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

## New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in July increased $\$ 7.8$ billion or 4.9 percent to $\$ 168.4$ billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This was the third increase in the last four months and the largest percent increase since July 2007. This followed a 1.3 percent June decrease. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 0.8 percent. Excluding defense, new orders increased 4.3 percent.

Transportation equipment, up three of the last four months, had the largest increase, $\$ 6.8$ billion or 18.4 percent to $\$ 43.7$ billion.

## Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in July, up two consecutive months, increased $\$ 3.5$ billion or 2.0 percent to $\$ 173.1$ billion. This followed a 0.7 percent June increase.

Computers and electronic products, up three of the last four months, had the largest increase, $\$ 2.1$ billion or 7.4 percent to $\$ 29.8$ billion.

## Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in July, down ten consecutive months, decreased $\$ 0.4$ billion or 0.1 percent to $\$ 740.2$ 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 0.8 percent June decrease.

Machinery, down ten consecutive months, had the largest decrease, $\$ 0.7$ billion or 0.8 percent to $\$ 86.9$ billion.

## Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in July, down seven consecutive months, decreased $\$ 2.7$ billion or 0.8 percent to $\$ 314.1$ billion. This followed a 1.5 percent June decrease.

Primary metals, down ten consecutive months, had the largest decrease, $\$ 0.7$ billion or 2.8 percent to $\$ 25.5$ billion.

## Capital Goods

Nondefense new orders for capital goods in July increased $\$ 4.6$ billion or 8.6 percent to $\$ 57.5$ billion. Shipments increased $\$ 0.5$ billion or 0.8 percent to $\$ 56.9$ billion. Unfilled orders increased $\$ 0.6$ billion or 0.1 percent to $\$ 426.2$ billion. Inventories decreased $\$ 1.0$ billion or 0.7 percent to $\$ 138.5$ billion.

Defense new orders for capital goods in July increased $\$ 1.3$ billion or 14.8 percent to $\$ 9.8$ billion. Shipments decreased $\$ 0.4$ billion or 3.6 percent to $\$ 10.4$ billion. Unfilled orders decreased $\$ 0.7$ billion or 0.5 percent to $\$ 141.5$ billion. Inventories increased $\$ 0.1$ billion or 0.7 percent to $\$ 20.2$ billion.

## Revised June Data

Revised seasonally adjusted June figures for all manufacturing industries were: new orders, $\$ 350.7$ billion (revised from \$349.0 billion); shipments, \$359.7 billion (revised from $\$ 358.3$ billion); unfilled orders, $\$ 740.7$ billion (revised from $\$ 740.2$ billion); and total inventories, $\$ 507.2$ billion (revised from $\$ 508.3$ 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](http://www.census.gov/m3).

