

**M3-L1**  
(03-16-2017)



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**U.S. Census Bureau**  
Washington, DC 20233-0001  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

**A Message from the Director, U.S. Census Bureau:**

We are requesting your cooperation with the **Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders** survey. The purpose of this survey is to provide broad-based monthly statistical data on current economic conditions and indications of future production commitments in the manufacturing sector. It provides some of the Nation's most widely used, timely information on the manufacturing sector of the economy.

Use the enclosed form as a worksheet prior to reporting online, or return the completed form in the enclosed envelope. Online reporting is encouraged due to cost savings and reduced processing times. Website and log in information can be found on the front page of the form.

**YOUR RESPONSE WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.** We estimate this survey will take an average of 20 minutes to complete. Additional information about the authority, confidentiality, and burden of this data collection can be found on the back of this letter.

If you need assistance completing this survey, please call us on 301-763-4832, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time.

**Thank you** in advance for your voluntary participation, and for helping the U.S. Census Bureau measure America's people, places, and economy. Your response makes a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Thompson".

John H. Thompson  
Director  
U.S. Census Bureau

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### **OMB Number**

This collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The eight-digit OMB approval number is 0607-0008 and appears at the upper right of the login screen. Without this approval, we could not conduct this survey.

### **Authority and Confidentiality**

Title 13 United States Code, Sections 131, 182, and 193, authorizes the Census Bureau to conduct this collection and to request your voluntary assistance. The U.S. Census Bureau is required by Section 9 of the same law to keep your information confidential and can use your responses only to produce statistics. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify your business, organization, or institution. Per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data.

### **Burden Estimate Statement**

We estimate this survey will take an average of 20 minutes to complete, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

EID Survey Comments 0607-0008  
U.S. Census Bureau  
4600 Silver Hill Road  
Room EID-7K071  
Washington, DC 20233

You may email comments to [eid.m3.qs@census.gov](mailto:eid.m3.qs@census.gov). Be sure to use "EID Survey Comments 0607-0008" as the subject.