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**ECONOMICS
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ADMINISTRATION**

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

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Special Notice

The number of large semiconductor manufacturers choosing not to participate in this voluntary monthly survey has risen to a level such that the Census Bureau can no longer produce monthly estimates of semiconductor shipments, orders, or inventories. This report will not show any semiconductor shipments, inventories, or orders estimates for March 2002. Semiconductor estimates also will not be included in any aggregate estimates for: *Total durable goods; Total durable goods, excluding transportation; Total durable goods, excluding defense; and Computer and electronic products.*

**ADVANCE REPORT ON DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS
March 2002**

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

● **NEW ORDERS (excluding semiconductors)** for manufactured durable goods in March decreased \$1.0 billion or 0.6 percent to \$173.4 billion, the Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau reported today. This followed a 2.7 percent February increase. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 0.1 percent. Year to date, new orders for 2002 were 5.1 percent below the same period a year ago; new orders for the first quarter were 0.6 percent above the fourth quarter.

Transportation equipment, mostly due to ships and boats, had the largest decrease, \$0.9 billion or 1.6 percent to \$55.9 billion; nondefense aircraft and parts increased 0.3 percent to \$7.8 billion. Machinery, down four consecutive months, decreased \$0.3 billion or 1.4 percent to \$21.8 billion.

● **SHIPMENTS (excluding semiconductors)** of durable goods in March slightly increased to \$172.4 billion. This followed a 3.0 percent February decrease. Year to date, shipments for 2002 were 5.6 percent below the same period a year ago; shipments for the first quarter were slightly above the fourth quarter.

Primary metals had the largest increase, \$0.4 billion or 3.8 percent to \$11.3 billion. Machinery decreased \$0.4 billion or 1.8 percent to \$23.1 billion, due to turbine and generators. Transportation equipment also decreased \$0.4 billion or 0.7 percent to \$52.4 billion, due to motor vehicles and parts; nondefense aircraft and parts increased 0.4 percent to \$8.1 billion.

● **UNFILLED ORDERS (excluding semiconductors)** for durable goods in March increased \$1.0 billion or 0.2 percent to \$524.5 billion. This followed a 0.4 percent February increase.

Transportation equipment had the largest increase, \$3.5 billion or 1.3 percent to \$279.8 billion; nondefense aircraft and parts, down eleven consecutive months, decreased \$0.4 billion or 0.3 percent to \$130.1 billion. Machinery, down eight of the last nine months, decreased \$1.3 billion or 2.3 percent to \$54.0 billion.

● **INVENTORIES (excluding semiconductors)** for durable goods in March, down fourteen consecutive months, decreased \$2.9 billion or 1.1 percent to \$268.2 billion. This followed a 0.7 percent February decrease.

Transportation equipment had the largest decrease, \$2.0 billion or 2.7 percent to \$71.1 billion.

● **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, DEFENSE** New orders in March increased \$1.5 billion or 17.8 percent to \$10.2 billion. Shipments increased \$0.5 billion or 8.6 percent to \$6.9 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$3.3 billion or 2.5 percent to \$136.2 billion. Inventories decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.5 percent to \$18.7 billion.

● **CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRIES, NONDEFENSE** New orders in March decreased \$1.6 billion or 2.8 percent to \$55.7 billion. Shipments increased \$0.1 billion or 0.1 percent to \$59.2 billion. Unfilled orders, down fifteen consecutive months, decreased \$3.5 billion or 1.5 percent to \$235.3 billion. Inventories, down fourteen consecutive months, decreased \$2.1 billion or 1.8 percent to \$116.1 billion.

