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Advance Report on Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders August 2011

New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in August decreased \$0.2 billion or 0.1 percent to \$201.8 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This decrease, down two of the last three months, followed a 4.1 percent July increase. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 0.1 percent. Excluding defense, new orders decreased 0.1 percent.

Primary metals, down following five consecutive monthly increases, had the largest decrease, \$0.2 billion or 0.8 percent to \$24.2 billion.

Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in August, down following three consecutive monthly increases, decreased \$0.4 billion or 0.2 percent to \$201.0 billion. This followed a 2.1 percent July increase.

Transportation equipment, down following two consecutive monthly increases, had the largest decrease, \$2.3 billion or 4.6 percent to \$47.1 billion.

Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in August, up sixteen of the last seventeen months, increased \$7.6 billion or 0.9 percent to \$878.6 billion. This followed a 0.9 percent July increase.

Transportation equipment, up eight consecutive months, had the largest increase, \$6.0 billion or 1.2 percent to \$507.6 billion.

Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in August, up twenty consecutive months, increased \$3.2 billion or 0.9 percent to \$365.3 billion. This was at the highest level since the series was first published on a NAICS basis in 1992 and followed a 1.1 percent July increase.

Transportation equipment, also up twenty consecutive months, had the largest increase, \$1.4 billion or 1.3 percent to \$112.3 billion.

Capital Goods

Nondefense new orders for capital goods in August increased \$3.9 billion or 5.2 percent to \$78.1 billion. Shipments increased \$1.9 billion or 2.7 percent to \$71.3 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$6.7 billion or 1.3 percent to \$516.9 billion. Inventories increased \$1.9 billion or 1.1 percent to \$166.8 billion.

Defense new orders for capital goods in August decreased \$0.5 billion or 5.7 percent to \$7.7 billion. Shipments increased \$0.2 billion or 2.9 percent to \$7.5 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$0.2 billion or 0.1 percent to \$151.5 billion. Inventories increased \$0.1 billion or 0.7 percent to \$20.6 billion.

Revised July Data

Revised seasonally adjusted July figures for all manufacturing industries were: new orders, \$452.8 billion (revised from \$453.2 billion); shipments, \$452.2 billion (revised from \$453.2 billion); unfilled orders, \$871.0 billion (revised from \$870.4 billion); and total inventories, \$599.3 billion (revised from \$598.0 billion).

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 October 4, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. EDT. The advance report on durable goods for September is scheduled for release on October 26, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. EDT. See back page for survey description.

