

**New orders for manufactured durable goods** in December increased \$11.2 billion or 5.2 percent to \$226.6 billion, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This was the second consecutive monthly increase and followed a 0.5 percent November increase. Excluding transportation, new orders increased 2.6 percent. Excluding defense, new orders increased 2.9 percent.

Diversified global manufacturer **Carlisle Companies Inc.**, Charlotte, NC, has acquired **Dinex**

**International, Inc.**, a supplier of foodservice products to the healthcare and other institutional industries. With annual sales of \$85 million, Dinex supplies traytop smallwares, dishware, disposable lids and packaging as well as heating and meal delivery systems.

Material handling equipment manufacturer **Columbus McKinnon Corp.**, Amherst, NY, reported sales for its fiscal 2008 third quarter were \$155.2 million, up 9.3 percent.

**MARKETS  
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SUPPLEMENT  
P. 3**

## 2007 U.S. Construction Statistics

### Housing Starts & Issued Permits: Percentage Change - 2006 to 2007

	U.S. Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Housing Starts	-24.8%	-14.9%	-24.7%	-25.3%	-27.8%
Permits Issued	-25.3%	-15.3%	-25.5%	-26.7%	-26.0%

### Construction Spending

	2007	2006	% Change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,161,322</b>	<b>1,192,238</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>873,969</b>	<b>937,047</b>	<b>-6.7</b>
<b>Residential</b>	<b>524,153</b>	<b>641,332</b>	<b>-18.3</b>
<b>Nonresidential</b>	<b>349,816</b>	<b>295,715</b>	<b>18.3</b>
Lodging	28,806	17,687	62.9
Office	55,377	46,194	19.9
Commercial	81,845	72,148	13.4
Health care	36,867	33,183	11.1
Educational	16,620	13,745	20.9
Religious	7,523	7,690	-2.2
Public safety	510	448	13.8
Amusement and recreation	9,334	9,041	3.2
Transportation	8,697	7,937	9.6
Communication	26,100	21,621	20.7
Power	39,542	30,481	29.7
Sewage and waste disposal	340	284	19.7
Water supply	428	445	-3.8
Manufacturing	37,262	34,278	8.7
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>287,353</b>	<b>255,191</b>	<b>12.6</b>
<b>Residential</b>	<b>7,085</b>	<b>6,084</b>	<b>16.5</b>
<b>Nonresidential</b>	<b>280,267</b>	<b>249,108</b>	<b>12.5</b>
Office	9,982	8,451	18.1
Commercial	3,552	3,370	5.4
Health care	8,170	6,342	28.8
Educational	81,822	72,247	13.3
Public safety	9,356	7,358	27.2
Amusement and recreation	11,221	9,208	21.9
Transportation	22,609	19,101	18.4
Power	10,242	8,625	18.7
Highway and street	76,675	71,481	7.3
Sewage and waste disposal	24,263	22,706	6.9
Water supply	15,173	14,397	5.4
Conservation and development	5,588	5,238	6.7

For monthly updated numbers:

[www.mdm.com/databank](http://www.mdm.com/databank)

Source: Department of Commerce