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ADVANCE REPORT ON DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS AND ORDERS  
March 2001

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

● **NEW ORDERS** New orders for manufactured durable goods in March increased \$6.1 billion or 3.0 percent to \$205.1 billion, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census reported today. This follows a 0.3 percent February decrease. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 1.8 percent. Year to date, new orders for 2001 are 6.2 percent below the same period a year ago; new orders for the first quarter are 4.7 percent below the fourth quarter.

Transportation equipment had the largest increase, \$8.9 billion or 21.4 percent to \$50.7 billion; led by shipbuilding and tanks, all component industries increased. Electronic and other electrical equipment, led by electronic components, decreased \$2.1 billion or 5.3 percent to \$37.4 billion. Industrial machinery and equipment decreased \$0.3 billion or 0.7 percent to \$41.9 billion. Primary metals, down six consecutive months, decreased \$0.2 billion or 1.7 percent to \$13.7 billion.

● **SHIPMENTS** Shipments of durable goods in March increased \$0.2 billion or 0.1 percent to \$199.9 billion, following a 0.9 percent February decrease. This is the first increase since September 2000. Year to date, shipments for 2001 are 4.2 percent below the same period a year ago; shipments for the first quarter are 3.7 percent below the fourth quarter.

Transportation equipment had the largest increase, \$1.4 billion or 3.4 percent to \$44.2 billion; led by motor vehicles and parts, all component industries increased. Industrial machinery and equipment increased \$0.3 billion or 0.6 percent to \$41.5 billion. Electronic and other electrical equipment, down five of the last six months, decreased \$1.1 billion or 2.8 percent to \$38.7 billion, mostly due to electronic components. Primary metals, down nine consecutive months, decreased \$0.1 billion or 1.0 percent to \$14.1 billion.

● **UNFILLED ORDERS** Unfilled orders for durable goods in March increased \$5.2 billion or 0.9 percent to \$574.5 billion, following a 0.1 percent February decrease. Transportation equipment, led by shipbuilding and tanks, had the largest increase, \$6.5 billion or 2.5 percent to \$269.0 billion. Industrial machinery and equipment, up three consecutive months, increased \$0.5 billion or 0.5 percent to \$93.4 billion, due to engines and turbines. Electronic and other electrical equipment, down four consecutive months, decreased \$1.3 billion or 1.4 percent to \$94.0 billion. Primary metals, down sixteen of the last seventeen months, decreased \$0.4 billion or 1.4 percent to \$28.5 billion.

● **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, DEFENSE** New orders in March increased \$4.3 billion or 62.0 percent to \$11.2 billion. Shipments increased \$0.1 billion or 1.2 percent to \$6.4 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$4.7 billion or 4.3 percent to \$114.9 billion.

● **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, NONDEFENSE** New orders in March increased \$3.1 billion or 5.2 percent to \$62.2 billion. Shipments increased \$0.7 billion or 1.3 percent to \$60.2 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$2.1 billion or 0.7 percent to \$297.3 billion. Excluding aircraft and parts, new orders, down five of the last six months, decreased \$0.4 billion or 0.7 percent to \$51.2 billion; shipments increased \$0.8 billion or 1.6 percent to \$51.4 billion; and unfilled orders decreased \$0.2 billion or 0.1 percent to \$131.0 billion.

● **REVISED FEBRUARY DATA** Revised seasonally adjusted February figures for all manufacturing industries are: shipments, \$364.3 billion (revised from \$364.5 billion); new orders, \$363.5 billion (revised from \$363.0 billion); unfilled orders, \$594.2 billion (revised from \$593.4 billion); and total inventories, \$494.8 billion (revised from \$494.9 billion).

