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Advance Report on Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders April 2006

New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in April decreased \$10.5 billion or 4.8 percent to \$210.2 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This decrease follows two consecutive monthly increases, which includes a 6.6 percent March increase. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 1.1 percent. Excluding defense, new orders decreased 3.8 percent.

Transportation equipment, down following two consecutive monthly increases, had the largest decrease, \$8.8 billion or 12.7 percent to \$61.0 billion. The decrease was led by nondefense aircraft and parts, which decreased \$6.3 billion.

Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in April, down following two consecutive monthly increases, decreased \$2.0 billion or 0.9 percent to \$207.0 billion. This followed a 0.3 percent March increase.

Transportation equipment, down following two consecutive monthly increases, had the largest decrease, \$1.8 billion or 3.2 percent to \$54.8 billion.

Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in April, up eleven of the last twelve months, increased \$9.3 billion or 1.5 percent to \$609.2 billion. This was at the highest level since the series was first stated on a NAICS basis in 1992 and followed a 3.2 percent March increase.

Transportation equipment, up eleven of the last twelve months, had the largest increase, \$6.2 billion or 2.0 percent to \$322.0 billion.

Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in April, up three of the last four months, increased \$2.2 billion or 0.8 percent to \$277.8 billion. This followed a 1.0 percent March increase.

Computer and electronic products, up three of the last four months, had the largest increase, \$0.6 billion or 1.5 percent to \$44.3 billion.

Capital Goods

Nondefense new orders for capital goods in April decreased \$4.6 billion or 6.0 percent to \$72.5 billion. Shipments decreased \$0.5 billion or 0.7 percent to \$65.6 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$6.9 billion or 2.3 percent to \$311.2 billion. Inventories increased \$0.8 billion or 0.8 percent to \$108.5 billion.

Defense new orders for capital goods in April decreased \$2.4 billion or 24.2 percent to \$7.7 billion. Shipments increased \$0.1 billion or 1.5 percent to \$7.9 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$0.3 billion or 0.2 percent to \$126.9 billion. Inventories decreased \$0.2 billion or 1.2 percent to \$14.3 billion.

Revised and Recently Benchmarked March Data

Revised and recently benchmarked seasonally adjusted March figures for all manufacturing industries are: new orders, \$406.6 billion (revised from \$419.6 billion); shipments, \$394.9 billion (revised from \$408.0); unfilled orders, \$599.9 billion (revised from \$662.6 billion); and total inventories, \$457.8 billion (revised from \$477.1 billion).

Figures in text, other than year-to-date, are in seasonally adjusted current dollars. Figures on new and unfilled orders exclude data for semiconductor manufacturing. For data, call (301) 763-4673 or go to <<http://www.census.gov/m3>>.

Revised and more detailed estimates, plus nondurable goods data, will be published on June 2, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. EDT. The advance report on durable goods for May is scheduled for release on June 23, 2006, at 8:30 a.m. EDT. See back page for survey description.

Table 1. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments and New Orders
[Millions of Dollars]

