First Trust

Data Watch

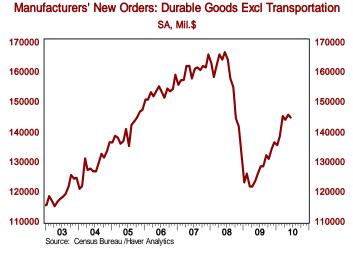
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JUNE DURABLE GOODS

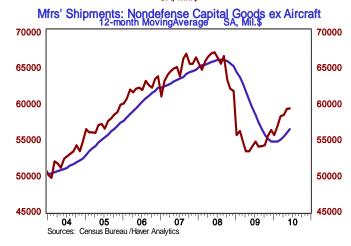
Chief Economist – Brian S. Wesbury Senior Economist – Robert Stein, CFA

- New orders for durable goods declined 1.0% in June versus a consensus expected gain of 1.0%. Excluding transportation, orders declined 0.6%, also short of the consensus expected increase of 0.4%. Orders are up 15.9% versus a year ago, 15.0% excluding transportation.
- The drop in orders in June can be almost all attributed to civilian aircraft, which are very volatile. Computers/electronics also declined, while motor vehicles increased for the 4th straight month.
- The government calculates business investment for GDP purposes by using shipments of non-defense capital goods excluding aircraft. That measure increased 0.2% in June, is up 10.1% in the past year, and increased at a 15.8% annual rate in Q2 versus the Q1 average.
- Unfilled orders were unchanged in June, but were up 0.8% excluding the transportation sector.

Implications: Overall orders declined 1% in June but the details of the report show capital spending is stronger than the headline suggests. Orders for civilian aircraft, which are extremely volatile from month to month, fell 25.6%. Excluding that single category, orders were essentially unchanged for the month, with increases in orders for motor vehicles/parts, fabricated metals, and electronic equipment/appliances roughly offsetting declines in orders for primary metals, machinery, and computers/electronics. Notably, all of the declining categories in June are ones where orders are still up substantially in the past year, with primary metals up 40%, machinery up 19%, and computers/electronics up 11%. Meanwhile, shipments of "core" capital goods, which exclude defense and aircraft, increased 0.2% in June, the ninth increase in the last ten months. This is the number the government uses to estimate business investment in equipment. Gains in these shipments should continue; new orders for core capital goods increased 0.6% in June and unfilled orders increased 1.1%. In other recent news, the Richmond Fed index, a measure of manufacturing in the mid-Atlantic, came in at +16 in July. That's a decline versus +23



Mfrs' Shipments: Nondefense Capital Goods ex Aircraft



in June but was higher than the consensus anticipated and suggests continued healthy growth in the factory sector. The Case-Shiller index, a measure of home prices in the 20 largest metro areas, increased 0.5% in May and is up 4.6% in the past year.

Durable Goods	Jun-10	May-10	Apr-10	3-mo % ch.	6-mo % ch.	Yr to Yr
All Data Seasonally Adjusted		-	-	annualized	annualized	% Change
New Orders for Durable Goods	-1.0%	-0.8%	2.9%	4.2%	13.7%	15.9%
Ex Defense	-0.7%	-0.7%	3.4%	8.1%	13.4%	17.1%
Ex Transportation	-0.6%	1.2%	-0.9%	-0.9%	12.7%	15.0%
Primary Metals	-2.0%	-0.6%	0.0%	-10.1%	11.9%	39.6%
Industrial Machinery	-0.7%	11.1%	-6.9%	11.6%	21.7%	18.5%
Computers and Electronic Products	-1.9%	0.1%	2.1%	1.2%	13.2%	10.7%
Transportation Equipment	-2.4%	-6.6%	15.4%	22.6%	16.9%	18.8%
Capital Goods Orders	-2.3%	-0.9%	6.3%	12.1%	30.6%	17.9%
Capital Goods Shipments	0.6%	-0.7%	-0.4%	-2.1%	-0.7%	4.5%
Defense Shipments	-1.5%	-6.3%	-4.4%	-39.5%	-19.0%	-13.2%
Non-Defense, Ex Aircraft	0.2%	1.5%	0.4%	8.5%	11.3%	10.1%
Unfilled Orders for Durable Goods	0.0%	0.3%	0.4%	2.6%	2.4%	-2.2%

Source: Bureau of the Census

This report was prepared by First Trust Advisors L. P., and reflects the current opinion of the authors. It is based upon sources and data believed to be accurate and reliable. Opinions and forward looking statements expressed are subject to change without notice. This information does not constitute a solicitation oan offer to buy or sell any security.