

U.S. Census Bureau News

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2005, AT 8:30 A.M. EDT

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M3-1(05)-04
CB05-72

Advance Report on Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders April 2005

New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in April increased \$3.7 billion or 1.9 percent to \$200.3 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This followed a 1.6 percent March decrease. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 0.2 percent. Excluding defense, new orders increased 2.3 percent.

Transportation equipment, up following four consecutive monthly decreases, had the largest increase, \$4.0 billion or 8.2 percent to \$53.1 billion. This was led by nondefense aircraft and parts, which increased \$1.5 billion.

Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in April, up six of the last seven months, increased \$3.3 billion or 1.6 percent to \$207.9 billion. This followed a 0.2 percent March increase.

Transportation equipment, up following three consecutive monthly decreases, had the largest increase, \$1.8 billion or 3.5 percent to \$54.2 billion.

Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in April, down three of the last four months, decreased slightly to \$553.7 billion. This followed a 0.2 percent March decrease.

Transportation equipment, down three of the last four months, had the largest decrease, \$1.1 billion or 0.4 percent to \$258.3 billion.

Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in April, up seventeen consecutive months, increased \$0.3 billion or 0.1 percent to \$291.8 billion. This followed a 0.5 percent March increase.

Fabricated metal products, up fifteen consecutive months, had the largest increase, \$0.3 billion or 0.9 percent to \$37.3 billion. This was at the highest level since the series was first stated on a NAICS basis in 1992 and followed a 0.9 percent March increase.

Capital Goods

Nondefense new orders for capital goods in April increased \$2.6 billion or 3.8 percent to \$70.3 billion. Shipments increased \$1.4 billion or 2.1 percent to \$68.9 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$1.4 billion or 0.6 percent to \$251.4 billion. Inventories decreased \$0.7 billion or 0.6 percent to \$112.8 billion.

Defense new orders for capital goods in April decreased \$1.1 billion or 14.5 percent to \$6.7 billion. Shipments increased 0.5 percent to \$8.2 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$1.6 billion or 1.1 percent to \$143.9 billion. Inventories decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.4 percent to \$19.5 billion.

Revised March Data

Revised seasonally adjusted March figures for all manufacturing industries are: new orders, \$379.8 billion (revised from \$378.2 billion); shipments, \$387.8 billion (revised from \$387.3 billion); unfilled orders, \$553.9 billion (revised from \$552.9 billion); and total inventories, \$484.3 billion (revised from \$484.1 billion).

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. 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 June 2, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. EDT. The advance report on durable goods for May is scheduled for release on June 24, 2005, at 8:30 a.m. EDT. See back page for survey description.

