

U.S. Census Bureau News

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013, AT 8:30 A.M. EDT

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M3-1 (13)-03
CB13-73

Advance Report on Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders March 2013

New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in March decreased \$13.1 billion or 5.7 percent to \$216.3 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This decrease, down two of the last three months, followed a 4.3 percent February increase. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 1.4 percent. Excluding defense, new orders decreased 4.7 percent.

Transportation equipment, also down two of the last three months, led the decrease, \$11.0 billion or 15.0 percent to \$62.4 billion. This was led by nondefense aircraft and parts, which decreased \$8.5 billion.

Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in March, up six of the last seven months, increased \$1.0 billion or 0.4 percent to \$230.0 billion. This was at the highest level since the series was first published on a NAICS basis in 1992 and followed a 0.7 percent February increase.

Transportation equipment, up four of the last five months, drove the increase, \$1.4 billion or 2.1 percent to \$67.6 billion. This followed a 1.7 percent February increase.

Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in March, down two of the last three months, decreased \$6.4 billion or 0.6 percent to \$991.2 billion. This decrease followed a 0.7 percent February increase.

Transportation equipment, also down two of the last three months, led the decrease, \$5.2 billion or 0.9 percent to \$586.0 billion.

Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in March, up seventeen of the last eighteen months, increased \$0.3 billion or 0.1 percent to \$377.2 billion. This was at the highest level since the series was first published on a NAICS basis and followed a 0.4 percent February increase.

Computers and electronic products, up four of the last five months, drove the increase, \$0.4 billion or 0.8 percent to \$46.8 billion.

Capital Goods

Nondefense new orders for capital goods in March decreased \$8.3 billion or 10.6 percent to \$70.2 billion. Shipments increased \$1.5 billion or 2.1 percent to \$71.8 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$1.5 billion or 0.3 percent to \$593.7 billion. Inventories increased \$0.6 billion or 0.4 percent to \$176.1 billion.

Defense new orders for capital goods in March decreased \$2.5 billion or 33.2 percent to \$5.0 billion. Shipments increased slightly or 0.1 percent to \$8.4 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$3.4 billion or 2.0 percent to \$163.6 billion. Inventories decreased \$0.3 billion or 1.5 percent to \$22.0 billion.

Revised February Data

Revised seasonally adjusted February figures for all manufacturing industries were: new orders, \$489.3 billion (revised from \$492.0 billion); shipments, \$488.9 billion (revised from \$489.3 billion); unfilled orders, \$997.5 billion (revised from \$999.7 billion); and total inventories, unchanged from \$620.0 billion.

Figures in text are adjusted for seasonality, but not for inflation. 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 May 3, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. EDT. The advance report on durable goods for April is scheduled for release on May 24, 2013, at 8:30 a.m. EDT. See back page for survey description. To receive the latest updates on the Nation's key economic indicators, download the America's Economy app for Apple and Android smartphones and tablets.

Table 1. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments and New Orders ¹

[Estimates are shown in millions of dollars and are based on data from the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey.]

