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Advance Report on Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders May 2015

New Orders. New orders for manufactured durable goods in May decreased \$4.1 billion or 1.8 percent to \$228.9 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This decrease, down three of the last four months, followed a 1.5 percent April decrease. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 0.5 percent. Excluding defense, new orders decreased 2.1 percent. Transportation equipment, also down three of the last four months, drove the decrease, \$4.9 billion or 6.4 percent to \$71.7 billion.

Shipments. Shipments of manufactured durable goods in May, down four of the last five months, decreased \$0.2 billion or 0.1 percent to \$239.9 billion. This followed a 0.2 percent April decrease. Transportation equipment, also down four of the last five months, drove the decrease, \$0.7 billion or 0.9 percent to \$76.7 billion.

Unfilled Orders. Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in May, down five of the last six months, decreased \$5.7 billion or 0.5 percent to \$1,195.5 billion. This followed a 0.2 percent April decrease. Transportation equipment, also down five of the last six months, led the decrease, \$5.1 billion or 0.6 percent to \$798.8 billion.

Inventories. Inventories of manufactured durable goods in May, down following twenty-three consecutive monthly increases, decreased \$0.8 billion or 0.2 percent to \$400.6 billion. This followed a 0.2 percent April increase. Transportation equipment, down two of the last three months, led the decrease, \$0.3 billion or 0.2 percent to \$129.9 billion.

Capital Goods. Nondefense new orders for capital goods in May decreased \$5.2 billion or 6.6 percent to \$74.3 billion. Shipments decreased \$0.5 billion or 0.6 percent to \$79.3 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$5.0 billion or 0.7 percent to \$757.1 billion. Inventories decreased \$1.1 billion or 0.6 percent to \$176.2 billion. Defense new orders for capital goods in May increased \$0.7 billion or 8.2 percent to \$8.8 billion. Shipments increased less than \$0.1 billion or 0.3 percent to \$9.5 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$0.7 billion or 0.5 percent to \$150.6 billion. Inventories decreased less than \$0.1 billion or virtually unchanged to \$21.6 billion.

Revised April Data. Revised seasonally adjusted April figures for all manufacturing industries were: new orders, \$474.5 billion (revised from \$476.7 billion); shipments, \$481.5 billion (revised from \$482.4 billion); unfilled orders, \$1,201.2 billion (revised from \$1,202.4 billion); and total inventories, \$649.0 billion (virtually unchanged).

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 July 2, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. EDT. The Advance Report on durable goods for June is scheduled for release on July 27, 2015 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. To learn more about this release and the other indicators the U.S. Census Bureau publishes, join us for the Investigating Economic Indicators Webinar Series. For more information, visit www.census.gov/econ/webinar.

"Virtually unchanged" indicates that the change is less than 0.05 percent for a percent increase or decrease.

Table 1. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments and New Orders ¹

[Estimates are shown in millions of dollars and are based on data from the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey.]

