Economics Group



Scott Anderson, Senior Economist scott.anderson@wellsfargo.com • (612) 667-9281 Tim Quinlan, Economist tim.quinlan@wellsfargo.com • (704) 374-4407

Durable Goods Orders Weak Outside of Aircraft

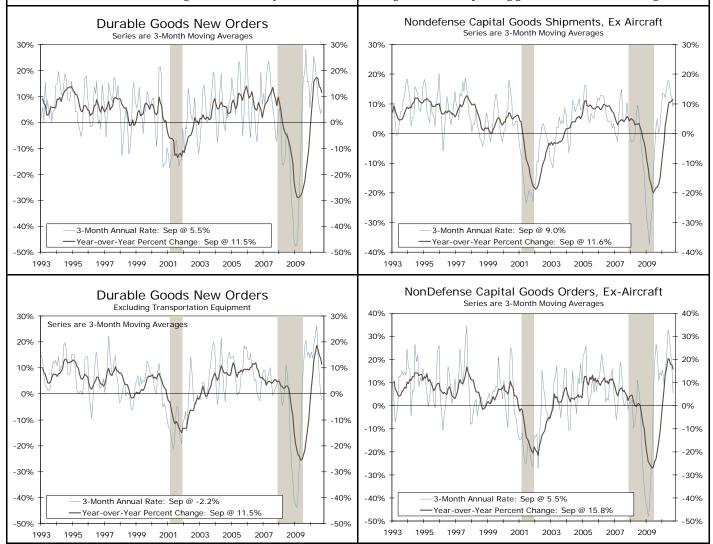
Durable goods orders for September came in stronger than expected, but the headline number was boosted by a jump in aircraft orders. Ex-aircraft, orders fell 0.6 percent signaling a slower pace of business spending.

Factory Sector Can't be Locomotive Forever

• In the early stages of this recovery, the first "green shoots," as everyone called them at the time, emerged in the factory sector as orders began to pick up. The gains were made possible by a massive inventory swing that allowed factories to replenish stockpiles after the worst of the recession past. Despite the strong top number, today's report is a reminder that the industrial sector can not drive growth indefinitely.

Boost from Business Spending to Wane

 Still, one month does not a trend make, and this report was not all bad. Shipments of non-defense capital goods ex-aircraft tend to be a reliable indicator of business spending in the GDP report. This measure notched a 0.4 percent gain on the month. Orders for non-defense capital goods ex-aircraft came down 0.6 percent in September from an upwardly revised jump of 4.8 percent in August. Business spending growth could slow in coming months.



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

Wells Fargo Securities, LLC Economics Group

Diane Schumaker-Krieg	Global Head of Research & Economics	(704) 715-8437 (212) 214-5070	diane.schumaker@wellsfargo.com
John E. Silvia, Ph.D.	Chief Economist	(704) 374-7034	john.silvia@wellsfargo.com
Mark Vitner	Senior Economist	(704) 383-5635	mark.vitner@wellsfargo.com
Jay Bryson, Ph.D.	Global Economist	(704) 383-3518	jay.bryson@wellsfargo.com
Scott Anderson, Ph.D.	Senior Economist	(612) 667-9281	scott.a.anderson@wellsfargo.com
Eugenio Aleman, Ph.D.	Senior Economist	(612) 667-0168	eugenio.j.aleman@wellsfargo.com
Sam Bullard	Senior Economist	(704) 383-7372	sam.bullard@wellsfargo.com
Anika Khan	Economist	(704) 715-0575	anika.khan@wellsfargo.com
Azhar Iqbal	Econometrician	(704) 383-6805	azhar.iqbal@wellsfargo.com
Ed Kashmarek	Economist	(612) 667-0479	ed.kashmarek@wellsfargo.com
Tim Quinlan	Economist	(704) 374-4407	tim.quinlan@wellsfargo.com
Tyler B. Kruse	Economic Analyst	(704) 715-1030	tyler.kruse@wellsfargo.com

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