Economics Group



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Durable Goods Orders Slip on Big Drop in Transport Sector

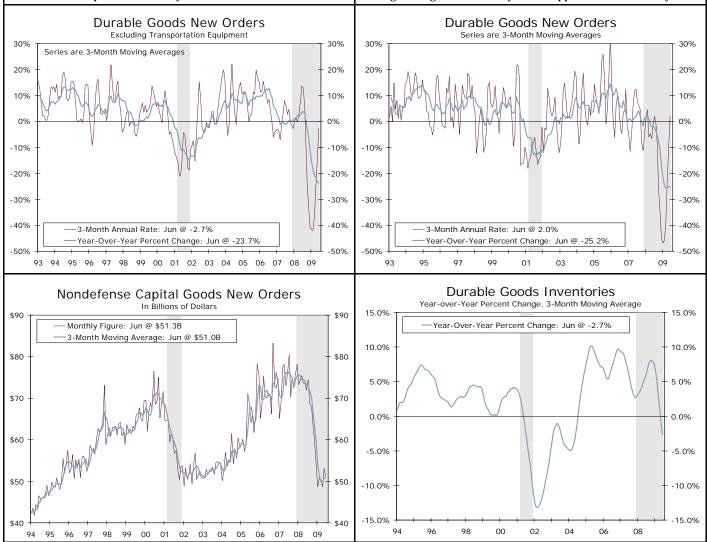
A larger-than-expected drop in durable goods orders in June was offset by an unexpected pickup in ex-transportation orders. Aside from the volatility of the transportation sector, gradual recovery continues.

Transportation Sector Tends to be Volatile

- Transportation orders fell 12.8 percent in June, dragged down by 38.5 percent drop in nondefense aircraft orders. In May, nondefense aircraft orders soared more than 60 percent.
- To filter out the noise, we like to look at the ex transportation number as well as non-defense capital goods, ex-aircraft. Both of these series gained for the second straight month and signal that the collapse in orders may to be behind us.

Slow Recovery Underway

- Even taking into account the dip in June, durable goods orders are firmly in positive territory at a three month annual rate, which suggests a welcome momentum shift.
- Inventories have been drawn down at a staggering rate so far this
 year as business owners scramble to cut production in an effort
 to survive this recession. This depletion in stockpiles sets the
 stage for a gradual recovery, which appears to be underway.



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

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