

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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M3-1 (09)-12  
CB10-13

The Census Bureau identified a processing error that occurred when revising historic seasonally adjusted data for the November (data month) releases. The data have been corrected. As of January 15, 2010, revised data from January 2001 through November 2009 are available in the Historical Timeseries at <http://www.census.gov/m3>

## Advance Report on Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders December 2009

### New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in December increased \$0.5 billion or 0.3 percent to \$167.9 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This increase followed two consecutive monthly decreases including a 0.4 percent November decrease. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 0.9 percent. Excluding defense, new orders increased 0.3 percent.

Machinery, up three of the last four months, had the largest increase, \$1.4 billion or 6.0 percent to \$24.1 billion.

### Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in December, up four consecutive months, increased \$5.1 billion or 2.9 percent to \$181.9 billion. This followed a 0.8 percent November increase.

Transportation equipment, up three of the last four months, had the largest increase, \$1.9 billion or 4.3 percent to \$45.9 billion.

### Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in December, down fifteen consecutive months, decreased \$8.6 billion or 1.2 percent to \$715.5 billion. This was the longest streak of consecutive monthly decreases since the series was first published on a NAICS basis in 1992 and followed a 0.7 percent November decrease.

Transportation equipment, down fourteen of the last fifteen months, had the largest decrease, \$8.6 billion or 2.1 percent to \$408.9 billion.

### Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in December, down twelve consecutive months, decreased \$0.6 billion or 0.2 percent to \$302.7 billion. This followed a 0.2 percent decrease in November.

Fabricated metal products, down fourteen of the last fifteen months, had the largest decrease, \$0.4 billion or 1.0 percent to \$36.6 billion.

### Capital Goods

Nondefense new orders for capital goods in December decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.2 percent to \$53.7 billion. Shipments increased \$2.1 billion or 3.7 percent to \$59.6 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$5.9 billion or 1.4 percent to \$407.9 billion. Inventories decreased \$0.6 billion or 0.4 percent to \$131.7 billion.

Defense new orders for capital goods in December decreased \$0.2 billion or 2.8 percent to \$8.1 billion. Shipments decreased \$0.1 billion or 1.2 percent to \$10.6 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$2.5 billion or 1.9 percent to \$132.4 billion. Inventories decreased \$0.4 billion or 1.9 percent to \$19.8 billion.

### Revised November data since the January 15, 2010 Revision

Revised seasonally adjusted November figures for all manufacturing industries were: new orders, \$366.4 billion (revised from \$365.3 billion); shipments, \$375.7 billion (revised from \$374.2 billion); unfilled orders, \$724.1 billion (revised from \$724.5 billion); and total inventories, \$495.2 billion (revised from \$495.1 billion).

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Figures in text are adjusted for seasonality but not for inflation. 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 February 4, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. EST. The advance report on durable goods for January is scheduled for release on February 25, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. EST. See back page for survey description and 2010 release schedule.

Table 1. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments and New Orders<sup>1</sup>

[Estimates are shown in millions of dollars and are based on data from the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey.]

