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Full Report on Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders September 2009

Summary

New orders for manufactured goods in September, up five of the last six months, increased \$3.3 billion or 0.9 percent to \$356.1 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau reported today. This followed a 0.8 percent August decrease. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 0.8 percent.

Shipments, up three of the last four months, increased \$2.9 billion or 0.8 percent to \$363.1 billion. This followed a 0.2 percent August decrease.

Unfilled orders, down twelve consecutive months, decreased \$3.3 billion or 0.4 percent to \$733.3 billion. This was the longest streak of consecutive monthly decreases since the series was first published on a NAICS basis in 1992. This followed a 0.4 percent August decrease. The unfilled orders-to-shipments ratio was 5.83, down from 5.97 in August.

Inventories, down thirteen consecutive months, decreased \$4.8 billion or 1.0 percent to \$492.6 billion. This was the longest streak of consecutive monthly decreases since February 2001-May 2002 and followed a 0.9 percent August decrease. The inventories-to-shipments ratio was 1.36, down from 1.38 in August.

New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in September, up two of the last three months, increased \$2.2 billion or 1.4 percent to \$166.2 billion, revised from the previously published 1.0 percent increase. This followed a 2.7 percent August decrease.

Machinery, up five of the last six months, had the largest increase, \$1.7 billion or 7.9 percent to \$23.5 billion.

New orders for manufactured nondurable goods increased \$1.1 billion or 0.6 percent to \$189.9 billion.

Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in September, up three of the last four months, increased \$1.8 billion or 1.1 percent to \$173.2 billion, revised from the previously published 0.8 percent increase. This followed a 1.4 percent August decrease.

Transportation equipment, also up three of the last four months, had the largest increase, \$2.6 billion or 6.1 percent to \$45.1 billion.

Shipments of manufactured nondurable goods, up four of the last five months, increased \$1.1 billion or 0.6 percent to \$189.9 billion. This followed a 0.9 percent August increase. This increase was led by chemical products, which increased \$0.5 billion or 1.1 percent to \$50.9 billion.

Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in September, down twelve consecutive months, decreased \$3.3 billion or 0.4 percent to \$733.3 billion, unchanged from the previously published decrease. This was the longest streak of consecutive monthly decreases since the series was first published on a NAICS basis in 1992 and followed a 0.4 percent August decrease.

Transportation equipment, down eleven of the last twelve months, had the largest decrease, \$4.7 billion or 1.1 percent to \$426.5 billion.

Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in September, down nine consecutive months, decreased \$3.2 billion or 1.0 percent to \$304.9 billion, unchanged from the previously published decrease. This followed a 1.5 percent August decrease.

Transportation equipment, down two consecutive months, had the largest decrease, \$2.1 billion or 2.3 percent to \$89.0 billion.

Inventories of manufactured nondurable goods, down twelve of the last thirteen months, decreased \$1.6 billion or 0.9 percent to \$187.7 billion. This followed a slight August increase. Petroleum and coal products led the decrease, down \$1.1 billion or 4.2 percent to \$26.0 billion.

By stage of fabrication, September materials and supplies decreased 0.7 percent in durable goods and 0.7 percent in nondurable goods. Work in process decreased 1.1 percent in durable goods and 0.3 percent in nondurable goods. Finished goods decreased 1.4 percent in durable goods and 1.2 percent in nondurable goods.

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>>.

The advance report on durable goods for October is scheduled for release on November 25, 2009, at 8:30 a.m. EST and the full report on December 4, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. EST. See back page for survey description and 2010 release schedule.

