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ECONOMICS  
AND  
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CENSUS

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**ADVANCE REPORT ON DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS**  
**August 1993**

(All figures in text below are in seasonally adjusted current dollars)

**New Orders**

New orders for manufactured durable goods in August increased \$2.6 billion or 2.0 percent to \$131.2 billion, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census reported today. This follows a 2.8 percent decrease in July and is the second increase in the last three months. Year to date, 1993 new orders are 8.0 percent above the same period a year ago.

Transportation equipment had the largest increase, up \$2.3 billion or 7.9 percent to \$31.5 billion, as increases in motor vehicles and parts and aircraft and parts more than offset a decline in shipbuilding and tanks. This follows a 16.3 percent decrease in July. Excluding transportation equipment, new orders increased \$0.3 billion or 0.3 percent. Industrial machinery and equipment, up for the second consecutive month, increased \$0.5 billion or 2.3 percent to \$24.3 billion, with more than half the increase in computer and office equipment. The largest decline was in electronic and other electrical equipment, down \$0.8 billion or 4.0 percent to \$19.6 billion, primarily due to electronic components. This follows a 3.0 percent increase in July.

**Shipments**

Shipments of durable goods in August increased \$4.7 billion or 3.6 percent to \$133.9 billion, the largest increase since December 1992. This follows a 4.3 percent decrease in July and is the second increase in the last three months. Nine of ten major groups increased. Transportation equipment had the largest increase, up \$3.1 billion or 10.0 percent to \$34.0 billion, primarily due to motor vehicles and parts and aircraft and parts. This follows a 12.9 percent decline in July. Year to date, durable goods shipments are 7.4 percent above the same period a year ago.

**Unfilled Orders**

Unfilled orders for durable goods in August decreased \$2.8 billion or 0.6 percent to \$432.9 billion, the lowest level since July 1988. This is the sixth consecutive monthly decline and twenty-fifth in the last thirty months. Transportation equipment, down for the sixteenth consecutive month, had the largest decrease, down \$2.5 billion or 1.1 percent to \$226.3 billion, primarily due to aircraft and parts. This is the lowest level since March 1989. Excluding transportation equipment, unfilled orders were down \$0.3 billion or 0.2 percent. Industrial machinery and equipment had the largest increase, up \$0.5 billion or 1.0 percent to \$51.2 billion.

**Capital Goods Industries**

**Defense** - New orders were down \$0.6 billion or 8.8 percent to \$6.6 billion, primarily due to shipbuilding and tanks. This follows a 24.9 percent increase in July. Shipments were down \$0.5 billion or 6.3 percent to \$7.1 billion, following a 0.1 percent decrease in July. This is the lowest level since November 1984. Unfilled orders, down nineteen of the last twenty months, decreased \$0.5 billion or 0.4 percent to \$122.9 billion, the lowest level since January 1984.

**Nondefense** - New orders increased \$1.9 billion or 6.3 percent to \$32.0 billion, following a 11.0 percent decrease in July. Shipments were up \$2.0 billion or 6.3 percent to \$33.7 billion, the highest level on record. This follows a 5.0 percent decrease in July. Unfilled orders declined \$1.7 billion or 0.8 percent to \$203.3 billion, the fifteenth decline in the last seventeen months. This is the lowest level since June 1989. Excluding aircraft and parts, new orders increased \$0.4 billion or 1.6 percent, the sixth increase in the last seven months; shipments increased \$0.2 billion or 0.9 percent, also the sixth increase in the last seven months; and unfilled orders increased \$0.4 billion or 0.6 percent, the seventh increase in the last nine months.

