shipments.....	7,019	6,724	6,697	4.4	0.4	-5.5	6,333	7,870	5,112	26,062	22,462	16.0
New Orders.....	7,650	6,562	7,136	16.6	-8.0	4.1	7,581	7,734	6,353	28,449	27,930	1.9
<b>Semiconductors:</b>												
Shipments.....	6,909	6,794	6,730	1.7	1.0	3.6	6,412	7,254	5,302	26,512	22,133	19.8
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
<b>Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:</b>												
Shipments.....	8,667	8,630	8,457	0.4	2.0	-1.0	8,395	9,447	8,076	33,218	32,327	2.8
New Orders.....	9,266	8,958	8,826	3.4	1.5	3.1	9,058	9,643	8,057	34,890	32,630	6.9
<b>Transportation equipment:</b>												
Shipments.....	53,981	56,162	55,431	-3.9	1.3	7.6	54,289	64,414	49,252	221,476	204,323	8.4
New Orders.....	54,546	57,244	54,989	-4.7	4.1	11.0	54,135	67,379	50,226	225,271	209,730	7.4
<b>Motor vehicles and parts:</b>												
Shipments.....	39,065	40,419	38,878	-3.3	4.0	5.2	40,494	46,403	36,320	162,033	149,894	8.1
New Orders.....	39,288	40,566	39,186	-3.2	3.5	6.1	40,487	46,480	36,110	163,001	150,210	8.5
<b>Nondefense aircraft and parts:</b>												
Shipments.....	5,431	5,880	5,637	-7.6	4.3	8.4	4,832	7,219	4,794	21,582	21,303	1.3
New Orders.....	5,769	6,387	5,501	-9.7	16.1	33.7	4,408	7,413	4,154	20,716	16,969	22.1
<b>Defense aircraft and parts:</b>												
Shipments.....	3,509	3,958	4,868	-11.3	-18.7	38.0	3,250	4,232	2,882	14,859	11,898	24.9
New Orders.....	2,394	2,541	3,622	-5.8	-29.8	49.9	2,547	4,205	4,685	13,131	16,777	-21.7
<b>All other durable goods:</b>												
Shipments.....	34,679	34,462	32,584	0.6	5.8	-0.5	34,467	35,683	30,394	130,405	117,698	10.8
New Orders.....	34,980	34,654	32,321	0.9	7.2	-2.1	34,957	35,881	30,604	131,187	118,446	10.8
<b>Capital goods:<sup>3</sup></b>												
Shipments.....	70,205	70,192	69,289	0.0	1.3	1.5	67,451	80,116	59,033	271,282	239,808	13.1
New Orders.....	71,251	74,018	71,319	-3.7	3.8	5.8	68,967	86,062	61,824	285,611	253,308	12.8
<b>Nondefense capital goods:</b>												
Shipments.....	62,047	61,976	59,993	0.1	3.3	-0.3	59,590	71,096	51,917	238,465	211,555	12.7
New Orders.....	62,871	64,618	60,967	-2.7	6.0	4.1	60,804	73,366	52,839	245,332	216,014	13.6
<b>Excluding aircraft:</b>												
Shipments.....	59,714	59,291	57,283	0.7	3.5	-1.7	57,635	67,632	50,106	229,271	202,422	13.3
New Orders.....	60,152	62,318	58,778	-3.5	6.0	2.3	59,225	70,600	51,336	237,943	210,467	13.1
<b>Defense capital goods:</b>												
Shipments.....	8,158	8,216	9,296	-0.7	-11.6	15.1	7,861	9,020	7,116	32,817	28,253	16.2
New Orders.....	8,380	9,400	10,352	-10.9	-9.2	17.0	8,163	12,696	8,985	40,279	37,294	8.0

NA Not Available <sup>r</sup> Revised

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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(02), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 1992-2002."

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Data on new and unfilled orders are not available for the semiconductor industry. Estimates and percent changes for new orders and unfilled orders exclude semiconductor industry data. Inventories for semiconductor industry data are included in computers and electronic products and total durable goods industries, but are not shown separately.