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted					
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Year to Date		
	May 2015 ²	Apr 2015 [†]	Mar 2015	Apr - May ²	Mar - Apr [†]	Feb - Mar	May 2015 ²	Apr 2015 [†]	May 2014	2015	2014	Percent Change 2015/2014
DURABLE GOODS												
Total:												
Shipments.....	239,860	240,099	240,599	-0.1	-0.2	1.5	239,244	240,353	237,603	1,171,234	1,138,931	2.8
New Orders ⁴	228,913	233,030	236,671	-1.8	-1.5	5.1	222,853	228,271	234,566	1,128,259	1,153,217	-2.2
Excluding transportation:												
Shipments.....	163,113	162,644	162,760	0.3	-0.1	0.1	162,845	163,202	164,971	795,679	789,903	0.7
New Orders ⁴	157,247	156,451	156,879	0.5	-0.3	0.6	157,186	157,860	161,948	779,489	789,763	-1.3
Excluding defense:												
Shipments.....	228,184	228,408	228,560	-0.1	-0.1	1.3	227,728	229,425	225,918	1,115,064	1,081,756	3.1
New Orders ⁴	217,817	222,469	224,303	-2.1	-0.8	3.4	214,034	218,915	224,998	1,079,206	1,090,703	-1.1
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:												
Shipments.....	171,534	172,319	172,298	-0.5	0.0	1.3	171,339	170,334	169,334	839,515	810,369	3.6
New Orders.....	165,796	170,037	173,241	-2.5	-1.8	6.0	159,043	164,044	170,367	820,448	851,619	-3.7
Primary metals:												
Shipments.....	21,563	21,563	22,030	0.0	-2.1	-0.9	21,693	22,198	23,838	110,576	114,671	-3.6
New Orders.....	21,733	21,613	21,379	0.6	1.1	-2.5	21,376	21,942	23,857	110,688	116,914	-5.3
Fabricated metal products:												
Shipments.....	30,015	30,056	30,103	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	30,311	30,402	30,725	147,900	145,489	1.7
New Orders.....	29,806	29,629	29,332	0.6	1.0	-0.5	30,569	30,350	31,780	149,935	151,496	-1.0
Machinery:												
Shipments.....	33,555	33,294	33,167	0.8	0.4	0.1	34,127	33,921	34,963	164,602	167,364	-1.7
New Orders.....	31,996	31,876	31,727	0.4	0.5	-0.5	32,018	33,350	34,785	162,217	178,094	-8.9
Computers and electronic products⁴:												
Shipments.....	29,619	29,064	28,868	1.9	0.7	2.3	27,738	27,923	26,097	136,673	133,481	2.4
New Orders.....	25,334	24,797	25,519	2.2	-2.8	7.6	24,003	23,236	21,822	118,632	111,508	6.4
Computers and related products:												
Shipments.....	2,167	2,139	2,263	1.3	-5.5	10.0	1,890	1,686	2,069	9,420	10,211	-7.7
New Orders.....	2,098	2,226	2,294	-5.8	-3.0	10.3	1,821	1,773	2,282	9,518	10,293	-7.5
Communications equipment:												
Shipments.....	3,767	3,808	3,786	-1.1	0.6	4.6	3,645	3,368	3,453	17,505	17,114	2.3
New Orders.....	4,070	3,827	4,127	6.3	-7.3	-1.4	3,738	3,872	3,374	20,060	20,263	-1.0
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:												
Shipments.....	10,394	10,445	10,449	-0.5	0.0	-1.2	10,376	10,252	10,568	50,861	50,290	1.1
New Orders.....	10,400	10,442	10,684	-0.4	-2.3	0.8	10,494	10,263	10,724	51,746	52,042	-0.6
Transportation equipment:												
Shipments.....	76,747	77,455	77,839	-0.9	-0.5	4.6	76,399	77,151	72,632	375,555	349,028	7.6
New Orders.....	71,666	76,579	79,792	-6.4	-4.0	15.1	65,667	70,411	72,618	348,770	363,454	-4.0
Motor vehicles and parts:												
Shipments.....	50,819	50,756	51,212	0.1	-0.9	6.0	51,448	52,351	48,786	250,416	230,709	8.5
New Orders.....	50,873	50,895	50,679	0.0	0.4	4.5	51,353	51,993	48,835	250,343	231,636	8.1
Nondefense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	14,173	14,851	14,380	-4.6	3.3	0.2	13,100	13,449	10,806	66,405	55,398	19.9
New Orders.....	9,795	15,143	16,956	-35.3	-10.7	40.1	5,000	8,744	12,482	47,084	63,114	-25.4
Defense aircraft and parts:												
Shipments.....	4,521	4,468	4,640	1.2	-3.7	4.2	4,562	4,020	4,788	21,248	22,847	-7.0
New Orders.....	4,024	4,296	4,999	-6.3	-14.1	116.1	3,161	3,588	4,230	16,769	20,385	-17.7
All other durable goods:												
Shipments.....	37,967	38,222	38,143	-0.7	0.2	-0.3	38,600	38,506	38,780	185,067	178,608	3.6
New Orders.....	37,978	38,094	38,238	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	38,726	38,719	38,980	186,271	179,709	3.7
Capital goods³:												
Shipments.....	88,780	89,202	88,562	-0.5	0.7	1.5	87,175	85,667	84,891	426,684	413,435	3.2
New Orders.....	83,046	87,615	90,449	-5.2	-3.1	8.4	76,568	81,171	85,174	409,574	440,042	-6.9
Nondefense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	79,304	79,754	78,930	-0.6	1.0	0.9	77,730	76,747	75,524	381,418	367,926	3.7
New Orders.....	74,259	79,493	81,074	-6.6	-2.0	7.4	69,686	73,998	78,280	369,381	388,853	-5.0
Excluding aircraft:												
Shipments.....	69,494	69,297	69,068	0.3	0.3	1.0	68,699	67,311	68,744	336,812	332,540	1.3
New Orders.....	68,585	68,288	68,512	0.4	-0.3	1.6	67,314	67,890	68,717	341,439	350,725	-2.6
Defense capital goods:												
Shipments.....	9,476	9,448	9,632	0.3	-1.9	6.7	9,445	8,920	9,367	45,266	45,509	-0.5
New Orders.....	8,787	8,122	9,375	8.2	-13.4	17.8	6,882	7,173	6,894	40,193	51,189	-21.5