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Year to Date		
	Dec 2009 <sup>2</sup>	Nov 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Oct 2009	Nov - Dec <sup>2</sup>	Oct - Nov <sup>r</sup>	Sep - Oct	Dec 2009 <sup>2</sup>	Nov 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2008	2009	2008	Change 09/08
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>												
<b>Total:</b>												
Shipments.....	181,892	176,758	175,345	2.9	0.8	0.2	183,638	170,777	189,369	2,096,419	2,493,610	-15.9
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	167,911	167,454	168,098	0.3	-0.4	-0.1	181,082	159,101	186,798	1,965,059	2,462,588	-20.2
<b>Excluding transportation:</b>												
Shipments.....	136,018	132,789	131,576	2.4	0.9	1.7	135,213	127,111	141,940	1,567,882	1,874,489	-16.4
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	130,626	129,405	126,699	0.9	2.1	-0.5	130,550	121,633	129,581	1,491,734	1,812,427	-17.7
<b>Excluding defense:</b>												
Shipments.....	168,537	162,994	161,171	3.4	1.1	0.5	168,867	156,663	176,661	1,933,862	2,353,427	-17.8
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	157,015	156,495	156,311	0.3	0.1	1.2	164,418	148,758	164,706	1,817,191	2,311,158	-21.4
<b>Manufacturing with unfilled orders:</b>												
Shipments.....	131,485	128,177	126,753	2.6	1.1	-0.5	134,320	123,777	137,481	1,514,244	1,789,538	-15.4
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	122,859	122,952	123,951	-0.1	-0.8	-0.2	135,987	115,999	138,867	1,430,369	1,816,475	-21.3
<b>Primary metals:</b>												
Shipments.....	16,211	15,191	14,557	6.7	4.4	5.1	14,087	13,960	13,783	164,739	255,463	-35.5
New Orders.....	16,404	15,169	14,809	8.1	2.4	5.7	14,432	13,782	12,151	161,440	246,527	-34.5
<b>Fabricated metal products:</b>												
Shipments.....	24,160	24,129	24,073	0.1	0.2	0.8	22,404	22,916	23,805	288,402	330,603	-12.8
New Orders.....	24,275	24,493	23,916	-0.9	2.4	0.7	22,705	22,664	22,704	279,730	327,919	-14.7
<b>Machinery:</b>												
Shipments.....	23,912	22,703	22,121	5.3	2.6	-2.5	23,987	20,891	28,217	277,126	347,077	-20.2
New Orders.....	24,128	22,771	22,076	6.0	3.1	-8.1	23,351	20,578	23,205	265,675	354,601	-25.1
<b>Computers and electronic products:</b>												
Shipments.....	30,964	30,182	30,481	2.6	-1.0	6.4	34,917	29,871	34,695	349,282	379,713	-8.0
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	25,060	25,845	25,369	-3.0	1.9	0.4	31,244	24,826	31,513	299,252	324,566	-7.8
<b>Computers and related products:</b>												
Shipments.....	4,697	4,618	4,481	1.7	3.1	4.0	6,401	4,332	6,139	53,355	59,647	-10.5
New Orders.....	4,640	4,898	4,523	-5.3	8.3	0.0	6,344	4,612	6,092	53,716	60,020	-10.5
<b>Communications equipment:</b>												
Shipments.....	4,878	5,046	5,198	-3.3	-2.9	4.8	5,952	5,260	6,737	59,312	68,552	-13.5
New Orders.....	4,835	4,871	4,947	-0.7	-1.5	-4.3	6,071	4,352	6,753	59,508	68,889	-13.6
<b>Semiconductors:</b>												
Shipments.....	5,355	4,079	4,445	31.3	-8.2	25.1	4,223	3,898	3,957	47,485	57,959	-18.1
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.....	8,635	8,575	8,356	0.7	2.6	1.4	8,504	8,315	9,074	101,693	124,977	-18.6
New Orders.....	8,463	8,811	8,503	-3.9	3.6	3.2	7,921	8,382	8,391	99,560	123,512	-19.4
<b>Transportation equipment:</b>												
Shipments.....	45,874	43,969	43,769	4.3	0.5	-3.9	48,425	43,666	47,429	528,537	619,121	-14.6
New Orders.....	37,285	38,049	41,399	-2.0	-8.1	1.3	50,532	37,468	57,217	473,325	650,161	-27.2
<b>Motor vehicles and parts:</b>												
Shipments.....	25,284	24,514	23,879	3.1	2.7	-0.7	23,618	24,039	25,121	289,722	387,025	-25.1
New Orders.....	25,184	24,304	24,141	3.6	0.7	0.8	23,747	23,896	24,873	287,985	384,109	-25.0
<b>Nondefense aircraft and parts:</b>												
Shipments.....	8,646	7,452	7,647	16.0	-2.6	-11.1	11,240	7,465	10,022	94,098	96,589	-2.6
New Orders.....	2,721	4,401	7,333	-38.2	-40.0	47.8	12,658	4,772	13,561	60,037	124,084	-51.6
<b>Defense aircraft and parts:</b>												
Shipments.....	5,725	5,731	5,603	-0.1	2.3	-14.2	6,819	5,783	5,756	67,513	55,778	21.0
New Orders.....	5,438	4,743	5,293	14.7	-10.4	-6.5	7,669	4,521	7,954	63,947	60,703	5.3
<b>All other durable goods:</b>												
Shipments.....	32,136	32,009	31,988	0.4	0.1	-0.2	31,314	31,158	32,366	386,640	436,656	-11.5
New Orders.....	32,296	32,316	32,026	-0.1	0.9	0.0	30,897	31,401	31,617	386,077	435,302	-11.3
<b>Capital goods:<sup>3</sup></b>												
Shipments.....	70,169	68,165	67,780	2.9	0.6	-1.5	77,255	66,150	79,519	813,267	907,439	-10.4
New Orders.....	61,800	62,121	64,128	-0.5	-3.1	-1.5	79,213	59,066	85,789	741,661	945,917	-21.6
<b>Nondefense capital goods:</b>												
Shipments.....	59,563	57,432	56,817	3.7	1.1	-1.2	66,127	54,999	70,538	687,680	800,133	-14.1
New Orders.....	53,693	53,780	55,458	-0.2	-3.0	2.0	66,410	51,208	68,092	629,133	829,588	-24.2
<b>Excluding aircraft:</b>												
Shipments.....	54,735	53,552	52,693	2.2	1.6	0.5	59,306	50,998	64,587	636,841	748,842	-15.0
New Orders.....	54,254	53,551	51,920	1.3	3.1	-1.8	58,071	50,027	58,742	614,699	753,240	-18.4
<b>Defense capital goods:</b>												
Shipments.....	10,606	10,733	10,963	-1.2	-2.1	-3.2	11,128	11,151	8,981	125,587	107,306	17.0
New Orders.....	8,107	8,341	8,670	-2.8	-3.8	-19.2	12,803	7,858	17,697	112,528	116,329	-3.3