Revised and more detailed estimates, plus nondurable goods data, will be published on September 2, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. EDT. The advance report on durable goods for August is scheduled for release on September 25, 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 |  |  |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jul } \\ 2009^{2} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jun } \\ 2009^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { May } \\ 2009 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jun }- \\ & \text { Jul }^{2} \end{aligned}$ | May Jun ${ }^{r}$ | Apr- <br> May | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jul } \\ 2009^{2} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jun } \\ 2009^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jul } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ | 2009 | 2008 | Percent Change 09/08 |
| DURABLE GOODS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments. | 173,096 | 169,634 | 168,483 | 2.0 | 0.7 | -2.7 | 163,971 | 184,804 | 199,721 | 1,197,111 | 1,482,423 | -19.2 |
| New Orders ${ }^{4}$. | 168,428 | 160,621 | 162,674 | 4.9 | -1.3 | 1.3 | 155,665 | 172,457 | 195,439 | 1,110,205 | 1,495,796 | -25.8 |
| Excluding transportation: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments. | 129,812 | 126,959 | 126,434 | 2.2 | 0.4 | -1.4 | 128,163 | 137,859 | 157,454 | 898,141 | 1,111,090 | -19.2 |
| New Orders ${ }^{4}$. | 124,729 | 123,699 | 120,739 | 0.8 | 2.5 | 0.8 | 122,148 | 132,699 | 153,534 | 848,679 | 1,100,615 | -22.9 |
| Excluding defense: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments... | 159,336 | 155,492 | 155,038 | 2.5 | 0.3 | -3.0 | 151,428 | 169,734 | 188,655 | 1,106,739 | 1,403,492 | -21.1 |
| New Orders ${ }^{4}$ | 155,099 | 148,635 | 147,619 | 4.3 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 145,751 | 160,000 | 186,657 | 1,026,196 | 1,414,621 | -27.5 |
| Manufacturing with unfilled orders: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments. | 124,496 | 123,289 | 121,472 | 1.0 | 1.5 | -2.1 | 117,583 | 135,001 | 145,033 | 863,353 | 1,061,787 | -18.7 |
| New Orders ${ }^{4} \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ~$ | 124,054 | 117,232 | 119,135 | 5.8 | -1.6 | 3.2 | 114,793 | 124,849 | 146,959 | 802,668 | 1,111,575 | -27.8 |
| Primary metals: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments.. | 13,044 | 12,275 | 12,073 | 6.3 | 1.7 | -3.2 | 13,415 | 13,092 | 23,312 | 92,151 | 158,429 | -41.8 |
| New Orders. | 13,417 | 13,074 | 11,649 | 2.6 | 12.2 | -0.2 | 13,894 | 13,682 | 23,505 | 88,771 | 161,185 | -44.9 |
| Fabricated metal products: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments. New Orders | 23,550 23,087 | 23,410 22,465 | 23,223 22,410 | 0.6 2.8 | 0.8 0.2 | -2.4 | 23,704 23,143 | 24,930 23,348 | 28,286 27,574 | 166,891 | 193,967 197,747 | -14.0 -18.9 |
| Machinery: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments. | 22,441 | 23,293 | 23,158 | -3.7 | 0.6 | 1.5 | 21,703 | 25,397 | 28,204 | 164,809 | 205,853 | -19.9 |
| New Orders. | 21,741 | 23,271 | 22,272 | -6.6 | 4.5 | 7.2 | 21,428 | 24,290 | 31,694 | 153,731 | 220,295 | -30.2 |
| Computers and electronic products: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments... | 29,838 | 27,773 | 27,718 | 7.4 | 0.2 | -2.6 | 28,368 | 30,814 | 29,928 | 192,717 | 220,893 | -12.8 |
| New Orders ${ }^{4}$. | 25,481 | 25,078 | 24,769 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 22,301 | 28,327 | 22,887 | 165,487 | 186,300 | -11.2 |
| Computers and related products: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New Orders................................ | 4,529 | 4,660 | 4,635 | -2.8 | 0.5 | 15.9 | 4,048 | 5,599 | 4,207 | 29,263 | 35,309 | -17.1 |