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

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

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted ¹			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent Change Mar 02/01
	Mar 2002 ²	Feb 2002 ¹	Jan 2002	Feb - Mar ²	Jan - Feb ¹	Dec - Jan	Mar 2002 ²	Feb 2002 ¹	Mar 2001	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total:⁴										
Shipments.....	172,390	172,369	177,743	0.0	-3.0	1.7	187,869	167,447	203,403	-7.6
New Orders.....	173,405	174,381	169,835	-0.6	2.7	0.9	189,767	171,821	204,949	-7.4
Excluding transportation:⁴										
Shipments.....	119,992	119,601	122,178	0.3	-2.1	1.4	129,792	114,326	144,429	-10.1
New Orders.....	117,476	117,561	118,746	-0.1	-1.0	-0.5	126,470	114,716	139,024	-9.0
Excluding defense:⁴										
Shipments.....	164,185	164,722	169,562	-0.3	-2.9	1.9	178,795	160,262	195,969	-8.8
New Orders.....	161,871	163,806	163,518	-1.2	0.2	1.2	175,082	161,509	192,387	-9.0
Primary metals:										
Shipments.....	11,272	10,860	11,367	3.8	-4.5	4.3	11,858	10,992	12,857	-7.8
New Orders.....	10,984	10,774	11,027	1.9	-2.3	2.3	11,680	11,490	12,695	-8.0
Fabricated metal products:										
Shipments.....	19,735	19,678	20,233	0.3	-2.7	1.6	20,420	19,314	21,429	-4.7
New Orders.....	19,679	19,440	19,602	1.2	-0.8	-0.2	20,684	19,411	21,422	-3.4
Machinery:										
Shipments.....	23,126	23,540	23,431	-1.8	0.5	5.0	25,537	22,179	28,210	-9.5
New Orders.....	21,838	22,142	22,160	-1.4	-0.1	-1.4	23,852	21,425	26,653	-10.5
Computers and electronic products:⁴										
Shipments.....	26,666	26,786	27,532	-0.4	-2.7	-2.0	31,299	24,546	39,055	-19.9
New Orders.....	26,094	26,536	26,982	-1.7	-1.7	-0.8	30,417	24,843	37,479	-18.8
Computers and related products:										
Shipments.....	7,649	7,893	8,250	-3.1	-4.3	1.5	9,910	6,726	13,408	-26.1
New Orders.....	7,844	8,115	8,386	-3.3	-3.2	4.5	10,048	7,166	13,435	-25.2
Communications equipment:										
Shipments.....	5,556	5,812	5,848	-4.4	-0.6	-2.5	6,446	5,101	9,455	-31.8
New Orders.....	5,142	6,022	5,962	-14.6	1.0	8.7	5,927	5,483	8,911	-33.5
Semiconductors:⁵										
Shipments.....	(NA)	5,864	6,736	(NA)	-12.9	14.0	(NA)	5,708	9,232	(NA)
New Orders.....	(NA)	7,034	7,434	(NA)	-5.4	21.3	(NA)	7,023	7,560	(NA)
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:										
Shipments.....	9,543	9,352	9,632	2.0	-2.9	-3.0	10,511	9,118	12,346	-14.9
New Orders.....	9,279	9,497	9,054	-2.3	4.9	-5.9	9,960	9,589	11,595	-14.1
Transportation equipment:										
Shipments.....	52,398	52,768	55,565	-0.7	-5.0	2.5	58,077	53,121	58,974	-1.5
New Orders.....	55,929	56,820	51,089	-1.6	11.2	4.3	63,297	57,105	65,925	-4.0
Motor vehicles and parts:										
Shipments.....	35,568	36,529	39,231	-2.6	-6.9	5.4	38,999	37,754	41,559	-6.2
New Orders.....	35,687	36,632	39,120	-2.6	-6.4	5.4	39,032	37,947	41,286	-5.5
Aircraft and parts:										
Shipments.....	11,232	10,961	10,506	2.5	4.3	-4.9	12,748	10,401	11,890	7.2
New Orders.....	13,647	12,467	7,769	9.5	60.5	10.3	16,694	11,291	14,727	13.4
All other durable goods:										
Shipments.....	29,650	29,385	29,983	0.9	-2.0	2.0	30,167	28,177	30,532	-1.2
New Orders.....	29,602	29,172	29,921	1.5	-2.5	0.9	29,877	27,958	29,180	2.4
Capital goods:³										
Shipments.....	66,114	65,509	66,857	0.9	-2.0	-0.3	74,761	60,921	84,524	-11.6
New Orders.....	65,983	66,039	59,308	-0.1	11.3	-4.0	75,478	62,540	87,491	-13.7
Nondefense capital goods:										
Shipments.....	59,209	59,153	59,837	0.1	-1.1	0.3	67,136	54,910	78,171	-14.1
New Orders.....	55,746	57,349	54,833	-2.8	4.6	-1.8	62,727	54,263	76,690	-18.2
Defense capital goods:										
Shipments.....	6,905	6,356	7,020	8.6	-9.5	-5.1	7,625	6,011	6,353	20.0
New Orders.....	10,237	8,690	4,475	17.8	94.2	-24.8	12,751	8,277	10,801	18.1

