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Advance Report on Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders April 2016

New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in April increased \$7.7 billion or 3.4 percent to \$235.9 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This increase, up three of the last four months, followed a 1.9 percent March increase. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 0.4 percent. Excluding defense, new orders increased 3.7 percent.

Transportation equipment, also up three of the last four months, led the increase, \$7.1 billion or 8.9 percent to \$87.1 billion.

Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in April, up following two consecutive monthly decreases, increased \$1.5 billion or 0.6 percent to \$232.5 billion. This followed a 0.8 percent March decrease.

Transportation equipment, also up following two consecutive monthly decreases, led the increase, \$1.0 billion or 1.3 percent to \$80.9 billion.

Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in April, up three of the last four months, increased \$6.3 billion or 0.6 percent to \$1,137.0 billion. This followed a virtually unchanged March increase.

Transportation equipment, up two consecutive months, led the increase, \$6.1 billion or 0.8 percent to \$783.1 billion.

Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in April, down nine of the last ten months, decreased \$0.7 billion or 0.2 percent to \$384.4 billion. This followed a 0.2 percent March decrease.

Machinery, down eight of the last nine months, led the decrease, \$0.5 billion or 0.7 percent to \$66.1 billion.

Capital Goods

Nondefense new orders for capital goods in April increased \$5.4 billion or 7.8 percent to \$73.6 billion. Shipments increased \$0.4 billion or 0.6 percent to \$71.4 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$2.2 billion or 0.3 percent to \$707.2 billion. Inventories decreased \$0.2 billion or 0.1 percent to \$172.4 billion.

Defense new orders for capital goods in April increased \$0.5 billion or 3.7 percent to \$13.2 billion. Shipments decreased \$0.4 billion or 4.1 percent to \$9.6 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$3.6 billion or 2.6 percent to \$140.7 billion. Inventories increased \$0.2 billion or 1.2 percent to \$20.8 billion.

Revised and Recently Benchmarked March Data

Revised seasonally adjusted March figures for all manufacturing industries were: new orders, \$451.4 billion (revised from \$451.1 billion); shipments, \$454.1 billion (revised from \$455.3 billion); unfilled orders, \$1,130.7 billion (revised from \$1,129.5 billion); and total inventories, \$621.1 billion (revised from \$622.4 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 June 3, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. EDT. The Advance Report on durable goods for May is scheduled for release on June 24, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. EDT. See back page for survey description. To receive the latest updates on the Nation's key economic indicators, download the America's Economy app for Apple and Android smartphones and tablets. To learn more about this release and the other indicators the U.S. Census Bureau publishes, join us for the Investigating Economic Indicators Webinar Series. For more information, visit www.census.gov/econ/webinar.

“Virtually unchanged” indicates that the change is less than 0.05 percent for a percent increase or decrease.

