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ADVANCE REPORT ON DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS
April 1997

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

• **NEW ORDERS** New orders for manufactured durable goods in April increased \$2.4 billion or 1.4 percent to \$175.6 billion, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census reported today. This follows a 2.2 percent March decrease and is the third increase in the last four months. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 0.5 percent, also the third increase in the last four months. Year to date, new orders are 6.3 percent above the same period a year ago.

Transportation equipment, up for the first month since January, had the largest increase, \$1.7 billion or 4.5 percent to \$39.4 billion; all component industries except railroad equipment increased. This follows a 3.9 percent March decrease. Industrial machinery and equipment, up for the fifth consecutive month, increased \$0.7 billion or 2.2 percent to \$33.9 billion. This follows a 0.2 percent March increase. Primary metals, up five of the last six months, increased \$0.4 billion or 2.8 percent to \$16.4 billion, following a 1.2 percent March increase. Electronic and other electrical equipment, down for the second consecutive month, decreased \$1.5 billion or 5.3 percent to \$27.3 billion, due to electronic components and communication equipment. This follows a 6.0 percent March decrease.

• **SHIPMENTS** of durable goods in April, up for the fourth consecutive month, increased \$1.9 billion or 1.1 percent to \$177.3 billion, following a 0.9 percent March increase. Year to date, shipments are 7.8 percent above the same period a year ago.

Transportation equipment, up for the fourth consecutive month, had the largest increase, \$1.3 billion or 3.3 percent to \$41.3 billion, with all component industries increasing. This follows a 0.4 percent March increase. Industrial machinery and equipment, up four of the last five months, increased \$0.5 billion or 1.6 percent to \$33.4 billion, following a 2.0 percent March increase. Primary metals, up six of the last seven months, increased \$0.3 billion or 1.8 percent to \$16.0 billion. Electronic and other electrical equipment, down for the first month since January, decreased \$1.0 billion or 3.5 percent to \$28.5 billion, following a 3.3 percent March increase.

• **UNFILLED ORDERS** Unfilled orders for durable goods in April decreased \$1.7 billion or 0.4 percent to \$493.4 billion. This follows a 0.4 percent March decrease and is the second decline since August 1996.

Transportation equipment had the largest decline, \$2.0 billion or 0.8 percent to \$250.1 billion, due to aircraft and parts. This follows a 0.9 percent March decrease and is the third consecutive monthly decrease. Electronic and other electrical equipment, down for the second consecutive month, decreased \$1.3 billion or 2.5 percent to \$50.3 billion, following a 1.5 percent March decrease. Industrial machinery and equipment, up for the fourth consecutive month, increased \$0.5 billion or 0.7 percent to \$74.1 billion, following a 0.4 percent March increase. Primary metals, also up for the fourth consecutive month, increased \$0.5 billion or 1.6 percent to \$31.6 billion, following a 1.1 percent March increase.

• **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, DEFENSE** New orders in April increased \$1.4 billion or 28.0 percent to \$6.2 billion, the first increase since November. This follows a 12.2 percent March decrease. Shipments, up two of the last three months, increased \$0.2 billion or 2.8 percent to \$6.4 billion, following a 3.2 percent March decrease. Unfilled orders, down for the third consecutive month, decreased \$0.2 billion or 0.2 percent to \$107.9 billion, following a 1.3 percent March decrease.

• **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, NONDEFENSE** New orders in April, down five of the last seven months, decreased \$0.6 billion or 1.3 percent to \$44.9 billion, following a 2.9 percent March decrease. Shipments increased \$0.5 billion or 1.1 percent to \$46.3 billion. This follows a 3.6 percent March increase and is the fifth increase in the last six months. Unfilled orders, down for the second consecutive month, decreased \$1.3 billion or 0.5 percent to \$254.5 billion, following a 0.1 percent March decrease. Excluding aircraft and parts, new orders decreased \$0.2 billion or 0.6 percent to \$40.0 billion, the second consecutive monthly decrease; shipments increased \$0.1 billion or 0.3 percent to \$39.3 billion, the fifth increase in the last six months; and unfilled orders increased \$0.7 billion or 0.7 percent to \$100.5 billion, the fourth consecutive monthly increase.

