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Chris Savage or Adriana Stoica  
Manufacturing and Construction Division  
(301) 763-4832

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

### New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in October decreased \$1.4 billion or 0.7 percent to \$197.7 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This decrease, down two consecutive months, followed a 1.5 percent September decrease. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 0.7 percent. Excluding defense, new orders increased 0.2 percent.

Transportation equipment, also down two consecutive months, had the largest decrease, \$2.4 billion or 4.8 percent to \$47.2 billion.

### Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in October, up five of the last six months, increased \$2.6 billion or 1.3 percent to \$203.0 billion. This followed a 0.5 percent September decrease.

Transportation equipment, up following two consecutive monthly decreases, had the largest increase, \$2.4 billion or 5.2 percent to \$48.4 billion.

### Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in October, up eighteen of the last nineteen months, increased \$1.9 billion or 0.2 percent to \$886.0 billion. This followed a 0.6 percent September increase.

Machinery, up twenty one consecutive months, had the largest increase, \$1.8 billion or 1.5 percent to \$117.7 billion. This was at the highest level since the series was first published on a NAICS basis in 1992 and followed a 0.3 percent September increase.

### Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in October, up twenty two consecutive months, increased \$1.8 billion or 0.5 percent to \$367.2 billion. This was at the highest level since the series was first published on a NAICS basis and followed a slight September increase.

Transportation equipment, also up twenty two consecutive months, had the largest increase, \$0.8 billion or 0.7 percent to \$113.6 billion.

### Capital Goods

Nondefense new orders for capital goods in October decreased \$3.5 billion or 4.6 percent to \$71.6 billion. Shipments increased \$0.1 billion or 0.2 percent to \$70.9 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$0.7 billion or 0.1 percent to \$521.9 billion. Inventories increased \$1.3 billion or 0.8 percent to \$168.6 billion.

Defense new orders for capital goods in October decreased \$1.7 billion or 19.8 percent to \$6.7 billion. Shipments decreased \$0.5 billion or 7.2 percent to \$7.0 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$0.3 billion or 0.2 percent to \$152.3 billion. Inventories increased \$0.2 billion or 1.0 percent to \$20.2 billion.

### Revised September Data

Revised seasonally adjusted September figures for all manufacturing industries were: new orders, \$451.8 billion (revised from \$453.5 billion); shipments, \$453.1 billion (revised from \$452.7 billion); unfilled orders, \$884.1 billion (revised from \$886.3 billion); and total inventories, \$601.0 billion (revised from \$601.3 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 December 5, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. EST. The advance report on durable goods for November is scheduled for release on December 23, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. EST. See back page for survey description.