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		
	Apr 2016 ²	Mar 2016 ¹	Feb 2016	Mar - Apr ²	Feb - Mar ¹	Jan - Feb	Apr 2016 ²	Mar 2016 ¹	Apr 2015	2016	2015	Percent Change 2016/2015
DURABLE GOODS												
Total:												
Shipments.....	232,477	231,002	232,924	0.6	-0.8	-0.8	228,962	252,945	235,512	911,653	913,520	-0.2
New Orders ⁴	235,942	228,281	224,081	3.4	1.9	-3.3	228,163	249,802	225,548	901,885	894,520	0.8
Excluding transportation:												
Shipments.....	151,545	151,088	150,968	0.3	0.1	-0.8	150,134	161,475	155,284	591,454	603,347	-2.0
New Orders ⁴	148,877	148,302	148,136	0.4	0.1	-1.5	148,568	161,467	153,073	593,646	599,671	-1.0
Excluding defense:												
Shipments.....	220,989	218,481	220,402	1.1	-0.9	-1.0	218,541	238,370	224,669	865,162	869,787	-0.5
New Orders ⁴	221,031	213,215	214,453	3.7	-0.6	-2.4	214,528	232,263	217,008	851,521	854,752	-0.4
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:												
Shipments.....	163,742	162,941	163,483	0.5	-0.3	-0.9	159,662	179,169	165,175	639,910	648,040	-1.3
New Orders.....	170,064	163,362	157,790	4.1	3.5	-4.5	162,113	178,943	159,007	642,740	642,303	0.1
Primary metals:												
Shipments.....	17,794	17,688	17,644	0.6	0.2	-0.7	18,015	18,850	20,274	71,488	81,844	-12.7
New Orders.....	18,163	18,168	17,829	0.0	1.9	-1.3	18,506	19,259	20,646	74,268	82,684	-10.2
Fabricated metal products:												
Shipments.....	29,934	29,478	29,559	1.5	-0.3	-0.7	30,027	30,762	30,230	116,613	116,495	0.1
New Orders.....	30,031	29,142	29,615	3.1	-1.6	-1.4	30,433	31,775	29,960	120,468	117,866	2.2
Machinery:												
Shipments.....	30,268	30,405	30,580	-0.5	-0.6	-1.3	30,558	33,814	33,092	121,115	128,194	-5.5
New Orders.....	29,156	29,719	29,950	-1.9	-0.8	-3.4	29,688	33,056	32,807	121,832	128,694	-5.3
Computers and electronic products⁴:												
Shipments.....	26,264	26,292	26,344	-0.1	-0.2	-0.9	24,303	29,017	24,486	100,151	96,422	3.9
New Orders.....	24,181	23,736	23,624	1.9	0.5	-1.1	22,271	27,566	21,841	92,203	88,356	4.4
Computers and related products:												
Shipments.....	1,910	1,778	1,911	7.4	-7.0	-6.0	1,504	2,266	1,754	6,633	7,773	-14.7
New Orders.....	1,897	1,775	1,911	6.9	-7.1	-4.5	1,491	2,263	1,834	6,585	7,927	-16.9
Communications equipment:												
Shipments.....	3,281	3,369	3,308	-2.6	1.8	2.9	2,942	3,903	3,117	12,341	12,729	-3.0
New Orders.....	3,471	3,436	3,570	1.0	-3.8	2.1	3,389	4,220	3,688	14,209	14,889	-4.6
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:												
Shipments.....	9,428	9,294	9,357	1.4	-0.7	-2.6	9,192	9,880	10,160	36,478	40,118	-9.1
New Orders.....	9,484	9,438	9,544	0.5	-1.1	-3.3	9,245	10,076	10,225	37,827	40,703	-7.1
Transportation equipment:												
Shipments.....	80,932	79,914	81,956	1.3	-2.5	-0.7	78,828	91,470	80,228	320,199	310,173	3.2
New Orders.....	87,065	79,979	75,945	8.9	5.3	-6.7	79,595	88,335	72,475	308,239	294,849	4.5
Motor vehicles and parts:												
Shipments.....	56,141	54,373	56,319	3.3	-3.5	0.0	56,307	60,894	55,101	223,895	209,564	6.8
New Orders.....	55,961	54,397	56,212	2.9	-3.2	0.8	55,671	60,654	54,653	222,729	209,594	6.3
Nondefense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	13,439	13,078	13,093	2.8	-0.1	-7.4	11,799	16,038	13,399	49,762	52,970	-6.1
New Orders.....	16,865	10,226	10,432	64.9	-2.0	-26.7	10,618	10,399	8,712	37,240	42,308	-12.0
Defense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	3,644	4,639	4,437	-21.4	4.6	0.1	3,156	5,687	4,064	16,005	16,691	-4.1
New Orders.....	5,926	6,204	3,797	-4.5	63.4	-22.4	5,321	6,740	3,705	19,230	13,604	41.4
All other durable goods:												
Shipments.....	37,857	37,931	37,484	-0.2	1.2	0.0	38,039	39,152	37,042	145,609	140,274	3.8
New Orders.....	37,862	38,099	37,574	-0.6	1.4	0.0	38,425	39,735	37,594	147,048	141,368	4.0
Capital goods³:												
Shipments.....	80,989	80,991	81,168	0.0	-0.2	-2.2	76,895	91,194	82,753	313,976	327,839	-4.2
New Orders.....	86,772	80,946	75,317	7.2	7.5	-10.5	80,500	90,748	77,742	314,408	321,658	-2.3
Nondefense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	71,399	70,994	71,126	0.6	-0.2	-3.0	68,084	79,640	73,996	276,062	293,077	-5.8
New Orders.....	73,600	68,247	68,288	7.8	-0.1	-7.9	68,198	75,509	71,508	270,963	288,900	-6.2
Excluding aircraft:												
Shipments.....	62,987	62,804	62,970	0.3	-0.3	-1.6	60,814	69,513	64,719	246,016	258,099	-4.7
New Orders.....	62,350	62,866	62,924	-0.8	-0.1	-2.1	61,078	71,038	65,484	252,941	263,701	-4.1
Defense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	9,590	9,997	10,042	-4.1	-0.4	3.4	8,811	11,554	8,757	37,914	34,762	9.1
New Orders.....	13,172	12,699	7,029	3.7	80.7	-29.7	12,302	15,239	6,234	43,445	32,758	32.6

