

U.S. Census Bureau News

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2008, AT 8:30 A.M. EST

Chris Savage or Jessica Young
Manufacturing and Construction Division
(301) 763-4832

M3-1 (08)-01
CB08-36

Advance Report on Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders January 2008

New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in January decreased \$12.0 billion or 5.3 percent to \$212.8 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This decrease followed two consecutive monthly increases including a 4.4 percent December increase. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 1.6 percent. Excluding defense, new orders decreased 4.7 percent.

Transportation equipment, down following three consecutive monthly increases, had the largest decrease, \$9.5 billion or 13.4 percent to \$61.2 billion. This was led by nondefense aircraft and parts, which decreased \$6.5 billion.

Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in January, up following two consecutive monthly decreases, increased \$3.8 billion or 1.8 percent to \$215.5 billion. This followed a 0.4 percent December decrease.

Computers and electronic products, up three of the last four months, had the largest increase, \$2.4 billion or 7.1 percent to \$36.1 billion.

Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in January, up thirty-two of the last thirty-three months, increased \$5.2 billion or 0.6 percent to \$813.2 billion. This was at the highest level since the series was first stated on a NAICS basis in 1992 and followed a 2.5 percent December increase.

Transportation equipment, up twenty-seven of the last twenty-eight months, had the largest increase, \$4.0 billion or 0.8 percent to \$478.2 billion.

Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in January, up six of the last seven months, increased \$2.0 billion or 0.6 percent to \$322.3 billion. This was also at the highest level since the series was first stated on a NAICS basis in 1992 and followed a 1.1 percent December increase.

Transportation equipment, up twelve of the last thirteen months, had the largest increase, \$1.0 billion or 1.2 percent to \$83.1 billion.

Capital Goods

Nondefense new orders for capital goods in January decreased \$6.6 billion or 8.1 percent to \$74.6 billion. Shipments increased \$1.3 billion or 1.9 percent to \$69.6 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$5.0 billion or 1.1 percent to \$467.3 billion. Inventories increased \$1.8 billion or 1.4 percent to \$128.6 billion.

Defense new orders for capital goods in January decreased \$2.3 billion or 19.9 percent to \$9.3 billion. Shipments increased \$0.9 billion or 11.2 percent to \$9.0 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$0.3 billion or 0.2 percent to \$148.4 billion. Inventories decreased \$0.2 billion or 1.2 percent to \$18.2 billion.

Revised December Data

Revised seasonally adjusted December figures for all manufacturing industries were: new orders, \$440.1 billion (revised from \$441.6 billion); shipments, \$427.0 billion (revised from \$427.5 billion); unfilled orders, \$808.0 billion (revised from \$808.7 billion); and total inventories, \$528.4 billion (revised from \$528.1 billion).

Figures in text 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 March 5, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. EST. The advance report on durable goods for February is scheduled for release on March 26, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. EST. See back page for survey description and 2008 release schedule.

