

U.S. Census Bureau News

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, D.C. 20233

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009, AT 8:30 A.M. EDT

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M3-1 (09)-04
CB09-81

Advance Report on Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders April 2009

New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in April increased \$3.0 billion or 1.9 percent to \$161.5 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This was the second increase in the last three months and followed a 2.1 percent March decrease. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 0.8 percent. Excluding defense, new orders also increased 1.0 percent.

Transportation equipment, up three consecutive months, had the largest increase, \$2.1 billion or 5.4 percent to \$40.5 billion.

Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in April, down nine consecutive months, decreased \$0.3 billion or 0.2 percent to \$174.2 billion. This was the longest streak of consecutive monthly decreases since the series was first published on a NAICS basis in 1992 and followed a 1.9 percent March decrease.

Machinery, down four consecutive months, had the largest decrease, \$0.7 billion or 3.1 percent to \$23.0 billion.

Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in April, down seven consecutive months, decreased \$8.9 billion or 1.2 percent to \$748.9 billion. This followed a 1.7 percent March decrease.

Transportation equipment, down seven consecutive months, had the largest decrease, \$4.9 billion or 1.1 percent to \$438.8 billion.

Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in April, down four consecutive months, decreased \$2.6 billion or 0.8 percent to \$327.0 billion. This followed a 1.7 percent March decrease.

Primary metals, down seven consecutive months, had the largest decrease, \$1.0 billion or 3.3 percent to \$28.1 billion.

Capital Goods

Nondefense new orders for capital goods in April decreased \$1.0 billion or 2.0 percent to \$49.5 billion. Shipments decreased \$1.2 billion or 2.0 percent to \$56.9 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$7.4 billion or 1.7 percent to \$432.4 billion. Inventories decreased \$0.1 billion or 0.1 percent to \$143.0 billion.

Defense new orders for capital goods in April increased \$2.0 billion or 23.2 percent to \$10.8 billion. Shipments increased \$0.2 billion or 2.1 percent to \$10.2 billion. Unfilled orders increased \$0.5 billion or 0.4 percent to \$142.4 billion. Inventories increased \$0.2 billion or 1.1 percent to \$20.3 billion.

Revised March Data

Revised seasonally adjusted March figures for all manufacturing industries were: new orders, \$343.4 billion (revised from \$345.3 billion); shipments, \$359.5 billion (revised from \$360.0 billion); unfilled orders, \$757.7 billion (revised from \$759.0 billion); and total inventories, \$523.3 billion (revised from \$524.8 billion).

