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Chris Savage or Jessica Young
Manufacturing and Construction Division
(301) 763-4832

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Advance Report on Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders January 2010

New Orders

New orders for manufactured durable goods in January increased \$5.2 billion or 3.0 percent to \$175.7 billion, the U.S. Census Bureau announced today. This was the second consecutive monthly increase and followed a 1.9 percent December increase. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 0.6 percent. Excluding defense, new orders increased 1.6 percent.

Transportation equipment, up four of the last five months, had the largest increase, \$6.0 billion or 15.6 percent to \$44.8 billion. This was led by nondefense aircraft and parts, which increased \$4.0 billion.

Shipments

Shipments of manufactured durable goods in January, down following four consecutive monthly increases, decreased \$0.3 billion or 0.2 percent to \$180.7 billion. This followed a 2.4 percent December increase.

Transportation equipment, down following two consecutive monthly increases, had the largest decrease, \$1.6 billion or 3.5 percent to \$44.6 billion.

Unfilled Orders

Unfilled orders for manufactured durable goods in January, up following a record fifteen consecutive monthly decreases, increased \$0.4 billion or 0.1 percent to \$718.1 billion. This followed a 0.9 percent December decrease.

Primary metals, up seven of the last eight months, had the largest increase, \$0.5 billion or 3.2 percent to \$16.1 billion.

Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in January, down thirteen consecutive months, decreased \$0.1 billion to \$302.6 billion. This followed a 0.2 percent December decrease.

Computers and electronic products, down twelve of the last thirteen months, had the largest decrease, \$0.5 billion or 1.2 percent to \$42.9 billion.

Capital Goods

Nondefense new orders for capital goods in January increased \$2.6 billion or 4.7 percent to \$57.7 billion. Shipments decreased \$2.1 billion or 3.5 percent to \$57.7 billion. Unfilled orders decreased slightly to \$409.0 billion. Inventories increased \$0.5 billion or 0.3 percent to \$131.8 billion.

Defense new orders for capital goods in January increased \$1.6 billion or 19.2 percent to \$9.9 billion. Shipments increased \$0.1 billion or 0.6 percent to \$10.4 billion. Unfilled orders decreased \$0.5 billion or 0.4 percent to \$132.3 billion. Inventories increased \$0.5 billion or 2.4 percent to \$20.4 billion.

Revised December Data

Revised seasonally adjusted December figures for all manufacturing industries were: new orders, \$371.6 billion (revised from \$370.4 billion); shipments, \$382.1 billion (revised from \$383.1 billion); unfilled orders, \$717.7 billion (revised from \$716.7 billion); and total inventories, \$494.6 billion (revised from \$495.0 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 March 4, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. EST. The advance report on durable goods for February is scheduled for release on March 24, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. EDT. See back page for survey description and benchmark notice.

Table 1. Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments and New Orders¹

