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ADVANCE REPORT ON DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS
August 1999

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

• **NEW ORDERS** New orders for manufactured durable goods in August increased \$1.8 billion or 0.9 percent to \$206.9 billion, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census reported today. This follows a 4.0 percent July increase and is the twelfth increase in the last fifteen months. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 0.2 percent. Year-to-date, new orders are 7.0 percent above the same period a year ago.

Transportation equipment, led by aircraft and parts and motor vehicles and parts, had the largest increase, \$2.2 billion or 4.6 percent to \$49.4 billion. This is the fourth consecutive increase. Industrial machinery and equipment decreased \$0.8 billion or 2.0 percent to \$39.5 billion. Primary metals, down for the first time since March, decreased \$0.3 billion or 1.7 percent to \$15.4 billion. Electronic and other electrical equipment decreased 0.1 percent to \$37.6 billion.

• **SHIPMENTS** Shipments of durable goods in August increased \$2.6 billion or 1.3 percent to \$205.5 billion, following a 0.9 percent July increase. This is the thirteenth increase in the last fifteen months. Year-to-date, shipments are 6.6 percent above the same period a year ago.

Transportation equipment, led by aircraft and parts and motor vehicles and parts, had the largest increase, \$2.5 billion or 5.2 percent to \$51.3 billion. This is the largest increase since August 1998. Primary metals, up four consecutive months, increased \$0.2 billion or 1.4 percent to \$15.1 billion. Industrial machinery and equipment decreased \$0.3 billion or 0.9 percent to \$39.1 billion. Electronic and other electrical equipment, down for the first time since February, decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.3 percent to \$35.0 billion.

• **UNFILLED ORDERS** Unfilled orders for durable goods in August increased \$1.4 billion or 0.3 percent to \$497.5 billion, following a 0.4 percent July increase. Electronic and other electrical equipment, up nine consecutive months, had the largest increase, \$2.6 billion or 3.8 percent to \$71.3 billion. Industrial machinery and equipment, up eight of the last nine months, increased \$0.4 billion or 0.5 percent to \$79.4 billion. Primary metals, up seven consecutive months, increased \$0.3 billion or 1.0 percent to \$31.8 billion. Transportation equipment, down fourteen of the last sixteen months, decreased \$1.9 billion or 0.8 percent to \$228.2 billion.

• **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, DEFENSE** New orders in August decreased \$1.3 billion or 20.5 percent to \$5.1 billion. Shipments decreased \$0.1 billion or 1.3 percent to \$6.5 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$1.4 billion or 1.4 percent to \$92.4 billion. This is the fifth consecutive decrease.

• **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, NONDEFENSE** New orders in August increased \$2.0 billion or 3.6 percent to \$57.0 billion. Shipments, up five of the last six months, increased \$1.5 billion or 2.6 percent to \$57.6 billion. Unfilled orders, down for the sixth consecutive month, decreased \$0.6 billion or 0.2 percent to \$251.0 billion. Excluding aircraft and parts, new orders decreased \$0.4 billion or 0.8 percent to \$48.4 billion; shipments, down for the first time since February, decreased \$0.4 billion or 0.8 percent to \$48.4 billion; and unfilled orders decreased slightly to \$109.9 billion.

• **REVISED JULY DATA** Revised seasonally adjusted July figures for all manufacturing industries are: shipments, \$356.7 billion (revised from \$356.4 billion); new orders, \$359.3 billion (revised from \$358.5 billion); unfilled orders, \$520.6 billion (revised from \$520.1 billion); and total inventories, \$465.0 billion (revised from \$464.9 billion).

