

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 - Frances Porter or Lee Wentela
(301) 457-4804 or (301) 457-4832
M3-1(99)-12

For Release 8:30 A.M. EDT
January 27, 2000
CB00-15

**ADVANCE REPORT ON DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS
DECEMBER 1999**

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

● **NEW ORDERS** New orders for manufactured durable goods in December increased \$8.4 billion or 4.1 percent to \$212.9 billion, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census reported today. This follows a 1.0 percent November increase. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 0.7 percent. New orders for 1999 are 7.3 percent above 1998.

Transportation equipment had the largest increase, \$7.3 billion or 16.2 percent to \$52.3 billion; all component industries increased, led by aircraft and parts. This is the largest increase since August 1998. Electronic and other electrical equipment, up six of the last seven months, increased \$1.8 billion or 4.6 percent to \$41.1 billion. Industrial machinery and equipment, down six of the last eight months, decreased \$1.7 billion or 4.2 percent to \$37.4 billion. Primary metals, down four of the last five months, decreased \$0.2 billion or 1.5 percent to \$15.3 billion.

● **SHIPMENTS** Shipments of durable goods in December increased \$1.4 billion or 0.7 percent to \$205.7 billion, following a 1.0 percent November increase. This is the seventh increase in the last eight months. Shipments for 1999 are 6.0 percent above 1998.

Transportation equipment had the largest increase, \$1.3 billion or 2.7 percent to \$49.6 billion; all component industries increased, led by motor vehicles and parts. Electronic and other electrical equipment increased \$0.3 billion or 0.8 percent to \$35.9 billion. Primary metals, up seven of the last eight months, increased \$0.1 billion or 0.6 percent to \$15.6 billion. Industrial machinery and equipment, down four of the last five months, decreased \$0.6 billion or 1.6 percent to \$38.3 billion.

● **UNFILLED ORDERS** Unfilled orders for durable goods in December increased \$7.3 billion or 1.5 percent to \$508.0 billion, following a 0.1 percent increase in November. This is the sixth consecutive monthly increase and the largest since January. Electronic and other electrical equipment, up thirteen consecutive months, had the largest increase, \$5.3 billion or 6.6 percent to \$85.5 billion. Transportation equipment, up for the first time since January, increased \$2.7 billion or 1.2 percent to \$224.8 billion. Industrial machinery and equipment, down for the first time since June, decreased \$0.9 billion or 1.1 percent to \$80.3 billion. Primary metals decreased \$0.4 billion or 1.1 percent to \$32.0 billion. This is the largest decrease since January.

● **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, DEFENSE** New orders in December increased \$1.5 billion or 24.5 percent to \$7.5 billion. Shipments decreased \$0.8 billion or 11.3 percent to \$6.3 billion. This is the largest decrease since December 1997. Unfilled orders increased \$1.1 billion or 1.2 percent to \$92.5 billion.

● **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, NONDEFENSE** New orders in December increased \$4.7 billion or 8.6 percent to \$59.0 billion. This is the largest increase since January. Shipments increased \$0.8 billion or 1.5 percent to \$55.9 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$3.1 billion or 1.2 percent to \$254.2 billion. This is the largest increase since January. Excluding aircraft and parts, new orders increased \$1.5 billion or 3.2 percent to \$49.9 billion; shipments, down four of the last five months, decreased 0.1 percent to \$47.7 billion; and unfilled orders, up four consecutive months, increased \$2.2 billion or 2.0 percent to \$114.8 billion.