[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 | | |
| | Jan 2010 ² | Dec 2009 ^r | Nov 2009 | Dec - Jan ² | Nov - Dec ^r | Oct - Nov | Jan 2010 ² | Dec 2009 ^r | Jan 2009 | 2010 | 2009 | Change 10/09 |
| DURABLE GOODS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 180,708 | 181,004 | 176,772 | -0.2 | 2.4 | 0.8 | 160,731 | 182,307 | 158,380 | 160,731 | 158,380 | 1.5 |
| New Orders ⁴ | 175,748 | 170,570 | 167,412 | 3.0 | 1.9 | -0.4 | 160,352 | 183,007 | 145,868 | 160,352 | 145,868 | 9.9 |
| Excluding transportation: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 136,129 | 134,797 | 132,807 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 0.9 | 122,953 | 133,568 | 120,894 | 122,953 | 120,894 | 1.7 |
| New Orders ⁴ | 130,989 | 131,842 | 129,240 | -0.6 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 119,865 | 131,025 | 111,140 | 119,865 | 111,140 | 7.9 |
| Excluding defense: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 166,901 | 167,808 | 163,008 | -0.5 | 2.9 | 1.1 | 149,509 | 167,743 | 148,933 | 149,509 | 148,933 | 0.4 |
| New Orders ⁴ | 161,767 | 159,240 | 156,502 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 0.1 | 146,732 | 165,896 | 136,012 | 146,732 | 136,012 | 7.9 |
| Manufacturing with unfilled orders: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 129,956 | 131,965 | 128,189 | -1.5 | 2.9 | 1.1 | 114,539 | 134,474 | 113,163 | 114,539 | 113,163 | 1.2 |
| New Orders ⁴ | 130,361 | 125,591 | 122,907 | 3.8 | 2.2 | -0.8 | 120,756 | 138,334 | 105,397 | 120,756 | 105,397 | 14.6 |
| Primary metals: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 16,541 | 16,368 | 15,207 | 1.1 | 7.6 | 4.5 | 15,451 | 14,134 | 13,563 | 15,451 | 13,563 | 13.9 |
| New Orders..... | 17,042 | 16,717 | 15,189 | 1.9 | 10.1 | 2.6 | 16,515 | 14,423 | 12,713 | 16,515 | 12,713 | 29.9 |
| Fabricated metal products: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 24,080 | 24,024 | 24,125 | 0.2 | -0.4 | 0.2 | 21,825 | 22,218 | 22,922 | 21,825 | 22,922 | -4.8 |
| New Orders..... | 23,964 | 23,955 | 24,440 | 0.0 | -2.0 | 2.2 | 22,009 | 22,348 | 21,464 | 22,009 | 21,464 | 2.5 |
| Machinery: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 22,490 | 23,989 | 22,726 | -6.2 | 5.6 | 2.7 | 20,360 | 24,119 | 22,475 | 20,360 | 22,475 | -9.4 |
| New Orders..... | 22,100 | 24,481 | 22,784 | -9.7 | 7.4 | 3.2 | 21,507 | 23,929 | 20,379 | 21,507 | 20,379 | 5.5 |
| Computers and electronic products: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 32,271 | 29,746 | 30,163 | 8.5 | -1.4 | -1.0 | 29,455 | 33,595 | 25,319 | 29,455 | 25,319 | 16.3 |
| New Orders ⁴ | 26,966 | 25,768 | 25,697 | 4.6 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 23,146 | 31,577 | 19,771 | 23,146 | 19,771 | 17.1 |
| Computers and related products: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 5,094 | 4,705 | 4,592 | 8.3 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 4,348 | 6,207 | 3,771 | 4,348 | 3,771 | 15.3 |
| New Orders..... | 5,108 | 4,904 | 4,872 | 4.2 | 0.7 | 7.7 | 4,362 | 6,406 | 3,367 | 4,362 | 3,367 | 29.6 |
| Communications equipment: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 4,842 | 4,837 | 5,038 | 0.1 | -4.0 | -3.1 | 3,756 | 5,908 | 3,816 | 3,756 | 3,816 | -1.6 |
| New Orders..... | 5,123 | 4,968 | 4,884 | 3.1 | 1.7 | -1.3 | 4,087 | 6,159 | 3,865 | 4,087 | 3,865 | 5.7 |