| Communications equipment: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New Orders........ | 5,384 | 4,923 | 4,952 | 9.4 | -0.6 | -0.6 | 4,425 | 5,831 | 4,631 | 33,186 | 39,375 | -15.7 |
| Semiconductors: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments.... | 4,226 | 2,956 | 3,472 | 43.0 | -14.9 | -14.5 | 5,516 | 2,195 | 6,208 | 26,221 | 36,415 | -28.0 |
| New Orders ${ }^{4}$ | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) |
| Electrical equipment, appliances, and components: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments...................... New Orders | 8,461 | 8,321 | 8,297 | 1.7 | 0.3 | -3.7 | 8,167 | 9,030 | 10,581 | 58,616 | 74,159 | -21.0 |
| New Orders. | 8,508 | 8,080 | 7,947 | 5.3 | 1.7 | -2.0 | 8,538 | 8,547 | 10,535 | 57,553 | 76,708 | -25.0 |
| Transportation equipment: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments. <br> New Orders. | 43,284 43,699 | 42,675 36,922 | 42,049 41,935 | 1.4 18.4 | -12.0 | -6.5 2.9 | 35,808 33,517 | 46,945 39,758 | 42,267 41,905 | 298,970 | 371,333 395,181 | -19.5 -33.8 |
| Motor vehicles and parts: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments... | 23,436 | 22,812 | 22,780 | 2.7 | 0.1 | -9.0 | 18,375 | 24,644 | 24,236 | 165,143 | 236,968 | -30.3 |
| New Orders....................... | 22,852 | 22,637 | 22,688 | 0.9 | -0.2 | -8.4 | 18,246 | 24,347 | 24,576 | 163,810 | 235,994 | -30.6 |
| Nondefense aircraft and parts: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New Orders........ | 9,252 | 4,465 | 6,383 | 107.2 | -30.0 | 60.4 | 6,695 | 4,959 | 8,624 | 28,351 | 82,423 | -65.6 |
| Defense aircraft and parts: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments............................. | 5,608 | 6,201 | 5,693 | -9.6 | 8.9 | 7.4 | 4,972 | 6,740 | 4,443 | 36,681 | 30,321 | 21.0 |
| New Orders........................... | 5,747 | 7,076 | 5,435 | -18.8 | 30.2 | 0.3 | 4,743 | 7,476 | 4,799 | 36,608 | 32,322 | 13.3 |
| All other durable goods: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments........... | 32,478 | 31,887 | 31,965 | 1.9 | -0.2 | -0.4 | 32,806 | 34,596 | 37,143 | 222,957 | 257,789 | -13.5 |
| New Orders.. | 32,495 | 31,731 | 31,692 | 2.4 | 0.1 | -1.0 | 32,844 | 34,505 | 37,339 | 222,799 | 258,380 | -13.8 |
| Capital goods: ${ }^{3}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments. | 67,364 | 67,287 | 66,240 | 0.1 | 1.6 | -0.8 | 62,321 | 74,450 | 71,448 | 464,061 | 530,225 | -12.5 |
| New Orders | 67,255 | 61,418 | 65,137 | 9.5 | -5.7 | 8.8 | 59,001 | 65,868 | 72,356 | 414,280 | 569,830 | -27.3 |
| Nondefense capital goods: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments. <br> New Orders | 56,915 57,474 | 56,447 52,901 | 55,904 53,099 | 0.8 8.6 | 1.0 -0.4 | -1.0 9.1 | 52,597 51,975 | 63,136 57,283 | 62,991 65,996 | 394,323 350,314 | 469,130 507,677 | -15.9 -31.0 |
| New Orders.................... | 57,474 | 52,901 | 53,099 | 8.6 | -0.4 | 9.1 | 51,975 | 57,283 | 65,996 | 350,314 | 507,677 | -31.0 |
| Excluding aircraft: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments... | 52,968 | 52,692 | 52,032 | 0.5 | 1.3 | -0.4 | 49,465 | 58,536 | 58,971 | 366,517 | 437,692 | -16.3 |
| New Orders...... | 51,975 | 52,124 | 50,326 | -0.3 | 3.6 | 4.3 | 48,545 | 56,396 | 60,988 | 349,261 | 453,801 | -23.0 |
| Defense capital goods: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments................ | 10,449 | 10,840 | 10,336 | -3.6 | 4.9 | 0.4 | 9,724 | 11,314 | 8,457 | 69,738 | 61,095 | 14.1 |
| New Orders.............. | 9,781 | 8,517 | 12,038 | 14.8 | -29.2 | 7.1 | 7,026 | 8,585 | 6,360 | 63,966 | 62,153 | 2.9 |