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

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

Item	Seasonally adjusted						Not seasonally adjusted ¹			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent change Aug. 99/98
	Aug. 1999 ²	July 1999 ²	June 1999	July- Aug. ³	June- July ³	May- June	Aug. 1999 ²	July 1999 ²	Aug. 1998	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total :										
Shipments	205,463	202,820	200,990	+1.3	+0.9	+0.8	202,591	170,939	186,058	+8.9
New orders	206,857	205,039	197,084	+0.9	+4.0	+0.2	203,206	178,250	185,341	+9.6
Unfilled orders	497,501	496,107	493,888	+0.3	+0.4	-0.8	498,180	497,565	504,851	-1.3
Excluding defense :										
Shipments	198,965	196,235	194,712	+1.4	+0.8	+1.0	196,362	165,189	179,596	+9.3
New orders	201,718	198,571	191,875	+1.6	+3.5	+0.7	199,647	173,184	181,767	+9.8
Unfilled orders	405,071	402,318	399,982	+0.7	+0.6	-0.7	407,146	403,861	409,845	-0.7
With unfilled orders :										
Shipments	168,521	166,079	163,833	+1.5	+1.4	-0.1	165,007	144,131	152,886	+7.9
New orders	169,915	168,298	159,927	+1.0	+5.2	-0.8	165,622	151,442	152,169	+8.8
Primary metals :										
Shipments	15,059	14,847	14,677	+1.4	+1.2	+1.0	15,136	13,519	14,961	+1.2
New orders	15,379	15,648	15,206	-1.7	+2.9	+2.7	15,219	14,380	14,148	+7.6
Unfilled orders	31,790	31,470	30,669	+1.0	+2.6	+1.8	31,627	31,544	31,275	+1.1
Industrial machinery and equipment:										
Shipments	39,088	39,432	37,308	-0.9	+5.7	-0.6	36,517	34,090	34,028	+7.3
New orders	39,452	40,269	36,435	-2.0	+10.5	-3.6	36,832	35,212	34,642	+6.3
Unfilled orders	79,437	79,073	78,236	+0.5	+1.1	-1.1	78,846	78,531	72,505	+8.7
Electronic and other electrical equipment :										
Shipments	35,006	35,108	34,196	-0.3	+2.7	+1.1	33,748	30,672	30,345	+11.2
New orders	37,639	37,670	35,158	-0.1	+7.1	+3.2	37,144	37,518	29,587	+25.5
Unfilled orders	71,340	68,707	66,145	+3.8	+3.9	+1.5	73,435	70,039	59,696	+23.0
Transportation equipment :										
Shipments	51,316	48,775	49,781	+5.2	-2.0	+1.8	51,399	32,701	44,265	+16.1
New orders	49,377	47,194	46,253	+4.6	+2.0	+1.1	48,482	31,084	45,717	+6.0
Unfilled orders	228,225	230,164	231,745	-0.8	-0.7	-1.5	227,240	230,157	251,682	-9.7
CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES³										
Total :										
Shipments	64,080	62,681	60,750	+2.2	+3.2	-2.4	60,172	54,389	54,285	+10.8
New orders	62,163	61,512	56,157	+1.1	+9.5	-4.9	56,867	52,876	55,341	+2.8
Unfilled orders	343,420	345,337	346,506	-0.6	-0.3	-1.3	341,535	344,840	360,787	-5.3
Nondefense :										
Shipments	57,582	56,096	54,472	+2.6	+3.0	-1.9	53,943	48,639	47,823	+12.8
New orders	57,024	55,044	50,948	+3.6	+8.0	-3.9	53,308	47,810	51,767	+3.0
Unfilled orders	250,990	251,548	252,600	-0.2	-0.4	-1.4	250,501	251,136	265,781	-5.7
Excluding aircraft and parts :										
Shipments	48,365	48,775	46,459	-0.8	+5.0	+0.2	45,178	42,370	40,798	+10.7
New orders	48,364	48,777	44,540	-0.8	+9.5	-3.3	45,100	42,595	41,663	+8.2
Unfilled orders	109,908	109,909	109,907	0.0	0.0	-1.7	109,419	109,497	104,577	+4.6
Defense :										
Shipments	6,498	6,585	6,278	-1.3	+4.9	-5.9	6,229	5,750	6,462	-3.6
New orders	5,139	6,468	5,209	-20.5	+24.2	-13.5	3,559	5,066	3,574	-0.4
Unfilled orders	92,430	93,789	93,906	-1.4	-0.1	-1.1	91,034	93,704	95,006	-4.2

(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(96), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 1987-1996."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.