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 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 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 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 Change 2016/ 2015
	Apr 2016 ²	Mar 2016 ¹	Feb 2016	Mar - Apr ²	Feb - Mar ¹	Jan - Feb	Apr 2016 ²	Mar 2016 ¹	Apr 2015	
<u>DURABLE GOODS</u>										
Total:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	1,137,029	1,130,707	1,130,286	0.6	0.0	-0.5	1,142,530	1,140,079	1,161,832	-1.7
Total Inventories.....	384,410	385,098	385,682	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	386,211	383,975	395,436	-2.3
Excluding transportation:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	353,965	353,776	353,420	0.1	0.1	0.1	359,632	357,948	361,063	-0.4
Total Inventories.....	259,381	259,967	260,165	-0.2	-0.1	-0.4	260,789	259,154	270,215	-3.5
Excluding defense:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	961,022	958,123	960,247	0.3	-0.2	-0.3	965,440	966,203	982,669	-1.8
Total Inventories.....	358,751	359,662	359,832	-0.3	0.0	-0.2	360,502	358,622	369,874	-2.5
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:										
Unfilled Orders.....	1,137,029	1,130,707	1,130,286	0.6	0.0	-0.5	1,142,530	1,140,079	1,161,832	-1.7
Total Inventories.....	312,919	313,500	313,570	-0.2	0.0	-0.4	314,661	312,032	323,284	-2.7
Primary metals:										
Unfilled Orders.....	32,546	32,177	31,697	1.1	1.5	0.6	33,393	32,902	33,955	-1.7
Total Inventories.....	31,684	31,940	32,015	-0.8	-0.2	-1.2	31,654	31,795	36,606	-13.5
Fabricated metal products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	73,912	73,815	74,151	0.1	-0.5	0.1	75,302	74,896	75,485	-0.2
Total Inventories.....	48,544	48,741	48,785	-0.4	-0.1	-0.3	49,043	49,162	50,380	-2.7
Machinery:										
Unfilled Orders.....	94,378	95,490	96,176	-1.2	-0.7	-0.7	95,673	96,543	104,217	-8.2
Total Inventories.....	66,093	66,575	66,678	-0.7	-0.2	-0.6	66,497	66,136	69,034	-3.7
Computers and electronic products⁴:										
Unfilled Orders.....	127,384	126,610	126,024	0.6	0.5	0.3	128,841	127,623	121,566	6.0
Total Inventories.....	42,865	42,723	42,484	0.3	0.6	0.3	43,068	42,095	43,425	-0.8
Computers and related products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	2,399	2,412	2,415	-0.5	-0.1	0.0	2,399	2,412	2,434	-1.4
Total Inventories.....	3,617	3,655	3,614	-1.0	1.1	-0.6	3,584	3,434	3,937	-9.0
Communications equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	33,963	33,773	33,706	0.6	0.2	0.8	34,630	34,183	31,163	11.1
Total Inventories.....	4,671	4,623	4,657	1.0	-0.7	-1.5	4,632	4,564	5,132	-9.7
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:										
Unfilled Orders.....	17,408	17,352	17,208	0.3	0.8	1.1	17,652	17,599	17,337	1.8
Total Inventories.....	16,336	16,266	16,239	0.4	0.2	-0.7	16,529	16,164	17,051	-3.1
Transportation equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	783,064	776,931	776,866	0.8	0.0	-0.8	782,898	782,131	800,769	-2.2
Total Inventories.....	125,029	125,131	125,517	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	125,422	124,821	125,221	0.2
Motor vehicles and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	22,296	22,476	22,452	-0.8	0.1	-0.5	22,393	23,029	24,025	-6.8
Total Inventories.....	33,768	34,454	34,672	-2.0	-0.6	-0.2	33,770	34,798	35,309	-4.4
Nondefense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	598,910	595,484	598,336	0.6	-0.5	-0.4	598,114	599,295	605,237	-1.2
Total Inventories.....	64,576	64,294	64,126	0.4	0.3	0.3	65,052	63,851	63,290	2.8
Defense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	71,453	69,171	67,606	3.3	2.3	-0.9	71,843	69,678	66,919	7.4
Total Inventories.....	11,395	11,113	11,827	2.5	-6.0	-1.0	11,455	11,093	12,370	-7.4
All other durable goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	8,337	8,332	8,164	0.1	2.1	1.1	8,771	8,385	8,503	3.2
Total Inventories.....	53,859	53,722	53,964	0.3	-0.4	-0.3	53,998	53,802	53,719	0.5
Capital goods³:										
Unfilled Orders.....	847,888	842,105	842,150	0.7	0.0	-0.7	851,308	847,703	876,429	-2.9
Total Inventories.....	193,200	193,129	193,151	0.0	0.0	-0.4	193,969	191,201	196,813	-1.4
Nondefense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	707,160	704,959	707,706	0.3	-0.4	-0.4	709,373	709,259	732,472	-3.2
Total Inventories.....	172,395	172,569	172,258	-0.1	0.2	-0.2	173,174	170,704	176,049	-1.6
Excluding aircraft:										
Unfilled Orders.....	221,349	221,986	221,924	-0.3	0.0	0.0	224,611	224,347	231,381	-2.9
Total Inventories.....	118,825	119,199	119,103	-0.3	0.1	-0.4	119,101	117,698	123,108	-3.3
Defense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	140,728	137,146	134,444	2.6	2.0	-2.2	141,935	138,444	143,957	-1.4
Total Inventories.....	20,805	20,560	20,893	1.2	-1.6	-2.0	20,795	20,497	20,764	0.1