Table 3. Value of Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders for Industry Groups

[Millions of Dollars]

Industry	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted				Percent Change Sept. 09/08	
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly					
	Sept. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2009 ^r	July 2009	Aug. - Sept.	July - Aug.	June - July	Sept. 2009 ^p	Aug. 2009 ^r	July 2009	Sept. 2008		
All manufacturing industries ¹	733,325	736,634	739,922	-0.4	-0.4	-0.1	725,814	732,190	738,019	816,475	-11.1	
Excluding transportation ¹	306,834	305,459	305,858	0.5	-0.1	-0.4	305,080	304,342	307,296	353,307	-13.7	
Excluding defense ¹	576,994	579,640	582,024	-0.5	-0.4	-0.1	573,117	577,917	581,717	661,118	-13.3	
Durable goods industries ¹	733,325	736,634	739,922	-0.4	-0.4	-0.1	725,814	732,190	738,019	816,475	-11.1	
Primary metals.....	15,139	15,007	14,703	0.9	2.1	2.6	15,186	15,439	14,928	25,397	-40.2	
Iron and steel mills.....	8,019	7,924	7,715	1.2	2.7	5.0	8,164	8,348	7,912	15,385	-46.9	
Aluminum and nonferrous metals.....	5,024	4,989	4,916	0.7	1.5	1.0	4,967	5,020	4,947	7,035	-29.4	
Ferrous metal foundries.....	2,096	2,094	2,072	0.1	1.1	-2.2	2,055	2,071	2,069	2,977	-31.0	
Fabricated metal products.....	48,773	48,925	49,294	-0.3	-0.7	-1.1	48,591	49,172	50,105	61,188	-20.6	
Machinery.....	87,395	86,360	86,669	1.2	-0.4	-1.0	86,886	85,712	86,664	105,277	-17.5	
Construction machinery.....	8,332	8,173	8,450	1.9	-3.3	-1.5	8,099	7,987	8,340	14,703	-44.9	
Mining, oil field, and gas field machinery.....	5,050	5,164	5,467	-2.2	-5.5	-3.5	5,035	5,176	5,433	7,410	-32.1	
Industrial machinery.....	10,937	11,075	10,959	-1.2	1.1	-3.4	10,670	11,001	11,121	16,296	-34.5	
Photographic equipment.....	1,788	1,793	1,811	-0.3	-1.0	0.6	1,809	1,758	1,784	1,874	-3.5	
Ventilation, heating, air-conditioning, and refrigeration equipment.....	19,640	18,949	18,659	3.6	1.6	-0.2	20,106	19,154	18,905	17,227	16.7	
Metalworking machinery.....	6,706	6,695	6,635	0.2	0.9	-1.8	6,672	6,684	6,629	8,614	-22.5	
Turbines, generators, and other power transmission equipment.....	13,900	13,373	13,403	3.9	-0.2	0.8	13,659	13,270	13,479	14,080	-3.0	
Material handling equipment.....	8,023	8,075	8,046	-0.6	0.4	0.0	7,924	7,806	7,916	9,899	-20.0	
Computers and electronic products ¹	124,462	123,966	123,979	0.4	0.0	0.0	123,439	122,560	123,636	123,978	-0.4	
Computers.....	4,187	3,970	3,856	5.5	3.0	1.2	4,187	3,970	3,856	3,924	6.7	
Nondefense communications equipment.....	29,439	29,300	28,987	0.5	1.1	1.1	29,263	28,965	28,975	28,781	1.7	
Defense communications equipment.....	8,494	8,468	8,528	0.3	-0.7	-3.1	8,473	8,303	8,584	8,301	2.1	
Semiconductors ¹	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Electronic components.....	10,525	10,258	10,131	2.6	1.3	1.8	10,612	10,440	10,114	10,840	-2.1	
Nondefense search and navigation equipment.....	7,843	8,032	8,266	-2.4	-2.8	-1.8	7,774	7,905	8,157	7,593	2.4	
Defense search and navigation equipment.....	37,367	37,576	37,717	-0.6	-0.4	0.3	36,781	36,815	37,412	36,783	0.0	
Electromedical, measuring, and control instruments.....	26,607	26,362	26,494	0.9	-0.5	-1.1	26,349	26,162	26,538	27,756	-5.1	
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components.....	20,008	20,024	19,992	-0.1	0.2	-0.6	19,835	20,222	20,360	24,367	-18.6	
Electric lighting equipment.....	2,006	1,875	1,790	7.0	4.7	1.7	2,000	1,960	1,886	2,711	-26.2	
Household appliances.....	461	464	494	-0.6	-6.1	12.0	447	482	487	691	-35.3	
Electrical equipment.....	12,834	12,964	13,092	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	12,799	13,077	13,294	15,550	-17.7	
Transportation equipment.....	426,491	431,175	434,064	-1.1	-0.7	0.1	420,734	427,848	430,723	463,168	-9.2	
Motor vehicle bodies, parts, and trailers.....	13,843	13,962	13,979	-0.9	-0.1	-4.0	13,638	13,939	14,223	16,637	-18.0	
Nondefense aircraft and parts.....	279,945	283,558	285,734	-1.3	-0.8	0.5	277,302	281,964	283,504	305,551	-9.2	
Defense aircraft and parts.....	46,796	47,676	48,356	-1.8	-1.4	0.3	45,507	47,117	48,325	45,185	0.7	
Ships and boats.....	19,140	19,335	19,257	-1.0	0.4	-0.9	18,443	18,824	18,640	20,723	-11.0	
Furniture and related products.....	5,706	5,824	5,955	-2.0	-2.2	-2.9	5,792	5,884	6,337	7,347	-21.2	