| Semiconductors: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 5,365 | 4,060 | 4,078 | 32.1 | -0.4 | -8.3 | 6,596 | 3,160 | 4,746 | 6,596 | 4,746 | 39.0 |
| New Orders ⁴ | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) |
| Electrical equipment, appliances, and components: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 8,481 | 8,627 | 8,574 | -1.7 | 0.6 | 2.6 | 7,513 | 8,411 | 7,736 | 7,513 | 7,736 | -2.9 |
| New Orders..... | 8,653 | 8,533 | 8,801 | 1.4 | -3.0 | 3.5 | 8,316 | 7,881 | 8,013 | 8,316 | 8,013 | 3.8 |
| Transportation equipment: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 44,579 | 46,207 | 43,965 | -3.5 | 5.1 | 0.4 | 37,778 | 48,739 | 37,486 | 37,778 | 37,486 | 0.8 |
| New Orders..... | 44,759 | 38,728 | 38,172 | 15.6 | 1.5 | -7.8 | 40,487 | 51,982 | 34,728 | 40,487 | 34,728 | 16.6 |
| Motor vehicles and parts: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 25,319 | 25,670 | 24,539 | -1.4 | 4.6 | 2.8 | 22,945 | 23,977 | 22,829 | 22,945 | 22,829 | 0.5 |
| New Orders..... | 25,113 | 25,687 | 24,346 | -2.2 | 5.5 | 0.8 | 23,030 | 24,269 | 22,799 | 23,030 | 22,799 | 1.0 |
| Nondefense aircraft and parts: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 7,163 | 8,746 | 7,440 | -18.1 | 17.6 | -2.7 | 5,223 | 11,330 | 6,511 | 5,223 | 6,511 | -19.8 |
| New Orders..... | 7,084 | 3,134 | 4,373 | 126.0 | -28.3 | -40.4 | 5,256 | 13,030 | 4,041 | 5,256 | 4,041 | 30.1 |
| Defense aircraft and parts: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 5,632 | 5,783 | 5,731 | -2.6 | 0.9 | 2.3 | 4,326 | 6,908 | 3,598 | 4,326 | 3,598 | 20.2 |
| New Orders..... | 6,586 | 5,904 | 4,810 | 11.6 | 22.7 | -9.1 | 6,521 | 8,090 | 3,995 | 6,521 | 3,995 | 63.2 |
| All other durable goods: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 32,266 | 32,043 | 32,012 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 28,349 | 31,091 | 28,879 | 28,349 | 28,879 | -1.8 |
| New Orders..... | 32,264 | 32,388 | 32,329 | -0.4 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 28,372 | 30,867 | 28,800 | 28,372 | 28,800 | -1.5 |
| Capital goods:³ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 68,139 | 70,179 | 68,155 | -2.9 | 3.0 | 0.6 | 59,256 | 76,987 | 59,502 | 59,256 | 59,502 | -0.4 |
| New Orders..... | 67,616 | 63,447 | 62,093 | 6.6 | 2.2 | -3.2 | 61,884 | 80,730 | 52,113 | 61,884 | 52,113 | 18.7 |
| Nondefense capital goods: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 57,747 | 59,854 | 57,427 | -3.5 | 4.2 | 1.1 | 50,620 | 66,229 | 52,230 | 50,620 | 52,230 | -3.1 |
| New Orders..... | 57,706 | 55,130 | 53,808 | 4.7 | 2.5 | -3.0 | 52,097 | 67,684 | 44,279 | 52,097 | 44,279 | 17.7 |
| Excluding aircraft: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 54,038 | 54,849 | 53,547 | -1.5 | 2.4 | 1.6 | 48,410 | 59,228 | 48,813 | 48,410 | 48,813 | -0.8 |
| New Orders..... | 53,730 | 55,341 | 53,579 | -2.9 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 49,832 | 59,082 | 45,574 | 49,832 | 45,574 | 9.3 |
| Defense capital goods: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipments..... | 10,392 | 10,325 | 10,728 | 0.6 | -3.8 | -2.1 | 8,636 | 10,758 | 7,272 | 8,636 | 7,272 | 18.8 |
| New Orders..... | 9,910 | 8,317 | 8,285 | 19.2 | 0.4 | -4.4 | 9,787 | 13,046 | 7,834 | 9,787 | 7,834 | 24.9 |