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		
	Jan 2008 ²	Dec 2007 ¹	Nov 2007	Dec - Jan ²	Nov - Dec ¹	Oct - Nov	Jan 2008 ²	Dec 2007 ¹	Jan 2007	2008	2007	Percent Change 08/07
DURABLE GOODS												
Total:												
Shipments.....	215,477	211,675	212,462	1.8	-0.4	-0.4	194,000	207,970	188,717	194,000	188,717	2.8
New Orders ⁴	212,804	224,777	215,242	-5.3	4.4	0.5	199,671	235,394	193,785	199,671	193,785	3.0
Excluding transportation:												
Shipments.....	158,247	155,980	155,841	1.5	0.1	-0.3	144,684	153,969	139,202	144,684	139,202	3.9
New Orders ⁴	151,571	154,073	151,087	-1.6	2.0	-0.5	143,157	152,680	139,214	143,157	139,214	2.8
Excluding defense:												
Shipments.....	204,668	201,923	202,460	1.4	-0.3	-0.5	184,952	196,923	180,765	184,952	180,765	2.3
New Orders ⁴	201,821	211,673	207,408	-4.7	2.1	1.7	188,651	215,421	183,511	188,651	183,511	2.8
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:												
Shipments.....	151,163	148,754	148,637	1.6	0.1	-0.4	135,345	147,735	129,779	135,345	129,779	4.3
New Orders ⁴	156,369	168,087	157,924	-7.0	6.4	0.7	149,475	180,877	142,440	149,475	142,440	4.9
Primary metals:												
Shipments.....	20,524	20,394	20,281	0.6	0.6	-0.7	20,316	17,525	19,552	20,316	19,552	3.9
New Orders.....	20,776	20,777	20,860	0.0	-0.4	1.0	21,419	18,599	20,501	21,419	20,501	4.5
Fabricated metal products:												
Shipments.....	25,876	25,619	26,038	1.0	-1.6	-0.4	24,079	23,229	24,049	24,079	24,049	0.1
New Orders.....	25,821	26,919	26,608	-4.1	1.2	-0.5	24,696	24,223	25,341	24,696	25,341	-2.5
Machinery:												
Shipments.....	28,576	29,071	28,197	-1.7	3.1	0.8	26,081	28,517	23,303	26,081	23,303	11.9
New Orders.....	30,704	31,174	28,926	-1.5	7.8	-1.4	30,549	30,563	26,211	30,549	26,211	16.6
Computers and electronic products:												
Shipments.....	36,136	33,746	33,655	7.1	0.3	-0.1	31,887	39,252	28,971	31,887	28,971	10.1
New Orders ⁴	27,326	28,078	27,054	-2.7	3.8	-0.2	23,678	35,103	22,190	23,678	22,190	6.7
Computers and related products:												
Shipments.....	5,825	5,822	5,617	0.1	3.6	-0.9	4,624	7,590	4,247	4,624	4,247	8.9
New Orders.....	5,271	5,972	5,683	-11.7	5.1	11.6	4,070	7,740	4,188	4,070	4,188	-2.8
Communications equipment:												
Shipments.....	5,375	5,571	5,443	-3.5	2.4	4.3	4,182	7,106	4,138	4,182	4,138	1.1
New Orders.....	5,243	5,952	5,257	-11.9	13.2	9.3	4,460	7,430	4,512	4,460	4,512	-1.2
