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## Full Report on Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders May 2009

### Summary

New orders for manufactured goods in May, up three of the last four months, increased \$4.1 billion or 1.2 percent to \$347.9 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau reported today. This followed a 0.5 percent April increase. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 0.8 percent.

Shipments, down ten consecutive months, decreased \$3.1 billion or 0.9 percent to \$353.3 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 0.5 percent April decrease.

Unfilled orders, down eight consecutive months, decreased \$1.8 billion or 0.2 percent to \$747.3 billion. This was the longest streak of consecutive monthly decreases since November 2001-July 2002. This followed a 1.1 percent April decrease. The unfilled orders-to-shipments ratio was 6.15, up from 6.04 in April.

Inventories, down nine consecutive months, decreased \$3.2 billion or 0.6 percent to \$513.3 billion. This was the longest streak of consecutive monthly decreases since March 2003-January 2004 and followed a 1.2 percent April decrease. The inventories-to-shipments ratio was 1.45, unchanged from April.

### New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in May, up three of the last four months, increased \$2.9 billion or 1.8 percent to \$163.4 billion, unchanged from the previously published increase. This followed a 1.4 percent April increase.

Transportation equipment, up three of the last four months, had the largest increase, \$1.5 billion or 3.8 percent to \$42.3 billion.

New orders for manufactured nondurable goods increased \$1.2 billion or 0.7 percent to \$184.5 billion.

### Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in May, down ten consecutive months, decreased \$4.3 billion or 2.5 percent to \$168.9 billion, revised from the previously published 2.1 percent decrease. This also 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 April decrease.

Transportation equipment, down two consecutive months, had the largest decrease, \$2.8 billion or 6.2 percent to \$42.2 billion.

Shipments of manufactured nondurable goods, up following three consecutive monthly decreases, increased \$1.2 billion or 0.7 percent to \$184.5 billion. This followed a 0.2 percent April decrease. This increase was due to petroleum and coal products, which increased \$2.5 billion or 8.3 percent to \$32.3 billion.

### Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in May, down eight consecutive months, decreased \$1.8 billion or 0.2 percent to \$747.3 billion, revised from the previously published 0.3 percent decrease. This followed a 1.1 percent April decrease.

Machinery, down eight consecutive months, had the largest decrease, \$0.9 billion or 1.0 percent to \$87.6 billion.

### Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in May, down five consecutive months, decreased \$3.3 billion or 1.0 percent to \$322.1 billion, revised from the previously published 0.8 percent decrease. This followed a 1.2 percent April decrease.

Primary metals, down eight consecutive months, had the largest decrease, \$0.9 billion or 3.1 percent to \$27.1 billion.

Inventories of manufactured nondurable goods, up following eight consecutive monthly decreases, increased slightly to \$191.2 billion. This followed a 1.1 percent April decrease. Petroleum and coal products drove the increase, up \$0.7 billion or 3.0 percent to \$25.2 billion.

By stage of fabrication, May materials and supplies decreased 1.7 percent in durable goods and increased 0.3 percent in nondurable goods. Work in process decreased 0.2 percent in durable goods and increased 0.2 percent in nondurable goods. Finished goods decreased 1.4 percent in durable goods and 0.3 percent in nondurable goods.

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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>>.

The advance report on durable goods for June is scheduled for release on July 29, 2009, at 8:30 a.m. EDT and the full report on August 5, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. EDT. See back page for survey description.



**Table 2. Value of Manufacturers' New Orders for Industry Groups**

[Millions of Dollars]

