

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009, AT 8:30 A.M. EDT

Chris Savage or Jessica Young  
Manufacturing and Construction Division  
(301) 763-4832

M3-1 (09)-02  
CB09-48

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

### New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in February increased \$5.5 billion or 3.4 percent to \$165.6 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This increase follows six consecutive monthly decreases, including a 7.3 percent January decrease. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 3.9 percent. Excluding defense, new orders increased 1.7 percent.

Machinery, up following four consecutive monthly decreases, had the largest increase, \$2.9 billion or 13.5 percent to \$24.4 billion.

### Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in February, down seven consecutive months, decreased \$0.9 billion or 0.5 percent to \$179.1 billion. This followed a 5.2 percent January decrease.

Computers and electronic products, down three of the last four months, had the largest decrease, \$0.6 billion or 2.0 percent to \$27.9 billion.

### Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in February, down five consecutive months, decreased \$10.5 billion or 1.3 percent to \$773.7 billion. This followed a 2.0 percent January decrease.

Transportation equipment, down five consecutive months, had the largest decrease, \$5.9 billion or 1.3 percent to \$450.5 billion.

### Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in February, down two consecutive months, decreased \$2.9 billion or 0.9 percent to \$336.8 billion. This followed a 1.1 percent January decrease.

Primary metals, down five consecutive months, had the largest decrease, \$0.8 billion or 2.6 percent to \$30.5 billion.

### Capital Goods

Nondefense new orders for capital goods in February increased \$3.6 billion or 7.4 percent to \$52.8 billion. Shipments decreased \$1.5 billion or 2.5 percent to \$59.3 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$6.6 billion or 1.4 percent to \$448.8 billion. Inventories increased \$0.1 billion or 0.1 percent to \$145.9 billion.

Defense new orders for capital goods in February increased \$2.6 billion or 35.3 percent to \$10.0 billion. Shipments increased \$1.4 billion or 16.4 percent to \$10.1 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$0.2 billion or 0.1 percent to \$143.4 billion. Inventories decreased \$0.3 billion or 1.3 percent to \$20.0 billion.

