

U.S. Census Bureau News

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013, AT 10:00 A.M. EST

Chris Savage or Adriana Stoica
Manufacturing and Construction Division
(301) 763-4832

M3-2 (12)-12
CB13-21

Full Report on Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders December 2012

Summary. New orders for manufactured goods in December, up three of the last four months, increased \$8.6 billion or 1.8 percent to \$484.8 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau reported today. This followed a 0.3 percent November decrease. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 0.2 percent. Shipments, up five of the last six months, increased \$1.8 billion or 0.4 percent to \$484.9 billion. This followed a 0.3 percent November increase. Unfilled orders, up six of the last seven months, increased \$7.9 billion or 0.8 percent to \$991.7 billion. This followed a slight November increase. The unfilled orders-to-shipments ratio was 6.12, down from 6.13 in November. Inventories, up following two consecutive monthly decreases, increased \$0.5 billion or 0.1 percent to \$615.5 billion. This followed a slight November decrease. The inventories-to-shipments ratio was 1.27, unchanged from November.

New Orders. New orders for manufactured durable goods in December, up seven of the last eight months, increased \$9.4 billion or 4.3 percent to \$230.0 billion, revised from the previously published 4.6 percent increase. This followed a 0.6 percent November increase. Transportation equipment, up following two consecutive monthly decreases, had the largest increase, \$7.9 billion or 11.7 percent to \$75.6 billion. New orders for manufactured nondurable goods decreased \$0.8 billion or 0.3 percent to \$254.8 billion.

Shipments. Shipments of manufactured durable goods in December, up five of the last six months, increased \$2.6 billion or 1.1 percent to \$230.1 billion, revised from the previously published 1.3 percent increase. This followed a 1.8 percent November increase. Primary metals, up three of the last four months, had the largest increase, \$1.2 billion or 4.0 percent to \$30.5 billion. Shipments of manufactured nondurable goods, down two consecutive months, decreased \$0.8 billion or 0.3 percent to \$254.8 billion. This followed a 1.0 percent November decrease. Beverage and tobacco products, down following two consecutive monthly increases, led the decrease, down \$0.5 billion or 4.3 percent to \$12.2 billion.

Unfilled Orders. Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in December, up six of the last seven months, increased \$7.9 billion or 0.8 percent to \$991.7 billion, unchanged from the previously published increase. This followed a slight November increase. Transportation equipment, also up six of the last seven months, drove the increase, up \$9.0 billion or 1.5 percent to \$588.6 billion.

Inventories. Inventories of manufactured durable goods in December, down following fourteen consecutive monthly increases, decreased \$0.1 billion to \$374.5 billion, unchanged from the previously published increase. This followed a 0.1 percent November increase. Machinery, down four consecutive months, drove the decrease, down \$0.4 billion or 0.5 percent to \$66.1 billion. Inventories of manufactured nondurable goods, up following two consecutive monthly decreases, increased \$0.6 billion or 0.2 percent to \$241.0 billion. This followed a 0.3 percent November decrease. Chemical products, up three of the last four months, drove the increase, up \$0.6 billion or 0.8 percent to \$72.2 billion. By stage of fabrication, December materials and supplies decreased 0.3 percent in durable goods and increased 0.4 percent in nondurable goods. Work in process increased 0.4 percent in durable goods and decreased 0.9 percent in nondurable goods. Finished goods decreased 0.3 percent in durable goods and increased 0.6 percent in nondurable goods.

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>>.

The advance report on durable goods for January is scheduled for release on February 27, 2013, at 8:30 a.m. EST and the full report on March 6, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. EST. 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.