Industry	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted <sup>1</sup>						
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Year to date			
	May 2009 <sup>p</sup>	Apr. 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Mar. 2009	Apr. - May	Mar. - Apr.	Feb. - Mar.	May 2009 <sup>p</sup>	Apr. 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Mar. 2009	May 2008	2009 <sup>p</sup>	2008	Percent 2009/ 2008
All manufacturing industries <sup>2</sup>	347,850	343,760	341,935	1.2	0.5	-1.9	348,964	335,775	358,386	458,808	1,684,020	2,196,247	-23.3
Excluding transportation <sup>2</sup>	305,534	302,992	303,588	0.8	-0.2	-2.1	309,358	300,016	314,347	403,458	1,495,575	1,902,380	-21.4
Excluding defense <sup>2</sup>	332,815	329,548	329,721	1.0	-0.1	-2.0	336,257	323,923	342,727	448,662	1,622,364	2,138,493	-24.1
With unfilled orders <sup>2</sup>	119,767	115,426	113,457	3.8	1.7	-2.1	116,223	109,161	126,482	156,974	563,902	795,088	-29.1
Durable goods industries <sup>2</sup>	163,380	160,510	158,279	1.8	1.4	-2.2	160,060	153,865	174,132	213,150	783,001	1,072,012	-27.0
Primary metals.....	11,680	11,668	11,641	0.1	0.2	-9.2	12,107	12,042	12,368	22,781	61,305	113,384	-45.9
Iron and steel mills.....	4,531	4,452	4,221	1.8	5.5	-21.4	4,724	4,590	4,575	11,807	24,312	57,900	-58.0
Aluminum and nonferrous metals.....	6,144	6,183	6,201	-0.6	-0.3	-2.6	6,351	6,394	6,500	9,045	31,392	46,356	-32.3
Ferrous metal foundries.....	1,005	1,033	1,219	-2.7	-15.3	12.6	1,032	1,058	1,293	1,929	5,601	9,128	-38.6
Fabricated metal products.....	22,452	23,009	22,249	-2.4	3.4	-3.0	23,629	23,163	24,167	29,618	113,975	141,224	-19.3
Machinery.....	22,245	20,772	20,730	7.1	0.2	-7.3	22,031	21,829	23,118	30,739	108,179	156,894	-31.0
Construction machinery.....	1,025	919	374	11.5	145.7	-68.8	843	927	735	2,920	4,511	15,455	-70.8
Mining, oil field, and gas field machinery.....	1,102	1,194	1,175	-7.7	1.6	-9.2	1,075	1,095	1,233	1,964	5,651	8,730	-35.3
Industrial machinery.....	2,232	1,303	1,169	71.3	11.5	-38.7	1,833	1,564	1,210	2,408	8,320	16,652	-50.0
Photographic equipment.....	521	471	469	10.6	0.4	-22.0	482	459	508	542	2,501	2,822	-11.4
Ventilation, heating, air-conditioning, and refrigeration equipment.....	3,813	3,964	3,645	-3.8	8.8	-6.3	4,228	3,848	3,886	4,659	17,650	20,674	-14.6
Metalworking machinery.....	1,680	1,459	1,555	15.1	-6.2	-2.9	1,577	1,369	1,623	2,554	7,701	12,829	-40.0
Turbines, generators, and other power transmission equipment.....	2,589	2,429	3,144	6.6	-22.7	14.4	2,652	2,615	3,357	4,141	13,992	19,715	-29.0
Material handling equipment.....	1,664	1,516	1,363	9.8	11.2	13.7	1,560	1,381	1,544	2,045	7,070	13,132	-46.2
Computers and electronic products <sup>2</sup>	24,779	24,177	25,060	2.5	-3.5	1.5	22,007	21,222	29,178	25,172	114,929	131,498	-12.6
Computers.....	2,781	2,176	2,392	27.8	-9.0	-12.1	2,463	2,047	2,511	3,001	11,692	15,307	-23.6
Nondefense communications equipment.....	4,106	3,886	4,099	5.7	-5.2	7.8	3,913	3,386	4,777	4,773	18,595	24,595	-24.4
Defense communications equipment.....	827	1,096	564	-24.5	94.3	-41.1	569	914	1,002	672	4,410	3,429	28.6
Semiconductors <sup>2</sup>	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Electronic components.....	3,159	3,228	3,298	-2.1	-2.1	3.4	2,992	2,928	3,542	3,689	15,400	19,894	-22.6
Nondefense search and navigation equipment.....	835	834	1,024	0.1	-18.6	46.1	709	750	1,169	982	3,985	5,048	-21.1
Defense search and navigation equipment.....	2,933	2,906	2,948	0.9	-1.4	-1.7	2,398	2,652	3,581	2,373	13,980	13,648	2.4
Electromedical, measuring, and control instruments.....	7,300	7,236	7,819	0.9	-7.5	3.5	6,508	6,398	9,084	6,685	34,557	34,608	-0.1
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components.....	8,068	8,111	8,182	-0.5	-0.9	0.1	8,198	8,078	8,356	11,379	40,581	54,146	-25.1
Electric lighting equipment.....	901	775	1,003	16.3	-22.7	4.3	912	783	1,114	1,010	4,646	5,308	-12.5
Household appliances.....	1,710	1,817	1,766	-5.9	2.9	2.7	1,749	1,808	1,763	1,992	8,354	9,475	-11.8
Electrical equipment.....	2,465	2,560	2,346	-3.7	9.1	-0.9	2,476	2,571	2,428	3,693	12,280	18,512	-33.7
Transportation equipment.....	42,316	40,768	38,347	3.8	6.3	-0.1	39,606	35,759	44,039	55,350	188,445	293,867	-35.9
Motor vehicle bodies, parts, and trailers.....	12,565	13,167	13,038	-4.6	1.0	-0.4	12,888	13,716	13,802	16,688	65,776	85,293	-22.9
Nondefense aircraft and parts.....	6,716	3,980	4,034	68.7	-1.3	7.5	5,247	1,007	5,465	11,181	16,844	62,585	-73.1
Defense aircraft and parts.....	5,295	5,417	5,355	-2.3	1.2	6.6	4,479	4,650	6,566	4,626	24,368	22,461	8.5
Ships and boats.....	1,667	1,861	1,139	-10.4	63.4	-21.1	1,365	1,492	1,197	1,710	6,975	12,102	-42.4
Furniture and related products.....	5,184	5,144	5,418	0.8	-5.1	0.7	5,444	5,160	5,613	6,744	26,388	32,863	-19.7
Nondurable goods industries.....	184,470	183,250	183,656	0.7	-0.2	-1.6	188,904	181,910	184,254	245,658	901,019	1,124,235	-19.9

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary<sup>r</sup> Revised

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup> New orders are the totals for the period and are adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations.<sup>2</sup> Data on new orders are not available for the semiconductor industry. Estimates and percent changes for new orders exclude semiconductor industry data.

Note: 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."

**Table 3. Value of Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders for Industry Groups**

[Millions of Dollars]

Industry	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted				
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent Change	
	May 2009 <sup>p</sup>	Apr. 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Mar. 2009	Apr. - May	Mar. - Apr.	Feb. - Mar.	May 2009 <sup>p</sup>	Apr. 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Mar. 2009	May 2008	May 09/08
All manufacturing industries <sup>1</sup> .....	747,289	749,081	757,692	-0.2	-1.1	-1.7	751,684	756,747	768,317	817,565	-8.1
Excluding transportation <sup>1</sup> .....	307,724	309,651	314,081	-0.6	-1.4	-2.0	311,678	313,806	317,554	357,995	-12.9
Excluding defense <sup>1</sup> .....	586,820	590,225	599,663	-0.6	-1.6	-2.0	590,280	594,669	605,197	663,782	-11.1
Durable goods industries <sup>1</sup> .....	747,289	749,081	757,692	-0.2	-1.1	-1.7	751,684	756,747	768,317	817,565	-8.1
Primary metals.....	13,568	13,960	14,765	-2.8	-5.5	-9.1	13,912	14,356	15,131	29,971	-53.6
Iron and steel mills.....	6,532	6,708	7,165	-2.6	-6.4	-13.3	6,789	6,948	7,332	18,844	-64.0
Aluminum and nonferrous metals.....	4,915	5,061	5,311	-2.9	-4.7	-5.0	4,985	5,192	5,473	8,092	-38.4
Ferrous metal foundries.....	2,121	2,191	2,289	-3.2	-4.3	-3.9	2,138	2,216	2,326	3,035	-29.6
Fabricated metal products.....	50,755	51,571	52,366	-1.6	-1.5	-4.0	52,394	52,475	53,094	64,526	-18.8
Machinery.....	87,603	88,463	90,503	-1.0	-2.3	-3.2	88,385	89,571	91,227	101,289	-12.7
Construction machinery.....	8,830	9,266	9,853	-4.7	-6.0	-11.3	8,998	9,622	10,220	14,518	-38.0
Mining, oil field, and gas field machinery.....	5,752	6,069	6,278	-5.2	-3.3	-4.2	5,753	6,007	6,213	6,228	-7.6
Industrial machinery.....	11,367	11,500	12,523	-1.2	-8.2	-7.3	11,546	11,804	12,608	16,638	-30.6
Photographic equipment.....	1,805	1,801	1,836	0.2	-1.9	-1.5	1,813	1,837	1,869	1,717	5.6
Ventilation, heating, air-conditioning, and refrigeration equipment.....	18,186	17,899	17,313	1.6	3.4	2.5	18,315	17,743	16,964	14,546	25.9
Metalworking machinery.....	6,804	6,754	7,072	0.7	-4.5	-3.5	6,879	6,836	7,135	8,557	-19.6
Turbines, generators, and other power transmission equipment.....	13,498	13,767	13,949	-2.0	-1.3	-0.8	13,660	13,990	14,171	14,524	-5.9
Material handling equipment.....	8,113	8,021	8,114	1.1	-1.1	-2.1	8,158	8,172	8,334	9,995	-18.4
Computers and electronic products <sup>1</sup> .....	123,859	123,303	123,516	0.5	-0.2	0.3	124,492	124,902	125,320	123,904	0.5
Computers.....	3,507	3,233	3,610	8.5	-10.4	-2.1	3,507	3,233	3,610	3,611	-2.9
Nondefense communications equipment.....	28,418	28,144	28,191	1.0	-0.2	-0.1	29,077	28,684	28,473	29,957	-2.9
Defense communications equipment.....	9,294	9,139	8,782	1.7	4.1	-1.2	9,111	9,247	9,054	7,878	15.7
Semiconductors <sup>1</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Electronic components.....	9,842	9,878	9,896	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1	9,834	9,887	9,912	10,695	-8.1
Nondefense search and navigation equipment.....	8,497	8,496	8,493	0.0	0.0	1.6	8,505	8,606	8,634	6,796	25.1
Defense search and navigation equipment.....	37,514	37,320	37,132	0.5	0.5	0.6	37,750	38,096	38,164	37,315	1.2
Electromedical, measuring, and control instruments.....	26,787	27,093	27,412	-1.1	-1.2	0.7	26,708	27,149	27,473	27,652	-3.4
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components.....	20,442	20,693	21,195	-1.2	-2.4	-1.4	20,749	20,865	21,251	25,007	-17.0
Electric lighting equipment.....	1,909	1,952	2,127	-2.2	-8.2	1.1	1,981	1,987	2,118	2,637	-24.9
Household appliances.....	454	480	441	-5.4	8.8	4.8	462	481	450	753	-38.6
Electrical equipment.....	13,286	13,398	13,503	-0.8	-0.8	-2.3	13,385	13,433	13,419	15,738	-15.0
Transportation equipment.....	439,565	439,430	443,611	0.0	-0.9	-1.5	440,006	442,941	450,763	459,570	-4.3
Motor vehicle bodies, parts, and trailers.....	14,749	14,853	15,102	-0.7	-1.6	-0.5	14,754	15,057	15,161	17,634	-16.3
Nondefense aircraft and parts.....	287,614	288,132	291,916	-0.2	-1.3	-1.3	287,355	289,344	295,424	302,804	-5.1
Defense aircraft and parts.....	47,244	47,568	47,453	-0.7	0.2	-0.4	47,670	48,714	49,032	45,083	5.7
Ships and boats.....	19,905	20,173	20,432	-1.3	-1.3	-3.0	20,054	20,749	21,374	20,169	-0.6
Furniture and related products.....	6,423	6,386	6,393	0.6	-0.1	2.1	6,672	6,362	6,188	7,538	-11.5

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary<sup>r</sup> Revised

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Data on unfilled orders are not available for the semiconductor industry. Estimates and percent changes for unfilled orders exclude semiconductor industry data. See note at end of Table 2 relating to survey error and revision.







**Table 7. Ratios of Manufacturers' Inventories to Shipments and Unfilled Orders to Shipments, by Industry Group**

[Based on Seasonally Adjusted data]