NA Not Available ^rRevised 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. Further details on survey design, methodology, and data limitations are contained in our most recent annual benchmark publication, Current Industrial Reports: M3-3(07), "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders: 2004-2007."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; other 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 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 Inventories¹

[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 |
| | Jan 2010 ² | Dec 2009 ^r | Nov 2009 | Dec - Jan ² | Nov - Dec ^r | Oct - Nov | Jan 2010 ² | Dec 2009 ^r | Jan 2009 | |
| DURABLE GOODS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders ⁴ | 718,085 | 717,680 | 724,054 | 0.1 | -0.9 | -0.7 | 723,061 | 716,844 | 790,987 | -8.6 |
| Total Inventories..... | 302,588 | 302,662 | 303,298 | 0.0 | -0.2 | -0.2 | 303,042 | 294,640 | 339,202 | -10.7 |
| Excluding transportation: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders ⁴ | 307,818 | 307,593 | 306,488 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 306,595 | 303,087 | 325,910 | -5.9 |
| Total Inventories..... | 212,623 | 213,146 | 213,350 | -0.2 | -0.1 | -0.2 | 213,905 | 209,057 | 245,154 | -12.7 |
| Excluding defense: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders ⁴ | 569,444 | 569,213 | 573,721 | 0.0 | -0.8 | -0.4 | 572,321 | 568,502 | 628,022 | -8.9 |
| Total Inventories..... | 276,001 | 276,375 | 276,886 | -0.1 | -0.2 | -0.2 | 276,494 | 268,640 | 313,119 | -11.7 |
| Manufacturing with unfilled orders: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders ⁴ | 718,085 | 717,680 | 724,054 | 0.1 | -0.9 | -0.7 | 723,061 | 716,844 | 790,987 | -8.6 |
| Total Inventories..... | 244,999 | 244,405 | 244,858 | 0.2 | -0.2 | -0.1 | 245,171 | 237,892 | 273,106 | -10.2 |
| Primary metals: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 16,101 | 15,600 | 15,251 | 3.2 | 2.3 | -0.1 | 16,039 | 14,975 | 17,477 | -8.2 |
| Total Inventories..... | 26,142 | 25,803 | 25,536 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 26,290 | 25,725 | 31,039 | -15.3 |
| Fabricated metal products: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 48,892 | 49,008 | 49,077 | -0.2 | -0.1 | 0.6 | 48,067 | 47,883 | 55,277 | -13.0 |
| Total Inventories..... | 36,694 | 36,760 | 36,977 | -0.2 | -0.6 | 0.3 | 37,114 | 36,193 | 43,682 | -15.0 |
| Machinery: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 87,561 | 87,951 | 87,459 | -0.4 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 88,023 | 86,876 | 95,815 | -8.1 |
| Total Inventories..... | 47,180 | 47,535 | 47,795 | -0.7 | -0.5 | -0.5 | 47,513 | 46,263 | 55,431 | -14.3 |
| Computers and electronic products: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders ⁴ | 122,937 | 122,877 | 122,795 | 0.0 | 0.1 | -0.3 | 122,734 | 122,447 | 123,777 | -0.8 |
| Total Inventories..... | 42,854 | 43,377 | 42,885 | -1.2 | 1.1 | -0.1 | 42,983 | 42,525 | 47,104 | -8.7 |
| Computers and related products: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 4,721 | 4,707 | 4,508 | 0.3 | 4.4 | 6.6 | 4,721 | 4,707 | 3,686 | 28.1 |
| Total Inventories..... | 4,215 | 4,186 | 4,109 | 0.7 | 1.9 | -0.1 | 4,056 | 3,974 | 4,517 | -10.2 |
| Communications equipment: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 37,804 | 37,523 | 37,392 | 0.7 | 0.4 | -0.4 | 37,413 | 37,082 | 36,803 | 1.7 |
| Total Inventories..... | 9,257 | 9,350 | 9,072 | -1.0 | 3.1 | -0.8 | 9,442 | 9,312 | 10,417 | -9.4 |
| Semiconductors: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders ⁴ | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) |
| Total Inventories ⁴ | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) |
| Electrical equipment, appliances, and components: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 20,461 | 20,289 | 20,383 | 0.8 | -0.5 | 1.1 | 20,312 | 19,509 | 21,876 | -7.1 |