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

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted ¹					
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Year to Date		
	Apr 2005 ²	Mar 2005 ^r	Feb 2005	Mar - Apr ²	Feb - Mar ^r	Jan - Feb	Apr 2005 ²	Mar 2005 ^r	Apr 2004	2005	2004	Percent Change 05/04
DURABLE GOODS												
Total:												
Shipments.....	207,937	204,621	204,239	1.6	0.2	-1.9	205,220	224,170	193,518	808,576	761,822	6.1
New Orders ⁴	200,300	196,593	199,750	1.9	-1.6	-0.1	198,152	217,705	190,896	795,339	762,650	4.3
Excluding transportation:												
Shipments.....	153,730	152,256	151,755	1.0	0.3	-1.4	151,061	165,066	139,579	595,053	540,696	10.1
New Orders ⁴	147,159	147,466	147,204	-0.2	0.2	-0.1	146,581	160,852	136,841	584,583	537,459	8.8
Excluding defense:												
Shipments.....	197,936	194,682	194,283	1.7	0.2	-2.0	195,682	213,361	184,568	770,803	723,757	6.5
New Orders ⁴	192,102	187,714	191,522	2.3	-2.0	-0.1	190,733	205,317	181,584	758,978	717,386	5.8
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:												
Shipments.....	143,434	141,281	140,483	1.5	0.6	-1.9	141,440	154,709	130,738	557,517	514,495	8.4
New Orders ⁴	143,235	140,330	143,275	2.1	-2.1	0.1	141,377	155,612	134,680	573,010	542,014	5.7
Primary metals:												
Shipments.....	15,093	15,127	15,126	-0.2	0.0	-2.1	15,489	16,301	13,761	61,640	51,855	18.9
New Orders.....	14,843	14,977	14,902	-0.9	0.5	0.6	14,992	16,331	13,557	61,697	54,708	12.8
Fabricated metal products:												
Shipments.....	24,311	23,766	23,465	2.3	1.3	-1.1	24,136	24,666	22,559	93,090	85,877	8.4
New Orders.....	24,540	24,118	23,907	1.7	0.9	-1.3	24,712	25,779	24,064	97,245	92,512	5.1
Machinery:												
Shipments.....	26,122	25,747	26,353	1.5	-2.3	-3.0	27,473	28,897	25,278	104,874	93,762	11.9
New Orders.....	26,793	26,216	27,557	2.2	-4.9	-0.4	28,852	29,432	25,940	110,562	99,249	11.4
Computers and electronic products:												
Shipments.....	42,077	42,006	41,373	0.2	1.5	-1.7	38,218	47,376	35,041	159,573	145,419	9.7
New Orders ⁴	34,662	36,779	35,136	-5.8	4.7	1.0	31,927	41,759	29,707	137,887	125,273	10.1
Computers and related products:												
Shipments.....	10,866	10,263	10,026	5.9	2.4	-1.6	10,035	11,489	7,921	38,776	31,826	21.8
New Orders.....	11,033	9,529	10,065	15.8	-5.3	0.4	10,162	10,540	7,274	37,640	30,406	23.8
Communications equipment:												
Shipments.....	6,583	7,300	7,149	-9.8	2.1	1.0	5,806	8,852	6,326	26,927	26,055	3.3
New Orders.....	6,747	8,305	7,532	-18.8	10.3	0.7	6,787	9,941	7,885	31,362	28,753	9.1
Semiconductors:												
Shipments.....	7,438	7,077	7,281	5.1	-2.8	-7.9	7,005	7,368	6,564	28,730	26,691	7.6
New Orders ⁴	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:												
Shipments.....	9,265	9,090	9,231	1.9	-1.5	-1.6	9,072	9,730	8,563	35,543	33,386	6.5
New Orders.....	9,271	8,962	9,309	3.4	-3.7	-5.7	9,120	9,474	9,181	36,519	35,013	4.3
Transportation equipment:												
Shipments.....	54,207	52,365	52,484	3.5	-0.2	-3.1	54,159	59,104	53,939	213,523	221,126	-3.4
New Orders.....	53,141	49,127	52,546	8.2	-6.5	-0.3	51,571	56,853	54,055	210,756	225,191	-6.4
Motor vehicles and parts:												
Shipments.....	37,090	36,009	37,029	3.0	-2.8	-2.8	38,190	40,036	40,174	151,047	161,713	-6.6
New Orders.....	37,074	35,854	37,071	3.4	-3.3	-2.0	37,891	39,735	40,297	150,862	162,811	-7.3
Nondefense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	7,109	6,475	5,552	9.8	16.6	-7.1	6,334	8,240	4,801	24,319	21,551	12.8
New Orders.....	6,978	5,442	6,998	28.2	-22.2	28.8	5,161	6,371	4,360	23,100	20,668	11.8
Defense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	3,721	3,786	3,635	-1.7	4.2	-4.1	3,454	4,076	3,230	13,883	14,839	-6.4
New Orders.....	2,674	2,117	2,735	26.3	-22.6	-7.3	2,509	3,366	2,610	11,514	13,194	-12.7
All other durable goods:												
Shipments.....	36,862	36,520	36,207	0.9	0.9	0.1	36,673	38,096	34,377	140,333	130,397	7.6
New Orders.....	37,050	36,414	36,393	1.7	0.1	1.2	36,978	38,077	34,392	140,673	130,704	7.6
Capital goods:³												
Shipments.....	77,182	75,726	75,046	1.9	0.9	-2.1	74,549	85,505	67,912	295,532	271,826	8.7
New Orders.....	76,999	75,579	77,227	1.9	-2.1	0.2	74,457	86,732	69,821	306,112	286,608	6.8
Nondefense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	68,949	67,535	66,771	2.1	1.1	-2.7	66,575	76,586	60,104	264,131	239,070	10.5
New Orders.....	70,338	67,786	70,028	3.8	-3.2	-0.4	68,513	75,676	61,751	275,278	246,437	11.7
Excluding aircraft:												
Shipments.....	65,399	64,680	64,691	1.1	0.0	-2.6	63,546	72,776	58,180	253,991	229,907	10.5
New Orders.....	66,813	65,736	66,776	1.6	-1.6	-2.1	66,551	73,507	60,220	265,911	239,096	11.2
Defense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	8,233	8,191	8,275	0.5	-1.0	2.5	7,974	8,919	7,808	31,401	32,756	-4.1
New Orders.....	6,661	7,793	7,199	-14.5	8.3	6.5	5,944	11,056	8,070	30,834	40,171	-23.2

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(02), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 1992-2002."