Industry	Inventory/Shipments ratio				Unfilled Orders/Shipments ratio <sup>1</sup>			
	May 2009 <sup>b</sup>	Apr 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Mar 2009	Feb 2009	May 2009 <sup>b</sup>	Apr 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Mar 2009	Feb 2009
All manufacturing industries <sup>2</sup> .....	1.45	1.45	1.46	1.45	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Durable goods industries <sup>2</sup> .....	1.91	1.88	1.89	1.88	6.15	6.04	5.98	5.98
Wood products.....	1.32	1.36	1.45	1.36	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nonmetallic mineral products.....	1.57	1.57	1.57	1.53	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Primary metals.....	2.24	2.24	2.21	2.13	1.12	1.12	1.13	1.15
Fabricated metal products.....	1.71	1.70	1.69	1.71	2.26	2.25	2.22	2.26
Machinery.....	2.24	2.29	2.24	2.22	4.31	4.41	4.36	4.36
Computers and electronic products <sup>2</sup> .....	1.64	1.62	1.68	1.69	5.79	5.72	5.66	5.57
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components.....	1.59	1.55	1.61	1.59	2.68	2.62	2.70	2.68
Transportation equipment.....	2.21	2.08	2.07	2.11	13.76	13.18	13.19	13.65
Furniture and related products.....	1.30	1.33	1.34	1.33	1.44	1.42	1.38	1.32
Miscellaneous products.....	1.93	1.93	1.95	1.93	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nondurable goods industries.....	1.04	1.04	1.05	1.04	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Food products.....	0.73	0.72	0.71	0.71	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Beverage and tobacco products.....	1.40	1.35	1.41	1.33	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Textiles.....	1.50	1.51	1.54	1.55	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Textile products.....	1.57	1.55	1.60	1.57	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Apparel.....	1.85	1.83	1.85	1.77	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Leather and allied products.....	2.65	2.58	2.63	2.57	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Paper products.....	1.07	1.09	1.10	1.11	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Printing.....	0.79	0.80	0.82	0.86	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Petroleum and coal products.....	0.78	0.82	0.83	0.79	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Chemical products.....	1.28	1.29	1.30	1.27	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Plastics and rubber products.....	1.31	1.31	1.31	1.31	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

<sup>b</sup> Preliminary

<sup>r</sup> Revised

X Not Applicable

<sup>1</sup> Excludes the following industries with no unfilled orders: Wood products; nonmetallic mineral products; medical equipment and supplies; office supplies; other miscellaneous manufacturing; cutlery and handtools; farm and garden machinery; computer storage and peripheral devices; audio and video equipment; manufacturing and reproducing magnetic and optical media; batteries; automobiles; light trucks and utility vehicles; heavy duty trucks; and miscellaneous furniture.

<sup>2</sup> Unfilled orders to shipments ratio excludes semiconductor manufacturing.

**Table 8. Revisions to Previously Published Monthly Percent Changes**

[Based on Seasonally Adjusted data]

Industry	Shipments		New Orders		Unfilled Orders		Inventories	
	May <sup>1</sup> 2009	May <sup>2</sup> 2008- Apr 2009						
All manufacturing industries.....	(X)	0.5	(X)	0.8	(X)	0.2	(X)	0.2
Durable goods industries.....	-0.4	0.5	0.0	1.3	0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.2
Wood products.....	(X)	0.8	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.8
Nonmetallic mineral products.....	(X)	0.6	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.3
Primary metals.....	-0.1	1.0	-0.1	2.2	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	0.4
Fabricated metal products.....	-0.7	0.7	0.1	1.5	-0.1	0.4	-0.4	0.4
Machinery.....	-0.6	0.8	-0.6	2.8	-0.1	0.5	-0.3	0.3
Computers and electronic products .....	-1.2	0.9	0.3	1.2	0.1	0.1	-0.9	0.3
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components.....	-0.4	0.7	0.6	2.0	0.1	0.6	-0.2	0.5
Transportation equipment.....	-0.2	0.5	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
Furniture and related products.....	(X)	0.8	(X)	1.3	(X)	0.5	(X)	0.5
Miscellaneous products.....	(X)	0.7	(X)	0.7	(X)	0.6	(X)	0.3
Nondurable goods industries.....	(X)	0.4	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.3
Food products.....	(X)	0.4	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.3
Beverage and tobacco products.....	(X)	0.8	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.4
Textiles.....	(X)	1.0	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.6
Textile products.....	(X)	0.9	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.3
Apparel.....	(X)	1.1	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.5
Leather and allied products.....	(X)	1.0	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	1.0
Paper products.....	(X)	0.7	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.6
Printing.....	(X)	0.8	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	1.1
Petroleum and coal products.....	(X)	1.0	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	1.2
Chemical products.....	(X)	0.4	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.1
Plastics and rubber products.....	(X)	0.6	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.5

X Not Applicable

NA Not Available

<sup>1</sup> The current month revisions are the difference between the advance percent change and the percent change as shown in this publication.

<sup>2</sup> The twelve month revisions are the differences between the month-to-month percent changes of the preliminary and final estimates. The monthly averages are the simple averages of the absolute values of the differences for the months specified. The advance to final percent change revisions for the durable goods industries are shown in the advance report for the month.

## **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 in the data 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>.