^p Preliminary^r Revised

NA Not available.

¹ Data on unfilled orders are not available for the semiconductor industry. Estimates and percent changes for unfilled orders exclude semiconductor industry data. See note at end of Table 2 relating to survey error and revision.

Table 7. Ratios of Manufacturers' Inventories to Shipments and Unfilled Orders to Shipments, by Industry Group

[Based on Seasonally Adjusted data]

Industry	Inventory/Shipments ratio				Unfilled Orders/Shipments ratio ¹			
	Sep 2009 ^b	Aug 2009 ^r	Jul 2009	Jun 2009	Sep 2009 ^b	Aug 2009 ^r	Jul 2009	Jun 2009
All manufacturing industries ²	1.36	1.38	1.39	1.41	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Durable goods industries ²	1.76	1.80	1.80	1.86	5.83	5.97	5.94	6.00
Wood products.....	1.24	1.28	1.29	1.33	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nonmetallic mineral products.....	1.47	1.47	1.47	1.53	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Primary metals.....	1.87	1.90	1.94	2.13	1.11	1.12	1.12	1.17
Fabricated metal products.....	1.57	1.58	1.59	1.65	2.14	2.14	2.15	2.20
Machinery.....	2.16	2.22	2.21	2.18	4.42	4.45	4.40	4.28
Computers and electronic products ²	1.54	1.48	1.45	1.59	5.72	5.55	5.47	5.62
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components.....	1.54	1.53	1.50	1.55	2.71	2.70	2.59	2.66
Transportation equipment.....	1.97	2.14	2.18	2.18	12.13	13.33	13.26	13.22
Furniture and related products.....	1.27	1.25	1.23	1.26	1.35	1.35	1.34	1.38
Miscellaneous products.....	1.86	1.85	1.81	1.92	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nondurable goods industries.....	0.99	1.00	1.01	1.00	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Food products.....	0.71	0.72	0.72	0.71	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Beverage and tobacco products.....	1.39	1.39	1.40	1.36	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Textiles.....	1.33	1.36	1.42	1.46	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Textile products.....	1.55	1.57	1.57	1.59	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Apparel.....	1.81	1.82	1.81	1.81	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Leather and allied products.....	2.44	2.56	2.53	2.47	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Paper products.....	1.09	1.09	1.07	1.08	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Printing.....	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.78	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Petroleum and coal products.....	0.70	0.74	0.77	0.71	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Chemical products.....	1.24	1.25	1.25	1.25	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Plastics and rubber products.....	1.23	1.23	1.24	1.29	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

