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AUGUST 2009 CONSTRUCTION AT \$941.9 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during August 2009 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$941.9 billion, 0.8 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$)* above the revised July estimate of \$934.6 billion. The August figure is 11.6 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$) below the August 2008 estimate of \$1,066.1 billion.

During the first 8 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$629.5 billion, 11.9 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) below the \$714.3 billion for the same period in 2008.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$622.1 billion, 1.8 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) above the revised July estimate of \$611.1 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$249.5 billion in August, 4.7 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) above the revised July estimate of \$238.3 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$372.6 billion in August, 0.1 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$)* below the revised July estimate of \$372.8 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In August, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$319.8 billion, 1.1 percent ($\pm 2.7\%$)* below the revised July estimate of \$323.5 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$89.2 billion, nearly the same as ($\pm 4.2\%$)* the revised July estimate of \$89.3 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$85.2 billion, 0.8 percent ($\pm 7.5\%$)* above the revised July estimate of \$84.5 billion.

September 2009 data will be released on November 2, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. EST.

For more detailed data and methodologies, go to our website:

<http://www.census.gov/constructionspending>

EXPLANATORY NOTES

In interpreting changes in the statistics in this release, note that month-to-month changes in seasonally adjusted statistics often show movements which may be irregular. It may take 2 months to establish an underlying trend for total construction and as long as 8 months for specific categories of construction. The statistics in this release are estimated from several sources and surveys and are subject to sampling variability as well as nonsampling error including bias and variance from response, nonreporting, and undercoverage. Estimates of the standard errors are provided in Table 3. Whenever a statement such as "2.3 (± 3.1) percent above" appears in the text, this indicates the range (-0.8 to +5.4 percent) in which the actual percent change is likely to have occurred. All ranges given are 90 percent confidence intervals and account only for sampling variability. If a range does not contain zero, the change is statistically significant. If it does contain zero, the change is not statistically significant; that is, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. Statistics for the current month are preliminary estimates subject to revision in following months as additional data become available. The average absolute percent changes from preliminary estimate to first revision for the major seasonally adjusted components are as follows: total construction, 0.5 percent; private construction, 0.6 percent; and public construction, 0.7 percent.

* 90% confidence interval includes zero. The U.S. Census Bureau does not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

Table 1. Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States, Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate
(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	Aug 2009 ^p	Jul 2009 ^r	Jun 2009 ^r	May 2009	Apr 2009	Aug 2008	Percent change Aug 2009 from -	
							Jul 2009	Aug 2008
Total Construction	941,879	934,550	945,137	958,347	971,363	1,066,065	0.8	-11.6
Residential	257,352	246,952	245,279	249,143	260,305	347,802	4.2	-26.0
Nonresidential	684,527	687,598	699,858	709,204	711,059	718,263	-0.4	-4.7
Lodging	24,161	25,008	27,479	28,458	30,310	37,836	-3.4	-36.1
Office	55,384	56,904	57,164	58,693	58,760	71,284	-2.7	-22.3
Commercial	55,658	56,077	57,922	62,742	65,808	83,429	-0.7	-33.3
Health care	48,443	49,451	50,317	48,740	48,109	48,427	-2.0	0.0
Educational	105,365	105,561	108,056	107,757	108,027	106,590	-0.2	-1.1
Religious	6,526	6,537	6,442	6,105	6,858	6,656	-0.2	-2.0
Public safety	14,113	14,649	15,312	14,870	14,202	12,491	-3.7	13.0
Amusement and recreation	18,642	19,693	19,798	19,546	19,918	21,147	-5.3	-11.8
Transportation	35,510	35,361	35,231	34,380	32,889	34,209	0.4	3.8
Communication	20,075	20,076	20,076	21,191	21,171	22,910	0.0	-12.4
Power	89,206	90,569	92,164	92,684	92,096	81,743	-1.5	9.1
Highway and street	85,258	84,601	84,430	81,403	80,395	82,707	0.8	3.1
Sewage and waste disposal	24,079	24,175	24,407	25,324	25,981	24,333	-0.4	-1.0
Water supply	15,794	16,706	16,190	15,543	16,047	17,154	-5.5	-7.9
Conservation and development	5,966	5,818	5,656	5,778	5,785	5,730	2.5	4.1
Manufacturing	80,346	76,413	79,215	85,991	84,703	61,620	5.1	30.4
Total Private Construction ¹	622,074	611,092	619,535	639,823	654,126	756,407	1.8	-17.8
Residential	249,476	238,286	236,970	241,407	252,662	340,172	4.7	-26.7
Nonresidential	372,598	372,806	382,565	398,415	401,465	416,235	-0.1	-10.5
Lodging	24,112	24,940	27,427	28,399	30,224	37,411	-3.3	-35.5
Office	40,596	41,079	42,103	44,106	43,724	57,985	-1.2	-30.0
Commercial	51,707	52,156	53,541	58,770	62,121	79,886	-0.9	-35.3
Health care	38,063	38,813	39,930	38,510	38,886	39,326	-1.9	-3.2
Educational	16,146	16,308	17,001	17,644	17,359	18,959	-1.0	-14.8
Religious	6,510	6,514	6,439	6,105	6,857	6,624	-0.1	-1.7
Amusement and recreation	7,406	8,091	8,244	8,530	8,835	10,182	-8.5	-27.3
Transportation	9,090	9,405	9,395	9,829	9,426	9,768	-3.3	-6.9
Communication	20,064	20,047	20,020	21,134	21,130	22,747	0.1	-11.8
Power	78,027	78,699	78,812	78,703	77,233	70,184	-0.9	11.2
Manufacturing	79,782	75,725	78,603	85,383	84,134	61,106	5.4	30.6
Total Public Construction ²	319,805	323,458	325,603	318,524	317,237	309,658	-1.1	3.3
Residential	7,876	8,665	8,310	7,736	7,643	7,630	-9.1	3.2
Nonresidential	311,929	314,793	317,293	310,788	309,594	302,029	-0.9	3.3
Office	14,788	15,826	15,061	14,588	15,036	13,299	-6.6	11.2
Commercial	3,951	3,920	4,381	3,972	3,687	3,543	0.8	11.5
Health care	10,379	10,638	10,388	10,229	9,222	9,102	-2.4	14.0
Educational	89,219	89,253	91,055	90,113	90,668	87,631	0.0	1.8
Public safety	13,857	14,430	15,017	14,420	13,795	11,906	-4.0	16.4
Amusement and recreation	11,236	11,602	11,555	11,016	11,083	10,965	-3.2	2.5
Transportation	26,420	25,956	25,836	24,551	23,463	24,441	1.8	8.1
Power	11,180	11,871	13,352	13,981	14,863	11,559	-5.8	-3.3
Highway and street	85,155	84,507	84,303	81,298	80,168	82,588	0.8	3.1
Sewage and waste disposal	23,615	23,785	24,081	24,865	25,461	23,797	-0.7	-0.8
Water supply	15,563	16,415	15,897	15,265	15,693	16,405	-5.2	-5.1
Conservation and development	5,927	5,782	5,646	5,767	5,759	5,661	2.5	4.7