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted ¹					
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Year to Date		
	Apr 2006 ²	Mar 2006 ^r	Feb 2006	Mar - Apr ²	Feb - Mar ^r	Jan - Feb	Apr 2006 ²	Mar 2006 ^r	Apr 2005	2006	2005	Percent Change 06/05
DURABLE GOODS												
Total:												
Shipments.....	207,014	208,990	208,362	-0.9	0.3	0.3	199,324	233,710	194,694	817,543	765,095	6.9
New Orders ⁴	210,160	220,658	207,037	-4.8	6.6	3.6	201,600	246,289	187,614	835,186	752,517	11.0
Excluding transportation:												
Shipments.....	152,210	152,348	152,571	-0.1	-0.1	0.3	147,243	166,959	139,481	594,511	548,654	8.4
New Orders ⁴	149,127	150,777	145,698	-1.1	3.5	-1.2	145,156	165,735	134,493	588,900	538,180	9.4
Excluding defense:												
Shipments.....	197,459	199,533	199,382	-1.0	0.1	0.6	190,090	223,273	186,162	781,745	731,442	6.9
New Orders ⁴	201,059	209,024	196,619	-3.8	6.3	1.2	193,259	231,442	181,089	796,348	720,397	10.5
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:												
Shipments.....	142,870	142,873	141,166	0.0	1.2	-0.3	138,176	159,523	131,983	559,255	518,389	7.9
New Orders ⁴	152,148	161,258	148,006	-5.6	9.0	5.6	146,142	179,415	130,624	603,827	530,064	13.9
Primary metals:												
Shipments.....	17,766	17,608	17,187	0.9	2.4	-1.6	17,933	19,281	16,666	71,650	66,613	7.6
New Orders.....	18,303	17,739	17,014	3.2	4.3	-3.6	17,968	19,513	15,742	73,290	66,203	10.7
Fabricated metal products:												
Shipments.....	24,453	24,349	24,319	0.4	0.1	-0.2	23,946	25,840	22,919	95,441	88,399	8.0
New Orders.....	25,176	24,708	24,237	1.9	1.9	-2.4	24,865	26,959	23,420	99,165	91,823	8.0
Machinery:												
Shipments.....	26,538	26,511	25,809	0.1	2.7	-2.6	27,154	30,262	25,120	105,401	95,485	10.4
New Orders.....	27,465	27,531	26,049	-0.2	5.7	-7.4	28,611	31,427	26,341	112,645	100,741	11.8
Computers and electronic products:												
Shipments.....	34,766	34,950	36,181	-0.5	-3.4	5.1	31,316	39,809	29,277	133,574	122,627	8.9
New Orders ⁴	28,658	31,998	28,576	-10.4	12.0	6.3	25,802	36,386	23,347	112,274	103,153	8.8
Computers and related products:												
Shipments.....	6,851	6,790	6,576	0.9	3.3	1.7	6,456	7,925	6,392	25,386	24,331	4.3
New Orders.....	6,725	6,812	6,528	-1.3	4.4	6.4	6,330	7,947	6,460	24,904	23,727	5.0
Communications equipment:												
Shipments.....	6,292	6,029	5,890	4.4	2.4	-2.8	5,337	6,901	4,072	22,268	18,676	19.2
New Orders.....	5,409	7,447	6,191	-27.4	20.3	10.5	4,621	8,614	4,316	24,069	21,206	13.5
Semiconductors:												
Shipments.....	6,132	6,717	8,165	-8.7	-17.7	25.8	5,690	7,313	5,721	26,929	24,253	11.0
New Orders ⁴	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:												
Shipments.....	10,068	9,994	9,876	0.7	1.2	-0.9	9,517	10,773	8,855	38,289	34,731	10.2
New Orders.....	10,589	10,063	10,389	5.2	-3.1	-2.4	10,058	10,600	8,946	40,813	35,737	14.2
Transportation equipment:												
Shipments.....	54,804	56,642	55,791	-3.2	1.5	0.1	52,081	66,751	55,213	223,032	216,441	3.0
New Orders.....	61,033	69,881	61,339	-12.7	13.9	17.1	56,444	80,554	53,121	246,286	214,337	14.9
Motor vehicles and parts:												
Shipments.....	39,101	40,237	39,070	-2.8	3.0	-2.6	37,451	47,118	40,813	160,776	161,153	-0.2
New Orders.....	39,896	40,547	39,201	-1.6	3.4	-3.1	38,124	47,151	40,784	162,786	161,246	1.0
Nondefense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	6,525	7,460	8,084	-12.5	-7.7	17.9	5,899	9,648	5,914	28,478	21,714	31.2
New Orders.....	13,214	19,495	11,624	-32.2	67.7	72.0	11,148	20,634	4,885	48,506	20,664	134.7
Defense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	3,589	3,459	3,484	3.8	-0.7	2.2	3,389	3,866	3,156	13,014	12,544	3.7
New Orders.....	2,622	3,469	3,444	-24.4	0.7	-18.7	2,467	4,973	2,236	14,943	10,355	44.3
All other durable goods:												
Shipments.....	38,619	38,936	39,199	-0.8	-0.7	-0.4	37,377	40,994	36,644	150,156	140,799	6.6
New Orders.....	38,936	38,738	39,433	0.5	-1.8	0.5	37,852	40,850	36,697	150,713	140,523	7.3
Capital goods:³												
Shipments.....	73,488	73,843	72,668	-0.5	1.6	0.3	69,979	84,451	65,093	284,671	256,367	11.0
New Orders.....	80,160	87,223	77,657	-8.1	12.3	11.6	75,426	98,910	64,515	312,929	264,959	18.1
Nondefense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	65,564	66,035	65,161	-0.7	1.3	1.1	62,301	75,859	57,858	254,707	227,799	11.8
New Orders.....	72,488	77,107	68,884	-6.0	11.9	4.7	68,560	85,882	59,188	280,786	237,227	18.4
Excluding aircraft:												
Shipments.....	61,653	61,084	59,843	0.9	2.1	-0.9	58,867	69,140	54,739	236,801	217,352	8.9
New Orders.....	62,500	63,585	61,404	-1.7	3.6	-1.0	60,639	71,867	56,774	249,211	227,209	9.7
Defense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	7,924	7,808	7,507	1.5	4.0	-6.0	7,678	8,592	7,235	29,964	28,568	4.9
New Orders.....	7,672	10,116	8,773	-24.2	15.3	130.7	6,866	13,028	5,327	32,143	27,732	15.9

