

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
NEWS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

ECONOMICS
AND
STATISTICS
ADMINISTRATION

BUREAU OF THE
CENSUS

Bureau of the Census
Gloria Cable or Lee Wentela
(301) 457-4804 or (301) 457-4814
M3-1(95)-4

For Release 8:30 A.M. EDT
May 24, 1995
CB95-98

ADVANCE REPORT ON DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS
April 1995

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

New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in April decreased \$6.5 billion or 4.0 percent to \$156.5 billion, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census reported today. This is the third consecutive monthly decline. Year to date, new orders are 10.0 percent above the same period a year ago.

Transportation equipment had the largest decrease, \$3.7 billion or 9.3 percent to \$35.8 billion, due to motor vehicles and parts and aircraft and aircraft parts. This follows a 2.9 percent March decrease and is the third decline in the last four months. Industrial machinery and equipment, down for the first month since December, decreased \$1.3 billion or 4.2 percent to \$30.5 billion; declines were widespread. Electronic and other electrical equipment decreased \$0.9 billion or 3.4 percent to \$25.7 billion, mostly due to communication equipment. This follows a 7.3 percent March increase and is the second decline in the last nine months. Primary metals decreased \$0.3 billion or 1.8 percent to \$14.9 billion, the fourth consecutive monthly decline. Instruments and related products had the largest increase.

Shipments

Shipments of durable goods in April decreased \$3.3 billion or 2.1 percent to \$158.3 billion, the first decline since October 1994. Year to date, shipments are 9.7 percent above the same period last year. Transportation equipment, down for the third consecutive month, had the largest decline \$1.6 billion or 4.1 percent to \$38.3 billion. Electronic and other electrical equipment decreased \$0.4 billion or 1.6 percent to \$24.7 billion. This follows a 2.7 percent March increase and is the third decline in the last four months. Primary metals decreased \$0.3 billion or 2.1 percent to \$15.0 billion. This follows a 1.0 percent March increase and is the second decline in the last fifteen months. Industrial machinery and equipment decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.3 percent to \$30.3 billion, following a 0.8 percent March increase. This is the first decline since November 1994. All other major industry groups also declined.

Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for durable goods in April decreased \$1.7 billion or 0.4 percent to \$436.6 billion. This follows a 0.3 percent March increase and is the first decline since August 1994. Transportation equipment had the largest decline \$2.5 billion or 1.2 percent to \$200.1 billion, following a 0.2 percent March decline. Since reaching a peak in March 1991, unfilled orders of transportation equipment have declined nearly every month. Primary metals declined \$0.1 billion or 0.4 percent to \$29.3 billion. This follows a 0.5 percent decline and fifteen consecutive monthly increases. Stone, clay and glass products and instruments and related products also declined. Electronic and other electrical equipment increased \$1.0 billion or 1.9 percent to \$51.4 billion, the eighth consecutive monthly increase. Industrial machinery and equipment increased \$0.2 billion or 0.3 percent to \$71.9 billion. This follows a 2.1 percent March increase and is the twenty-first increase in the last twenty-two months.

Capital Goods Industries

Defense - New orders decreased \$1.8 billion or 24.6 percent to \$5.4 billion, mostly due to aircraft and aircraft parts. This follows increases in March of 4.4 percent and in February of 11.2 percent. Shipments were down \$0.1 billion or 0.9 percent to \$6.6 billion, following a slight increase in March. Unfilled orders decreased \$1.2 billion or 1.0 percent to \$111.5 billion, following 0.5 percent and 0.2 percent increases in March and February respectively.

Nondefense - New orders decreased \$2.2 billion or 5.2 percent to \$40.4 billion, the first decline since December. Shipments increased \$0.1 billion or 0.3 percent to \$41.6 billion, the sixth consecutive monthly increase. Unfilled orders decreased \$1.1 billion or 0.6 percent to \$203.4 billion, the first decline since December and the second in the last eight months. Excluding aircraft and parts, new orders decreased \$1.9 billion or 4.9 percent to \$36.4 billion, the second decrease in the last three months; shipments decreased \$0.2 billion or 0.5 percent to \$36.2 billion, the first decline since July 1994; unfilled orders increased \$0.2 billion or 0.2 percent to \$97.0 billion, the twenty-third consecutive monthly increase.