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, which is a voluntary survey authorized by Title 13 of the United States Code. This survey provides statistics on a calendar-month basis for 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). Data published from the M3 survey are based on a panel of approximately 4,800 reporting units that represent approximately 3,000 companies and provide an indication of month-to-month change for the Manufacturing Sector. These reporting units may be divisions of diversified large companies, large homogenous companies, or single-unit manufacturers in 92 industry categories, which are combined into 65 publication levels due to the small monthly panel size. The survey methodology assumes that the month-to-month changes of the total operations of the reporting units in the M3 panel effectively represent the month-to-month movements of all establishments that make up the category.

The companies for which shipments data are currently reported or imputed in the M3 survey represent approximately 61 percent of the total value of shipments for manufacturing establishments in the 2012 Economic Census, and these companies include almost two-thirds of the manufacturing companies with \$500 million or more in shipments in the 2012 Economic Census. The companies for which shipments data are currently reported in the M3 survey represent approximately 54 percent of the total value of shipments for manufacturing establishments in the 2012 Economic Census. Statistics based on the M3 panel differ from the results that would be obtained from a complete enumeration of all manufacturing companies. The M3 panel is not based on 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 from the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3) Survey were issued on May 18, 2016. These revisions result from:

- benchmarking the 2008-2011 Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM) shipments and inventories data to the revised 2012 Economic Census data on a 2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) basis;
- benchmarking the M3 shipments and inventories data to the 2014 ASM and revised 2013 ASM data, as well as the revised 2012 Economic Census data, on a 2012 NAICS basis, and ASM benchmarks for prior years on a 2007 NAICS basis;
- incorporating the unfilled orders to shipments ratios obtained from the 2014/2013 Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (M3UFO) Survey by applying these ratios to the respective ASM shipments data, as well as incorporating revised unfilled orders to shipments ratios for prior years by applying them to the respective Census or ASM shipments data;
- adjusting the new orders data to be consistent with the benchmarked shipments and unfilled orders data;
- correcting monthly data for late receipts, reclassifications of reported data, and revisions to previously reported data;
- updating the seasonally adjusted data based on the results of benchmarking and the recent annual review of the seasonal adjustment models.

These revisions spanned the seasonally adjusted data for January 1997 through March 2016 and the data not seasonally adjusted for January 2001 through March 2016. An updated Press Release contains revised monthly tables for January 2016 through March 2016. Please call M3 staff on (301) 763-4832 with any questions.