### Revised January Data

Revised seasonally adjusted January figures for all manufacturing industries were: new orders, \$346.9 billion (revised from \$351.9 billion); shipments, \$366.9 billion (revised from \$369.4 billion); unfilled orders, \$784.3 billion (revised from \$786.8 billion); and total inventories, \$536.5 billion (revised from \$537.6 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 April 2, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. EDT. The advance report on durable goods for March is scheduled for release on April 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 <sup>1</sup>					
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Year to Date		
	Feb 2009 <sup>2</sup>	Jan 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2008	Jan - Feb <sup>2</sup>	Dec - Jan <sup>r</sup>	Nov - Dec	Feb 2009 <sup>2</sup>	Jan 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2008	2009	2008	Percent Change 09/08
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>												
<b>Total:</b>												
Shipments.....	179,124	179,991	189,910	-0.5	-5.2	-1.5	164,825	158,761	207,105	323,586	402,169	-19.5
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	165,555	160,059	172,741	3.4	-7.3	-4.6	151,344	146,598	212,882	297,942	416,349	-28.4
<b>Excluding transportation:</b>												
Shipments.....	134,938	135,458	143,604	-0.4	-5.7	-2.2	122,513	121,275	150,501	243,788	295,279	-17.4
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	127,293	122,556	130,176	3.9	-5.9	-5.7	117,646	111,870	149,397	229,516	295,607	-22.4
<b>Excluding defense:</b>												
Shipments.....	166,171	168,542	178,553	-1.4	-5.6	-1.3	152,371	149,314	196,245	301,685	382,566	-21.1
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	153,301	150,673	157,003	1.7	-4.0	-7.6	139,927	136,742	200,750	276,669	392,911	-29.6
<b>Manufacturing with unfilled orders:</b>												
Shipments.....	129,749	129,729	136,840	0.0	-5.2	-1.3	119,408	113,487	146,327	232,895	282,733	-17.6
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	119,205	113,638	124,321	4.9	-8.6	-5.0	108,549	106,070	156,982	214,619	308,454	-30.4
<b>Primary metals:</b>												
Shipments.....	14,448	14,653	16,238	-1.4	-9.8	-9.7	13,252	13,619	21,228	26,871	41,778	-35.7
New Orders.....	13,109	13,186	14,095	-0.6	-6.4	-11.7	12,162	12,769	22,041	24,931	43,766	-43.0
<b>Fabricated metal products:</b>												
Shipments.....	25,216	25,331	26,010	-0.5	-2.6	-3.6	23,024	23,029	26,066	46,053	51,337	-10.3
New Orders.....	23,852	23,489	24,800	1.5	-5.3	-4.8	22,174	21,643	26,843	43,817	52,665	-16.8
<b>Machinery:</b>												
Shipments.....	25,146	25,202	28,583	-0.2	-11.8	1.0	23,107	22,636	28,313	45,743	54,205	-15.6
New Orders.....	24,441	21,531	23,928	13.5	-10.0	-9.5	22,620	20,734	27,646	43,354	58,595	-26.0
<b>Computers and electronic products:</b>												
Shipments.....	27,931	28,497	29,897	-2.0	-4.7	0.7	24,695	25,303	29,690	49,998	59,687	-16.2