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 June 1, 1995. The advance report on durable goods for May is scheduled for June 23, 1995. 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

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

Item	Seasonally adjusted						Not seasonally adjusted ¹			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent change Apr.95/94
	Apr. 1995 ²	Mar. 1995 ²	Feb. 1995	Mar.- Apr. ²	Feb.- Mar. ¹	Jan.- Feb.	Apr. 1995 ²	Mar. 1995 ²	Apr. 1994	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total :										
Shipments	158,256	161,582	161,206	-2.1	+0.2	+0.1	157,079	174,202	147,235	+6.7
New orders	156,542	163,057	163,338	-4.0	-0.2	-0.7	156,290	176,498	148,187	+5.5
Unfilled orders	436,626	438,340	436,865	-0.4	+0.3	+0.5	441,310	442,099	427,807	+3.2
Excluding defense :										
Shipments	151,674	154,937	154,564	-2.1	+0.2	+0.2	150,975	167,192	140,764	+7.3
New orders	151,138	155,887	156,473	-3.0	-0.4	-1.2	151,881	167,564	143,003	+6.2
Unfilled orders	325,175	325,711	324,761	-0.2	+0.3	+0.6	328,576	327,670	313,413	+4.8
With unfilled orders :										
Shipments	126,797	128,564	127,849	-1.4	+0.6	+0.2	123,491	138,707	114,154	+8.2
New orders	125,083	130,039	129,981	-3.8	0.0	-0.8	122,702	141,003	115,106	+6.6
Primary metals :										
Shipments	14,985	15,301	15,152	-2.1	+1.0	-0.7	15,286	16,123	12,594	+21.4
New orders	14,866	15,144	15,232	-1.8	-0.6	-2.2	14,816	16,873	12,715	+16.5
Unfilled orders	29,299	29,418	29,575	-0.4	-0.5	+0.3	30,599	31,069	25,516	+19.9
Industrial machinery and equipment:										
Shipments	30,291	30,370	30,131	-0.3	+0.8	+3.4	29,266	35,219	25,836	+13.3
New orders	30,510	31,832	31,274	-4.2	+1.8	+1.5	29,368	35,739	27,380	+7.3
Unfilled orders	71,906	71,687	70,225	+0.3	+2.1	+1.7	71,854	71,752	57,885	+24.1
Electronic and other electrical equipment :										
Shipments	24,736	25,146	24,491	-1.6	+2.7	-0.5	23,522	26,568	21,225	+10.8
New orders	25,714	26,610	24,799	-3.4	+7.3	-4.5	25,991	27,159	23,293	+11.6
Unfilled orders	51,380	50,402	48,938	+1.9	+3.0	+0.6	52,789	50,320	48,151	+9.6
Transportation equipment :										
Shipments	38,290	39,926	40,171	-4.1	-0.6	-0.1	39,757	43,438	39,739	0.0
New orders	35,781	39,458	40,650	-9.3	-2.9	+2.4	37,139	44,351	37,631	-1.3
Unfilled orders	200,067	202,576	203,044	-1.2	-0.2	+0.2	201,616	204,234	211,119	-4.5
CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES³										
Total :										
Shipments	48,143	48,071	47,596	+0.1	+1.0	+2.1	45,337	53,935	40,572	+11.7
New orders	45,820	49,815	48,920	-8.0	+1.8	+2.0	42,557	56,160	39,302	+8.3
Unfilled orders	314,805	317,128	315,384	-0.7	+0.6	+0.4	316,209	318,989	314,425	+0.6
Nondefense :										
Shipments	41,561	41,426	40,954	+0.3	+1.2	+2.7	39,233	46,925	34,101	+15.0
New orders	40,416	42,645	42,055	-5.2	+1.4	+0.6	38,148	47,226	34,118	+11.8
Unfilled orders	203,354	204,499	203,280	-0.6	+0.6	+0.5	203,475	204,560	200,031	+1.7
Excluding aircraft and parts :										
Shipments	36,196	36,379	35,759	-0.5	+1.7	+2.5	33,977	41,262	29,650	+14.6
New orders	36,393	38,258	36,855	-4.9	+3.8	-1.5	34,234	42,223	31,373	+9.1
Unfilled orders	97,035	96,838	94,959	+0.2	+2.0	+1.2	97,156	96,899	81,834	+18.7
Defense :										
Shipments	6,582	6,645	6,642	-0.9	0.0	-1.9	6,104	7,010	6,471	-5.7
New orders	5,404	7,170	6,865	-24.6	+4.4	+11.2	4,409	8,934	5,184	-14.9
Unfilled orders	111,451	112,629	112,104	-1.0	+0.5	+0.2	112,734	114,429	114,394	-1.5

(NA) Not available. ¹ Revised.¹ 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.² 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. Further details on survey design, methodology, and data limitations are contained in our most recent annual benchmark publication, Current Industrial Reports: M3-1(92), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 1982-1992."³ 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.