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Year to Date		
	Mar 2013 ²	Feb 2013 ¹	Jan 2013	Feb - Mar ²	Jan - Feb ¹	Dec - Jan	Mar 2013 ²	Feb 2013 ¹	Mar 2012	2013	2012	Percent Change 2013/2012
DURABLE GOODS												
Total:												
Shipments.....	230,007	229,002	227,351	0.4	0.7	-0.7	244,690	214,782	238,715	666,705	650,399	2.5
New Orders ⁴	216,276	229,406	219,880	-5.7	4.3	-3.7	234,280	226,855	237,846	666,659	667,427	-0.1
Excluding transportation:												
Shipments.....	162,423	162,810	162,277	-0.2	0.3	-0.2	169,690	150,493	168,943	470,093	465,684	0.9
New Orders ⁴	153,850	155,996	158,699	-1.4	-1.7	3.0	165,432	151,865	167,920	468,752	467,780	0.2
Excluding defense:												
Shipments.....	219,111	218,406	217,044	0.3	0.6	-0.2	232,511	204,650	226,239	635,988	618,883	2.8
New Orders ⁴	209,726	220,142	212,835	-4.7	3.4	1.3	224,764	216,842	222,726	639,602	631,458	1.3
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:												
Shipments.....	159,481	158,599	158,353	0.6	0.2	-1.7	171,931	148,756	171,405	464,073	462,364	0.4
New Orders.....	153,119	165,736	157,888	-7.6	5.0	-6.0	167,526	166,198	174,822	483,085	497,259	-2.9
Primary metals:												
Shipments.....	28,138	28,679	29,028	-1.9	-1.2	-3.0	29,906	27,890	30,605	86,507	87,682	-1.3
New Orders.....	28,095	28,952	28,724	-3.0	0.8	-1.4	29,948	29,189	30,335	88,641	88,741	-0.1
Fabricated metal products:												
Shipments.....	27,656	28,001	27,897	-1.2	0.4	2.2	28,271	25,797	28,507	80,276	80,457	-0.2
New Orders.....	28,035	28,451	29,599	-1.5	-3.9	2.0	31,015	28,358	31,233	88,425	85,836	3.0
Machinery:												
Shipments.....	34,230	34,031	33,415	0.6	1.8	0.4	36,669	31,628	36,253	97,945	93,102	5.2
New Orders.....	33,460	33,934	35,604	-1.4	-4.7	15.8	35,853	33,273	35,170	103,275	99,837	3.4
Computers and electronic products⁴:												
Shipments.....	28,058	27,277	27,272	2.9	0.0	-3.1	29,333	23,950	28,508	78,135	80,469	-2.9
New Orders.....	20,067	19,874	20,346	1.0	-2.3	-5.0	22,961	19,167	25,764	60,042	67,563	-11.1
Computers and related products:												
Shipments.....	2,522	2,279	2,315	10.7	-1.6	-15.8	3,045	1,653	3,490	6,348	8,178	-22.4
New Orders.....	2,501	2,381	2,310	5.0	3.1	-14.9	3,024	1,755	3,534	6,424	8,151	-21.2
Communications equipment:												
Shipments.....	3,264	3,230	3,257	1.1	-0.8	3.7	3,807	2,874	3,533	9,299	8,849	5.1
New Orders.....	3,348	3,169	3,779	5.6	-16.1	-4.7	3,944	3,183	4,297	10,410	10,699	-2.7
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:												
Shipments.....	9,961	10,121	10,108	-1.6	0.1	0.8	10,556	9,342	10,831	29,011	29,038	-0.1
New Orders.....	9,889	10,134	9,910	-2.4	2.3	0.2	10,401	9,796	10,797	29,713	30,144	-1.4
Transportation equipment:												
Shipments.....	67,584	66,192	65,074	2.1	1.7	-1.8	75,000	64,289	69,772	196,612	184,715	6.4
New Orders.....	62,426	73,410	61,181	-15.0	20.0	-17.7	68,848	74,990	69,926	197,907	199,647	-0.9
Motor vehicles and parts:												
Shipments.....	46,612	46,460	44,536	0.3	4.3	0.5	50,175	46,274	45,946	138,118	126,131	9.5
New Orders.....	46,654	46,583	44,474	0.2	4.7	0.9	50,091	46,695	45,739	138,464	126,152	9.8
Nondefense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	10,037	8,874	9,968	13.1	-11.0	-6.5	12,298	7,883	10,813	27,473	26,474	3.8
New Orders.....	9,097	17,566	9,423	-48.2	86.4	-23.8	9,766	19,102	10,404	33,945	40,398	-16.0
Defense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	4,704	4,461	4,222	5.4	5.7	-14.1	5,497	4,075	5,910	12,823	13,724	-6.6
New Orders.....	2,309	2,605	2,804	-11.4	-7.1	-65.0	3,402	2,393	7,611	9,206	16,579	-44.5
All other durable goods:												
Shipments.....	34,380	34,701	34,557	-0.9	0.4	1.7	34,955	31,886	34,239	98,219	94,936	3.5
New Orders.....	34,304	34,651	34,516	-1.0	0.4	1.8	35,254	32,082	34,621	98,656	95,659	3.1
Capital goods³:												
Shipments.....	80,169	78,678	78,601	1.9	0.1	-2.7	87,979	72,763	87,536	228,614	227,608	0.4
New Orders.....	75,249	86,080	78,089	-12.6	10.2	-11.4	84,428	87,348	90,089	242,646	257,705	-5.8
Nondefense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	71,751	70,269	70,613	2.1	-0.5	-1.6	78,610	64,509	77,978	204,395	203,109	0.6
New Orders.....	70,230	78,572	73,359	-10.6	7.1	2.0	76,855	78,986	78,093	221,557	229,561	-3.5
Excluding aircraft:												
Shipments.....	65,072	64,868	64,090	0.3	1.2	-0.7	70,433	59,846	71,110	187,319	186,557	0.4
New Orders.....	64,510	64,364	67,593	0.2	-4.8	6.7	71,150	63,071	72,129	198,586	199,601	-0.5
Defense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	8,418	8,409	7,988	0.1	5.3	-11.5	9,369	8,254	9,558	24,219	24,499	-1.1
New Orders.....	5,019	7,508	4,730	-33.2	58.7	-70.8	7,573	8,362	11,996	21,089	28,144	-25.1