^p Preliminary ^r Revised

¹ Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately:
public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

² Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately:
lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.

Table 2. Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States, Not Seasonally Adjusted
(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	Aug 2009 ^P	Jul 2009 ^r	Jun 2009 ^r	May 2009	Apr 2009	Aug 2008	Year-to-date		
							Aug 2009	Aug 2008	Percent change
Total Construction	89,540	86,244	85,352	80,952	78,292	100,786	629,543	714,298	-11.9
Residential	26,034	23,525	22,487	21,785	21,276	34,363	171,038	247,343	-30.8
Nonresidential	63,506	62,719	62,865	59,167	57,016	66,423	458,505	466,954	-1.8
Lodging	2,013	2,084	2,290	2,372	2,526	3,153	18,776	24,000	-21.8
Office	4,753	4,871	4,923	4,981	4,910	6,158	39,110	46,571	-16.0
Commercial	4,977	4,896	5,044	5,270	5,345	7,577	41,075	58,016	-29.2
Health care	4,117	4,146	4,328	4,084	3,979	4,109	31,908	30,950	3.1
Educational	10,581	10,586	10,287	9,015	8,520	10,813	71,343	69,730	2.3
Religious	584	560	533	501	549	596	4,355	4,592	-5.2
Public safety	1,206	1,277	1,311	1,210	1,160	1,081	9,381	8,079	16.1
Amusement and recreation	1,649	1,723	1,753	1,693	1,686	1,874	12,966	14,403	-10.0
Transportation	3,299	3,181	3,069	2,856	2,645	3,134	21,851	21,956	-0.5
Communication	1,642	1,713	1,815	1,681	1,730	1,880	13,153	17,616	-25.3
Power	7,926	7,929	8,156	7,670	7,449	7,215	58,704	51,688	13.6
Highway and street	9,662	9,265	8,669	6,939	5,815	9,211	52,869	51,737	2.2
Sewage and waste disposal	2,198	2,160	2,138	2,150	2,093	2,237	16,168	16,144	0.1
Water supply	1,391	1,434	1,406	1,310	1,323	1,556	10,460	10,995	-4.9
Conservation and development	516	512	460	437	464	490	3,699	3,490	6.0
Manufacturing	6,995	6,383	6,684	6,998	6,825	5,340	52,686	36,988	42.4
Total Private Construction ¹	57,774	54,705	54,792	54,084	53,364	69,968	421,864	515,266	-18.1
Residential	25,344	22,741	21,733	21,118	20,638	33,682	165,770	242,553	-31.7
Nonresidential	32,431	31,965	33,059	32,966	32,727	36,286	256,094	272,713	-6.1
Lodging	2,009	2,078	2,286	2,367	2,519	3,118	18,724	23,639	-20.8
Office	3,431	3,484	3,595	3,738	3,665	4,968	29,206	38,149	-23.4
Commercial	4,626	4,557	4,665	4,941	5,035	7,273	38,550	55,683	-30.8
Health care	3,263	3,264	3,435	3,227	3,200	3,365	25,430	25,330	0.4
Educational	1,509	1,519	1,563	1,543	1,449	1,751	11,555	12,416	-6.9
Religious	583	558	532	501	549	594	4,351	4,571	-4.8
Amusement and recreation	623	682	699	714	762	863	5,699	7,059	-19.3
Transportation	794	795	807	836	768	852	5,947	6,420	-7.4
Communication	1,641	1,711	1,811	1,677	1,726	1,866	13,127	17,504	-25.0
Power	6,906	6,908	6,941	6,367	6,153	6,143	50,345	43,785	15.0
Manufacturing	6,948	6,325	6,633	6,948	6,777	5,297	52,301	36,653	42.7
Total Public Construction ²	31,765	31,538	30,560	26,868	24,928	30,819	207,680	199,031	4.3
Residential	691	784	754	667	638	682	5,268	4,790	10.0
Nonresidential	31,075	30,754	29,806	26,201	24,290	30,137	202,411	194,241	4.2
Office	1,322	1,387	1,328	1,244	1,246	1,190	9,904	8,422	17.6
Commercial	351	339	378	328	310	304	2,525	2,333	8.2
Health care	854	882	893	857	778	744	6,479	5,619	15.3
Educational	9,072	9,067	8,724	7,472	7,071	9,063	59,788	57,315	4.3
Public safety	1,183	1,258	1,285	1,172	1,127	1,028	9,140	7,604	20.2
Amusement and recreation	1,025	1,041	1,055	980	924	1,011	7,267	7,344	-1.0
Transportation	2,506	2,386	2,262	2,020	1,877	2,282	15,905	15,535	2.4
Power	1,020	1,021	1,215	1,303	1,296	1,072	8,359	7,903	5.8
Highway and street	9,651	9,256	8,657	6,931	5,798	9,199	52,791	51,586	2.3
Sewage and waste disposal	2,158	2,128	2,106	2,109	2,050	2,192	15,892	15,785	0.7
Water supply	1,367	1,412	1,384	1,289	1,294	1,474	10,218	10,514	-2.8
Conservation and development	512	509	459	436	461	484	3,677	3,452	6.5