[†] Revised data due to late receipts and concurrent seasonal adjustment.¹ Estimates of shipments and new orders are for the duration of the period, while estimates of unfilled orders and total inventories are for the end of the period. Not seasonally adjusted estimates of shipments and new orders include adjusted data for non-calendar reporters. Seasonally adjusted estimates include concurrent adjustments for holiday and trading-day differences, where appropriate, as well as seasonal variation, based on the results of the latest annual review of the model parameters. Estimates are not adjusted for price changes.² Based on advance sample. Estimates of manufacturers' shipments, inventories, and orders are subject to survey error and revision. One major component of survey error is nonsampling error, which includes errors of coverage, response and nonreporting. Since the survey panel is not a probability sample, estimates of sampling error cannot be calculated. For further details on survey design, methodology, and data limitations, see <http://www.census.gov/manufacturing/m3>.³ The Capital Goods Industries include Nondefense : small arms and ordnance; farm machinery and equipment; construction machinery; mining, oil, and gas field machinery; industrial machinery; vending, laundry, and other machinery; photographic equipment; metalworking machinery; turbines and generators; other power transmission equipment; pumps and compressors; material handling equipment; all other machinery; electronic computers; computer storage devices; other computer peripheral equipment; communications equipment; search and navigation equipment; electromedical, measuring, and control instruments; electrical equipment, appliances, and components; heavy duty trucks; aircraft; railroad rolling stock; ships and boats; office and institutional furniture; and 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 Estimates and percent changes of shipments and inventories for the semiconductor industry are included in computers and electronic products, and all other applicable aggregate totals. Estimates and percent changes for new orders and unfilled orders exclude semiconductor industry data.

Table 2. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders and Total Inventories ¹

[Estimates are shown in millions of dollars and are based on data from the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey.]

