

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**  
**Hurricane Sandy's Effect on the October 2012**  
**Advance Report and Full Report on Manufacturers'**  
**Shipments, Inventories and Orders (M3)**

**Can the Census Bureau estimate the effect of Hurricane Sandy on the estimates published in the October 2012 Advance Report and Full Report on Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders?**

No. We cannot isolate the effect of Hurricane Sandy on either the Advance Report or Full Report on Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders, because the survey panel is comprised of companies to estimate the month-to-month change in manufacturing activity at the national level and not at specific geographic areas.

No respondents to the M3 survey indicated any immediate effect on production at manufacturing facilities that are located in the areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. Please see <http://www.census.gov/newsroom/emergencies/sandy.html> for data from the 2007 Economic Census and other Census Bureau sources on these areas.

**Can the Census Bureau produce monthly manufacturing estimates for the affected areas?**

No. We cannot estimate manufacturing shipments, inventories or orders for the affected areas since the M3 survey panel is comprised of companies to estimate the month-to-month change in these activities only at the national level.

**As a result of Hurricane Sandy, did the Census Bureau modify the methods used to produce the not seasonally adjusted estimates for October 2012?**

No. We did not exclude additional companies from the M3 survey's link-relative estimation procedure due to unusual patterns of month-to-month change that were attributed to Hurricane Sandy.

**Did the Census Bureau identify outliers attributed to Hurricane Sandy, prior to producing the seasonally adjusted estimates for October 2012?**

No. Prior to the seasonal adjustment of the monthly M3 series, no outliers were automatically identified for October 2012 that were found to be attributed to Hurricane Sandy.

**Did the Census Bureau change its analytical procedures for the October 2012 Advance and Full Reports?**

Yes. In addition to the usual analysis done every month, we reviewed independent data sources and discussed the effects of the hurricane with companies on the M3 survey panel.

**What activities are the Census Bureau planning to ensure the affected areas will continue to be accurately represented?**

As part of our data collection, we will continue to ask questions of manufacturers that will help us monitor the effects on manufacturing activity throughout the supply chain inside and outside of the affected areas. We will monitor data responses and make adjustments, if necessary. Storms of this magnitude are known to create power outages and infrastructure problems that lead to supplier problems. Delays in the transit of intermediary goods, in turn, may create interruptions in the supply chain for manufactures inside and outside of the affected areas.