SEE BACK PAGE FOR UPCOMING REVISIONS  
Our internet site address is: <http://www.census.gov/indicator/www/m3>

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

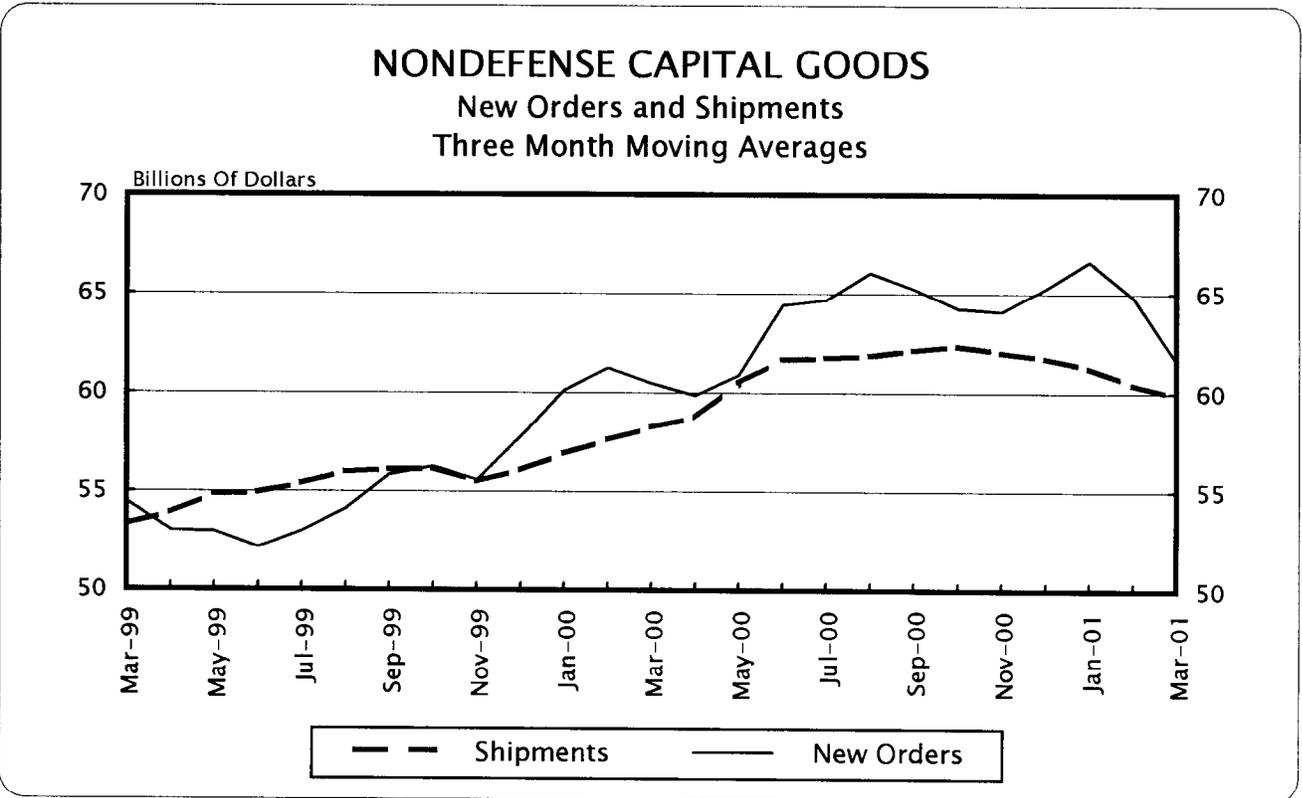
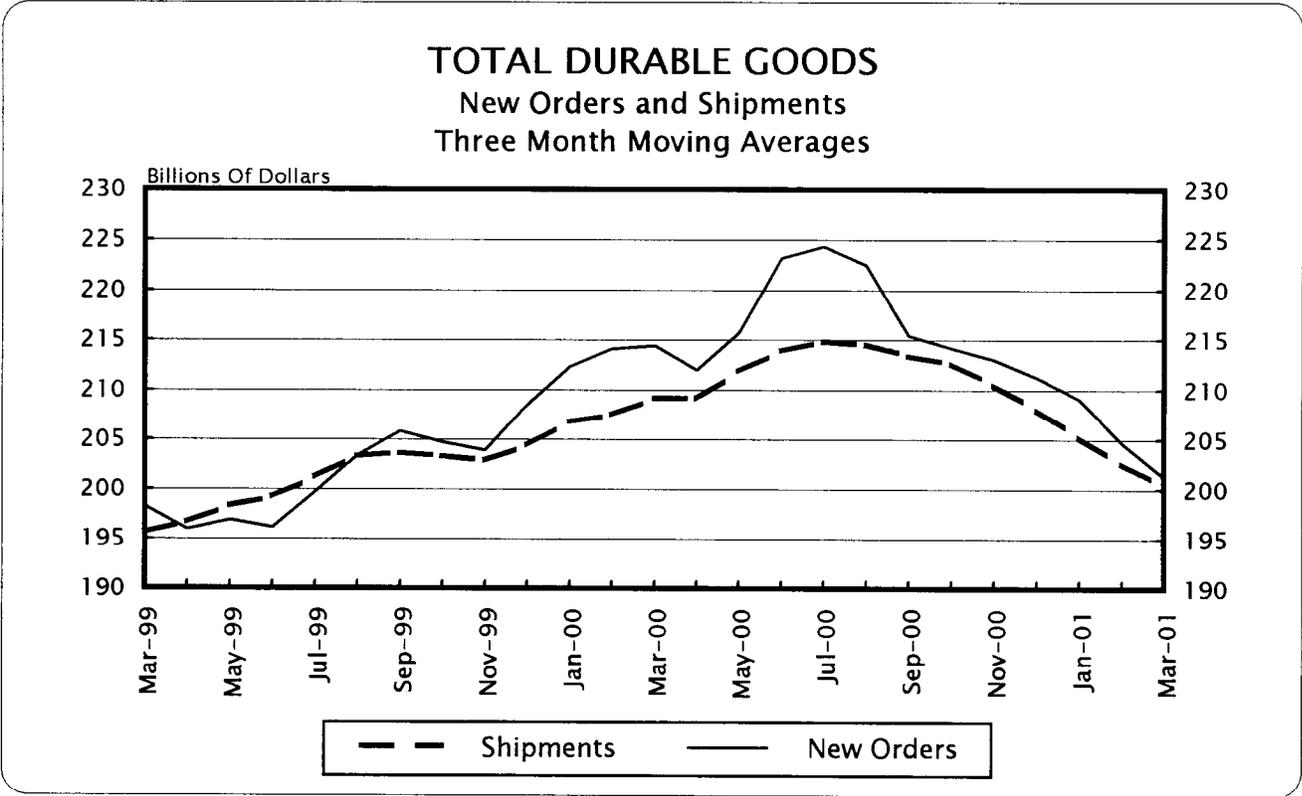
Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted <sup>1</sup>			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent Change Mar 01/00
	Mar 2001 <sup>2</sup>	Feb 2001 <sup>1</sup>	Jan 2001	Feb - Mar <sup>2</sup>	Jan - Feb <sup>1</sup>	Dec - Jan	Mar 2001 <sup>2</sup>	Feb 2001 <sup>1</sup>	Mar 2000	
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>										
<b>Total:</b>										
Shipments.....	199,949	199,752	201,519	+0.1	-0.9	-2.5	217,090	195,455	231,213	-6.1
New Orders.....	205,115	199,060	199,560	+3.0	-0.3	-7.3	219,957	194,366	236,632	-7.0
Unfilled Orders.....	574,494	569,328	570,020	+0.9	-0.1	-0.3	573,906	571,039	530,985	+8.1
<b>Excluding defense:</b>										
Shipments.....	193,511	193,392	195,039	+0.1	-0.8	-2.5	210,081	189,352	223,972	-6.2
New Orders.....	193,941	192,161	194,101	+0.9	-1.0	-7.2	207,799	188,319	229,007	-9.3
Unfilled Orders.....	459,604	459,174	460,405	+0.1	-0.3	-0.2	458,216	460,498	434,047	+5.6
<b>With unfilled orders:</b>										
Shipments.....	169,161	169,764	171,204	-0.4	-0.8	-2.3	182,993	164,549	190,109	-3.7
New Orders.....	174,327	169,072	169,245	+3.1	-0.1	-8.0	185,860	163,460	195,528	-4.9
<b>Primary metals:</b>										
Shipments.....	14,074	14,217	14,457	-1.0	-1.7	-0.5	14,792	14,504	16,935	-12.7
New Orders.....	13,658	13,896	14,055	-1.7	-1.1	-0.5	14,451	15,092	16,992	-15.0