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

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted <sup>1</sup>			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent Change 2004/2003
	Apr 2004 <sup>2</sup>	Mar 2004 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2004	Mar - Apr <sup>2</sup>	Feb - Mar <sup>r</sup>	Jan - Feb	Apr 2004 <sup>2</sup>	Mar 2004 <sup>r</sup>	Apr 2003	
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>										
<b>Total:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	520,370	517,387	510,535	0.6	1.3	0.9	529,412	525,881	493,389	7.3
Total Inventories.....	266,909	265,599	264,550	0.5	0.4	0.5	268,969	264,932	270,318	-0.5
<b>Excluding transportation:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	269,221	266,803	261,033	0.9	2.2	1.9	274,336	270,651	243,566	12.6
Total Inventories.....	198,611	197,606	196,417	0.5	0.6	0.5	200,456	197,630	201,822	-0.7
<b>Excluding defense:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	359,969	357,086	350,991	0.8	1.7	1.1	364,212	361,080	339,108	7.4
Total Inventories.....	242,687	241,283	240,347	0.6	0.4	0.5	244,757	240,966	247,425	-1.1
<b>Manufacturing with unfilled orders:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	520,370	517,387	510,535	0.6	1.3	0.9	529,412	525,881	493,389	7.3
Total Inventories.....	208,143	206,964	206,213	0.6	0.4	0.4	209,411	206,003	212,561	-1.5
<b>Primary metals:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	18,134	18,170	17,541	-0.2	3.6	4.2	18,810	19,055	14,495	29.8
Total Inventories.....	18,309	18,059	17,746	1.4	1.8	1.4	18,274	17,956	18,924	-3.4
<b>Fabricated metal products:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	43,916	42,797	41,446	2.6	3.3	3.4	44,326	43,143	36,480	21.5
Total Inventories.....	31,591	31,432	31,377	0.5	0.2	1.4	31,962	31,876	31,826	0.4
<b>Machinery:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	46,802	46,805	45,561	0.0	2.7	3.1	48,143	47,640	43,684	10.2
Total Inventories.....	42,543	42,488	42,180	0.1	0.7	0.8	42,940	42,778	42,825	0.3
<b>Computers and electronic products:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	133,023	132,585	130,559	0.3	1.6	1.0	135,529	134,438	124,189	9.1
Total Inventories.....	47,380	47,128	46,833	0.5	0.6	-0.2	47,674	46,086	49,018	-2.7
<b>Computers and related products:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	7,762	8,086	8,320	-4.0	-2.8	-0.8	7,510	8,032	7,807	-3.8
Total Inventories.....	5,804	5,858	5,946	-0.9	-1.5	-1.4	5,806	5,609	6,216	-6.6
<b>Communications equipment:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	50,939	50,308	50,470	1.3	-0.3	0.9	52,156	50,908	50,215	3.9
Total Inventories.....	10,712	10,562	10,524	1.4	0.4	-0.1	10,757	10,319	11,813	-8.9
<b>Semiconductors:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Total Inventories <sup>4</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
<b>Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	14,937	14,338	14,010	4.2	2.3	2.7	15,087	14,424	14,095	7.0
Total Inventories.....	12,299	12,335	12,275	-0.3	0.5	-1.7	12,707	12,535	12,973	-2.1
<b>Transportation equipment:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	251,149	250,584	249,502	0.2	0.4	-0.2	255,076	255,230	249,823	2.1
Total Inventories.....	68,298	67,993	68,133	0.4	-0.2	0.4	68,513	67,302	68,496	0.0
<b>Motor vehicles and parts:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	14,160	13,937	13,790	1.6	1.1	2.3	14,588	14,595	12,449	17.2
Total Inventories.....	21,125	21,064	20,947	0.3	0.6	0.6	21,357	21,067	20,675	3.3
<b>Nondefense Aircraft and parts:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	104,298	103,960	103,453	0.3	0.5	-0.1	104,205	104,629	107,160	-2.8
Total Inventories.....	23,769	23,610	23,915	0.7	-1.3	-0.2	23,757	23,225	25,954	-8.5
<b>Defense Aircraft and parts:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	57,243	58,358	59,775	-1.9	-2.4	-2.0	59,042	59,745	60,843	-3.0
Total Inventories.....	11,604	11,625	11,498	-0.2	1.1	-0.1	11,540	11,409	10,478	10.1
<b>All other durable goods:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	12,409	12,108	11,916	2.5	1.6	-2.2	12,441	11,951	10,623	17.1
Total Inventories.....	46,489	46,164	46,006	0.7	0.3	0.8	46,899	46,399	46,256	1.4
<b>Capital goods:<sup>3</sup></b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	365,557	364,511	360,685	0.3	1.1	0.6	372,126	370,610	352,211	5.7
Total Inventories.....	125,160	125,028	124,942	0.1	0.1	0.3	125,808	124,011	128,059	-1.8
<b>Nondefense capital goods:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	223,921	223,097	220,455	0.4	1.2	0.4	226,414	225,200	217,861	3.9
Total Inventories.....	105,651	105,315	105,241	0.3	0.1	0.2	106,219	104,502	109,557	-3.0
<b>Excluding aircraft:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	145,370	144,932	141,905	0.3	2.1	1.1	147,956	146,366	136,316	8.5
Total Inventories.....	88,534	88,325	88,090	0.2	0.3	0.2	89,138	87,771	90,660	-1.7
<b>Defense capital goods:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	141,636	141,414	140,230	0.2	0.8	0.8	145,712	145,410	134,350	8.5
Total Inventories.....	19,509	19,713	19,701	-1.0	0.1	1.3	19,589	19,509	18,502	5.9

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), 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/>.