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This report presents advance information on two key business indicators: durable goods manufacturers' shipments and orders. Revised and more detailed estimates plus nondurable goods and inventory data will be published October 1, 1993. The advance report on durable goods for September is scheduled for October 27, 1993. This report is available on the day of issue through the Department of Commerce's online Economic Bulletin Board (N-8-1) (202-482-3870) and through the Census Bureau's online information service-CENDATA. Further information about accessing CENDATA can be obtained from Dialog Information Services, Inc. (1-800-334-2564) and CompuServe (1-800-848-8199). The CENDATA staff at the Bureau of the Census (301-763-2074)

Table 1. DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS  
(Millions of dollars)

Item	Seasonally adjusted						Not seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup>			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent change Aug. 93/92
	Aug. 1993 <sup>2</sup>	July 1993 <sup>r</sup>	June 1993	July- Aug. <sup>2</sup>	June- July <sup>r</sup>	May- June	Aug. 1993 <sup>2</sup>	July 1993 <sup>r</sup>	Aug. 1992	
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>										
<b>Total :</b>										
Shipments	133,944	129,233	135,042	+3.6	-4.3	+2.1	131,894	112,735	122,907	+7.3
New orders	131,177	128,554	132,252	+2.0	-2.8	+4.3	127,912	112,541	116,764	+9.5
Unfilled orders	432,925	435,692	436,371	-0.6	-0.2	-0.6	431,945	435,927	462,715	-6.6
<b>Excluding defense :</b>										
Shipments	126,835	121,643	127,448	+4.3	-4.6	+2.0	125,134	106,007	115,477	+8.4
New orders	124,580	121,324	126,464	+2.7	-4.1	+4.2	122,550	106,567	111,979	+9.4
Unfilled orders	310,002	312,257	312,576	-0.7	-0.1	-0.3	310,913	313,497	331,808	-6.3
<b>With unfilled orders :</b>										
Shipments	108,029	104,542	108,429	+3.3	-3.6	+2.6	106,205	92,770	99,579	+6.7
New orders	105,262	103,863	105,639	+1.3	-1.7	+5.4	102,223	92,576	93,436	+9.4
<b>Primary metals :</b>										
Shipments	11,346	11,139	11,628	+1.9	-4.2	+4.0	11,491	10,261	11,441	+0.4
New orders	11,024	10,869	11,095	+1.4	-2.0	+1.2	10,769	10,214	11,132	-3.3
Unfilled orders	22,034	22,356	22,626	-1.4	-1.2	-2.3	22,183	22,905	21,572	+2.8
<b>Industrial machinery and equipment:</b>										
Shipments	23,786	23,451	23,190	+1.4	+1.1	-0.4	22,056	20,378	19,611	+12.5
New orders	24,288	23,753	22,932	+2.3	+3.6	-1.2	22,926	20,502	19,275	+18.9
Unfilled orders	51,166	50,664	50,362	+1.0	+0.6	-0.5	51,092	50,222	50,853	+0.5
<b>Electronic and other electrical equipment :</b>										
Shipments	19,615	19,232	19,517	+2.0	-1.5	+3.6	19,481	17,219	16,932	+15.1
New orders	19,642	20,462	19,865	-4.0	+3.0	+9.2	19,297	18,617	16,879	+14.3
Unfilled orders	43,766	43,739	42,509	+0.1	+2.9	+0.8	43,666	43,850	42,090	+3.7
<b>Transportation equipment :</b>										
Shipments	33,967	30,876	35,443	+10.0	-12.9	+3.4	32,721	23,603	30,995	+5.6
New orders	31,512	29,204	34,903	+7.9	-16.3	+14.5	29,669	21,460	26,742	+10.9
Unfilled orders	226,337	228,792	230,464	-1.1	-0.7	-0.2	224,994	228,046	256,309	-12.2
<b>CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES<sup>3</sup></b>										
<b>Total :</b>										
Shipments	40,832	39,301	40,984	+3.9	-4.1	+2.2	38,465	34,542	36,240	+6.1
New orders	38,605	37,353	39,638	+3.4	-5.8	+12.1	35,749	32,045	30,641	+16.7
Unfilled orders	326,258	328,485	330,433	-0.7	-0.6	-0.4	324,296	327,012	357,110	-9.2
<b>Nondefense :</b>										
Shipments	33,723	31,711	33,390	+6.3	-5.0	+2.1	31,705	27,814	28,810	+10.0
New orders	32,008	30,123	33,850	+6.3	-11.0	+13.1	30,387	26,071	25,856	+17.5
Unfilled orders	203,335	205,050	206,638	-0.8	-0.8	+0.2	203,264	204,582	226,203	-10.1
<b>Excluding aircraft and parts :</b>										
Shipments	27,671	27,435	27,312	+0.9	+0.5	+0.8	26,169	24,153	23,567	+11.0
New orders	28,068	27,631	27,577	+1.6	+0.2	+3.1	26,963	24,194	22,855	+18.0
Unfilled orders	72,236	71,839	71,643	+0.6	+0.3	+0.4	72,165	71,371	71,253	+1.3
<b>Defense :</b>										
Shipments	7,109	7,590	7,594	-6.3	-0.1	+2.8	6,760	6,728	7,430	-9.0
New orders	6,597	7,230	5,788	-8.8	+24.9	+6.5	5,362	5,974	4,785	+12.1
Unfilled orders	122,923	123,435	123,795	-0.4	-0.3	-1.4	121,032	122,430	130,907	-7.5