Table 1. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments and New Orders ¹**[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		
	Aug 2011 ²	Jul 2011 ^f	Jun 2011	Jul - Aug ²	Jun - Jul ^f	May - Jun	Aug 2011 ²	Jul 2011 ^f	Aug 2010	2011	2010	Change 11/10
DURABLE GOODS												
Total:												
Shipments.....	201,030	201,407	197,263	-0.2	2.1	1.1	209,302	186,225	190,606	1,558,682	1,446,806	7.7
New Orders ⁴	201,757	201,991	193,953	-0.1	4.1	-1.1	207,346	182,504	181,747	1,551,128	1,408,667	10.1
Excluding transportation:												
Shipments.....	153,945	152,046	151,162	1.2	0.6	1.4	159,747	146,789	143,698	1,192,851	1,095,477	8.9
New Orders ⁴	148,626	148,725	147,634	-0.1	0.7	0.7	151,685	141,726	138,618	1,169,638	1,070,348	9.3
Excluding defense:												
Shipments.....	191,152	191,924	187,262	-0.4	2.5	1.2	199,627	177,780	179,663	1,479,769	1,351,013	9.5
New Orders ⁴	191,592	191,809	182,967	-0.1	4.8	-0.8	198,452	175,729	172,056	1,466,822	1,315,627	11.5
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:												
Shipments.....	144,716	143,836	142,720	0.6	0.8	1.3	149,908	133,234	136,309	1,122,473	1,040,481	7.9
New Orders.....	152,285	151,296	145,513	0.7	4.0	-2.0	154,820	137,560	133,684	1,167,520	1,049,913	11.2
Primary metals:												
Shipments.....	24,201	24,369	23,941	-0.7	1.8	3.4	25,882	23,591	19,537	188,398	146,660	28.5
New Orders.....	24,221	24,405	22,749	-0.8	7.3	0.3	25,792	23,709	19,843	188,484	152,273	23.8
Fabricated metal products:												
Shipments.....	24,974	24,792	25,053	0.7	-1.0	1.0	27,225	24,056	25,465	198,308	187,698	5.7
New Orders.....	25,437	25,570	25,865	-0.5	-1.1	4.0	27,093	24,769	25,217	203,934	190,281	7.2
Machinery:												
Shipments.....	31,282	29,750	29,527	5.1	0.8	4.2	31,446	27,793	26,170	231,160	206,339	12.0
New Orders.....	32,660	32,634	32,015	0.1	1.9	-1.4	32,142	30,707	27,155	252,808	216,570	16.7
Computers and electronic products⁴:												
Shipments.....	31,119	31,054	30,467	0.2	1.9	-1.2	30,316	30,111	30,129	239,628	233,696	2.5
New Orders.....	24,084	23,764	24,618	1.3	-3.5	0.9	22,657	20,868	24,297	185,571	185,610	0.0
Computers and related products:												
Shipments.....	5,767	5,770	5,744	-0.1	0.5	2.4	5,339	5,905	5,303	43,396	38,847	11.7
New Orders.....	5,746	5,446	5,874	5.5	-7.3	1.7	5,318	5,581	5,339	43,040	38,794	10.9
Communications equipment:												
Shipments.....	3,047	3,033	3,077	0.5	-1.4	-1.3	2,911	2,651	3,538	24,112	28,818	-16.3
New Orders.....	2,950	2,736	3,466	7.8	-21.1	15.8	2,863	2,111	4,215	22,419	28,106	-20.2
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:												
Shipments.....	10,237	9,931	10,150	3.1	-2.2	0.0	10,733	9,360	10,059	79,961	75,096	6.5
New Orders.....	10,312	10,175	10,440	1.3	-2.5	0.4	10,519	9,880	10,151	82,963	78,665	5.5
Transportation equipment:												
Shipments.....	47,085	49,361	46,101	-4.6	7.1	0.3	49,555	39,436	46,908	365,831	351,329	4.1
New Orders.....	53,131	53,266	46,319	-0.3	15.0	-6.6	55,661	40,778	43,129	381,490	338,319	12.8
Motor vehicles and parts:												
Shipments.....	29,063	31,775	28,879	-8.5	10.0	-0.2	31,819	24,499	29,388	230,896	209,227	10.4
New Orders.....	29,190	31,911	28,959	-8.5	10.2	0.1	31,597	24,666	29,103	230,428	207,926	10.8
Nondefense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	7,753	7,550	6,937	2.7	8.8	3.2	7,768	6,319	6,938	54,657	51,241	6.7
New Orders.....	13,515	10,947	7,302	23.5	49.9	-24.0	14,463	8,879	4,935	69,460	47,543	46.1
Defense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	4,061	3,819	4,213	6.3	-9.4	-0.7	3,871	3,320	4,461	32,188	39,104	-17.7
New Orders.....	5,013	4,093	4,090	22.5	0.1	-20.5	4,426	2,931	3,429	35,108	38,399	-8.6
All other durable goods:												
Shipments.....	32,132	32,150	32,024	-0.1	0.4	0.5	34,145	31,878	32,338	255,396	245,988	3.8
New Orders.....	31,912	32,177	31,947	-0.8	0.7	0.5	33,482	31,793	31,955	255,878	246,949	3.6
Capital goods³:												
Shipments.....	78,862	76,762	76,144	2.7	0.8	1.7	78,840	70,908	71,746	593,244	563,095	5.4
New Orders.....	85,805	82,385	79,870	4.2	3.1	-2.4	84,924	73,301	70,037	630,264	565,366	11.5
Nondefense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	71,331	69,442	68,410	2.7	1.5	2.1	71,366	64,288	63,077	531,319	485,534	9.4
New Orders.....	78,063	74,175	71,136	5.2	4.3	-2.4	77,948	67,969	62,165	562,769	490,742	14.7
Excluding aircraft:												
Shipments.....	66,560	64,749	64,513	2.8	0.4	2.0	66,504	60,485	58,857	500,078	455,005	9.9
New Orders.....	67,690	66,947	67,097	1.1	-0.2	0.8	66,434	62,494	59,835	518,853	463,678	11.9
Defense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	7,531	7,320	7,734	2.9	-5.4	-1.9	7,474	6,620	8,669	61,925	77,561	-20.2
New Orders.....	7,742	8,210	8,734	-5.7	-6.0	-3.0	6,976	5,332	7,872	67,495	74,624	-9.6

¹ Revised data due to late receipts and concurrent seasonal adjustment.² 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 periods. 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 changes.³ 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. For further details on survey design, methodology, and data limitations, see <http://www.census.gov/manufacturing/m3>.⁴ 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.

⁵ Estimates of shipments for the semiconductor industry are no longer shown separately. Estimates and percent changes of shipments and inventories for the semiconductor industry are included in computers and electronic products, and all other applicable aggregate totals. Estimates and percent changes for new orders and unfilled orders exclude semiconductor industry data.