¹ Revised data due to late receipts and concurrent seasonal adjustment.² Estimates of shipments and new orders are for the duration of the period, while estimates of unfilled orders and total inventories are for the end of the period. Not seasonally adjusted estimates of shipments and new orders include adjusted data for non-calendar reporters. Seasonally adjusted estimates include concurrent adjustments for holiday and trading-day differences, where appropriate, as well as seasonal variation, based on the results of the latest annual review of the model parameters. Estimates are not adjusted for price changes.³ 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. For further details on survey design, methodology, and data limitations, see <http://www.census.gov/manufacturing/m3>.⁴ 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.

⁵ Estimates of shipments for the semiconductor industry are no longer shown separately. Estimates and percent changes of shipments and inventories for the semiconductor industry are included in computers and electronic products, and all other applicable aggregate totals. Estimates and percent changes for new orders and unfilled orders exclude semiconductor industry data.

Table 2. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders and Total Inventories ¹

[Estimates are shown in millions of dollars and are based on data from the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey.]

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent Change 2013/ 2012
	Mar 2013 ²	Feb 2013 ^r	Jan 2013	Feb - Mar ²	Jan - Feb ^r	Dec - Jan	Mar 2013 ²	Feb 2013 ^r	Mar 2012	
<u>DURABLE GOODS</u>										
Total:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	991,166	997,528	990,391	-0.6	0.7	0.0	1,007,980	1,012,385	1,000,818	0.7
Total Inventories.....	377,241	376,923	375,425	0.1	0.4	0.4	375,513	378,364	361,474	3.9
Excluding transportation:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	405,199	406,403	406,484	-0.3	0.0	0.9	412,927	411,180	425,220	-2.9
Total Inventories.....	259,536	259,119	259,244	0.2	0.0	0.0	258,517	260,312	255,049	1.4
Excluding defense:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	803,274	805,290	796,821	-0.3	1.1	0.4	815,847	817,589	806,850	1.1
Total Inventories.....	350,200	349,665	349,030	0.2	0.2	0.3	348,292	351,004	336,117	3.6
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:										
Unfilled Orders.....	991,166	997,528	990,391	-0.6	0.7	0.0	1,007,980	1,012,385	1,000,818	0.7
Total Inventories.....	307,076	307,079	305,244	0.0	0.6	0.5	305,591	307,896	292,856	4.3
Primary metals:										
Unfilled Orders.....	30,350	30,393	30,120	-0.1	0.9	-1.0	32,069	32,027	37,061	-13.5
Total Inventories.....	33,987	34,352	34,607	-1.1	-0.7	-0.4	33,920	34,314	34,763	-2.4
Fabricated metal products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	87,495	87,116	86,666	0.4	0.5	2.0	90,313	87,569	82,750	9.1
Total Inventories.....	46,115	45,969	45,988	0.3	0.0	0.0	45,981	45,910	45,555	0.9
Machinery:										
Unfilled Orders.....	122,873	123,643	123,740	-0.6	-0.1	1.8	124,104	124,920	141,197	-12.1
Total Inventories.....	65,486	65,382	65,534	0.2	-0.2	-0.8	65,544	66,155	64,337	1.9
Computers and electronic products⁴:										
Unfilled Orders.....	136,660	137,282	137,952	-0.5	-0.5	0.1	138,207	138,574	135,073	2.3
Total Inventories.....	46,759	46,397	46,330	0.8	0.1	0.0	45,915	46,336	45,294	1.4
Computers and related products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	1,417	1,438	1,336	-1.5	7.6	-0.4	1,417	1,438	1,129	25.5
Total Inventories.....	3,768	3,792	3,799	-0.6	-0.2	2.6	3,592	3,808	3,963	-9.4
Communications equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	35,661	35,577	35,638	0.2	-0.2	1.5	36,063	35,926	32,811	9.9