(NA) Not Available ¹ Revised¹ Shipments and new orders are the totals for the period and are adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations; unfilled orders and total inventories 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(00), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 1992-2000."³ The Capital Goods Industries include Nondefense : small arms and ordnance; farm machinery and equipment; construction machinery; mining, oil, and gas field machinery; industrial machinery; vending, laundry, and other machinery; photographic equipment; metalworking machinery; turbines and generators; other power transmission equipment; pumps and compressors; material handling equipment; all other machinery; electronic computers; computer storage devices; other computer peripheral equipment; communications equipment; search and navigation equipment; electromedical, measuring, and control instruments; electrical equipment; other electrical equipment, appliances, and components; heavy duty trucks; aircraft; railroad rolling stock; ships and boats; office and institutional furniture; and medical equipment and supplies.⁴ Aggregate estimates and percent changes exclude semiconductor industry data. The number of large semiconductor manufacturers choosing not to participate in this voluntary monthly survey has risen to a level such that the Census Bureau can no longer produce monthly estimates of semiconductor shipments, orders, or inventories.⁵ The number of large semiconductor manufacturers choosing not to participate in this voluntary monthly survey has risen to a level such that the Census Bureau can no longer produce monthly estimates of semiconductor shipments, orders, or inventories.

Defense Capital Goods include : small arms and ordnance, communications equipment, aircraft; missiles, space vehicles, and parts, ships and boats, and search and navigation equipment.

Table 2. DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURERS' UNFULFILLED ORDERS AND TOTAL INVENTORIES
(Millions of Dollars)