Semiconductors:												
Shipments.....	7,879	6,231	6,507	26.4	-4.2	-0.7	8,459	5,718	7,593	8,459	7,593	11.4
New Orders ⁴	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:												
Shipments.....	11,037	10,772	10,767	2.5	0.0	-1.2	9,776	10,344	9,475	9,776	9,475	3.2
New Orders.....	11,044	10,891	10,751	1.4	1.3	0.5	10,492	9,929	10,783	10,492	10,783	-2.7
Transportation equipment:												
Shipments.....	57,230	55,695	56,621	2.8	-1.6	-0.4	49,316	54,001	49,515	49,316	49,515	-0.4
New Orders.....	61,233	70,704	64,155	-13.4	10.2	2.8	56,514	82,714	54,571	56,514	54,571	3.6
Motor vehicles and parts:												
Shipments.....	36,665	37,006	37,709	-0.9	-1.9	0.0	33,631	32,451	35,672	33,631	35,672	-5.7
New Orders.....	36,216	36,515	37,751	-0.8	-3.3	0.3	33,530	32,708	36,288	33,530	36,288	-7.6
Nondefense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	10,226	9,205	9,167	11.1	0.4	-2.3	7,313	10,733	6,196	7,313	6,196	18.0
New Orders.....	14,700	21,162	19,402	-30.5	9.1	28.6	13,021	31,173	7,066	13,021	7,066	84.3
Defense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	3,620	3,269	3,442	10.7	-5.0	-3.2	2,908	4,017	2,663	2,908	2,663	9.2
New Orders.....	4,120	6,114	2,517	-32.6	142.9	-26.4	4,296	8,681	2,664	4,296	2,664	61.3
All other durable goods:												
Shipments.....	36,098	36,378	36,903	-0.8	-1.4	-0.9	32,545	35,102	33,852	32,545	33,852	-3.9
New Orders.....	35,900	36,234	36,888	-0.9	-1.8	-1.1	32,323	34,263	34,188	32,323	34,188	-5.5
Capital goods:³												
Shipments.....	78,618	76,408	75,701	2.9	0.9	0.0	67,795	82,827	62,137	67,795	62,137	9.1
New Orders.....	83,848	92,722	83,277	-9.6	11.3	2.2	78,408	111,569	69,178	78,408	69,178	13.3
Nondefense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	69,611	68,309	67,328	1.9	1.5	-0.5	60,182	73,976	55,438	60,182	55,438	8.6
New Orders.....	74,588	81,163	76,959	-8.1	5.5	5.4	69,188	93,959	60,304	69,188	60,304	14.7
Excluding aircraft:												
Shipments.....	62,991	62,930	61,882	0.1	1.7	0.1	56,105	67,210	52,159	56,105	52,159	7.6
New Orders.....	63,898	64,799	61,588	-1.4	5.2	-0.1	60,001	68,188	56,755	60,001	56,755	5.7
Defense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	9,007	8,099	8,373	11.2	-3.3	3.8	7,613	8,851	6,699	7,613	6,699	13.6
New Orders.....	9,260	11,559	6,318	-19.9	83.0	-25.2	9,220	17,610	8,874	9,220	8,874	3.9