● **REVISED NOVEMBER DATA** Revised seasonally adjusted November figures for all manufacturing industries are: shipments, \$364.9 billion (revised from \$364.5 billion); new orders, \$365.5 billion (revised from \$365.2 billion); unfilled orders, \$526.5 billion (revised from \$526.6 billion); and total inventories, \$469.5 billion (revised from \$469.7 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 Dec.99/98
	Dec. 1999 ²	Nov. 1999 ²	Oct. 1999	Nov.- Dec. ²	Oct.- Nov. ²	Sept.- Oct.	Dec. 1999 ²	Nov. 1999 ²	Dec. 1998	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total :										
Shipments	205,657	204,293	202,306	+0.7	+1.0	+0.2	208,723	203,727	198,280	+5.3
New orders	212,921	204,550	202,442	+4.1	+1.0	-0.9	214,536	200,750	196,922	+8.9
Unfilled orders	508,000	500,736	500,479	+1.5	+0.1	0.0	502,815	497,002	490,040	+2.6
Excluding defense :										
Shipments	199,323	197,151	195,737	+1.1	+0.7	+0.2	201,461	195,994	190,694	+5.6
New orders	205,467	198,565	194,771	+3.5	+1.9	-2.1	204,222	194,401	186,584	+9.5
Unfilled orders	415,527	409,383	407,969	+1.5	+0.3	-0.2	410,260	407,499	394,327	+4.0
With unfilled orders :										
Shipments	169,469	168,611	167,223	+0.5	+0.8	+0.9	176,449	168,671	167,916	+5.1
New orders	176,733	168,868	167,359	+4.7	+0.9	-0.5	182,262	165,694	166,558	+9.4
Primary metals :										
Shipments	15,643	15,555	15,191	+0.6	+2.4	-0.7	14,342	15,146	12,997	+10.3
New orders	15,290	15,528	15,440	-1.5	+0.6	-0.1	14,794	15,157	13,768	+7.5
Unfilled orders	31,983	32,336	32,363	-1.1	-0.1	+0.8	31,167	30,715	28,847	+8.0
Industrial machinery and equipment:										
Shipments	38,323	38,943	39,471	-1.6	-1.3	+4.6	41,626	36,691	40,163	+3.6
New orders	37,437	39,096	39,666	-4.2	-1.4	+1.5	40,117	37,489	40,982	-2.1
Unfilled orders	80,275	81,161	81,008	-1.1	+0.2	+0.2	80,242	81,751	74,441	+7.8
Electronic and other electrical equipment :										
Shipments	35,884	35,593	34,860	+0.8	+2.1	-1.3	40,462	36,925	36,962	+9.5
New orders	41,149	39,331	35,884	+4.6	+9.6	-7.4	42,891	38,002	34,946	+22.7
Unfilled orders	85,479	80,214	76,476	+6.6	+4.9	+1.4	83,212	80,783	57,806	+44.0
Transportation equipment :										
Shipments	49,617	48,296	47,659	+2.7	+1.3	-1.8	48,087	49,458	46,660	+3.1
New orders	52,340	45,037	46,800	+16.2	-3.8	+0.4	52,087	45,599	46,056	+13.1
Unfilled orders	224,827	222,104	225,363	+1.2	-1.4	-0.4	223,894	219,894	242,584	-7.7
CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES³										
Total :										
Shipments	62,238	62,236	62,864	0.0	-1.0	+2.5	72,774	60,982	71,017	+2.5
New orders	66,464	60,304	63,962	+10.2	-5.7	+3.9	78,312	59,266	71,066	+10.2
Unfilled orders	346,630	342,404	344,336	+1.2	-0.6	+0.3	346,339	340,801	352,795	-1.8
Nondefense :										
Shipments	55,904	55,094	56,295	+1.5	-2.1	+2.6	65,512	53,249	63,431	+3.3
New orders	59,010	54,319	56,291	+8.6	-3.5	+0.4	67,998	52,917	60,728	+12.0
Unfilled orders	254,157	251,051	251,826	+1.2	-0.3	0.0	253,784	251,298	257,082	-1.3
Excluding aircraft and parts :										
Shipments	47,721	47,767	48,329	-0.1	-1.2	+2.0	55,412	45,974	52,789	+5.0
New orders	49,948	48,406	48,891	+3.2	-1.0	-0.2	57,019	47,056	53,903	+5.8
Unfilled orders	114,777	112,550	111,911	+2.0	+0.6	+0.5	114,404	112,797	106,577	+7.3
Defense :										
Shipments	6,334	7,142	6,569	-11.3	+8.7	+1.8	7,262	7,733	7,586	-4.3
New orders	7,454	5,985	7,671	+24.5	-22.0	+39.9	10,314	6,349	10,338	-0.2
Unfilled orders	92,473	91,353	92,510	+1.2	-1.3	+1.2	92,555	89,503	95,713	-3.3

(NA) Not available. ² 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.

