

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMERCE**  
**NEWS**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20230

**ECONOMICS  
AND  
STATISTICS  
ADMINISTRATION**

**BUREAU OF THE  
CENSUS**

Bureau of the Census  
For Data - (301) 457-4673  
For Questions - Kathy Menth or Lee Wentela  
(301) 457-4832 or (301) 457-4852  
M3-1(98)-09

For Release 8:30 A.M. EST  
October 28, 1998  
CB98-203

**ADVANCE REPORT ON DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS**  
September 1998

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

• **NEW ORDERS** New orders for manufactured durable goods in September increased \$1.7 billion or 0.9 percent to \$192.1 billion, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census reported today. This follows a 2.0 percent August increase and is the fourth consecutive increase. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 2.6 percent, the third increase in the last four months. Year-to-date, new orders are 4.1 percent above the same period a year ago; new orders for the third quarter are 2.6 percent above the second quarter.

Electronic and other electrical equipment, up three of the last four months, had the largest increase, \$1.7 billion or 5.4 percent to \$32.8 billion, mostly due to communication equipment. This follows a 5.3 percent August decrease. Industrial machinery and equipment, up three of the last four months, increased \$1.6 billion or 4.4 percent to \$39.1 billion. This follows a 0.5 percent August decrease. Instruments and related products, up for the first month since June, also increased. Transportation equipment, down for the first month since June, decreased \$2.0 billion or 4.4 percent to \$44.7 billion; declines in aircraft and parts and railroad equipment more than offset increases in shipbuilding and tanks and motor vehicles and parts. This follows a 17.6 percent August increase. Primary metals, down four of the last five months, decreased \$0.3 billion or 2.3 percent to \$14.1 billion, following a 1.0 percent August increase.

• **SHIPMENTS** Shipments of durable goods in September increased \$2.9 billion or 1.5 percent to \$191.7 billion. This follows a 1.0 percent August increase and is the fourth consecutive monthly increase. Year-to-date, shipments are 5.0 percent above the same period a year ago; shipments for the third quarter are 1.5 percent above the second quarter.

Transportation equipment, up for the second consecutive month, had the largest increase, \$1.8 billion or 4.0 percent to \$46.2 billion. This follows a 9.5 percent August increase. Electronic and other electrical equipment, up three of the last four months, increased \$0.9 billion or 3.0 percent to \$32.1 billion, following a 0.1 percent August decrease. Instruments and related products, up for the first month since June, also increased. Industrial machinery and equipment, down four of the last five months, decreased \$0.3 billion or 0.8 percent to \$36.4 billion. This follows a 3.0 percent August decrease. Primary metals, down six of the last seven months, decreased slightly to \$15.0 billion, following a 0.6 percent August increase.

• **UNFILLED ORDERS** Unfilled orders for durable goods in September increased \$0.5 billion or 0.1 percent to \$506.7 billion. This follows a 0.3 percent August increase. Industrial machinery and equipment, up for the second consecutive month, had the largest increase, \$2.7 billion or 3.7 percent to \$76.1 billion, following a 1.1 percent August increase. Electronic and other electrical equipment, up two of the last three months, increased \$0.6 billion or 1.1 percent to \$59.4 billion. This follows a 0.2 percent August decline. Transportation equipment, down four of the last five months, had the largest decrease, \$1.5 billion or 0.6 percent to \$251.4 billion. This follows a 0.9 percent August increase. Primary metals, down seven consecutive months, decreased \$1.0 billion or 3.0 percent to \$30.7 billion. This follows a 2.0 percent August decrease. Instruments and related products, down for the eighth consecutive month, also declined.

• **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, DEFENSE** New orders in September, up for the first month since June, increased \$2.2 billion or 44.9 percent to \$7.1 billion, following an 11.2 percent August decrease. Shipments, down for the first month since June, decreased \$0.2 billion or 3.4 percent to \$6.5 billion, following a 3.0 percent August increase. Unfilled orders, up for the first month since April, increased \$0.6 billion or 0.7 percent to \$97.2 billion, following a 1.8 percent August decrease.