(NA) Not available. <sup>r</sup> Revised.<sup>1</sup> Shipments and new orders are the totals for the period and are adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations; unfilled orders are as of the end of the period and are not adjusted for trading-day or calendar-month variations.<sup>2</sup> Based on advance sample.<sup>3</sup> The Capital Goods Industries include Nondefense : ordnance and accessories, steam engines and turbines, internal combustion engines, construction mining and material handling equipment, metalworking machinery, special industry machinery, general industrial machinery, computer and office equipment, refrigeration, heating and service industry machinery, electrical transmission and distribution equipment, electrical industrial apparatus, communication equipment, complete aircraft, missiles, and space vehicles, aircraft missiles, and space vehicle engines and parts, ships and tank components, railroad equipment, and search and navigation equipment.  
Defense capital goods include : ordnance, communication equipment, aircraft, missiles, space vehicles, and parts, ships, tanks and tank components, search and navigation equipment.

Table 2. AVERAGE REVISIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED MONTHLY PERCENT CHANGES  
(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

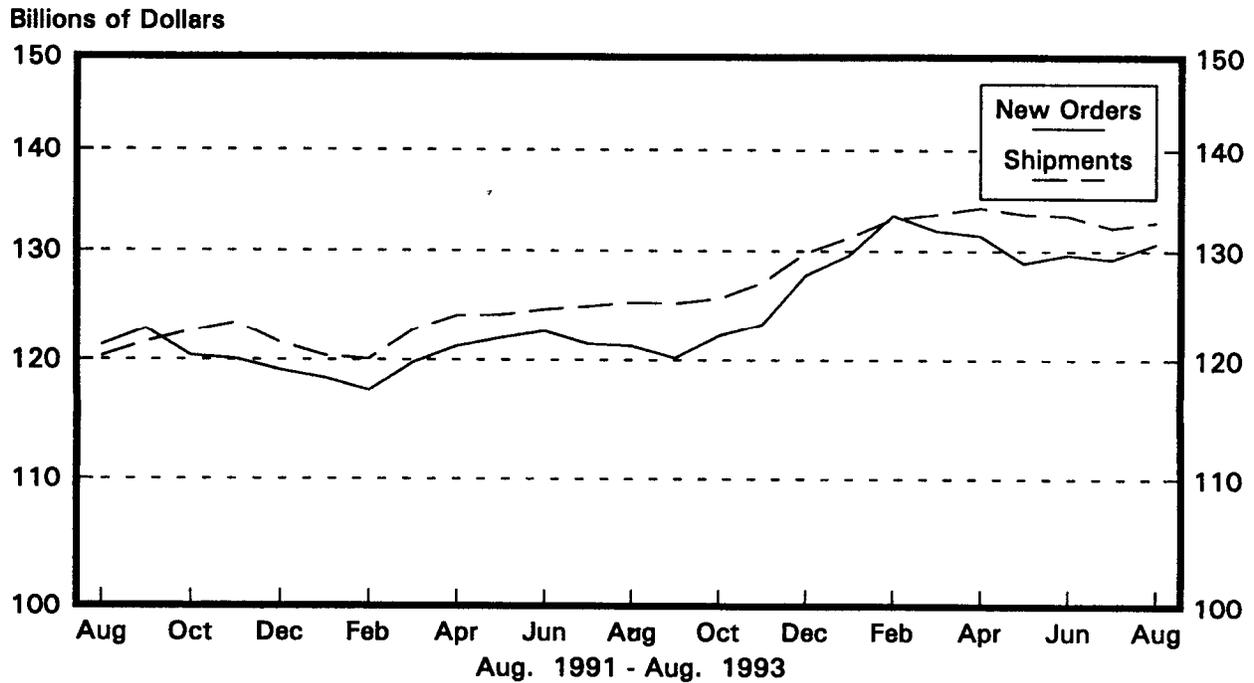
Industry	Shipments			New Orders			Unfilled Orders		
	Year ago Aug. 1992	Aug. 1988-1992	Aug. 1992- July 1993	Year ago Aug. 1992	Aug. 1988-1992	Aug. 1992- July 1993	Year ago Aug. 1992	Aug. 1988-1992	Aug. 1992- July 1993
Durable goods	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Primary metals	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.6	1.1	0.1	0.2	0.4
Industrial machinery and equipment	0.0	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.2
Electronic and other electrical equipment	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.2
Transportation equipment	0.3	0.8	0.7	1.5	0.7	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Nondefense capital goods	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.2	1.7	1.3	0.0	0.2	0.1
Defense capital goods	0.4	0.9	0.9	3.1	1.3	3.0	0.2	0.1	0.2