^P Preliminary ^r Revised

¹ Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately:
public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

² Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately:
lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.

Table 3. **Coefficients of Variation and Standard Errors by Type of Construction**
(Percent)

Type of Construction	Coefficient of variation		Standard error		
	Monthly estimate	Year-to-date estimate	Year-to-date change	Month-to-month change	Month-to-month change from prev. year
Total Construction	0.9	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.1
Residential	4.0	3.8	4.7	4.1	4.4
Nonresidential	0.9	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.1
Lodging	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.0	1.5
Office	2.4	2.1	2.5	1.7	2.4
Commercial	3.0	2.2	1.7	2.2	1.8
Health care	1.8	1.6	2.2	1.2	2.2
Educational	2.1	1.5	2.2	2.3	3.2
Religious	5.4	3.8	4.3	3.9	5.9
Public safety	3.0	2.0	3.3	1.8	4.3
Amusement and recreation	3.8	3.2	3.5	2.5	3.7
Transportation	2.6	2.0	2.4	3.3	4.4
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.9	0.6	1.0	0.6	1.1
Highway and street	3.6	2.0	2.7	4.7	4.7
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.3	3.0	2.8	3.9
Water supply	3.7	2.3	3.2	3.2	3.8
Conservation and development	3.2	1.6	4.1	2.1	6.6
Manufacturing	1.4	1.2	2.1	0.9	2.1
Total Private Construction	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.9
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.9
Lodging	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.0	1.6
Office	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.4	2.5
Commercial	3.2	2.4	1.7	2.4	1.8
Health care	2.2	1.9	2.6	1.4	2.5
Educational	3.6	2.9	3.0	2.8	3.5
Religious	5.4	3.8	4.3	4.0	5.9
Amusement and recreation	5.2	4.6	4.3	2.9	4.2
Transportation	9.5	7.7	6.0	4.7	6.1
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7
Manufacturing	1.4	1.3	2.1	0.8	2.2
Total Public Construction	1.3	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.0
Residential	4.0	3.8	4.7	4.1	4.4
Nonresidential	1.3	0.8	1.3	1.7	2.0
Office	2.3	1.6	5.0	1.5	3.6
Commercial	6.3	4.9	6.5	5.7	10.0
Health care	2.9	2.3	3.7	2.1	4.4
Educational	2.4	1.7	2.6	2.6	3.7
Public safety	3.0	2.0	3.6	1.8	4.6
Amusement and recreation	5.2	4.5	5.4	3.5	6.0
Transportation	2.7	2.0	2.6	3.5	4.7
Power	5.0	3.4	7.8	2.8	7.4
Highway and street	3.6	2.0	2.7	4.7	4.7
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.3	3.1	2.8	4.0
Water supply	3.8	2.3	3.3	3.3	3.9
Conservation and development	3.2	1.6	4.1	2.1	6.7

NA Not applicable