Figures in text 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 3, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. EDT. The advance report on durable goods for May is scheduled for release on June 24, 2009, 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 2009 ²	Mar 2009 ^r	Feb 2009	Mar - Apr ²	Feb - Mar ^r	Jan - Feb	Apr 2009 ²	Mar 2009 ^r	Apr 2008	2009	2008	Percent Change 09/08
DURABLE GOODS												
Total:												
Shipments.....	174,197	174,523	177,831	-0.2	-1.9	-0.9	171,372	186,772	213,520	680,789	837,865	-18.7
New Orders ⁴	161,454	158,438	161,812	1.9	-2.1	1.6	155,054	174,304	211,131	624,302	858,862	-27.3
Excluding transportation:												
Shipments.....	128,839	129,457	133,284	-0.5	-2.9	-1.2	127,558	136,767	160,512	506,817	620,615	-18.3
New Orders ⁴	120,965	120,036	123,416	0.8	-2.7	1.4	119,086	130,225	159,307	475,214	620,345	-23.4
Excluding defense:												
Shipments.....	160,898	161,317	164,687	-0.3	-2.0	-2.0	158,560	172,375	202,337	631,444	794,561	-20.5
New Orders ⁴	147,747	146,224	149,662	1.0	-2.3	-0.1	143,300	158,645	202,503	575,451	811,254	-29.1
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:												
Shipments.....	124,890	126,729	128,949	-1.5	-1.7	-0.2	121,092	136,636	151,526	490,108	594,896	-17.6
New Orders ⁴	116,034	113,537	115,933	2.2	-2.1	2.7	110,101	126,568	155,545	448,705	638,114	-29.7
Primary metals:												
Shipments.....	12,615	13,125	14,169	-3.9	-7.4	-2.9	12,888	13,647	23,298	53,249	87,189	-38.9
New Orders.....	11,782	11,662	12,818	1.0	-9.0	-2.4	12,151	12,382	23,909	49,321	90,603	-45.6
Fabricated metal products:												
Shipments.....	23,993	24,465	24,975	-1.9	-2.0	-0.9	23,851	25,136	28,535	94,681	107,276	-11.7
New Orders.....	23,082	22,243	22,939	3.8	-3.0	-1.5	23,246	24,162	28,901	90,424	111,606	-19.0
Machinery:												
Shipments.....	22,982	23,718	24,563	-3.1	-3.4	-1.3	23,565	25,738	30,316	94,601	116,377	-18.7
New Orders.....	21,322	20,770	22,364	2.7	-7.1	6.4	22,240	23,160	34,178	86,601	126,155	-31.4
Computers and electronic products:												
Shipments.....	28,278	27,597	27,885	2.5	-1.0	-2.2	26,858	30,699	30,524	107,576	125,725	-14.4
New Orders ⁴	24,357	25,039	24,687	-2.7	1.4	7.3	21,273	29,171	23,812	92,966	106,326	-12.6
Computers and related products:												
Shipments.....	4,342	4,391	4,523	-1.1	-2.9	1.5	3,643	5,127	4,249	16,361	20,012	-18.2
New Orders.....	4,038	4,312	4,526	-6.4	-4.7	11.7	3,339	5,048	4,131	15,577	19,701	-20.9
Communications equipment:												
Shipments.....	4,697	4,782	4,787	-1.8	-0.1	-4.3	3,878	5,574	4,792	17,328	21,183	-18.2
New Orders.....	4,986	4,662	4,761	6.9	-2.1	-1.4	4,324	5,781	5,150	18,547	22,579	-17.9
Semiconductors:												
Shipments.....	3,887	2,893	3,003	34.4	-3.7	-21.8	5,327	2,400	6,408	15,084	22,221	-32.1
New Orders ⁴	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:												
Shipments.....	8,676	8,514	8,738	1.9	-2.6	0.0	8,450	8,909	10,597	33,134	41,277	-19.7
New Orders.....	8,225	8,202	8,174	0.3	0.3	-2.1	8,130	8,383	10,987	32,462	42,767	-24.1
Transportation equipment:												
Shipments.....	45,358	45,066	44,547	0.6	1.2	0.0	43,814	50,005	53,008	173,972	217,250	-19.9
New Orders.....	40,489	38,402	38,396	5.4	0.0	2.4	35,968	44,079	51,824	149,088	238,517	-37.5
Motor vehicles and parts:												
Shipments.....	25,315	24,556	24,755	3.1	-0.8	-1.5	25,152	26,793	34,255	99,075	143,575	-31.0
New Orders.....	25,176	24,512	24,636	2.7	-0.5	-0.4	25,151	26,363	34,228	98,620	142,944	-31.0
Nondefense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	7,839	7,963	7,930	-1.6	0.4	-15.4	7,088	9,530	7,901	30,364	32,200	-5.7
New Orders.....	3,759	4,034	3,751	-6.8	7.5	-31.5	1,005	5,465	9,351	11,595	51,404	-77.4
Defense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	5,269	5,528	5,162	-4.7	7.1	14.5	4,950	6,051	4,127	19,384	16,236	19.4
New Orders.....	5,409	5,357	5,024	1.0	6.6	30.6	4,638	6,566	3,606	19,877	17,835	11.4
All other durable goods:												
Shipments.....	32,295	32,038	32,954	0.8	-2.8	0.0	31,946	32,638	37,242	123,576	142,771	-13.4
New Orders.....	32,197	32,120	32,434	0.2	-1.0	-1.3	32,046	32,967	37,520	123,440	142,888	-13.6
Capital goods:³												
Shipments.....	67,112	68,078	68,854	-1.4	-1.1	-0.6	64,205	75,369	74,670	262,660	297,466	-11.7
New Orders.....	60,211	59,172	60,745	1.8	-2.6	8.5	54,713	68,465	77,200	229,889	331,065	-30.6
Nondefense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	56,888	58,063	58,602	-2.0	-0.9	-3.3	54,268	64,503	65,825	224,437	263,436	-14.8
New Orders.....	49,460	50,448	50,931	-2.0	-0.9	4.7	45,614	56,938	70,752	191,873	294,192	-34.8
Excluding aircraft:												
Shipments.....	52,650	53,776	54,684	-2.1	-1.7	-0.2	50,439	59,254	61,648	208,447	246,320	-15.4
New Orders.....	49,269	50,013	50,716	-1.5	-1.4	4.1	47,653	55,917	64,706	196,953	259,403	-24.1
Defense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	10,224	10,015	10,252	2.1	-2.3	17.7	9,937	10,866	8,845	38,223	34,030	12.3
New Orders.....	10,751	8,724	9,814	23.2	-11.1	33.1	9,099	11,527	6,448	38,016	36,873	3.1

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(07), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 2004-2007."

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.