Table 2. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders and Total Inventories ¹

[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
	Aug 2011 ²	Jul 2011 ^r	Jun 2011	Jul - Aug ²	Jun - Jul ^r	May - Jun	Aug 2011 ²	Jul 2011 ^r	Aug 2010	2011/2010
DURABLE GOODS										
Total:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	878,570	871,001	863,541	0.9	0.9	0.3	874,505	869,593	808,105	8.2
Total Inventories.....	365,311	362,075	358,215	0.9	1.1	0.6	368,075	364,901	325,155	13.2
Excluding transportation:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	370,974	369,451	365,896	0.4	1.0	0.7	369,586	370,780	327,201	13.0
Total Inventories.....	253,012	251,213	249,110	0.7	0.8	0.4	254,848	252,928	230,107	10.8
Excluding defense:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	708,050	700,768	694,007	1.0	1.0	0.3	705,708	700,015	646,895	9.1
Total Inventories.....	339,252	336,132	332,423	0.9	1.1	0.8	342,100	338,945	300,309	13.9
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:										
Unfilled Orders.....	878,570	871,001	863,541	0.9	0.9	0.3	874,505	869,593	808,105	8.2
Total Inventories.....	300,253	297,387	294,156	1.0	1.1	0.8	302,479	299,991	264,460	14.4
Primary metals:										
Unfilled Orders.....	31,571	31,551	31,515	0.1	0.1	-3.6	31,747	31,837	29,314	8.3
Total Inventories.....	34,895	34,301	33,853	1.7	1.3	0.2	35,120	34,975	29,502	19.0
Fabricated metal products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	64,819	64,356	63,578	0.7	1.2	1.3	64,914	65,046	61,238	6.0
Total Inventories.....	46,052	45,712	45,269	0.7	1.0	0.5	46,239	46,241	41,369	11.8
Machinery:										
Unfilled Orders.....	116,341	114,963	112,079	1.2	2.6	2.3	115,926	115,230	86,513	34.0
Total Inventories.....	59,280	58,567	57,759	1.2	1.4	0.9	59,491	58,527	51,857	14.7
Computers and electronic products⁵:										
Unfilled Orders.....	123,722	123,915	124,329	-0.2	-0.3	0.2	122,415	123,206	120,126	1.9
Total Inventories.....	48,361	48,503	48,259	-0.3	0.5	0.3	49,143	48,746	45,994	6.8
Computers and related products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	3,298	3,319	3,643	-0.6	-8.9	3.7	3,298	3,319	3,491	-5.5
Total Inventories.....	5,906	6,002	5,786	-1.6	3.7	1.5	6,237	6,032	6,076	2.6
Communications equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	28,272	28,369	28,666	-0.3	-1.0	1.4	27,898	27,946	28,859	-3.3
Total Inventories.....	10,056	9,923	9,943	1.3	-0.2	2.0	10,094	9,862	9,193	9.8
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:										
Unfilled Orders.....	26,117	26,042	25,798	0.3	0.9	1.1	26,254	26,468	22,200	18.3
Total Inventories.....	15,598	15,527	15,519	0.5	0.1	0.2	15,802	15,739	14,860	6.3
Transportation equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	507,596	501,550	497,645	1.2	0.8	0.0	504,919	498,813	480,904	5.0
Total Inventories.....	112,299	110,862	109,105	1.3	1.6	1.2	113,227	111,973	95,048	19.1
Motor vehicles and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	13,846	13,719	13,583	0.9	1.0	0.6	13,328	13,550	12,599	5.8
Total Inventories.....	25,655	25,485	25,006	0.7	1.9	0.5	26,002	25,741	23,133	12.4
Nondefense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	353,412	347,650	344,253	1.7	1.0	0.1	352,219	345,524	327,381	7.6
Total Inventories.....	61,462	60,313	59,188	1.9	1.9	2.3	61,933	61,114	47,159	31.3
Defense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	55,579	54,627	54,353	1.7	0.5	-0.2	55,025	54,470	50,366	9.3
Total Inventories.....	14,413	14,368	14,265	0.3	0.7	-2.3	14,484	14,458	13,981	3.6
All other durable goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	8,404	8,624	8,597	-2.6	0.3	-0.9	8,330	8,993	7,810	6.7
Total Inventories.....	48,826	48,603	48,451	0.5	0.3	0.0	49,053	48,700	46,525	5.4
Capital goods³:										
Unfilled Orders.....	668,482	661,539	655,916	1.0	0.9	0.6	665,232	659,148	612,472	8.6
Total Inventories.....	187,377	185,377	183,270	1.1	1.1	1.0	188,818	186,342	162,384	16.3
Nondefense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	516,935	510,203	505,470	1.3	0.9	0.5	514,990	508,408	468,048	10.0
Total Inventories.....	166,824	164,965	162,954	1.1	1.2	1.4	168,420	166,007	142,672	18.0
Excluding aircraft:										
Unfilled Orders.....	205,798	204,668	202,470	0.6	1.1	1.3	204,869	204,939	178,294	14.9
Total Inventories.....	114,010	113,158	112,084	0.8	1.0	0.9	115,253	113,453	103,573	11.3
Defense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	151,547	151,336	150,446	0.1	0.6	0.7	150,242	150,740	144,424	4.0
Total Inventories.....	20,553	20,412	20,316	0.7	0.5	-2.3	20,398	20,335	19,712	3.5

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), 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 65 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 4,300 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>.