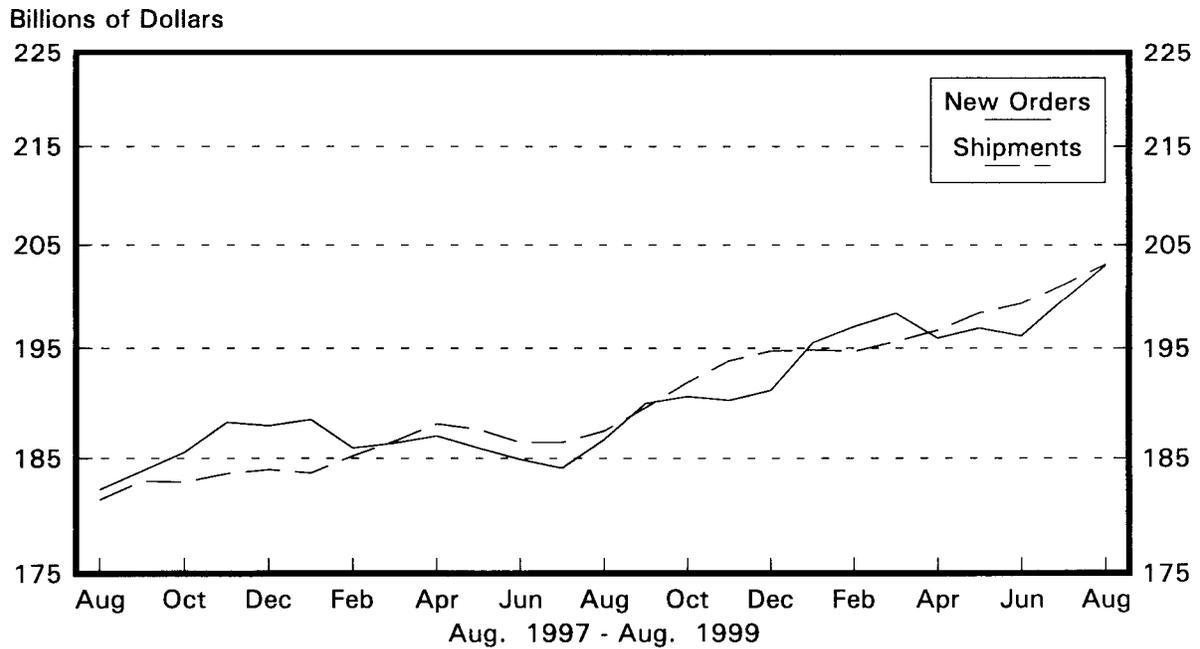
Table 2. **AVERAGE REVISIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED MONTHLY PERCENT CHANGES**
(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Industry	Shipments			New Orders			Unfilled Orders		
	Year ago Aug. 1998	Aug. 1994-1998	Aug. 1998- July 1999	Year ago Aug. 1998	Aug. 1994-1998	Aug. 1998- July 1999	Year ago Aug. 1998	Aug. 1994-1998	Aug. 1998- July 1999
Durable goods	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.3	2.4	0.2	0.1	0.5
Primary metals	0.5	0.3	1.0	1.0	0.9	2.6	0.1	0.4	0.9
Industrial machinery and equipment	0.5	0.4	1.6	0.5	0.5	2.8	0.1	0.2	0.8
Electronic and other electrical equipment	0.6	0.4	1.4	2.6	0.9	4.1	1.2	0.4	1.0
Transportation equipment	1.1	0.8	2.2	2.5	1.4	6.6	0.2	0.1	0.6
Nondefense capital goods	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.3	0.6	4.2	0.2	0.1	0.4
Defense capital goods	0.0	0.7	2.8	0.5	3.7	27.6	0.0	0.2	1.1

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 sign, for the months specified.

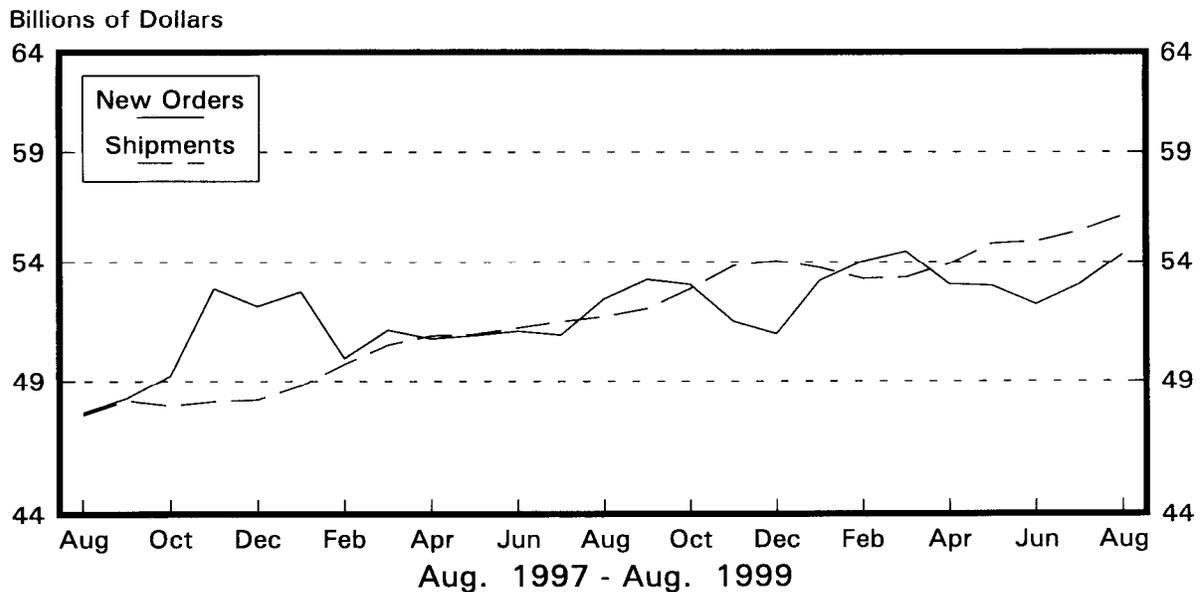
Total Durable Goods

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.