• **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, NONDEFENSE** New orders in September, down two of the last three months, decreased \$2.0 billion or 3.6 percent to \$53.3 billion, following a 9.0 percent August increase. Shipments, up for the first month since June, increased \$1.5 billion or 2.8 percent to \$52.6 billion. This follows a 0.3 percent August decrease. Unfilled orders, up for the second consecutive month, increased \$0.7 billion or 0.3 percent to \$267.3 billion, following a 1.6 percent August increase. Excluding aircraft and parts, new orders increased \$2.8 billion or 6.3 percent to \$47.6 billion, the fourth increase in the last five months; shipments increased \$0.7 billion or 1.6 percent to \$44.3 billion, the first increase since June; and unfilled orders increased \$3.2 billion or 3.0 percent to \$108.6 billion, the second consecutive monthly increase.

• **REVISED AUGUST DATA** Revised seasonally adjusted August figures for all manufacturing industries are: shipments, \$336.8 billion (revised from \$336.7 billion); new orders, \$338.3 billion (revised from \$337.7 billion); unfilled orders, \$530.5 billion (revised from \$530.0 billion); and total inventories, \$468.5 billion (revised from \$468.4 billion).

**Our internet site address is: <http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/indicator/www/m3>**

**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 Sept.98/97
	Sept. 1998 <sup>2</sup>	Aug. 1998 <sup>2</sup>	July 1998	Aug.-Sept. <sup>2</sup>	July-Aug. <sup>1</sup>	June-July	Sept. 1998 <sup>2</sup>	Aug. 1998 <sup>2</sup>	Sept. 1997	
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>										
<b>Total :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	191,655	188,740	186,907	+1.5	+1.0	+0.2	207,875	186,068	200,122	+3.9
New orders . . . . .	192,127	190,387	186,617	+0.9	+2.0	+2.0	204,297	185,437	196,429	+4.0
Unfilled orders . . . . .	506,717	506,245	504,598	+0.1	+0.3	-0.1	501,359	504,937	493,075	+1.7
<b>Excluding defense :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	185,194	182,049	180,412	+1.7	+0.9	+0.1	200,915	179,600	193,598	+3.8
New orders . . . . .	185,021	185,482	181,095	-0.2	+2.4	+2.1	197,007	181,896	191,047	+3.1
Unfilled orders . . . . .	409,487	409,660	406,227	0.0	+0.8	+0.2	406,062	409,970	390,910	+3.9
<b>With unfilled orders :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	158,302	156,071	156,164	+1.4	-0.1	+0.3	172,654	152,859	166,143	+3.9
New orders . . . . .	158,774	157,718	155,874	+0.7	+1.2	+2.5	169,076	152,228	162,450	+4.1