Total Inventories.....	8,469	8,369	8,312	1.2	0.7	1.1	8,289	8,467	8,445	-1.8
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:										
Unfilled Orders.....	20,710	20,782	20,769	-0.3	0.1	-0.9	21,054	21,209	21,834	-3.6
Total Inventories.....	15,889	15,844	15,792	0.3	0.3	2.1	15,909	15,982	15,335	3.7
Transportation equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	585,967	591,125	583,907	-0.9	1.2	-0.7	595,053	601,205	575,598	3.4
Total Inventories.....	117,705	117,804	116,181	-0.1	1.4	1.2	116,996	118,052	106,425	9.9
Motor vehicles and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	15,686	15,644	15,521	0.3	0.8	-0.4	16,180	16,264	17,139	-5.6
Total Inventories.....	24,832	25,103	25,389	-1.1	-1.1	-0.9	24,377	25,264	24,490	-0.5
Nondefense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	419,072	420,012	411,320	-0.2	2.1	-0.1	424,690	427,222	399,681	6.3
Total Inventories.....	65,512	65,073	63,858	0.7	1.9	2.7	65,270	65,065	56,487	15.5
Defense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	60,597	62,992	64,848	-3.8	-2.9	-2.1	62,285	64,380	62,211	0.1
Total Inventories.....	14,274	14,539	13,840	-1.8	5.1	0.2	14,239	14,510	12,745	11.7
All other durable goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	7,111	7,187	7,237	-1.1	-0.7	-0.6	7,180	6,881	7,305	-1.7
Total Inventories.....	51,300	51,175	50,993	0.2	0.4	0.5	51,248	51,615	49,765	3.0
Capital goods³:										
Unfilled Orders.....	757,311	762,231	754,829	-0.6	1.0	-0.1	769,936	773,487	759,543	1.4
Total Inventories.....	198,070	197,780	196,091	0.1	0.9	1.1	197,035	198,511	184,773	6.6
Nondefense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	593,680	595,201	586,898	-0.3	1.4	0.5	602,822	604,577	590,567	2.1
Total Inventories.....	176,064	175,449	174,472	0.4	0.6	1.1	174,814	176,049	164,194	6.5
Excluding aircraft:										
Unfilled Orders.....	234,379	234,941	235,445	-0.2	-0.2	1.5	238,540	237,823	246,451	-3.2
Total Inventories.....	120,832	120,655	120,862	0.1	-0.2	0.2	119,680	121,369	116,947	2.3
Defense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	163,631	167,030	167,931	-2.0	-0.5	-1.9	167,114	168,910	168,976	-1.1
Total Inventories.....	22,006	22,331	21,619	-1.5	3.3	0.8	22,221	22,462	20,579	8.0

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 65 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 60 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>.

Benchmark Notice

Revised historical data for Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders will be issued on May 17, 2013. These revisions reflect:

- benchmarking the shipments and inventories data to the 2011 Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM) data, as well as revised ASM benchmarks for prior years;
- incorporating the unfilled orders to shipments ratios obtained from the 2010/2011 Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders Survey by applying these ratios to the respective ASM shipments data, as well as incorporating revised unfilled orders to shipments ratios for prior years;
- adjusting the new orders data to be consistent with the benchmarked shipments and unfilled orders data;
- correcting monthly data for late receipts, reclassifications of reported data, and revisions to previously reported data;
- migrating the data processing environment from a server having a Linux Red Hat 4 operating system that supports SAS® 9.1.3 to a server having a Linux Red Hat 5 operating system that supports SAS® 9.2; and
- updating the seasonally adjusted data, based on the results of benchmarking and the recent annual review of the seasonal adjustment models.

An accompanying press release will include the revised 2013 January through March data. Please call Jessica Young on (301) 763-4832 with any questions.