Item	Seasonally Adjusted						Not Seasonally Adjusted			
	Monthly			Percent Change			Monthly			Percent Change 2015/ 2014
	May 2015 ²	Apr 2015 ^r	Mar 2015	Apr - May ²	Mar - Apr ^r	Feb - Mar	May 2015 ²	Apr 2015 ^r	May 2014	
DURABLE GOODS										
Total:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	1,195,486	1,201,224	1,203,506	-0.5	-0.2	0.1	1,195,835	1,208,131	1,131,061	5.7
Total Inventories.....	400,555	401,391	400,745	-0.2	0.2	0.0	403,895	403,670	389,505	3.7
Excluding transportation:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	396,716	397,373	398,779	-0.2	-0.4	-0.3	401,867	403,431	392,210	2.5
Total Inventories.....	270,625	271,156	270,984	-0.2	0.1	0.1	272,849	272,312	265,913	2.6
Excluding defense:										
Unfilled Orders ⁴	1,010,747	1,015,905	1,017,057	-0.5	-0.1	0.1	1,011,918	1,021,517	935,298	8.2
Total Inventories.....	373,893	374,846	374,836	-0.3	0.0	0.1	377,077	376,902	364,325	3.5
Manufacturing with unfilled orders:										
Unfilled Orders.....	1,195,486	1,201,224	1,203,506	-0.5	-0.2	0.1	1,195,835	1,208,131	1,131,061	5.7
Total Inventories.....	326,902	327,788	327,366	-0.3	0.1	-0.2	329,896	329,818	318,415	3.6
Primary metals:										
Unfilled Orders.....	35,831	35,661	35,611	0.5	0.1	-1.8	36,294	36,611	36,829	-1.5
Total Inventories.....	37,784	37,997	38,254	-0.6	-0.7	-2.6	37,700	37,910	37,433	0.7
Fabricated metal products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	81,928	82,137	82,564	-0.3	-0.5	-0.9	83,861	83,603	83,656	0.2
Total Inventories.....	49,272	49,280	49,257	0.0	0.0	-0.3	49,760	49,709	48,080	3.5
Machinery:										
Unfilled Orders.....	113,652	115,211	116,629	-1.4	-1.2	-1.2	114,794	116,903	118,800	-3.4
Total Inventories.....	67,000	67,148	67,130	-0.2	0.0	0.5	67,797	67,607	66,726	1.6
Computers and electronic products⁴:										
Unfilled Orders.....	133,563	132,639	132,119	0.7	0.4	1.2	134,382	134,022	123,074	9.2
Total Inventories.....	45,923	46,019	45,660	-0.2	0.8	1.0	46,367	46,041	44,658	3.8
Computers and related products:										
Unfilled Orders.....	2,570	2,639	2,552	-2.6	3.4	1.2	2,570	2,639	2,071	24.1
Total Inventories.....	3,938	3,929	3,864	0.2	1.7	-2.3	4,017	3,864	4,000	0.4
Communications equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	38,704	38,401	38,382	0.8	0.0	0.9	39,200	39,107	34,609	13.3
Total Inventories.....	5,805	5,774	5,777	0.5	-0.1	-0.4	5,807	5,680	6,173	-5.9
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components:										
Unfilled Orders.....	23,154	23,148	23,151	0.0	0.0	1.0	23,444	23,326	21,608	8.5
Total Inventories.....	16,603	16,674	16,649	-0.4	0.2	0.6	16,852	16,857	16,652	1.2
Transportation equipment:										
Unfilled Orders.....	798,770	803,851	804,727	-0.6	-0.1	0.2	793,968	804,700	738,851	7.5
Total Inventories.....	129,930	130,235	129,761	-0.2	0.4	-0.1	131,046	131,358	123,592	6.0
Motor vehicles and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	21,708	21,654	21,515	0.2	0.6	-2.4	21,957	22,052	19,847	10.6
Total Inventories.....	36,300	36,193	36,148	0.3	0.1	2.1	36,227	36,480	32,383	11.9
Nondefense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	608,477	612,855	612,563	-0.7	0.0	0.4	604,455	612,555	543,001	11.3
Total Inventories.....	65,755	66,246	66,433	-0.7	-0.3	-0.4	67,005	67,001	64,917	3.2
Defense Aircraft and parts:										
Unfilled Orders.....	65,679	66,176	66,348	-0.8	-0.3	0.5	64,910	66,311	68,123	-4.7
Total Inventories.....	12,916	12,957	12,677	-0.3	2.2	-2.7	13,001	13,027	12,716	2.2
All other durable goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	8,588	8,577	8,705	0.1	-1.5	1.1	9,092	8,966	8,243	10.3
Total Inventories.....	54,043	54,038	54,034	0.0	0.0	1.0	54,373	54,188	52,364	3.8
Capital goods³:										
Unfilled Orders.....	907,643	913,377	914,964	-0.6	-0.2	0.2	907,124	917,731	849,865	6.7
Total Inventories.....	197,831	198,906	198,257	-0.5	0.3	-0.2	200,201	200,118	195,308	2.5
Nondefense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	757,061	762,106	762,367	-0.7	0.0	0.3	756,957	765,001	687,694	10.1
Total Inventories.....	176,196	177,270	177,207	-0.6	0.0	0.0	178,495	178,329	175,072	2.0
Excluding aircraft:										
Unfilled Orders.....	248,170	249,079	250,088	-0.4	-0.4	-0.2	250,993	252,378	239,710	4.7
Total Inventories.....	121,528	121,815	121,678	-0.2	0.1	0.3	122,652	122,057	121,135	1.3
Defense capital goods:										
Unfilled Orders.....	150,582	151,271	152,597	-0.5	-0.9	-0.2	150,167	152,730	162,171	-7.4
Total Inventories.....	21,635	21,636	21,050	0.0	2.8	-1.4	21,706	21,789	20,236	7.3