Unfilled Orders.....	28,465	28,881	29,202	-1.4	-1.1	-1.4	29,618	29,959	33,068	-10.4
<b>Industrial machinery and equipment:</b>										
Shipments.....	41,451	41,187	43,432	+0.6	-5.2	+1.5	48,116	39,071	48,699	-1.2
New Orders.....	41,924	42,226	43,578	-0.7	-3.1	+3.7	47,812	40,424	48,622	-1.7
Unfilled Orders.....	93,368	92,895	91,856	+0.5	+1.1	+0.2	93,558	93,862	85,244	+9.8
<b>Electronic and other electrical equipment:</b>										
Shipments.....	38,733	39,832	40,318	-2.8	-1.2	-2.9	41,077	37,966	41,976	-2.1
New Orders.....	37,429	39,529	37,040	-5.3	+6.7	-8.6	37,918	36,475	45,842	-17.3
Unfilled Orders.....	93,956	95,260	95,563	-1.4	-0.3	-3.3	91,439	94,598	92,628	-1.3
<b>Transportation equipment:</b>										
Shipments.....	44,196	42,754	41,017	+3.4	+4.2	-8.4	48,760	43,330	53,705	-9.2
New Orders.....	50,665	41,720	42,219	+21.4	-1.2	-24.2	55,355	41,764	53,912	+2.7
Unfilled Orders.....	269,001	262,532	263,566	+2.5	-0.4	+0.5	269,378	262,783	231,269	+16.5
<b>CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES<sup>3</sup></b>										
<b>Total:</b>										
Shipments.....	66,612	65,790	66,452	+1.2	-1.0	-3.1	75,464	61,274	74,685	+1.0
New Orders.....	73,412	66,067	68,818	+11.1	-4.0	-12.0	81,974	61,468	75,995	+7.9
Unfilled Orders.....	412,154	405,354	405,077	+1.7	+0.1	+0.6	413,196	406,686	360,998	+14.5
<b>Nondefense:</b>										
Shipments.....	60,174	59,430	59,972	+1.3	-0.9	-3.2	68,455	55,171	67,444	+1.5
New Orders.....	62,238	59,168	63,359	+5.2	-6.6	-12.1	69,816	55,421	68,370	+2.1
Unfilled Orders.....	297,264	295,200	295,462	+0.7	-0.1	+1.2	297,506	296,145	264,060	+12.7