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted ¹			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent Change Mar 02/01
	Mar 2002 ²	Feb 2002 ^r	Jan 2002	Feb - Mar ²	Jan - Feb ^r	Dec - Jan	Mar 2002 ²	Feb 2002 ^r	Mar 2001	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total:⁴										
Unfilled Orders.....	524,526	523,511	521,499	0.2	0.4	-1.5	533,014	531,116	574,032	-7.1
Total Inventories.....	268,222	271,089	272,910	-1.1	-0.7	-0.9	265,899	272,904	296,169	-10.2
Excluding transportation:⁴										
Unfilled Orders.....	244,761	247,277	249,317	-1.0	-0.8	-1.4	247,443	250,765	282,206	-12.3
Total Inventories.....	197,140	198,023	199,673	-0.4	-0.8	-0.8	195,911	199,851	222,032	-11.8
Excluding defense:⁴										
Unfilled Orders.....	368,842	371,156	372,072	-0.6	-0.2	-1.6	372,672	376,385	427,605	-12.8
Total Inventories.....	245,980	248,457	250,146	-1.0	-0.7	-0.9	244,155	250,156	274,684	-11.1
Primary metals:										
Unfilled Orders.....	16,506	16,794	16,880	-1.7	-0.5	-2.0	17,247	17,425	19,792	-12.9
Total Inventories.....	18,803	19,089	19,355	-1.5	-1.4	-2.1	18,724	19,180	21,906	-14.5
Fabricated metal products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	38,666	38,722	38,960	-0.1	-0.6	-1.6	38,917	38,653	42,895	-9.3
Total Inventories.....	31,922	32,043	32,325	-0.4	-0.9	-0.7	32,079	32,250	35,532	-9.7
Machinery:										
Unfilled Orders.....	54,033	55,321	56,719	-2.3	-2.5	-2.2	54,605	56,290	63,460	-14.0
Total Inventories.....	47,684	47,841	48,078	-0.3	-0.5	-1.0	47,703	48,500	51,813	-7.9
Computers and electronic products:⁴										
Unfilled Orders.....	109,306	109,878	110,128	-0.5	-0.2	-0.5	110,479	111,361	125,398	-11.9
Total Inventories.....	40,672	41,001	41,685	-0.8	-1.6	-0.6	39,297	41,151	49,516	-20.6
Computers and related products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	10,096	9,901	9,679	2.0	2.3	1.4	9,909	9,771	10,250	-3.3
Total Inventories.....	7,398	7,311	7,424	1.2	-1.5	-2.2	7,006	7,447	8,825	-20.6
Communications equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	40,240	40,654	40,444	-1.0	0.5	0.3	40,873	41,392	49,201	-16.9
Total Inventories.....	8,065	8,235	8,497	-2.1	-3.1	-0.9	7,721	8,289	11,859	-34.9
Semiconductors:⁵										
Unfilled Orders.....	(NA)	16,298	15,128	(NA)	7.7	4.8	(NA)	16,512	21,036	(NA)
Total Inventories.....	(NA)	7,242	7,108	(NA)	1.9	-3.2	(NA)	7,327	8,367	(NA)
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:										
Unfilled Orders.....	15,748	16,012	15,867	-1.6	0.9	-3.5	15,955	16,506	19,036	-16.2
Total Inventories.....	14,323	14,428	14,520	-0.7	-0.6	-0.9	14,397	14,759	16,132	-10.8
Transportation equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	279,765	276,234	272,182	1.3	1.5	-1.6	285,571	280,351	291,826	-2.1
Total Inventories.....	71,082	73,066	73,237	-2.7	-0.2	-1.0	69,988	73,053	74,137	-5.6
Motor vehicles and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	12,002	11,883	11,780	1.0	0.9	-0.9	12,572	12,539	13,473	-6.7
Total Inventories.....	19,495	19,473	19,701	0.1	-1.2	-1.6	19,341	19,430	21,727	-11.0
Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	191,450	189,035	187,529	1.3	0.8	-1.4	194,464	190,518	198,251	-1.9
Total Inventories.....	39,587	41,458	41,557	-4.5	-0.2	-0.4	38,926	41,495	40,842	-4.7
All other durable goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	10,502	10,550	10,763	-0.5	-2.0	-0.6	10,240	10,530	11,625	-11.9
Total Inventories.....	43,736	43,621	43,710	0.3	-0.2	-0.4	43,711	44,011	47,133	-7.3
Capital goods:³										
Unfilled Orders.....	371,487	371,618	371,088	0.0	0.1	-2.0	377,908	377,191	410,311	-7.9
Total Inventories.....	134,798	136,972	137,856	-1.6	-0.6	-0.8	132,795	137,622	148,039	-10.3
Nondefense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	235,265	238,728	240,532	-1.5	-0.8	-2.0	237,563	241,972	281,608	-15.6
Total Inventories.....	116,125	118,203	119,156	-1.8	-0.8	-0.9	114,493	118,980	130,040	-12.0
Defense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	136,222	132,890	130,556	2.5	1.8	-1.9	140,345	135,219	128,703	9.0
Total Inventories.....	18,673	18,769	18,700	-0.5	0.4	-0.3	18,302	18,642	17,999	1.7

See footnotes at end of Table 1