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 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 ¹			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent Change 2005/2004
	Apr 2005 ²	Mar 2005 ^r	Feb 2005	Mar - Apr ²	Feb - Mar ^r	Jan - Feb	Apr 2005 ²	Mar 2005 ^r	Apr 2004	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	553,657	553,856	554,807	0.0	-0.2	0.5	562,337	562,400	529,935	6.1
Total Inventories.....	291,763	291,495	289,964	0.1	0.5	0.7	293,397	290,964	269,079	9.0
Excluding transportation:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	295,386	294,519	292,232	0.3	0.8	0.9	301,305	298,780	274,589	9.7
Total Inventories.....	220,154	219,348	218,506	0.4	0.4	0.5	221,502	219,162	200,517	10.5
Excluding defense:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	394,139	392,535	392,426	0.4	0.0	1.2	398,905	396,849	364,779	9.4
Total Inventories.....	266,761	266,440	265,070	0.1	0.5	0.9	268,418	266,161	244,872	9.6
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	553,657	553,856	554,807	0.0	-0.2	0.5	562,337	562,400	529,935	6.1
Total Inventories.....	228,801	228,705	227,473	0.0	0.5	0.8	229,734	227,869	209,626	9.6
Primary metals:										
Unfilled Orders.....	18,412	18,662	18,812	-1.3	-0.8	-1.2	18,922	19,419	18,855	0.4
Total Inventories.....	23,670	23,418	22,915	1.1	2.2	1.7	23,647	23,383	18,276	29.4
Fabricated metal products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	47,594	47,365	47,013	0.5	0.7	0.9	48,773	48,197	44,656	9.2
Total Inventories.....	37,326	36,990	36,653	0.9	0.9	1.4	37,556	37,275	32,191	16.7
Machinery:										
Unfilled Orders.....	54,367	53,696	53,227	1.2	0.9	2.3	56,089	54,710	48,369	16.0
Total Inventories.....	47,673	47,375	47,151	0.6	0.5	0.6	48,018	47,631	42,949	11.8
Computers and electronic products:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	145,611	145,588	143,738	0.0	1.3	0.7	147,930	147,216	135,701	9.0
Total Inventories.....	48,774	49,119	49,505	-0.7	-0.8	-0.7	48,799	47,927	47,769	2.2
Computers and related products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	8,434	8,267	9,001	2.0	-8.2	0.4	8,139	8,012	7,385	10.2
Total Inventories.....	6,724	6,653	6,586	1.1	1.0	0.5	6,550	6,290	5,761	13.7
Communications equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	57,012	56,848	55,843	0.3	1.8	0.7	58,427	57,446	52,467	11.4
Total Inventories.....	10,113	10,456	10,801	-3.3	-3.2	-3.1	10,111	10,195	10,822	-6.6
Semiconductors:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Total Inventories ⁴	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:										
Unfilled Orders.....	15,652	15,646	15,774	0.0	-0.8	0.5	15,828	15,780	15,042	5.2
Total Inventories.....	13,369	13,300	13,167	0.5	1.0	0.2	13,715	13,471	12,704	8.0
Transportation equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	258,271	259,337	262,575	-0.4	-1.2	0.0	261,032	263,620	255,346	2.2
Total Inventories.....	71,609	72,147	71,458	-0.7	1.0	1.5	71,895	71,802	68,562	4.9
Motor vehicles and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	14,239	14,255	14,410	-0.1	-1.1	0.3	14,480	14,779	14,718	-1.6
Total Inventories.....	22,855	22,697	22,385	0.7	1.4	0.9	23,106	22,776	21,301	8.5
Nondefense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	116,159	116,290	117,323	-0.1	-0.9	1.2	115,919	117,092	104,188	11.3
Total Inventories.....	23,569	24,363	24,423	-3.3	-0.2	3.1	23,597	24,146	23,841	-1.0
Defense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	49,179	50,226	51,895	-2.1	-3.2	-1.7	50,304	51,249	59,125	-14.9
Total Inventories.....	12,716	12,724	12,309	-0.1	3.4	-0.2	12,624	12,576	11,542	9.4
All other durable goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	13,750	13,562	13,668	1.4	-0.8	1.4	13,763	13,458	11,966	15.0
Total Inventories.....	49,342	49,146	49,115	0.4	0.1	0.4	49,767	49,475	46,628	6.7
Capital goods:³										
Unfilled Orders.....	395,283	395,466	395,613	0.0	0.0	0.6	401,495	401,587	372,579	7.8
Total Inventories.....	132,276	133,037	133,111	-0.6	-0.1	0.5	132,536	132,047	125,707	5.4
Nondefense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	251,420	250,031	249,780	0.6	0.1	1.3	254,185	252,247	226,914	12.0
Total Inventories.....	112,757	113,433	113,142	-0.6	0.3	0.7	113,055	112,626	106,125	6.5
Excluding aircraft:										
Unfilled Orders.....	159,224	157,810	156,754	0.9	0.7	1.3	162,229	159,224	148,473	9.3
Total Inventories.....	95,995	95,910	95,720	0.1	0.2	0.2	96,316	95,225	88,960	8.3
Defense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	143,863	145,435	145,833	-1.1	-0.3	-0.7	147,310	149,340	145,665	1.1
Total Inventories.....	19,519	19,604	19,969	-0.4	-1.8	-0.6	19,481	19,421	19,582	-0.5

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 4,000 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 4,000 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 4,000 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/>.

NOTICE

Revised historical data for Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders will be issued on August 19, 2005. These revisions reflect:

- benchmarking the shipments and inventory data to the 2002 Economic Census and 2003 Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM) data;
- adjusting new orders and order backlog to be consistent with the benchmarked shipments and inventory data;
- correcting monthly data for late receipts, reclassifications of reported data, and revisions to previously reported data; and
- updating the seasonal adjustment factors for all series.

For revised historical data go to <http://www.census.gov/m3/hist/naicshist.htm>. An accompanying press release will include the revised 2005 January through June data. Please call Chris Savage on (301)763-4832 with questions.