<b>Excluding aircraft and parts:</b>										
Shipments.....	51,413	50,617	52,821	+1.6	-4.2	-1.6	58,861	46,617	60,418	-2.6
New Orders.....	51,222	51,600	54,247	-0.7	-4.9	+3.9	57,967	48,112	60,533	-4.2
Unfilled Orders.....	131,027	131,218	130,235	-0.1	+0.8	+1.1	131,269	132,163	121,019	+8.5
<b>Defense:</b>										
Shipments.....	6,438	6,360	6,480	+1.2	-1.9	-2.4	7,009	6,103	7,241	-3.2
New Orders.....	11,174	6,899	5,459	+62.0	+26.4	-10.8	12,158	6,047	7,625	+59.4
Unfilled Orders.....	114,890	110,154	109,615	+4.3	+0.5	-0.9	115,690	110,541	96,938	+19.3

(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(97), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 1987-1997."<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	Mar.	Mar. 2000-	Year ago	Mar.	Mar. 2000-	Year ago	Mar.	Mar. 2000-
	Mar. 2000	1996-2000	Feb. 2001	Mar. 2000	1996-2000	Feb. 2001	Mar. 2000	1996-2000	Feb. 2001
Durable Goods.....	-0.9	0.5	0.5	-1.6	0.8	0.8	-0.4	0.3	0.2
Primary metals.....	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	1.1	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.2
Industrial machinery and equipment.....	-0.9	0.7	0.9	0.3	1.0	1.2	-0.5	0.3	0.3
Electronic and other electrical equipment.....	-0.3	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.9	0.3	1.3	0.6
Transportation equipment.....	-2.1	1.1	0.8	-1.9	2.2	1.8	0.0	0.4	0.2
Nondefense capital goods.....	-1.7	0.8	0.9	-2.6	1.5	1.4	-0.3	0.4	0.2
Defense capital goods.....	-9.5	2.9	1.4	24.4	12.9	6.7	1.1	0.7	0.4

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



Note: All charts based on seasonally adjusted current dollars.