<b>Primary metals :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	15,045	15,052	14,968	0.0	+0.6	-0.5	15,445	14,959	16,379	-5.7
New orders . . . . .	14,083	14,420	14,273	-2.3	+1.0	-1.2	13,733	14,149	16,962	-19.0
Unfilled orders . . . . .	30,718	31,680	32,312	-3.0	-2.0	-2.1	29,566	31,278	33,447	-11.6
<b>Industrial machinery and equipment:</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	36,370	36,665	37,810	-0.8	-3.0	-0.3	40,126	34,016	39,131	+2.5
New orders . . . . .	39,065	37,434	37,636	+4.4	-0.5	+1.9	42,946	34,627	39,174	+9.6
Unfilled orders . . . . .	76,147	73,452	72,683	+3.7	+1.1	-0.2	75,322	72,502	73,332	+2.7
<b>Electronic and other electrical equipment :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	32,133	31,196	31,216	+3.0	-0.1	+1.1	36,411	30,341	34,583	+5.3
New orders . . . . .	32,765	31,093	32,840	+5.4	-5.3	+9.2	34,641	29,569	32,609	+6.2
Unfilled orders . . . . .	59,442	58,810	58,913	+1.1	-0.2	+2.8	57,912	59,682	54,719	+5.8
<b>Transportation equipment :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	46,182	44,425	40,556	+4.0	+9.5	-0.7	49,211	44,278	44,609	+10.3
New orders . . . . .	44,731	46,770	39,768	-4.4	+17.6	+1.1	47,392	45,727	43,187	+9.7
Unfilled orders . . . . .	251,433	252,884	250,539	-0.6	+0.9	-0.3	249,860	251,679	241,404	+3.5
<b>CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES<sup>3</sup></b>										
<b>Total :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	59,090	57,862	57,811	+2.1	+0.1	-1.5	65,967	54,283	61,566	+7.1
New orders . . . . .	60,429	60,243	56,285	+0.3	+7.0	-0.7	67,003	55,297	60,305	+11.1
Unfilled orders . . . . .	364,525	363,186	360,805	+0.4	+0.7	-0.4	361,781	360,745	351,269	+3.0
<b>Nondefense :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	52,629	51,171	51,316	+2.8	-0.3	-2.1	59,007	47,815	55,042	+7.2
New orders . . . . .	53,323	55,338	50,763	-3.6	+9.0	-0.6	59,713	51,756	54,923	+8.7
Unfilled orders . . . . .	267,295	266,601	262,434	+0.3	+1.6	-0.2	266,484	265,778	249,104	+7.0
<b>Excluding aircraft and parts :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	44,344	43,664	44,124	+1.6	-1.0	-2.0	50,121	40,790	47,435	+5.7
New orders . . . . .	47,551	44,752	43,708	+6.3	+2.4	-1.6	53,340	41,652	48,410	+10.2
Unfilled orders . . . . .	108,604	105,397	104,309	+3.0	+1.0	-0.4	107,793	104,574	101,084	+6.6
<b>Defense :</b>										
Shipments . . . . .	6,461	6,691	6,495	-3.4	+3.0	+3.0	6,960	6,468	6,524	+6.7
New orders . . . . .	7,106	4,905	5,522	+44.9	-11.2	-2.4	7,290	3,541	5,382	+35.5
Unfilled orders . . . . .	97,230	96,585	98,371	+0.7	-1.8	-1.0	95,297	94,967	102,165	-6.7