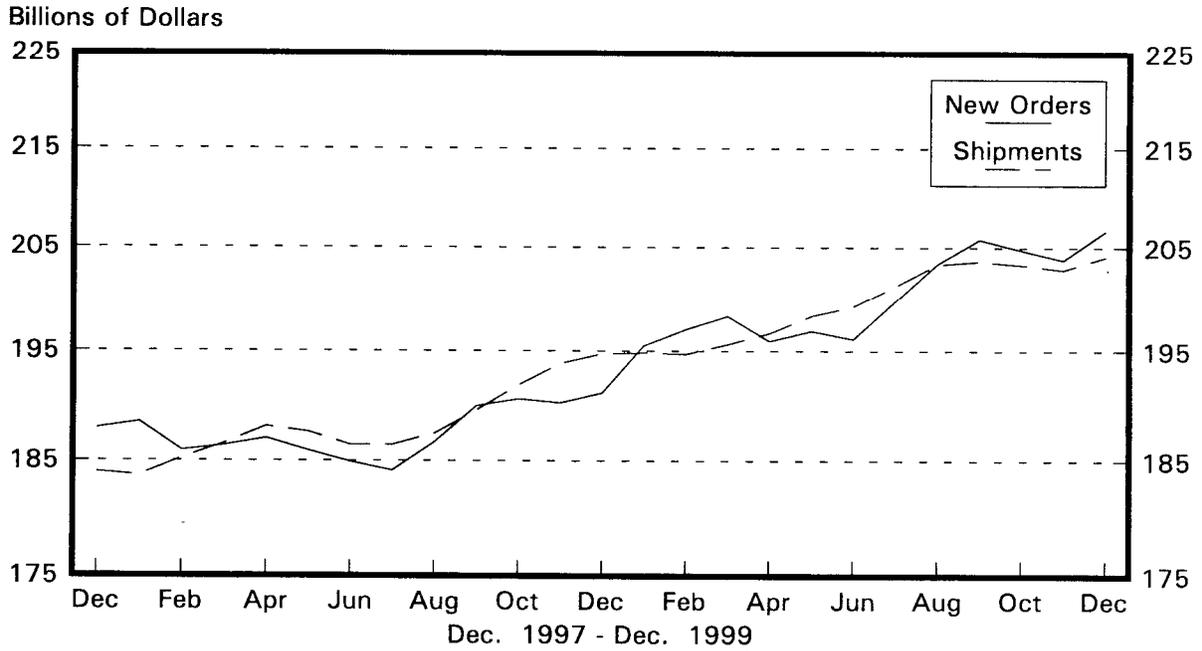
Table 2. **AVERAGE REVISIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED MONTHLY PERCENT CHANGES**
(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Industry	Shipments			New Orders			Unfilled Orders		
	Year ago Dec. 1998	Dec. 1994-1998	Dec. 1998- Nov. 1999	Year ago Dec. 1998	Dec. 1994-1998	Dec. 1998- Nov. 1999	Year ago Dec. 1998	Dec. 1994-1998	Dec. 1998- Nov. 1999
	Durable goods	0.1	0.2	1.1	1.5	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.3
Primary metals	0.4	0.7	1.2	1.4	1.4	0.9	0.3	0.4	1.1
Industrial machinery and equipment	0.6	0.6	2.1	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.5	0.5	1.0
Electronic and other electrical equipment	1.0	0.6	1.5	3.1	1.6	2.7	1.0	0.4	1.1
Transportation equipment	0.4	0.5	4.5	3.6	2.6	2.8	0.8	0.5	0.7
Nondefense capital goods	0.1	0.4	2.7	1.7	1.2	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.6
Defense capital goods	2.1	1.6	3.7	8.1	8.8	10.6	1.8	0.7	1.3

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 sign for the months specified.

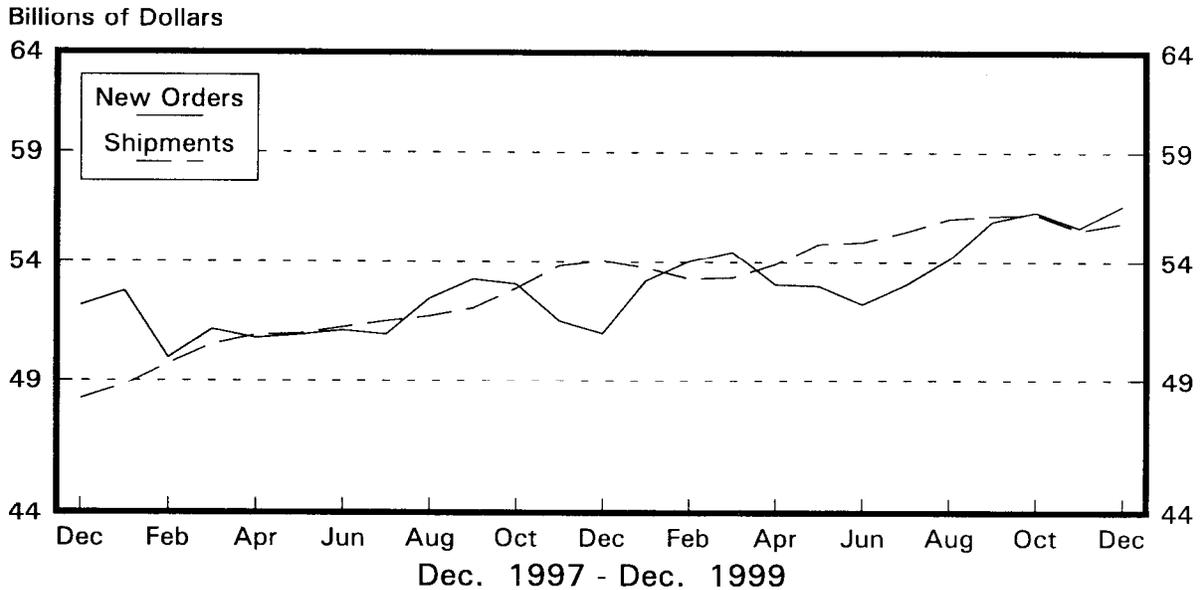
Total Durable Goods

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.