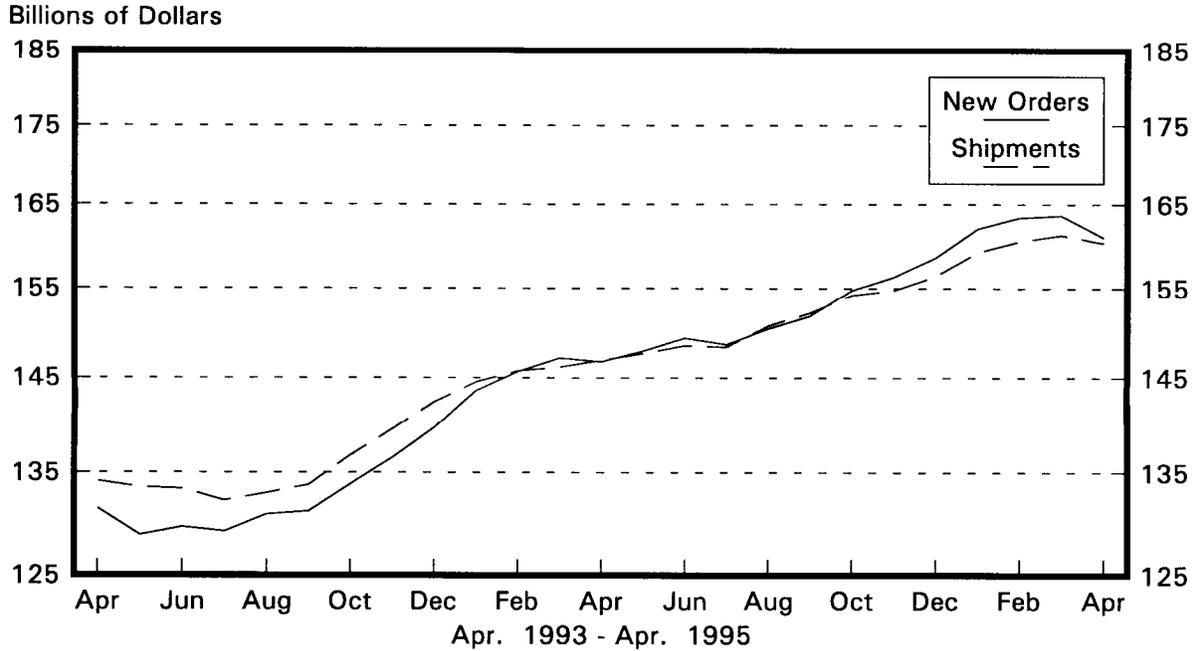
Table 2. AVERAGE REVISIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED MONTHLY PERCENT CHANGES
(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Industry	Shipments			New Orders			Unfilled Orders		
	Year ago Apr. 1994	Apr. 1990-1994	Apr. 1994- Mar. 1995	Year ago Apr. 1994	Apr. 1990-1994	Apr. 1994- Mar. 1995	Year ago Apr. 1994	Apr. 1990-1994	Apr. 1994- Mar. 1995
Durable goods	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.1	0.7	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.2
Primary metals	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.3	0.3
Industrial machinery and equipment	0.2	0.4	0.7	5.4	5.4	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Electronic and other electrical equipment	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transportation equipment	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nondefense capital goods	0.1	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Defense capital goods	1.9	1.2	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

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.

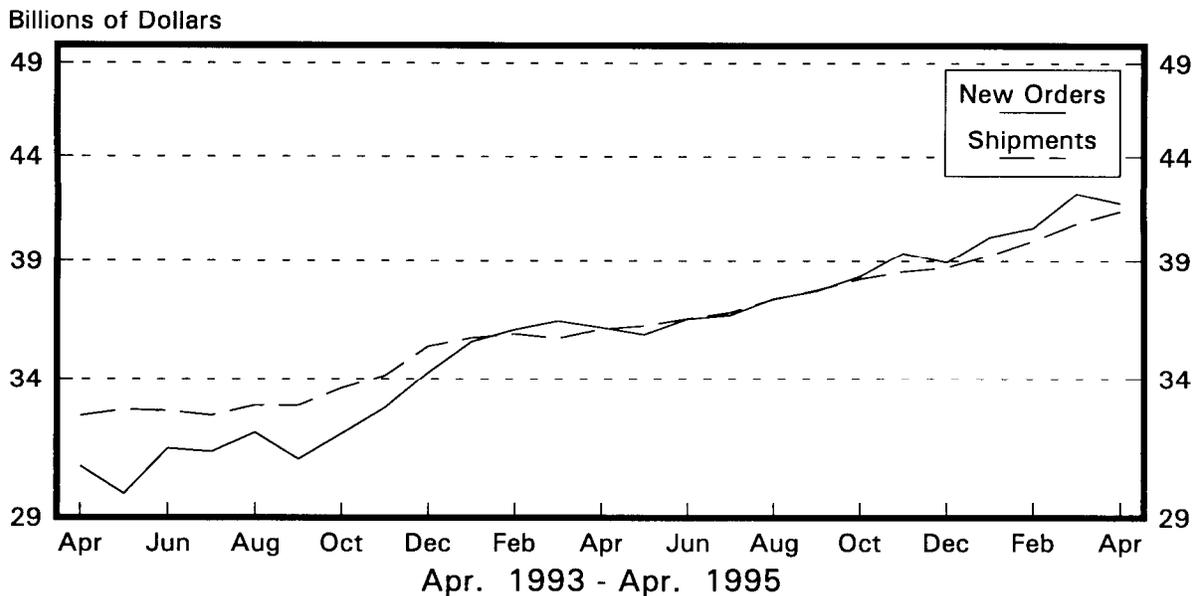
Total Durable Goods

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.