• **REVISED MARCH DATA** Revised seasonally adjusted March figures for all manufacturing industries are: shipments, \$321.7 billion (revised from \$321.1 billion); new orders, \$319.9 billion (revised from \$319.2 billion); unfilled orders, \$520.3 billion (revised from \$520.1 billion); and total inventories, \$442.3 billion (revised from \$442.7 billion).

SEE BACK PAGE FOR UPCOMING REVISIONS
Our internet address is <http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/indicator/www/m3adv.html>

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 4, 1997. The advance report on durable goods for May is scheduled for June 25, 1997. 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).

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.97/96
	Apr. 1997 ²	Mar. 1997 ²	Feb. 1997	Mar.- Apr. ²	Feb.- Mar. ²	Jan.- Feb.	Apr. 1997 ²	Mar. 1997 ²	Apr. 1996	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total :										
Shipments	177,302	175,364	173,741	+1.1	+0.9	+2.0	176,233	188,571	162,910	+8.2
New orders	175,555	173,186	177,075	+1.4	-2.2	+1.0	175,001	186,628	162,903	+7.4
Unfilled orders	493,380	495,127	497,305	-0.4	-0.4	+0.7	498,173	499,405	475,361	+4.8
Excluding defense :										
Shipments	170,899	169,136	167,308	+1.0	+1.1	+1.9	170,230	182,009	157,428	+8.1
New orders	169,363	168,348	171,563	+0.6	-1.9	+1.4	169,610	178,992	157,850	+7.5
Unfilled orders	385,464	387,000	387,788	-0.4	-0.2	+1.1	387,848	388,468	366,551	+5.8
With unfilled orders :										
Shipments	144,981	143,927	142,249	+0.7	+1.2	+2.9	141,623	155,107	129,665	+9.2
New orders	143,234	141,749	145,583	+1.0	-2.6	+1.6	140,391	153,164	129,658	+8.3
Primary metals :										
Shipments	15,961	15,676	15,680	+1.8	0.0	+0.8	16,465	16,257	15,382	+7.0
New orders	16,449	16,006	15,817	+2.8	+1.2	-0.5	16,838	17,068	15,361	+9.6
Unfilled orders	31,555	31,067	30,737	+1.6	+1.1	+0.4	33,040	32,667	30,866	+7.0
Industrial machinery and equipment:										
Shipments	33,432	32,920	32,288	+1.6	+2.0	+0.5	32,203	38,731	29,714	+8.4
New orders	33,938	33,217	33,154	+2.2	+0.2	+2.0	32,733	37,785	29,757	+10.0
Unfilled orders	74,090	73,584	73,287	+0.7	+0.4	+1.2	74,085	73,555	71,999	+2.9
Electronic and other electrical equipment :										
Shipments	28,522	29,550	28,594	-3.5	+3.3	+6.1	26,760	31,587	24,997	+7.1
New orders	27,257	28,782	30,632	-5.3	-6.0	+7.8	26,289	29,511	26,202	+0.3
Unfilled orders	50,288	51,553	52,321	-2.5	-1.5	+4.1	50,811	51,282	50,645	+0.3
Transportation equipment :										
Shipments	41,343	40,040	39,894	+3.3	+0.4	+0.1	43,227	43,016	39,798	+8.6
New orders	39,364	37,676	39,213	+4.5	-3.9	-7.2	41,085	42,907	38,294	+7.3
Unfilled orders	250,060	252,039	254,403	-0.8	-0.9	-0.3	252,434	254,576	236,795	+6.6
CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES³										
Total :										
Shipments	52,658	51,986	50,581	+1.3	+2.8	+2.8	49,473	59,151	44,225	+11.9
New orders	51,140	50,370	52,423	+1.5	-3.9	+0.8	47,668	58,871	42,745	+11.5
Unfilled orders	362,455	363,973	365,589	-0.4	-0.4	+0.5	365,006	366,811	349,227	+4.5
Nondefense :										
Shipments	46,255	45,758	44,148	+1.1	+3.6	+2.4	43,470	52,589	38,743	+12.2
New orders	44,948	45,532	46,911	-1.3	-2.9	+2.4	42,277	51,235	37,692	+12.2
Unfilled orders	254,539	255,846	256,072	-0.5	-0.1	+1.1	254,681	255,874	240,417	+5.9
Excluding aircraft and parts :										
Shipments	39,325	39,192	38,344	+0.3	+2.2	+2.9	36,500	45,199	33,956	+7.5
New orders	40,027	40,250	40,609	-0.6	-0.9	+7.2	37,316	45,129	33,944	+9.9
Unfilled orders	100,490	99,788	98,730	+0.7	+1.1	+2.3	100,632	99,816	98,612	+2.0
Defense :										
Shipments	6,403	6,228	6,433	+2.8	-3.2	+6.1	6,003	6,562	5,482	+9.5
New orders	6,192	4,838	5,512	+28.0	-12.2	-11.1	5,391	7,636	5,053	+6.7
Unfilled orders	107,916	108,127	109,517	-0.2	-1.3	-0.8	110,325	110,937	108,810	+1.4