NA Not Available ^r Revised

¹ 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: M3-3(05), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 1992-2005"

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; 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

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

⁴ Data on new and unfilled orders are not available for the semiconductor industry. Estimates and percent changes for new orders and unfilled orders exclude semiconductor industry data. Inventories for semiconductor industry data are included in computers and electronic products and total durable goods industries, but are not shown separately

Table 2. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders and Total Inventories
 [Millions of Dollars]

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted ¹			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent Change 2006/2005
	Apr 2006 ²	Mar 2006 ^r	Feb 2006	Mar - Apr ²	Feb - Mar ^r	Jan - Feb	Apr 2006 ²	Mar 2006 ^r	Apr 2005	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	609,181	599,903	581,518	1.5	3.2	1.2	617,000	609,034	502,912	22.7
Total Inventories.....	277,826	275,657	273,012	0.8	1.0	-0.5	279,897	275,044	271,818	3.0
Excluding transportation:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	287,152	284,103	278,957	1.1	1.8	0.5	292,606	289,003	257,169	13.8
Total Inventories.....	212,932	211,332	209,238	0.8	1.0	-0.3	214,520	210,998	207,497	3.4
Excluding defense:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	469,169	459,437	443,229	2.1	3.7	1.2	473,415	464,556	355,100	33.3
Total Inventories.....	258,864	256,609	254,193	0.9	1.0	-0.5	260,916	256,051	252,884	3.2
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	609,181	599,903	581,518	1.5	3.2	1.2	617,000	609,034	502,912	22.7
Total Inventories.....	215,963	214,233	212,563	0.8	0.8	-0.1	217,562	213,680	210,904	3.2
Primary metals:										
Unfilled Orders.....	26,303	25,766	25,635	2.1	0.5	-0.7	26,914	26,879	21,372	25.9
Total Inventories.....	26,335	26,021	25,953	1.2	0.3	1.2	26,490	26,042	26,054	1.7
Fabricated metal products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	50,055	49,332	48,973	1.5	0.7	-0.2	50,829	49,910	44,147	15.1
Total Inventories.....	35,085	34,954	34,824	0.4	0.4	0.2	35,558	35,417	35,353	0.6
Machinery:										
Unfilled Orders.....	66,738	65,811	64,791	1.4	1.6	0.4	68,949	67,492	57,321	20.3
Total Inventories.....	44,480	44,240	43,773	0.5	1.1	-0.1	44,751	44,343	42,682	4.8
Computers and electronic products:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	111,579	111,555	107,790	0.0	3.5	0.5	113,204	113,028	106,099	6.7
Total Inventories.....	44,333	43,689	42,421	1.5	3.0	-2.3	44,290	42,494	41,515	6.7
Computers and related products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	4,220	4,346	4,324	-2.9	0.5	-1.1	4,220	4,346	4,330	-2.5
Total Inventories.....	4,158	4,227	4,149	-1.6	1.9	-0.5	4,125	3,968	4,348	-5.1
Communications equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	34,021	34,904	33,486	-2.5	4.2	0.9	34,813	35,529	34,233	1.7
Total Inventories.....	10,484	10,092	10,293	3.9	-2.0	0.4	10,425	9,825	9,837	6.0
Semiconductors:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Total Inventories ⁴	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:										
Unfilled Orders.....	20,123	19,602	19,533	2.7	0.4	2.7	20,358	19,817	15,985	27.4
Total Inventories.....	13,169	13,157	13,084	0.1	0.6	-0.1	13,547	13,359	12,835	5.5
Transportation equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	322,029	315,800	302,561	2.0	4.4	1.9	324,394	320,031	245,743	32.0
Total Inventories.....	64,894	64,325	63,774	0.9	0.9	-0.9	65,377	64,046	64,321	1.6
Motor vehicles and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	18,633	17,838	17,528	4.5	1.8	0.8	19,102	18,429	15,553	22.8
Total Inventories.....	23,611	23,406	23,416	0.9	0.0	-0.4	23,908	23,436	24,276	-1.5
Nondefense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	188,334	181,645	169,610	3.7	7.1	2.1	187,462	182,213	107,224	74.8
Total Inventories.....	22,454	22,034	21,762	1.9	1.2	-1.5	22,550	21,763	21,094	6.9
Defense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	46,051	47,018	47,008	-2.1	0.0	-0.1	47,437	48,359	46,641	1.7
Total Inventories.....	11,473	11,458	11,376	0.1	0.7	-0.8	11,491	11,439	11,048	4.0
All other durable goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	12,354	12,037	12,235	2.6	-1.6	1.9	12,352	11,877	12,245	0.9
Total Inventories.....	49,530	49,271	49,183	0.5	0.2	0.0	49,884	49,343	49,058	1.7
Capital goods:³										
Unfilled Orders.....	438,030	431,358	417,978	1.5	3.2	1.2	442,953	437,506	356,462	24.3
Total Inventories.....	122,760	122,093	121,104	0.5	0.8	-0.1	123,235	121,148	117,936	4.5
Nondefense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	311,158	304,234	293,162	2.3	3.8	1.3	312,993	306,734	221,400	41.4
Total Inventories.....	108,481	107,646	106,804	0.8	0.8	-0.2	108,955	106,737	103,458	5.3
Excluding aircraft:										
Unfilled Orders.....	148,423	147,576	145,075	0.6	1.7	1.1	151,616	149,844	134,879	12.4
Total Inventories.....	91,256	90,714	90,146	0.6	0.6	0.1	91,705	89,982	88,017	4.2
Defense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	126,872	127,124	124,816	-0.2	1.8	1.0	129,960	130,772	135,062	-3.8
Total Inventories.....	14,279	14,447	14,300	-1.2	1.0	0.1	14,280	14,411	14,478	-1.4