Note : The revisions are the differences between the month-to-month percent changes of the advance and final estimates. The monthly averages are the simple averages of the differences, without regard to the months specified.

# Total Durable Goods

## New Orders and Shipments

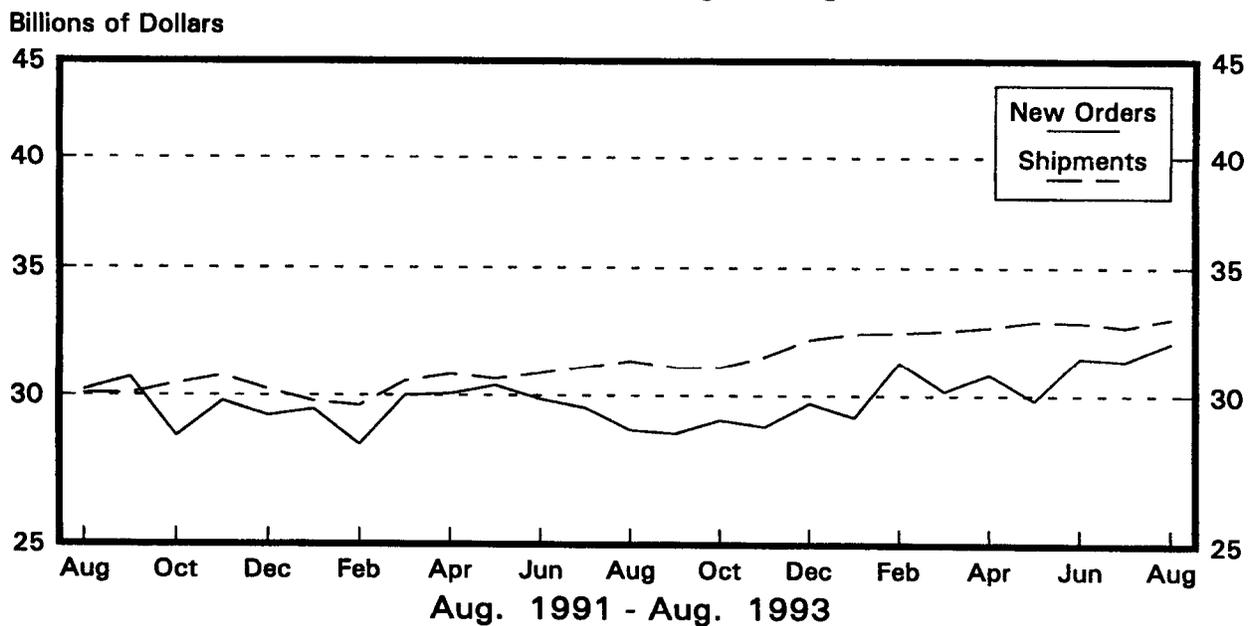
### Three Month Moving Averages



# Nondefense Capital Goods

## New Orders and Shipments

### Three Month Moving Averages



Note: All Charts based on seasonally adjusted current dollars.