## NA Not Available ${ }^{r}$ Revised

 adjusted for trading-day or calendar-month variations.






 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 |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Percent } \\ \text { Change } \\ \text { 2009/ } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jul } \\ 2009^{2} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jun } \\ 2009^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { May } \\ 2009 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jun }- \\ & \text { Jul }^{2} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { May - } \\ & \text { Jun }{ }^{\prime} \end{aligned}$ | Apr- <br> May | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jul } \\ 2009^{2} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jun } \\ 2009^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jul } \\ 2008 \end{gathered}$ |  |
| DURABLE GOODS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unfilled Orders ${ }^{4}$ | 740,245 | 740,687 | 746,744 | -0.1 | -0.8 | -0.3 | 738,068 | 740,858 | 821,604 | -10.2 |
| Total Inventories........................... | 314,108 | 316,781 | 321,576 | -0.8 | -1.5 | -1.2 | 314,969 | 313,164 | 338,279 | -6.9 |
| Excluding transportation: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unfilled Orders ${ }^{4}$ | 306,267 | 307,124 | 307,428 | -0.3 | -0.1 | -0.7 | 307,677 | 308,176 | 360,961 | -14.8 |
| Total Inventories......................... | 220,164 | 223,528 | 228,370 | -1.5 | -2.1 | -1.5 | 220,431 | 221,000 | 249,292 | -11.6 |
| Excluding defense: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unfilled Orders ${ }^{4}$ | 582,366 | 582,377 | 586,278 | 0.0 | -0.7 | -0.7 | 581,875 | 582,036 | 668,051 | -12.9 |
| Total Inventories. | 287,897 | 290,773 | 295,320 | -1.0 | -1.5 | -1.3 | 288,734 | 287,151 | 313,586 | -7.9 |
| Manufacturing with unfilled orders: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unfilled Orders ${ }^{4}$ | 740,245 | 740,687 | 746,744 | -0.1 | -0.8 | -0.3 | 738,068 | 740,858 | 821,604 | -10.2 |
| Total Inventories.................... | 252,839 | 254,633 | 258,790 | -0.7 | -1.6 | -1.2 | 253,750 | 251,872 | 271,641 | -6.6 |
| Primary metals: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unfilled Orders | 14,708 | 14,335 | 13,536 | 2.6 | 5.9 | -3.0 | 14,947 | 14,468 | 30,019 | -50.2 |
| Total Inventories..................... | 25,455 | 26,195 | 27,067 | -2.8 | -3.2 | -3.2 | 25,716 | 26,036 | 34,420 | -25.3 |
| Fabricated metal products: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unfilled Orders | 49,350 | 49,813 | 50,758 | -0.9 | -1.9 | -1.6 | 50,182 | 50,743 | 63,199 | -20.6 |
| Total Inventories..................... | 38,052 | 38,720 | 39,625 | -1.7 | -2.3 | -1.9 | 38,250 | 38,403 | 44,731 | -14.5 |
| Machinery: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unfilled Orders...................... | 86,855 | 87,555 | 87,577 | -0.8 | 0.0 | -1.0 | 86,833 | 87,108 | 104,829 | -17.2 |
| Total Inventories..................... | 50,068 | 50,782 | 51,583 | -1.4 | -1.6 | -1.5 | 49,628 | 50,078 | 54,090 | -8.2 |
| Computers and electronic products: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unfilled Orders ${ }^{4}$. | 123,956 | 124,087 | 123,826 | -0.1 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 123,570 | 124,121 | 123,589 | 0.0 |
| Total Inventories. | 43,693 | 44,251 | 45,590 | -1.3 | -2.9 | -0.8 | 43,891 | 43,340 | 46,924 | -6.5 |