See footnotes at end of Table 1

Survey Description

This report is compiled from results of the U.S. Census Bureau's Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3) survey. This survey provides statistics on manufacturers' value of shipments, new orders (net of cancellations), end-of-month order backlog (unfilled orders), end-of-month total inventory (at current cost or market value), and inventories by stage of fabrication (materials and supplies, work-in-process, and finished goods). The M3 includes approximately 4,200 reporting units. Units may be divisions of diversified large companies, large homogenous companies, or single-unit manufacturers in 89 industry categories. Due to the small monthly sample, these 89 categories have been combined into 59 publication levels. The survey methodology assumes that the month-to-month changes of the total operations of those companies in the monthly survey effectively represent the month-to-month movements of all establishments that make up the category. The current coverage levels in the survey show that reported data in the monthly survey represent approximately 62 percent of the shipments estimates at the total manufacturing level. Data published represent manufacturing in a calendar month. The data collection is based on a voluntary survey authorized by Title 13 of the United States Code.

The data presented in this release are based on data obtained from a panel of 4,200 reporting units and provide an indication of the activity within the manufacturing sector. The results differ from what would be obtained from a complete enumeration of all manufacturing companies. In addition, a different panel of 4,200 companies would yield different results. The M3 panel is comprised of companies with \$500 million or more in shipments and a limited number of smaller companies. From a statistical perspective, the panel is not a probability sample; therefore, the sampling errors that are normally provided with sample surveys cannot be measured. Nonsampling errors are attributable to many sources. The use of company or divisional reports to estimate the monthly change for establishments is one source of nonsampling error. The use of primarily large companies to represent the month-to-month movement of all companies is another potential source. Any corrections will be published in the full report. Corrections received after the full report will be released in the next month's advance report. Any revisions made later than two months will be reflected in the annual benchmark publication.

Additional survey documentation can be found on our web site: <http://www.census.gov/m3>.