^b Preliminary

^r Revised

X Not Applicable

¹ Excludes the following industries with no unfilled orders: Wood products; nonmetallic mineral products; medical equipment and supplies; office supplies; other miscellaneous manufacturing; cutlery and handtools; farm and garden machinery; computer storage and peripheral devices; audio and video equipment; manufacturing and reproducing magnetic and optical media; batteries; automobiles; light trucks and utility vehicles; heavy duty trucks; and miscellaneous furniture.

² Unfilled orders to shipments ratio excludes semiconductor manufacturing.

Table 8. Revisions to Previously Published Monthly Percent Changes

[Based on Seasonally Adjusted data]

Industry	Shipments		New Orders		Unfilled Orders		Inventories	
	Sep ¹ 2009	Sep ² 2008- Aug 2009						
All manufacturing industries.....	(X)	0.5	(X)	0.8	(X)	0.2	(X)	0.2
Durable goods industries.....	0.3	0.5	0.4	1.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
Wood products.....	(X)	0.8	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.7
Nonmetallic mineral products.....	(X)	0.7	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.2
Primary metals.....	0.0	1.0	0.5	2.1	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.4
Fabricated metal products.....	0.5	0.7	0.6	1.4	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.4
Machinery.....	0.2	0.9	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.5	-0.2	0.4
Computers and electronic products	0.1	0.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components.....	-0.3	0.8	-0.8	2.0	-0.2	0.6	0.6	0.5
Transportation equipment.....	0.5	0.5	0.9	1.1	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.1
Furniture and related products.....	(X)	0.9	(X)	1.6	(X)	0.7	(X)	0.4
Miscellaneous products.....	(X)	0.6	(X)	0.6	(X)	0.5	(X)	0.3
Nondurable goods industries.....	(X)	0.4	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.3
Food products.....	(X)	0.3	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.4
Beverage and tobacco products.....	(X)	0.9	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.4
Textiles.....	(X)	0.9	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.5
Textile products.....	(X)	0.7	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.3
Apparel.....	(X)	0.9	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.4
Leather and allied products.....	(X)	1.8	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	1.2
Paper products.....	(X)	0.5	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.6
Printing.....	(X)	1.0	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	1.0
Petroleum and coal products.....	(X)	1.0	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	1.3
Chemical products.....	(X)	0.3	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.1
Plastics and rubber products.....	(X)	0.6	(X)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(X)	0.5

X Not Applicable

NA Not Available

¹ The current month revisions are the difference between the advance percent change and the percent change as shown in this publication.

² The twelve month revisions are the differences between the month-to-month percent changes of the preliminary and final estimates. The monthly averages are the simple averages of the absolute values of the differences for the months specified. The advance to final percent change revisions for the durable goods industries are shown in the advance report for the month.

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 in the data 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>.

2010 Release Dates for M3 Survey

Survey Month	Advance 8:30 A.M.	Preliminary 10:00 A.M.
November 2009	Dec. 24, 2009	Jan. 5, 2010
December 2009	Jan. 28, 2010	Feb. 4, 2010
January 2010	Feb. 25, 2010	Mar. 4, 2010
February 2010	Mar. 24, 2010	Mar. 31, 2010
March 2010	Apr. 23, 2010	May 4, 2010
April 2010	May 26, 2010	Jun. 3, 2010
May 2010	Jun. 24, 2010	Jul. 2, 2010
June 2010	Jul. 28, 2010	Aug. 3, 2010
July 2010	Aug. 25, 2010	Sep. 2, 2010
August 2010	Sep. 24, 2010	Oct. 4, 2010
September 2010	Oct. 27, 2010	Nov. 3, 2010
October 2010	Nov. 24, 2010	Dec. 3, 2010
November 2010	Dec. 23, 2010	