(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 variation.

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(95), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 1982-1995."

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 industrial 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.

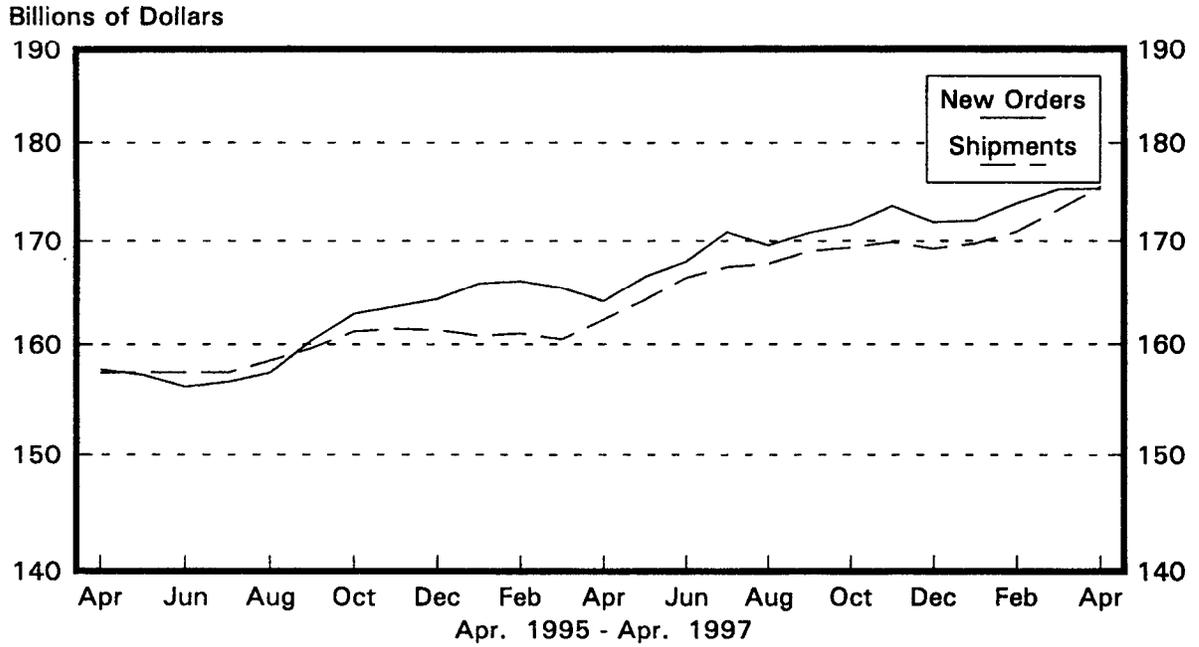
Table 2. AVERAGE REVISIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED MONTHLY PERCENT CHANGES
(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Industry	Shipments			New Orders			Unfilled Orders		
	Year ago Apr. 1996	Apr. 1996- 1992-1996	Apr. 1996- Mar. 1997	Year ago Apr. 1996	Apr. 1996- 1992-1996	Apr. 1996- Mar. 1997	Year ago Apr. 1996	Apr. 1996- 1992-1996	Apr. 1996- Mar. 1997
Durable goods	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1
Primary metals	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.5
Industrial machinery and equipment	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.3
Electronic and other electrical equipment	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.7	1.1	0.1	0.2	0.6
Transportation equipment	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.2	0.0	0.1	0.2
Nondefense capital goods	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.2
Defense capital goods	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.8	4.1	5.3	0.0	0.1	0.3

