

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRELIMINARY REPORT ON MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS

Summary

New orders for manufactured goods in October increased \$4.9 billion or 1.5 percent to \$322.6 billion, the Department of Commerce, Census Bureau reported today. This followed a 2.4 percent September decrease. Year to date, new orders for 2002 were 1.5 percent below the same period a year ago. Shipments increased \$3.1 billion or 1.0 percent to \$325.7 billion, following a 0.3 percent September decrease. Year to date, shipments for 2002 were 1.7 percent below the same period a year ago. Unfilled orders decreased \$3.2 billion or 0.7 percent to \$482.6 billion, following a 1.0 percent September decrease; this was the lowest level since October 1996. The unfilled orders-to-shipments ratio was 3.93, down from 3.97 in September. Inventories increased slightly to \$429.4 billion, following a 0.2 percent September increase. The inventories-to-shipments ratio was 1.32, down from 1.33 in September.

New Orders

New Orders for manufactured durable goods in October increased \$4.0 billion or 2.4 percent to \$173.0 billion, revised from the previously published 2.8 percent increase.

New orders for manufactured nondurable goods increased \$0.9 billion or 0.6 percent to \$149.5 billion.

Shipments

Shipments for manufactured durable goods in October increased \$2.2 billion or 1.3 percent to \$176.2 billion, revised from the previously published 1.2 percent increase.

Shipments of manufactured nondurable goods increased \$0.9 billion or 0.6 percent to \$149.5 billion; this was the highest level since August 2001.

Unfilled Orders

Unfilled Orders for manufactured durable goods in October decreased \$3.2 billion or 0.7 percent to \$482.6 billion, revised from the previously published 0.5 percent decrease; this was the lowest level since October 1996.

Inventories

Inventories of manufactured durable goods in October, down twenty-one consecutive months, decreased \$0.6 billion or 0.2 percent to \$263.0 billion, unrevised from the previously published 0.2 percent decrease. This was the lowest level since November 1995.

Inventories of manufactured nondurable goods, up five consecutive months, increased \$0.6 billion or 0.4 percent to \$166.5 billion, led by printing, which increased \$0.2 billion.

By stage of fabrication, October materials and supplies decreased 0.1 percent in durables and increased 0.2 percent in nondurables. Work in process decreased 0.6 percent in durables and 0.5 percent in nondurables. Finished goods increased 0.2 percent in durables and 0.8 percent in nondurables.

Released December 4, 2002. Note: All figures in text are in seasonally adjusted current dollars. The advance report on durable goods for November is scheduled for December 24, 2002 at 8:30 a.m. and the full report on January 7, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Our internet address is: <http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/indicator/www/m3>