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	24,254	22,958	24,834	5.6	-7.6	-6.8	22,259	19,782	26,384	42,041	50,049	-16.0
<b>Computers and related products:</b>												
Shipments.....	4,466	4,458	4,545	0.2	-1.9	7.5	3,756	3,771	4,709	7,527	9,195	-18.1
New Orders.....	4,463	4,054	4,498	10.1	-9.9	-5.8	3,753	3,367	4,863	7,120	8,773	-18.8
<b>Communications equipment:</b>												
Shipments.....	4,843	5,000	5,262	-3.1	-5.0	-10.3	4,125	3,817	5,152	7,942	9,587	-17.2
New Orders.....	4,489	4,770	5,255	-5.9	-9.2	-5.1	4,186	3,866	5,797	8,052	10,327	-22.0
<b>Semiconductors:</b>												
Shipments.....	3,025	3,841	4,650	-21.2	-17.4	18.3	2,622	4,746	4,878	7,368	11,541	-36.2
New Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
<b>Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:</b>												
Shipments.....	8,788	8,742	9,492	0.5	-7.9	1.0	7,996	7,753	10,112	15,749	19,704	-20.1
New Orders.....	8,568	8,429	9,251	1.6	-8.9	6.8	8,274	8,083	11,664	16,357	22,390	-26.9
<b>Transportation equipment:</b>												
Shipments.....	44,186	44,533	46,306	-0.8	-3.8	0.8	42,312	37,486	56,604	79,798	106,890	-25.3
New Orders.....	38,262	37,503	42,565	2.0	-11.9	-1.2	33,698	34,728	63,485	68,426	120,742	-43.3
<b>Motor vehicles and parts:</b>												
Shipments.....	24,726	25,126	27,315	-1.6	-8.0	-6.0	24,207	22,829	38,486	47,036	73,531	-36.0
New Orders.....	24,581	24,722	26,752	-0.6	-7.6	-6.4	24,099	22,799	38,243	46,898	73,273	-36.0
<b>Nondefense aircraft and parts:</b>												
Shipments.....	7,790	9,378	8,083	-16.9	16.0	31.8	7,105	6,511	7,832	13,616	14,989	-9.2
New Orders.....	3,890	5,473	2,058	-28.9	165.9	-57.5	1,059	4,041	12,709	5,100	24,969	-79.6
<b>Defense aircraft and parts:</b>												
Shipments.....	5,133	4,507	4,853	13.9	-7.1	6.9	4,732	3,598	4,215	8,330	6,998	19.0
New Orders.....	5,095	3,848	5,763	32.4	-33.2	15.7	4,655	3,995	3,981	8,650	8,158	6.0
<b>All other durable goods:</b>												
Shipments.....	33,409	33,033	33,384	1.1	-1.1	-3.2	30,439	28,935	35,092	59,374	68,568	-13.4
New Orders.....	33,069	32,963	33,268	0.3	-0.9	-2.7	30,157	28,859	34,819	59,016	68,142	-13.4
<b>Capital goods:<sup>3</sup></b>												
Shipments.....	69,452	69,566	73,234	-0.2	-5.0	1.4	63,828	59,666	71,903	123,494	139,181	-11.3
New Orders.....	62,736	56,519	66,356	11.0	-14.8	-3.3	55,833	52,533	81,579	108,366	160,067	-32.3
<b>Nondefense capital goods:</b>												
Shipments.....	59,323	60,863	64,825	-2.5	-6.1	2.6	53,862	52,394	63,411	106,256	123,429	-13.9
New Orders.....	52,772	49,154	53,964	7.4	-8.9	-10.3	46,419	44,699	72,013	91,118	141,171	-35.5
<b>Excluding aircraft:</b>												
Shipments.....	55,417	55,108	60,474	0.6	-8.9	0.1	50,367	48,977	59,177	99,344	115,571	-14.0
New Orders.....	52,465	49,215	55,499	6.6	-11.3	-5.9	49,186	45,994	63,745	95,180	124,828	-23.8
<b>Defense capital goods:</b>												
Shipments.....	10,129	8,703	8,409	16.4	3.5	-7.5	9,966	7,272	8,492	17,238	15,752	9.4
New Orders.....	9,964	7,365	12,392	35.3	-40.6	45.6	9,414	7,834	9,566	17,248	18,896	-8.7