| Computers and related products: Unfilled Orders. | 3,854 | 3,810 | 3,516 | 1.2 | 8.4 | 8.8 | 3,854 | 3,810 | 3,823 | 0.8 |
| Total Inventories..................... | 4,276 | 4,333 | 4,406 | -1.3 | -1.7 | -4.2 | 4,297 | 4,154 | 5,034 | -14.6 |
| Communications equipment: Unfilled Orders | 37,385 | 37,465 | 37,656 | -0.2 | -0.5 | 1.0 | 37,447 | 37,649 | 37,101 | 0.9 |
| Total Inventories........................ | -9,310 | 9,531 | 10,498 | -2.3 | -9.2 | 1.7 | 3,216 | -9,175 | 9,530 | -3.3 |
| Semiconductors: <br> Unfilled Orders ${ }^{4}$. <br> Total Inventories ${ }^{4}$ | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) (NA) | (NA) (NA) |
| Electrical equipment, appliances, and components: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unfilled Orders...................... | 20,149 | 20,102 | 20,343 | 0.2 | -1.2 | -1.7 | 20,536 | 20,165 | 25,613 | -19.8 |
| Total Inventories..................... | 12,878 | 12,934 | 13,194 | -0.4 | -2.0 | -1.5 | 12,891 | 12,840 | 15,206 | -15.2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Inventories......................... | 93,944 | 93,253 | 93,206 | 0.7 | 0.1 | -0.3 | 94,538 | 92,164 | 88,987 | 6.2 |
| Motor vehicles and parts: Unfilled Orders. Total Inventories. | 14,002 18,662 | 14,586 18,776 | 14,761 18,930 | -4.0 -0.6 | -1.2 -0.8 | -0.6 -2.0 | 14,316 18,847 | 14,445 18,471 | 17,591 23,635 | -18.6 -20.3 |
| Nondefense Aircraft and parts: <br> Unfilled Orders................. <br> Un. 285,883 284,415 287,297 0.5 -1.0 -0.3 283,352 283,365 304,844 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | -7.1 22.6 |
| Defense Aircraft and parts: <br> Unfilled Orders <br> Total Inventories | 48,324 15,791 | 48,185 15,531 | 47,310 15,482 | 0.3 1.7 | 1.8 0.3 | -0.5 -0.4 | 48,154 15,869 | 48,383 15,604 | 45,303 14,391 | 6.3 10.3 |
| All other durable goods: <br> Unfilled Orders. <br> Total Inventories | 11,249 50,018 | 11,232 50,646 | 11,388 51,311 | 0.2 -1.2 | -1.4 -1.3 | -2.3 -1.1 | 11,609 50,055 | 11,571 50,303 | 13,712 53,921 | -15.3 -7.2 |
| Capital goods: ${ }^{3}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unfilled Orders | 567,734 | 567,843 | 573,712 | 0.0 | -1.0 | -0.2 | 564,154 | 567,474 | 615,062 | -8.3 |
| Total Inventories..................... | 158,640 | 159,517 | 161,417 | -0.5 | -1.2 | -0.7 | 158,667 | 157,425 | 158,374 | 0.2 |
| Nondefense capital goods: <br> Unfilled Orders |  |  |  | 0.1 | -0.8 | -0.6 |  |  |  |  |
| Unfilled Orders......................................... | 426,233 138,461 | 425,674 139,487 | 141,161 | 0.1 -0.7 | -0.8 -1.2 | -0.6 -0.8 | 424,261 138,542 | 137,463 | 139,086 | -11.1 -0.4 |
| Excluding aircraft: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unfilled Orders................... | 175,481 | 176,474 | 177,042 | -0.6 | -0.3 | -1.0 | 175,926 | 176,846 | 204,893 | -14.1 |
| Total Inventories.................. | 100,029 | 101,380 | 103,585 | -1.3 | -2.1 | -1.2 | 99,857 | 99,885 | 108,082 | -7.6 |
| Defense capital goods: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unfilled Orders....................... | 141,501 | 142,169 | 144,492 | -0.5 | -1.6 | 1.2 | 139,893 | 142,591 | 137,700 | 1.6 |
| Total Inventories..................... | 20,179 | 20,030 | 20,256 | 0.7 | -1.1 | -0.1 | 20,125 | 19,962 | 19,288 | 4.3 |

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-tomonth changes of the total operations of those companies in the monthly survey effectively represent the month-tomonth 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-tomonth 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.