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, which is a voluntary survey authorized by Title 13 of the United States Code. This survey provides statistics on a calendar-month basis for 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). Data published from the M3 survey are based on a panel of approximately 4,800 reporting units that represent approximately 3,000 companies and provide an indication of month-to-month change for the Manufacturing Sector. These reporting units may be divisions of diversified large companies, large homogenous companies, or single-unit manufacturers in 92 industry categories, which are combined into 65 publication levels due to the small monthly panel size. The survey methodology assumes that the month-to-month changes of the total operations of the reporting units in the M3 panel effectively represent the month-to-month movements of all establishments that make up the category.

The companies for which shipments data are currently reported or imputed in the M3 survey represent approximately 61 percent of the total value of shipments for manufacturing establishments in the 2012 Economic Census, and these companies include almost two-thirds of the manufacturing companies with \$500 million or more in shipments in the 2012 Economic Census. The companies for which shipments data are currently reported in the M3 survey represent approximately 54 percent of the total value of shipments for manufacturing establishments in the 2012 Economic Census. Statistics based on the M3 panel differ from the results that would be obtained from a complete enumeration of all manufacturing companies. The M3 panel is not based on 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 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>.

Benchmark notice

Revised historical data from the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3) Survey were issued on May 14, 2015. These revisions result from benchmarking the shipments and inventories data to the 2012 Economic Census and the 2013 Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM) data on a 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) basis, as well as revised ASM benchmarks for prior years on a 2007 NAICS basis; incorporating the unfilled orders to shipments ratios obtained from the 2013/2012 and 2012/2011 Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders Surveys by applying these ratios to the respective Census or ASM shipments data, as well as incorporating revised unfilled orders to shipments ratios for prior years; adjusting the new orders data to be consistent with the benchmarked shipments and unfilled orders data; correcting monthly data for late receipts, reclassifications of reported data, and revisions to previously reported data; and updating the seasonally adjusted data based on the results of benchmarking and the recent annual review of the seasonal adjustment models. These revisions spanned the seasonally adjusted data for January 1997 through March 2015 and the data not seasonally adjusted for January 2001 through March 2015. An updated Press Release contains revised monthly tables for January 2015 through March 2015 on a 2012 NAICS basis, which will be the new basis for publishing data from the M3 Survey starting with the April 2015 Advance Report on Durable Goods. Please call M3 staff on (301) 763-4832 with any questions.