(NA) Not available. <sup>1</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. 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(96), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 1987-1996."<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 Sept. 1997	Sept. 1993-1997	Sept. 1997- Aug. 1998	Year ago Sept. 1997	Sept. 1993-1997	Sept. 1997- Aug. 1998	Year ago Sept. 1997	Sept. 1993-1997	Sept. 1997- Aug. 1998
Durable goods . . . . .	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.2
Primary metals . . . . .	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	1.3	0.8	0.1	0.5	0.3
Industrial machinery and equipment . . . . .	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.2
Electronic and other electrical equipment . . . . .	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.8	2.3	0.1	0.4	0.7
Transportation equipment . . . . .	0.3	0.8	1.5	2.0	1.3	1.7	0.2	0.1	0.2
Nondefense capital goods . . . . .	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.1	1.2	1.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Defense capital goods . . . . .	1.3	1.4	0.8	10.6	5.0	7.1	0.1	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 to the months specified.

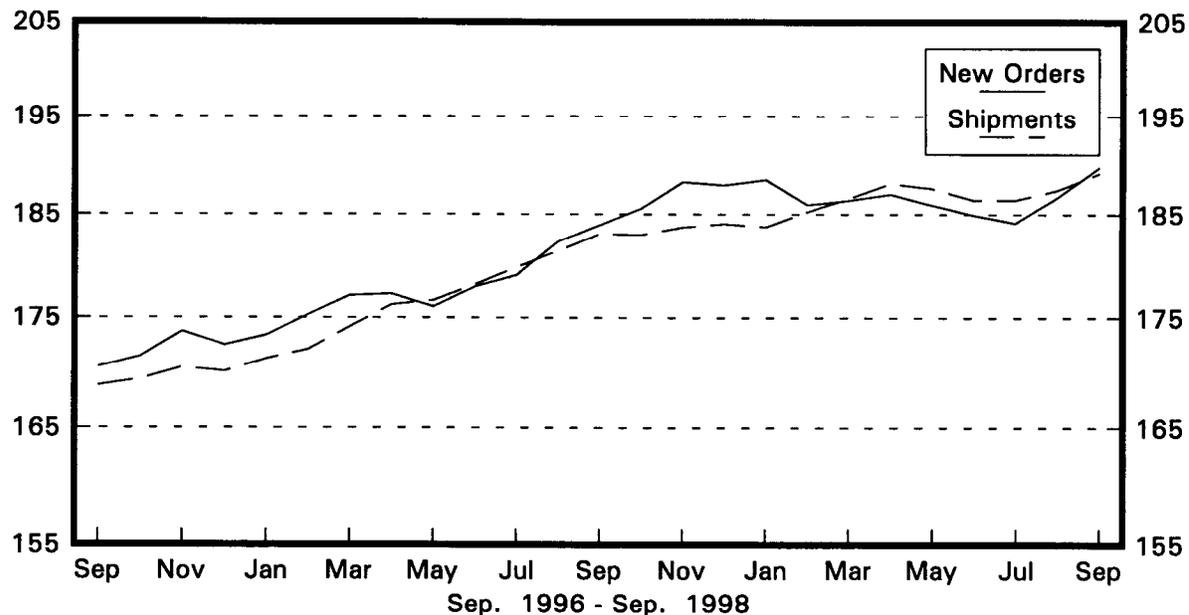
# Total Durable Goods

## New Orders and Shipments

### Three Month Moving Averages

3

Billions of Dollars

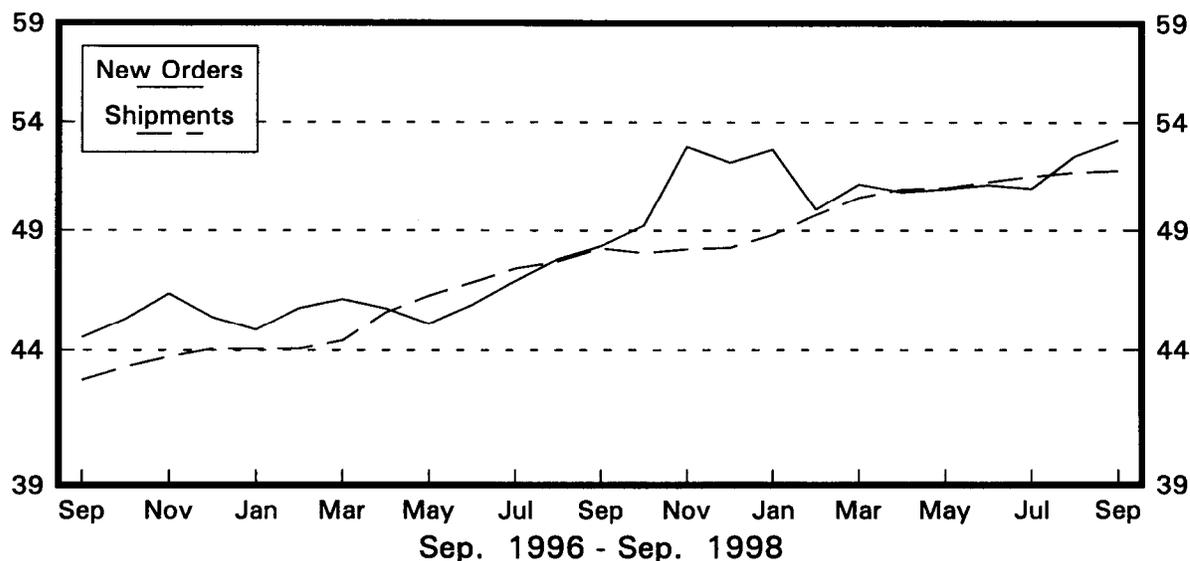


# Nondefense Capital Goods

## New Orders and Shipments

### Three Month Moving Averages

Billions of Dollars



Note: All Charts based on seasonally adjusted current dollars.