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# September Machinery Orders

Both manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors show good results

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## **Summary**

- According to statistics for machinery orders in September 2014, the leading indicator for domestic capex, private sector demand (excluding shipbuilding and electric power), were up by +2.9% m/m, while exceeding market consensus (-1.0%). This is the fourth consecutive month of growth, indicating that orders are now clearly in a growth trend.
- Looking at results by source of demand, the manufacturing industries achieved growth for the first time in two months at +12.0% m/m. A wide range of industries reported growth in orders, showing good results overall. Non-manufacturing orders (excluding shipbuilding and electric power) achieved growth for the second consecutive month at +1.7% m/m.
- Overseas demand suffered a decline of -9.4% m/m. This appears to be in reaction to the major growth experienced during the Apr-Jun quarter, but is still on the positive side in comparison to earlier declines.
- According to the CAO outlook for the Oct-Dec 2014 period, private sector demand (excluding shipbuilding and electric power) is expected to suffer a decline of -0.3% q/q, its first decline in two quarters. Corporations are a bit bearish in their outlooks for orders, creating a somewhat negative tone. Domestic demand has been weaker than expected after the increase in the consumption tax, and this increasing sense of an unclear future is likely to show up in corporate outlooks. Hence care should be taken regarding the future.

Machinery Orders (m/m %; SA)											Cha	art 1
	2013			2014								
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Machinery orders (private sector)*	0.9	6.5	-12.1	8.1	-4.6	19.1	-9.1	-19.5	8.8	3.5	4.7	2.9
Market consensus (Bloomberg)												-1.0
DIR estimate												-0.5
Manufacturing orders	3.4	0.5	-7.8	4.9	-4.6	23.7	-9.4	-18.6	6.7	20.3	-10.8	12.0
Non-manufacturing orders*	5.6	6.4	-11.5	6.1	-5.1	8.5	0.9	-17.8	4.0	-4.3	10.7	1.7
Overseas orders	-13.4	-5.6	3.2	3.7	2.3	3.2	71.3	-45.9	62.8	-42.6	29.1	-9.4

Source: Cabinet Office, Bloomberg; compiled by DIR. \*excl. those for shipbuilding and from electric utilities. Note: Figures on market consensus from Bloomberg



# September Machinery Orders win Fourth Consecutive Month of Growth

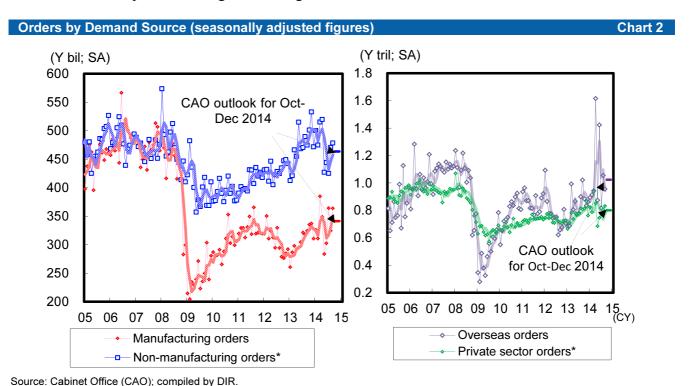
According to statistics for machinery orders in September 2014, the leading indicator for domestic capex, private sector demand (excluding shipbuilding and electric power), were up by +2.9% m/m, while exceeding market consensus (-1.0%). This is the fourth consecutive month of growth, indicating that orders are now clearly in a growth trend.

# Manufacturing Industry Orders Show Good Results, with Growth Seen in a **Broad Range of Industries**

Looking at results by source of demand, the manufacturing industries achieved growth for the first time in two months at +12.0% m/m. A wide range of industries reported growth in orders, showing good results overall. Especially notable for helping to bring overall results up were electrical machinery (+46.1% m/m), petroleum and coal products (+492.1%), chemicals (+24.3%), and automobiles, parts, and accessories (+15.8%). The sudden leap in growth for petroleum and coal products may be a temporary phenomenon due to having taken on orders for large projects and so can be taken with a grain of salt. However, in the case of automobiles, parts, and accessories, this is a sign of having hit bottom after a downtrend which has lasted since earlier this year.