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 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: M3-3(06), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 2001-2006."

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 2008/2007
	Jan 2008 ²	Dec 2007 ^r	Nov 2007	Dec - Jan ²	Nov - Dec ^r	Oct - Nov	Jan 2008 ²	Dec 2007 ^r	Jan 2007	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	813,200	807,994	788,661	0.6	2.5	1.2	821,845	807,715	694,503	18.3
Total Inventories.....	322,284	320,334	316,961	0.6	1.1	0.7	321,689	311,225	309,735	3.9
Excluding transportation:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	334,956	333,753	329,429	0.4	1.3	0.5	335,305	328,373	308,449	8.7
Total Inventories.....	239,222	238,293	237,131	0.4	0.5	0.3	239,256	232,466	235,398	1.6
Excluding defense:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	650,972	645,940	629,959	0.8	2.5	1.9	656,403	644,245	533,818	23.0
Total Inventories.....	299,197	297,133	294,858	0.7	0.8	0.6	298,831	288,486	289,004	3.4
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	813,200	807,994	788,661	0.6	2.5	1.2	821,845	807,715	694,503	18.3
Total Inventories.....	255,102	253,268	250,663	0.7	1.0	0.7	254,650	246,389	242,923	4.8
Primary metals:										
Unfilled Orders.....	27,762	27,510	27,127	0.9	1.4	2.2	28,142	27,039	27,641	1.8
Total Inventories.....	30,901	30,739	30,750	0.5	0.0	-0.7	31,058	30,720	31,380	-1.0
Fabricated metal products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	59,635	59,690	58,390	-0.1	2.2	1.0	58,504	57,887	54,417	7.5
Total Inventories.....	42,119	42,199	42,028	-0.2	0.4	0.4	42,227	41,233	41,614	1.5
Machinery:										
Unfilled Orders.....	92,838	90,710	88,607	2.3	2.4	0.8	93,724	89,256	79,796	17.5
Total Inventories.....	52,652	52,201	51,801	0.9	0.8	0.0	52,675	50,518	49,756	5.9
Computers and electronic products:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	117,202	118,133	117,570	-0.8	0.5	-0.1	118,012	117,762	111,004	6.3
Total Inventories.....	44,245	44,192	43,894	0.1	0.7	0.8	44,090	42,806	44,453	-0.8
Computers and related products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	3,057	3,611	3,461	-15.3	4.3	1.9	3,057	3,611	3,348	-8.7
Total Inventories.....	4,581	4,630	4,512	-1.1	2.6	1.6	4,480	4,309	4,484	-0.1
Communications equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	35,345	35,477	35,096	-0.4	1.1	-0.5	35,231	34,953	33,264	5.9
Total Inventories.....	7,433	7,460	7,313	-0.4	2.0	1.6	7,497	7,279	7,654	-2.1
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.....	23,888	23,881	23,762	0.0	0.5	-0.1	23,761	23,045	23,044	3.1
Total Inventories.....	14,972	14,884	14,792	0.6	0.6	1.7	15,097	14,502	14,469	4.3
Transportation equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	478,244	474,241	459,232	0.8	3.3	1.7	486,540	479,342	386,054	26.0
Total Inventories.....	83,062	82,041	79,830	1.2	2.8	1.9	82,433	78,759	74,337	10.9
Motor vehicles and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	18,239	18,688	19,179	-2.4	-2.6	0.2	18,778	18,879	21,583	-13.0
Total Inventories.....	23,916	24,009	23,931	-0.4	0.3	-0.9	23,893	22,959	25,460	-6.2
Nondefense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	313,023	308,549	296,592	1.5	4.0	3.6	318,034	312,326	219,420	44.9
Total Inventories.....	34,985	33,863	32,795	3.3	3.3	3.6	34,551	32,281	27,251	26.8
Defense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	46,194	45,694	42,849	1.1	6.6	-2.1	47,614	46,226	45,024	5.8
Total Inventories.....	13,956	13,749	13,086	1.5	5.1	2.2	13,795	13,490	12,218	12.9
All other durable goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	13,631	13,829	13,973	-1.4	-1.0	-0.1	13,162	13,384	12,547	4.9
Total Inventories.....	54,333	54,078	53,866	0.5	0.4	0.2	54,109	52,687	53,726	0.7
Capital goods:³										
Unfilled Orders.....	615,705	610,475	594,161	0.9	2.7	1.3	624,159	613,546	510,931	22.2
Total Inventories.....	146,883	145,298	143,040	1.1	1.6	1.1	146,271	140,944	134,872	8.5
Nondefense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	467,304	462,327	449,473	1.1	2.9	2.2	472,802	463,796	363,557	30.0
Total Inventories.....	128,643	126,839	125,337	1.4	1.2	1.1	128,099	122,688	118,133	8.4
Excluding aircraft:										
Unfilled Orders.....	183,717	182,810	180,941	0.5	1.0	-0.2	183,988	180,092	169,516	8.5
Total Inventories.....	101,276	100,638	100,120	0.6	0.5	0.3	101,082	97,739	97,203	4.0
Defense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	148,401	148,148	144,688	0.2	2.4	-1.4	151,357	149,750	147,374	2.7
Total Inventories.....	18,240	18,459	17,703	-1.2	4.3	1.2	18,172	18,256	16,739	8.6

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 4,200 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 62 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 4,200 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 4,200 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>.

2008 Release Dates for M3 Survey

Survey Month	Advance 8:30 A.M.	Preliminary 10:00 A.M.
Nov 2007	December 27, 2007	January 3, 2008
Dec 2007	January 29, 2008	February 4, 2008
Jan 2008	February 27, 2008	March 5, 2008
Feb 2008	March 26, 2008	April 2, 2008
Mar 2008	April 24, 2008	May 2, 2008
Apr 2008	May 28, 2008	June 3, 2008
May 2008	June 25, 2008	July 2, 2008
Jun 2008	July 25, 2008	August 4, 2008
Jul 2008	August 27, 2008	September 3, 2008
Aug 2008	September 25, 2008	October 2, 2008
Sep 2008	October 29, 2008	November 4, 2008
Oct 2008	November 26, 2008	December 4, 2008
Nov 2008	December 24, 2008	