NA Not Available <sup>r</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 and total inventories 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: M3-3(07), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 2004-2007."

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent Change 2009/2008
	Feb 2009 <sup>2</sup>	Jan 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2008	Jan - Feb <sup>2</sup>	Dec - Jan <sup>r</sup>	Nov - Dec	Feb 2009 <sup>2</sup>	Jan 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2008	
<b>DURABLE GOODS</b>										
<b>Total:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	773,725	784,269	800,360	-1.3	-2.0	-1.5	780,477	791,336	797,537	-2.1
Total Inventories.....	336,846	339,745	343,468	-0.9	-1.1	0.4	338,866	339,145	326,654	3.7
<b>Excluding transportation:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	323,184	327,804	336,865	-1.4	-2.7	-2.5	324,014	326,259	346,890	-6.6
Total Inventories.....	242,204	245,087	247,962	-1.2	-1.2	-0.6	243,949	245,092	242,952	0.4
<b>Excluding defense:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	614,410	624,255	638,283	-1.6	-2.2	-2.6	618,549	628,371	642,393	-3.7
Total Inventories.....	311,017	313,620	318,185	-0.8	-1.4	0.4	313,040	313,062	302,668	3.4
<b>Manufacturing with unfilled orders:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	773,725	784,269	800,360	-1.3	-2.0	-1.5	780,477	791,336	797,537	-2.1
Total Inventories.....	271,661	273,877	276,208	-0.8	-0.8	0.6	272,752	273,148	259,386	5.2
<b>Primary metals:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	16,245	17,584	19,051	-7.6	-7.7	-10.1	16,387	17,477	29,251	-44.0
Total Inventories.....	30,486	31,292	32,151	-2.6	-2.7	-4.5	30,009	31,022	30,935	-3.0
<b>Fabricated metal products:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	55,312	56,676	58,518	-2.4	-3.1	-2.0	54,499	55,349	60,747	-10.3
Total Inventories.....	42,742	43,467	44,251	-1.7	-1.8	-0.4	43,077	43,633	42,922	0.4
<b>Machinery:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	95,183	95,888	99,559	-0.7	-3.7	-4.5	95,522	96,009	94,777	0.8
Total Inventories.....	54,716	55,340	55,257	-1.1	0.2	0.1	55,632	55,473	53,730	3.5
<b>Computers and electronic products:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	122,681	123,333	125,031	-0.5	-1.4	-0.3	123,990	123,804	123,670	0.3
Total Inventories.....	47,326	47,244	47,891	0.2	-1.4	0.9	47,671	47,124	45,859	4.0
<b>Computers and related products:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	3,683	3,686	4,090	-0.1	-9.9	-1.1	3,683	3,686	3,295	11.8
Total Inventories.....	4,728	4,702	5,143	0.6	-8.6	4.2	4,764	4,517	5,111	-6.8
<b>Communications equipment:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	36,711	37,065	37,295	-1.0	-0.6	0.0	36,864	36,803	37,157	-0.8
Total Inventories.....	10,342	10,267	10,259	0.7	0.1	3.5	10,535	10,417	9,596	9.8
<b>Semiconductors:</b>										
Unfilled Orders <sup>4</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Total Inventories <sup>4</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
<b>Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	21,920	22,140	22,453	-1.0	-1.4	-1.1	22,207	21,929	25,750	-13.8
Total Inventories.....	13,936	14,246	14,739	-2.2	-3.3	-1.3	14,213	14,279	15,560	-8.7
<b>Transportation equipment:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	450,541	456,465	463,495	-1.3	-1.5	-0.8	456,463	465,077	450,647	1.3
Total Inventories.....	94,642	94,658	95,506	0.0	-0.9	3.0	94,917	94,053	83,702	13.4
<b>Motor vehicles and parts:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	15,154	15,299	15,703	-0.9	-2.6	-3.5	15,511	15,619	18,307	-15.3
Total Inventories.....	20,686	20,997	21,739	-1.5	-3.4	-2.8	20,731	20,933	24,172	-14.2
<b>Nondefense Aircraft and parts:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	296,125	300,025	303,930	-1.3	-1.3	-1.9	299,594	305,640	290,595	3.1
Total Inventories.....	47,140	46,662	47,660	1.0	-2.1	7.6	47,273	46,184	34,494	37.0
<b>Defense Aircraft and parts:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	47,725	47,763	48,422	-0.1	-1.4	1.9	48,547	48,624	44,462	9.2
Total Inventories.....	14,988	15,394	14,654	-2.6	5.0	-0.4	14,916	15,329	13,681	9.0
<b>All other durable goods:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	11,843	12,183	12,253	-2.8	-0.6	-0.9	11,409	11,691	12,695	-10.1
Total Inventories.....	52,998	53,498	53,673	-0.9	-0.3	-0.4	53,347	53,561	53,946	-1.1
<b>Capital goods:<sup>3</sup></b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	592,234	598,950	611,997	-1.1	-2.1	-1.1	598,807	606,802	596,343	0.4
Total Inventories.....	165,823	165,977	166,830	-0.1	-0.5	2.1	167,159	165,314	151,231	10.5
<b>Nondefense capital goods:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	448,832	455,383	467,092	-1.4	-2.5	-2.3	453,132	460,575	456,557	-0.8
Total Inventories.....	145,855	145,747	147,242	0.1	-1.0	2.4	147,122	145,061	132,282	11.2
<b>Excluding aircraft:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	187,782	190,734	196,627	-1.5	-3.0	-2.5	189,018	190,199	198,041	-4.6
Total Inventories.....	108,336	108,773	109,559	-0.4	-0.7	0.5	109,500	108,504	106,080	3.2
<b>Defense capital goods:</b>										
Unfilled Orders.....	143,402	143,567	144,905	-0.1	-0.9	2.8	145,675	146,227	139,786	4.2
Total Inventories.....	19,968	20,230	19,588	-1.3	3.3	0.1	20,037	20,253	18,949	5.7

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>.