## Non-manufacturing Industry Continues to Move Toward Comeback

Non-manufacturing orders (excluding shipbuilding and electric power) achieved growth for the second consecutive month at +1.7% m/m. Results by industry showed especially large contributions from telecommunications (+49.1% m/m), information services (+19.8%), finance and insurance (+5.8%), and real estate (+44.4%). Telecommunications and information services had been in a decline until now, but as of this point show signs of hitting bottom.

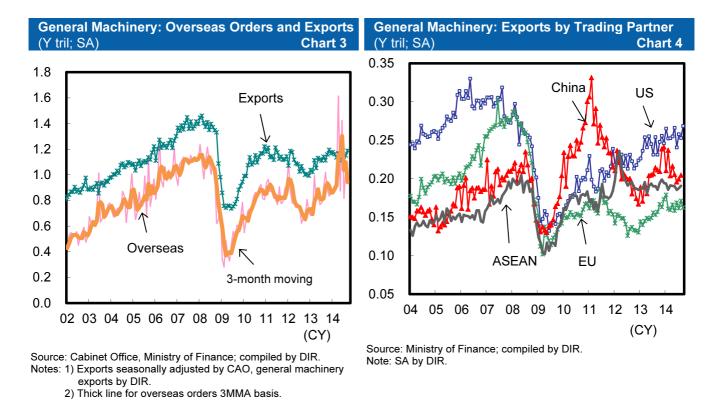


\*excl. those for shipbuilding and from electric utilities. Note: Thick lines 3MMA basis.



## Overseas Orders Maintain High Level, but Future is Unclear

Overseas demand suffered a decline of -9.4% m/m. This appears to be in reaction to the major growth experienced during the Apr-Jun quarter, but is still on the positive side in comparison to earlier declines. Care should be taken regarding an increasingly unclear future, due mostly to the slowdown in the EU and Chinese economies.



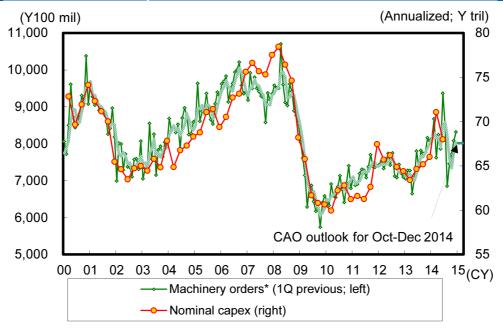
# Machinery Orders Stand Good Chance of Achieving Growth for Second **Consecutive Quarter in Oct-Dec Period**

According to the CAO outlook for the Oct-Dec 2014 period, private sector demand (excluding shipbuilding and electric power) is expected to suffer a decline of -0.3% g/g, its first decline in two quarters. Corporations are a bit bearish in their outlooks for orders, creating a somewhat negative tone. Domestic demand has been weaker than expected after the increase in the consumption tax, and this increasing sense of an unclear future is likely to show up in corporate outlooks. Hence care should be taken regarding the future. However, results should easily hit this figure assuming that there is an average decline of -1.8% m/m during each month of the quarter. If the average decline is only -1.6% m/m, Oct-Dec period results should be able to report growth. Hence machinery orders are thought to stand a good chance of achieving their second consecutive quarter of growth in Oct-Dec 2014 based on strong result up to now. The BOJ Tankan survey on planned capital spending shows a positive attitude towards capex. Hence capex spending is likely to recover and move into a growth trend from the Jul-Sep period and beyond.



## **Domestic Demand and Nominal Capex**

### Chart 5



Source: Cabinet Office (CAO); compiled by DIR. Note: Excluding those for shipbuilding and from electric utilities; thick lines 3MMA basis.

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