| Total Inventories..... | 12,157 | 12,068 | 12,143 | 0.7 | -0.6 | -0.5 | 12,279 | 11,710 | 14,271 | -14.0 |
| Transportation equipment: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 410,267 | 410,087 | 417,566 | 0.0 | -1.8 | -1.4 | 416,466 | 413,757 | 465,077 | -10.5 |
| Total Inventories..... | 89,965 | 89,516 | 89,948 | 0.5 | -0.5 | -0.3 | 89,137 | 85,583 | 94,048 | -5.2 |
| Motor vehicles and parts: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 13,843 | 14,049 | 14,032 | -1.5 | 0.1 | -1.4 | 14,158 | 14,073 | 15,619 | -9.4 |
| Total Inventories..... | 18,374 | 18,534 | 18,258 | -0.9 | 1.5 | 1.0 | 18,591 | 17,787 | 20,928 | -11.2 |
| Nondefense Aircraft and parts: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 270,487 | 270,566 | 276,178 | 0.0 | -2.0 | -1.1 | 274,364 | 274,331 | 305,640 | -10.2 |
| Total Inventories..... | 45,436 | 44,992 | 45,233 | 1.0 | -0.5 | -0.5 | 44,521 | 42,422 | 46,184 | -3.6 |
| Defense Aircraft and parts: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 46,425 | 45,471 | 45,350 | 2.1 | 0.3 | -2.0 | 47,188 | 44,993 | 48,624 | -3.0 |
| Total Inventories..... | 15,770 | 15,324 | 15,620 | 2.9 | -1.9 | -1.7 | 15,637 | 15,084 | 15,329 | 2.0 |
| All other durable goods: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 11,866 | 11,868 | 11,523 | 0.0 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 11,420 | 11,397 | 11,688 | -2.3 |
| Total Inventories..... | 47,596 | 47,603 | 48,014 | 0.0 | -0.9 | -0.7 | 47,726 | 46,641 | 53,627 | -11.0 |
| Capital goods:³ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 541,312 | 541,835 | 548,567 | -0.1 | -1.2 | -1.1 | 546,533 | 543,905 | 606,546 | -9.9 |
| Total Inventories..... | 152,243 | 151,312 | 152,505 | 0.6 | -0.8 | -0.2 | 151,560 | 146,675 | 165,247 | -8.3 |
| Nondefense capital goods: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 408,997 | 409,038 | 413,762 | 0.0 | -1.1 | -0.9 | 412,342 | 410,865 | 460,319 | -10.4 |
| Total Inventories..... | 131,841 | 131,389 | 132,266 | 0.3 | -0.7 | -0.2 | 131,064 | 126,799 | 144,994 | -9.6 |
| Excluding aircraft: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 174,083 | 174,391 | 173,899 | -0.2 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 173,521 | 172,099 | 189,943 | -8.6 |
| Total Inventories..... | 95,812 | 95,883 | 96,137 | -0.1 | -0.3 | -0.4 | 95,907 | 93,528 | 108,437 | -11.6 |
| Defense capital goods: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unfilled Orders..... | 132,315 | 132,797 | 134,805 | -0.4 | -1.5 | -1.8 | 134,191 | 133,040 | 146,227 | -8.2 |
| Total Inventories..... | 20,402 | 19,923 | 20,239 | 2.4 | -1.6 | -0.4 | 20,496 | 19,876 | 20,253 | 1.2 |

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-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 60 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 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 for Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders will be issued on May 14, 2010. These revisions reflect:

- benchmarking the shipments and inventory data to the 2007 Economic Census and the 2008 Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM) data;
- adjusting new orders and order backlog to be consistent with the benchmarked shipments and inventory data;
- correcting monthly data for late receipts, reclassifications of reported data, and revisions to previously reported data; and
- updating the seasonal adjustment factors for all series.

As of the Benchmark release, shipments for the semiconductor industry will no longer be shown separately, but will be included in the computers and electronic products, and all other applicable aggregate totals. An accompanying press release will include the revised 2010 January through March data. Please call Chris Savage on (301)763-4832 with any questions.