NA Not Available <sup>r</sup> Revised data due to late receipts and concurrent seasonal adjustment

<sup>1</sup> Estimates of shipments and new orders are for the duration of the period, while estimates of unfilled orders and total inventories are for the end of the period. Not seasonally adjusted estimates of shipments and new orders include adjusted data for non-calendar reporters. Seasonally adjusted estimates include concurrent adjustments for holiday and trading-day differences, where appropriate, as well as seasonal variation, based on the results of the latest annual review of the model parameters. Estimates are not adjusted for price change.

<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: M3-3(07), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 2004-2007."

<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<sup>1</sup>

[Estimates are shown in millions of dollars and are based on data from the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey.]

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent
	Dec 2009 <sup>2</sup>	Nov 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Oct 2009	Nov - Dec <sup>2</sup>	Oct - Nov <sup>r</sup>	Sep - Oct	Dec 2009 <sup>2</sup>	Nov 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2008	
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>										
<b>Total:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	715,485	724,111	729,336	-1.2	-0.7	-0.4	714,878	713,211	798,753	-10.5
Total Inventories.....	302,695	303,291	304,023	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	294,841	305,063	333,753	-11.7
<b>Excluding transportation:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	306,635	306,672	305,977	0.0	0.2	-0.1	302,255	302,695	330,918	-8.7
Total Inventories.....	212,889	213,343	213,768	-0.2	-0.2	-0.8	208,901	214,142	242,236	-13.8
<b>Excluding defense:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	567,562	573,729	576,149	-1.1	-0.4	-0.1	567,011	567,237	636,197	-10.9
Total Inventories.....	276,440	276,890	277,563	-0.2	-0.2	-0.6	268,916	278,722	308,905	-12.9
<b>Manufacturing with unfilled orders:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	715,485	724,111	729,336	-1.2	-0.7	-0.4	714,878	713,211	798,753	-10.5
Total Inventories.....	244,466	244,874	245,161	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	238,063	246,469	268,393	-11.3
<b>Primary metals:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	15,440	15,247	15,269	1.3	-0.1	1.7	15,028	14,683	18,327	-18.0
Total Inventories.....	25,841	25,542	25,365	1.2	0.7	-0.6	25,770	25,681	31,904	-19.2
<b>Fabricated metal products:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	49,241	49,126	48,762	0.2	0.7	-0.3	48,063	47,762	56,735	-15.3
Total Inventories.....	36,626	36,983	36,880	-1.0	0.3	-0.4	36,120	36,636	43,413	-16.8
<b>Machinery:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	87,685	87,469	87,401	0.2	0.1	-0.1	86,460	87,096	97,911	-11.7
Total Inventories.....	47,686	47,835	48,015	-0.3	-0.4	-0.9	46,394	48,115	53,470	-13.2
<b>Computers and electronic products:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	122,376	122,925	123,183	-0.4	-0.2	-0.5	122,034	121,484	124,579	-2.0
Total Inventories.....	42,933	42,828	42,944	0.2	-0.3	-0.8	42,117	43,708	46,646	-9.7
<b>Computers and related products:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	4,451	4,508	4,228	-1.3	6.6	1.0	4,451	4,508	4,090	8.8
Total Inventories.....	4,100	4,093	4,113	0.2	-0.5	-0.7	3,887	4,269	4,869	-20.2
<b>Communications equipment:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	37,328	37,371	37,546	-0.1	-0.5	-0.7	36,950	36,831	36,754	0.5
Total Inventories.....	9,393	9,074	9,143	3.5	-0.8	-2.0	9,349	9,351	10,145	-7.8
<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.....	20,220	20,392	20,156	-0.8	1.2	0.7	19,466	20,049	21,599	-9.9