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 for the months specified.

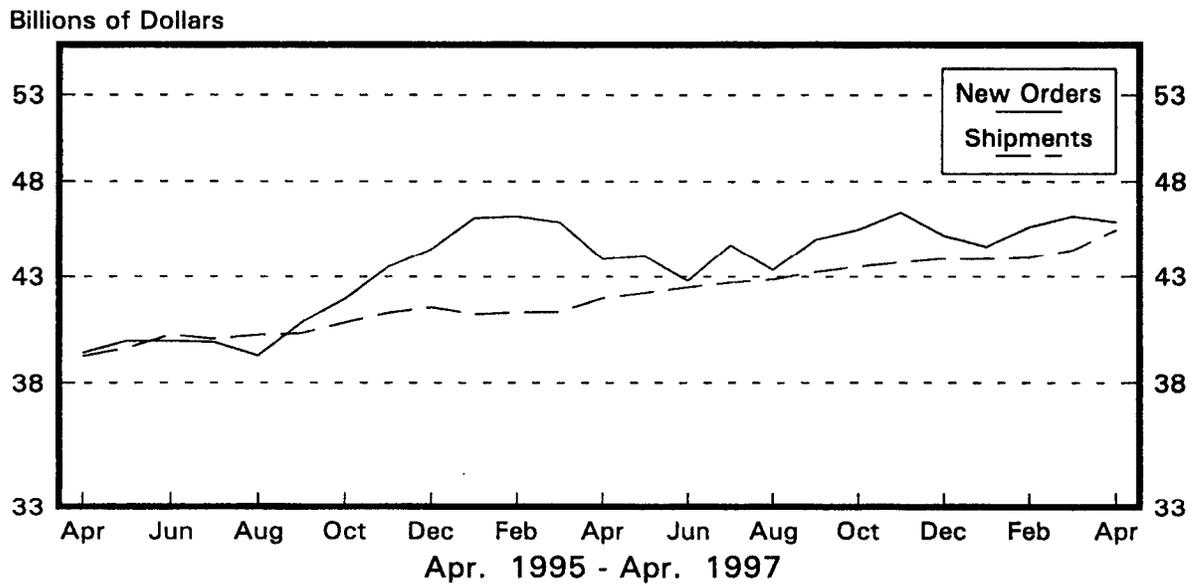
Total Durable Goods

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.

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NOTICE

Revised historical data for Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders will be issued on June 18, 1997. The revisions to the historical data are the result of:

- **benchmarking the shipments and inventory data to the 1994-1995 Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM).**
- **adjusting new and unfilled orders to be consistent with the benchmarked shipments and inventory data.**
- **correcting monthly data for late receipts, reclassification of reported data, and revisions to previously reported data.**
- **updating the seasonal adjustment factors for all series.**

The publication will include data from 1987-December 1996. An accompanying press release will include the revised 1997 March - April data. Please call Kathy Menth on (301) 457-4832 with questions.