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
	Oct 2011 <sup>2</sup>	Sep 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Aug 2011	Sep - Oct <sup>2</sup>	Aug - Sep <sup>r</sup>	Jul - Aug	Oct 2011 <sup>2</sup>	Sep 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Oct 2010	2011/2010
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>										
<b>Total:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	885,950	884,075	878,731	0.2	0.6	0.9	875,094	877,674	817,558	7.0
Total Inventories.....	367,160	365,349	365,291	0.5	0.0	0.9	367,312	363,988	328,857	11.7
<b>Excluding transportation:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	375,305	372,214	370,424	0.8	0.5	0.2	371,281	369,699	329,977	12.5
Total Inventories.....	253,603	252,629	252,922	0.4	-0.1	0.7	253,690	251,694	231,715	9.5
<b>Excluding defense:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	714,534	712,293	707,905	0.3	0.6	1.0	707,538	708,182	657,924	7.5
Total Inventories.....	341,463	339,743	339,253	0.5	0.1	0.9	341,592	338,463	304,171	12.3
<b>Manufacturing with unfilled orders:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	885,950	884,075	878,731	0.2	0.6	0.9	875,094	877,674	817,558	7.0
Total Inventories.....	300,827	299,494	299,976	0.4	-0.2	0.9	301,171	298,532	268,430	12.2
<b>Primary metals:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	32,437	32,120	31,815	1.0	1.0	0.7	30,903	31,592	27,803	11.1
Total Inventories.....	34,432	34,434	34,512	0.0	-0.2	0.7	34,420	34,588	29,796	15.5
<b>Fabricated metal products:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	65,813	65,315	64,800	0.8	0.8	0.7	64,920	65,117	59,525	9.1
Total Inventories.....	46,112	45,875	45,982	0.5	-0.2	0.6	45,801	45,756	41,245	11.0
<b>Machinery:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	117,650	115,891	115,509	1.5	0.3	0.5	117,041	114,999	90,799	28.9
Total Inventories.....	60,011	59,665	59,467	0.6	0.3	1.5	59,910	59,116	52,495	14.1
<b>Computers and electronic products<sup>5</sup>:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	124,422	124,004	123,755	0.3	0.2	-0.2	123,654	123,538	121,243	2.0
Total Inventories.....	48,207	48,146	48,447	0.1	-0.6	-0.2	48,629	47,867	46,427	4.7
<b>Computers and related products:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	3,387	3,417	3,298	-0.9	3.6	-0.6	3,387	3,417	3,485	-2.8
Total Inventories.....	6,236	6,113	5,970	2.0	2.4	-1.5	6,338	6,211	5,760	10.0
<b>Communications equipment:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	28,079	28,083	28,229	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	28,235	28,140	29,314	-3.7
Total Inventories.....	9,696	9,730	10,039	-0.3	-3.1	1.2	9,773	9,557	9,475	3.1
<b>Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	26,615	26,691	26,285	-0.3	1.5	0.9	26,342	26,402	22,461	17.3
Total Inventories.....	15,443	15,356	15,570	0.6	-1.4	0.3	15,415	15,234	14,971	3.0
<b>Transportation equipment:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	510,645	511,861	508,307	-0.2	0.7	1.3	503,813	507,975	487,581	3.3
Total Inventories.....	113,557	112,720	112,369	0.7	0.3	1.4	113,622	112,294	97,142	17.0
<b>Motor vehicles and parts:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	13,752	13,848	13,886	-0.7	-0.3	1.2	13,453	13,431	12,971	3.7
Total Inventories.....	26,617	26,252	25,774	1.4	1.9	1.1	26,562	26,172	23,118	14.9
<b>Nondefense Aircraft and parts:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	355,450	355,731	353,660	-0.1	0.6	1.7	351,867	354,083	337,321	4.3
Total Inventories.....	61,911	61,200	61,412	1.2	-0.3	1.8	61,930	60,884	49,601	24.9
<b>Defense Aircraft and parts:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	55,051	55,179	55,660	-0.2	-0.9	1.9	53,707	54,207	50,912	5.5
Total Inventories.....	14,295	14,565	14,414	-1.9	1.0	0.3	14,365	14,661	13,804	4.1
<b>All other durable goods:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	8,368	8,193	8,260	2.1	-0.8	-4.2	8,421	8,051	8,146	3.4
Total Inventories.....	49,398	49,153	48,944	0.5	0.4	0.7	49,515	49,133	46,781	5.8
<b>Capital goods<sup>3</sup>:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	674,170	673,800	668,729	0.1	0.8	1.1	666,776	669,298	623,888	6.9
Total Inventories.....	188,853	187,325	187,564	0.8	-0.1	1.1	189,169	186,099	165,559	14.3
<b>Nondefense capital goods:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	521,903	521,204	516,914	0.1	0.8	1.3	517,851	518,599	481,429	7.6
Total Inventories.....	168,611	167,287	167,042	0.8	0.1	1.2	168,974	166,238	146,099	15.7
<b>Excluding aircraft:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	209,197	207,587	205,496	0.8	1.0	0.4	208,325	206,256	182,307	14.3
Total Inventories.....	115,381	114,704	114,294	0.6	0.4	1.0	115,861	113,919	104,489	10.9
<b>Defense capital goods:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	152,267	152,596	151,815	-0.2	0.5	0.3	148,925	150,699	142,459	4.5
Total Inventories.....	20,242	20,038	20,522	1.0	-2.4	0.5	20,195	19,861	19,460	3.8

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>.

### 2012 Release Dates for the M3 Survey

Survey month	Advance Report (8:30 a.m. release time)	Full Report (10:00 a.m. release time)
October 2011	November 23, 2011	December 5, 2011
November 2011	December 23, 2011	January 4, 2012
December 2011	January 26, 2012	February 3, 2012
January 2012	February 28, 2012	March 5, 2012
February 2012	March 28, 2012	April 3, 2012
March 2012	April 25, 2012	May 2, 2012
April 2012	May 24, 2012	June 4, 2012
May 2012	June 27, 2012	July 3, 2012
June 2012	July 26, 2012	August 2, 2012
July 2012	August 24, 2012	August 31, 2012
August 2012	September 27, 2012	October 4, 2012
September 2012	October 25, 2012	November 2, 2012
October 2012	November 27, 2012	December 5, 2012
November 2012	December 24, 2012	Not available at this time