Total Inventories.....	12,076	12,142	12,203	-0.5	-0.5	-1.4	11,709	12,041	14,248	-17.8
<b>Transportation equipment:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	408,850	417,439	423,359	-2.1	-1.4	-0.6	412,623	410,516	467,835	-11.8
Total Inventories.....	89,806	89,948	90,255	-0.2	-0.3	0.8	85,940	90,921	91,517	-6.1
<b>Motor vehicles and parts:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	13,915	14,015	14,225	-0.7	-1.5	1.9	13,912	13,783	15,649	-11.1
Total Inventories.....	18,442	18,250	18,073	1.1	1.0	-0.6	17,744	18,416	20,587	-13.8
<b>Nondefense Aircraft and parts:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	270,269	276,194	279,245	-2.1	-1.1	-0.1	274,049	272,631	308,110	-11.1
Total Inventories.....	45,231	45,225	45,470	0.0	-0.5	1.0	42,735	46,094	45,580	-6.2
<b>Defense Aircraft and parts:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	44,996	45,283	46,271	-0.6	-2.1	-0.7	44,661	43,811	48,227	-7.4
Total Inventories.....	15,391	15,620	15,889	-1.5	-1.7	3.0	15,107	15,530	14,373	5.1
<b>All other durable goods:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	11,673	11,513	11,206	1.4	2.7	0.3	11,204	11,621	11,767	-4.8
Total Inventories.....	47,727	48,013	48,361	-0.6	-0.7	-1.0	46,791	47,961	52,555	-11.0
<b>Capital goods:<sup>3</sup></b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	540,216	548,585	554,629	-1.5	-1.1	-0.7	542,329	540,371	613,935	-11.7
Total Inventories.....	151,569	152,526	152,813	-0.6	-0.2	0.2	146,986	154,403	161,853	-9.2
<b>Nondefense capital goods:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	407,859	413,729	417,381	-1.4	-0.9	-0.3	409,723	409,440	468,270	-12.5
Total Inventories.....	131,722	132,298	132,496	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	127,185	134,145	142,419	-10.7
<b>Excluding aircraft:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	173,385	173,866	173,867	-0.3	0.0	-0.4	171,040	172,275	193,182	-11.5
Total Inventories.....	95,977	96,169	96,475	-0.2	-0.3	-0.9	93,609	97,291	106,416	-12.0
<b>Defense capital goods:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	132,357	134,856	137,248	-1.9	-1.7	-1.6	132,606	130,931	145,665	-9.0
Total Inventories.....	19,847	20,228	20,317	-1.9	-0.4	2.6	19,801	20,258	19,434	1.9

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), 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 4,300 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 61 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 4,300 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 4,300 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>.

### BENCHMARK NOTICE

Revised historical data for Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders will be issued on May 14, 2010. These revisions reflect:

- benchmarking the shipments and inventory data to the 2007 Economic Census and the 2008 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.

As of the Benchmark release, the semiconductor industry will no longer be shown separately, but will be included in the computers and electronic products, and all other applicable aggregate totals. An accompanying press release will include the revised 2010 January through March data. Please call Chris Savage on (301)763-4832 with any questions.

### 2010 Release Dates for M3 Survey

Survey Month	Advance 8:30 A.M.	Preliminary 10:00 A.M.
December 2009	Jan. 28, 2010	Feb. 4, 2010
January 2010	Feb. 25, 2010	Mar. 4, 2010
February 2010	Mar. 24, 2010	Mar. 31, 2010
March 2010	Apr. 23, 2010	May 4, 2010
April 2010	May 26, 2010	Jun. 3, 2010
May 2010	Jun. 24, 2010	Jul. 2, 2010
June 2010	Jul. 28, 2010	Aug. 3, 2010
July 2010	Aug. 25, 2010	Sep. 2, 2010
August 2010	Sep. 24, 2010	Oct. 4, 2010
September 2010	Oct. 27, 2010	Nov. 3, 2010
October 2010	Nov. 24, 2010	Dec. 3, 2010
November 2010	Dec. 23, 2010	