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

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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.