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 2009/2008
	Apr 2009 ²	Mar 2009 ^r	Feb 2009	Mar - Apr ²	Feb - Mar ^r	Jan - Feb	Apr 2009 ²	Mar 2009 ^r	Apr 2008	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	748,891	757,747	770,939	-1.2	-1.7	-1.7	757,350	768,341	815,034	-7.1
Total Inventories.....	326,963	329,589	335,164	-0.8	-1.7	-1.3	327,624	327,974	331,151	-1.1
Excluding transportation:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	310,109	314,096	320,624	-1.3	-2.0	-2.1	314,399	317,544	356,972	-11.9
Total Inventories.....	233,297	236,346	241,016	-1.3	-1.9	-1.7	233,400	235,243	244,863	-4.7
Excluding defense:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	590,452	599,716	611,916	-1.5	-2.0	-1.9	595,288	605,221	659,421	-9.7
Total Inventories.....	300,669	303,578	309,399	-1.0	-1.9	-1.3	301,226	301,994	306,524	-1.7
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	748,891	757,747	770,939	-1.2	-1.7	-1.7	757,350	768,341	815,034	-7.1
Total Inventories.....	263,145	265,060	269,993	-0.7	-1.8	-1.4	263,778	263,360	264,796	-0.4
Primary metals:										
Unfilled Orders.....	13,939	14,772	16,235	-5.6	-9.0	-7.7	14,399	15,136	30,677	-53.1
Total Inventories.....	28,053	29,003	30,179	-3.3	-3.9	-3.6	27,759	28,542	32,339	-14.2
Fabricated metal products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	51,439	52,350	54,572	-1.7	-4.1	-3.6	52,478	53,083	63,749	-17.7
Total Inventories.....	40,655	41,450	42,659	-1.9	-2.8	-1.9	40,795	41,573	43,363	-5.9
Machinery:										
Unfilled Orders.....	88,875	90,535	93,483	-1.8	-3.2	-2.3	89,911	91,236	100,165	-10.2
Total Inventories.....	52,757	53,225	54,440	-0.9	-2.2	-1.5	53,052	53,637	53,942	-1.6
Computers and electronic products:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	123,482	123,516	123,181	0.0	0.3	-0.2	125,053	125,311	124,589	0.4
Total Inventories.....	46,117	46,286	46,994	-0.4	-1.5	-0.5	45,961	45,118	46,280	-0.7
Computers and related products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	3,306	3,610	3,689	-8.4	-2.1	0.1	3,306	3,610	3,406	-2.9
Total Inventories.....	4,673	4,691	4,700	-0.4	-0.2	0.0	4,655	4,474	5,149	-9.6
Communications equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	37,267	36,978	37,098	0.8	-0.3	-0.1	37,973	37,527	37,813	0.4
Total Inventories.....	10,274	10,289	10,307	-0.1	-0.2	0.4	10,272	10,039	9,894	3.8
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.....	20,736	21,187	21,499	-2.1	-1.5	-2.6	20,927	21,247	24,554	-14.8
Total Inventories.....	13,515	13,695	13,854	-1.3	-1.1	-2.7	13,688	13,734	15,602	-12.3
Transportation equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	438,782	443,651	450,315	-1.1	-1.5	-1.3	442,951	450,797	458,062	-3.3
Total Inventories.....	93,666	93,243	94,148	0.5	-1.0	-0.5	94,224	92,731	86,288	9.2
Motor vehicles and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	14,999	15,138	15,182	-0.9	-0.3	-0.8	15,194	15,195	17,934	-15.3
Total Inventories.....	19,491	19,793	20,455	-1.5	-3.2	-2.5	19,568	19,682	24,032	-18.6
Nondefense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	287,836	291,916	295,845	-1.4	-1.3	-1.4	289,341	295,424	299,819	-3.5
Total Inventories.....	47,080	46,655	46,994	0.9	-0.7	0.7	47,362	46,393	36,561	29.5
Defense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	47,594	47,454	47,625	0.3	-0.4	-0.3	48,720	49,032	44,901	8.5
Total Inventories.....	15,557	15,208	14,988	2.3	1.5	-2.6	15,588	15,126	14,012	11.2
All other durable goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	11,638	11,736	11,654	-0.8	0.7	-4.3	11,631	11,531	13,238	-12.1
Total Inventories.....	52,200	52,687	52,890	-0.9	-0.4	-1.3	52,145	52,639	53,337	-2.2
Capital goods:³										
Unfilled Orders.....	574,812	581,713	590,619	-1.2	-1.5	-1.4	581,164	590,656	609,056	-4.6
Total Inventories.....	163,336	163,265	165,035	0.0	-1.1	-0.5	163,749	162,506	154,692	5.9
Nondefense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	432,444	439,872	447,487	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	435,706	444,360	469,571	-7.2
Total Inventories.....	143,044	143,192	145,131	-0.1	-1.3	-0.4	143,384	142,382	135,245	6.0
Excluding aircraft:										
Unfilled Orders.....	179,397	182,778	186,541	-1.8	-2.0	-2.1	181,688	184,474	201,867	-10.0
Total Inventories.....	105,454	106,131	107,760	-0.6	-1.5	-0.9	105,624	105,408	107,162	-1.4
Defense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	142,368	141,841	143,132	0.4	-0.9	-0.3	145,458	146,296	139,485	4.3
Total Inventories.....	20,292	20,073	19,904	1.1	0.8	-1.6	20,365	20,124	19,447	4.7

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 4,300 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 61 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 4,300 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 4,300 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>.