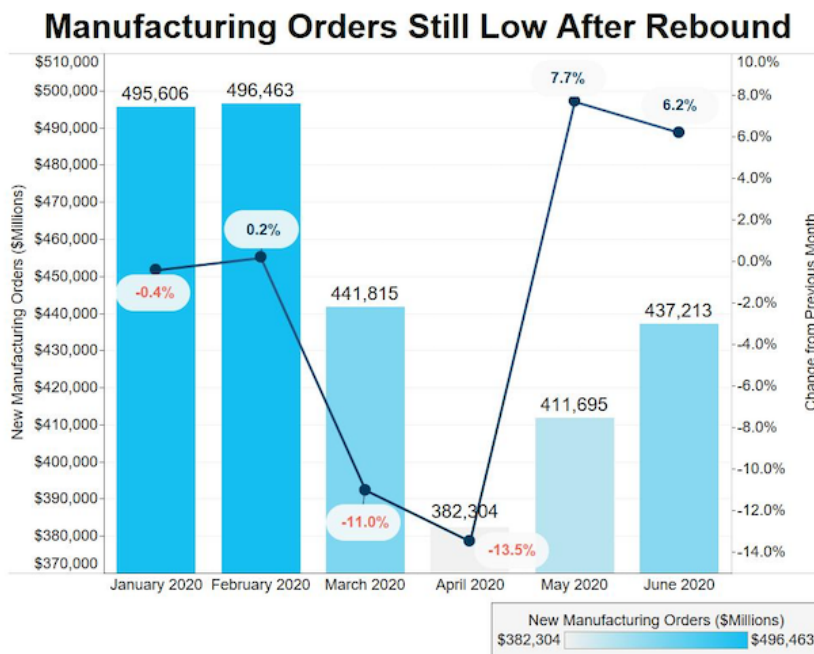


# We've Seen Two Straight Months of Good Manufacturing Order Growth

Yesterday we reported that manufacturing sentiment was above pre-pandemic levels in July. Today, the [Census Bureau reports](#) that new manufacturing orders rose 6.2% in June. That follows a 7.7% increase in May.



Two consecutive months of strong manufacturing orders is good news, of course. However, as with all data right now, it remains important to look at both the growth rate and the level.

The level of manufacturing orders is still far below where it was before the COVID-19 shock hit in March. Manufacturing orders were \$496 billion in February. In June there were \$437 billion – almost \$60 billion less. On a year-to-date basis, orders are more than 10% below their 2019 levels at this point.

**What's next:** Manufacturing orders will probably take at least a few more months to get back to their level before the virus struck. Based on the July sentiment for the sector, perhaps orders will increase strongly again, although the virus's resurgence may temper growth.

—Curtis Dubay, Senior Economist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce