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MAY 2012 CONSTRUCTION AT \$830.0 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during May 2012 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$830.0 billion, 0.9 percent ($\pm 1.5\%$)* above the revised April estimate of \$822.5 billion. The May figure is 7.0 percent ($\pm 2.0\%$) above the May 2011 estimate of \$775.8 billion.

During the first 5 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$310.5 billion, 9.4 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$) above the \$283.8 billion for the same period in 2011.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$560.4 billion, 1.6 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$)* above the revised April estimate of \$551.8 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$261.3 billion in May, 3.0 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) above the revised April estimate of \$253.8 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$299.1 billion in May, 0.4 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$)* above the revised April estimate of \$298.0 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In May, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$269.6 billion, 0.4 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$)* below the revised April estimate of \$270.7 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$65.0 billion, 3.0 percent ($\pm 3.8\%$)* below the revised April estimate of \$67.0 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$78.0 billion, 0.5 percent ($\pm 6.3\%$)* below the revised April estimate of \$78.4 billion.

June 2012 data will be released on August 1, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. EDT.

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, 1.3 percent; private construction, 1.7 percent; and public construction, 0.8 percent.

In this May 2012 press release, normal revisions to the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data will revise back to January 2010.

* 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	May 2012 ^P	Apr 2012 ^r	Mar 2012 ^r	Feb 2012 ^r	Jan 2012 ^r	May 2011 ^r	Percent change May 2012 from -	
							Apr 2012	May 2011
Total Construction	830,013	822,497	817,842	820,677	824,687	775,837	0.9	7.0
Residential	267,700	260,240	256,156	259,640	257,051	252,086	2.9	6.2
Nonresidential	562,313	562,257	561,686	561,037	567,637	523,751	0.0	7.4
Lodging	11,032	11,005	11,122	9,658	9,628	8,567	0.2	28.8
Office	35,084	35,609	35,780	34,288	35,143	34,965	-1.5	0.3
Commercial	47,677	46,959	46,425	45,896	46,716	43,671	1.5	9.2
Health care	41,336	40,784	40,154	41,081	40,515	38,835	1.4	6.4
Educational	82,212	84,762	85,520	85,705	86,046	83,505	-3.0	-1.5
Religious	3,572	3,893	4,019	4,078	4,189	4,185	-8.2	-14.6
Public safety	10,201	10,133	10,577	10,947	10,802	10,167	0.7	0.3
Amusement and recreation	15,674	15,682	15,820	15,812	16,408	16,792	-0.1	-6.7
Transportation	34,567	34,366	32,793	33,051	34,599	34,638	0.6	-0.2
Communication	16,853	16,888	17,008	16,819	17,412	17,527	-0.2	-3.8
Power	93,918	93,252	94,195	95,207	100,664	71,863	0.7	30.7
Highway and street	78,137	78,503	77,797	77,545	76,121	76,812	-0.5	1.7
Sewage and waste disposal	22,146	22,492	22,915	23,660	23,567	22,250	-1.5	-0.5
Water supply	13,433	13,626	13,446	13,637	14,333	13,209	-1.4	1.7
Conservation and development	6,851	6,293	6,323	6,064	5,958	7,817	8.9	-12.4
Manufacturing	49,622	48,011	47,791	47,590	45,538	38,949	3.4	27.4
Total Private Construction¹	560,433	551,803	544,797	544,550	547,460	495,321	1.6	13.1
Residential	261,330	253,817	249,452	252,640	249,566	243,060	3.0	7.5
New single family	121,281	119,112	117,712	117,837	115,599	105,671	1.8	14.8
New multi-family	20,491	19,269	18,028	17,784	17,108	13,634	6.3	50.3
Nonresidential	299,103	297,985	295,345	291,910	297,894	252,261	0.4	18.6
Lodging	10,309	10,279	10,225	8,976	9,053	7,968	0.3	29.4
Office	24,390	24,358	24,552	23,306	23,658	22,894	0.1	6.5
Commercial	44,366	43,806	43,234	42,798	43,557	39,940	1.3	11.1
Health care	30,418	30,337	29,560	30,644	29,961	27,357	0.3	11.2
Educational	17,186	17,748	17,465	16,762	16,411	13,492	-3.2	27.4
Religious	3,545	3,871	3,989	4,055	4,166	4,151	-8.4	-14.6
Amusement and recreation	6,631	6,730	6,414	6,366	6,516	7,397	-1.5	-10.4
Transportation	10,745	10,668	9,346	8,609	9,973	9,155	0.7	17.4
Communication	16,685	16,670	16,696	16,621	17,178	17,420	0.1	-4.2
Power	84,773	84,854	85,778	85,796	90,947	62,697	-0.1	35.2
Manufacturing	48,567	47,227	46,762	46,640	44,771	38,292	2.8	26.8
Total Public Construction²	269,579	270,694	273,045	276,127	277,228	280,516	-0.4	-3.9
Residential	6,370	6,423	6,704	7,000	7,484	9,026	-0.8	-29.4
Nonresidential	263,210	264,271	266,341	269,127	269,743	271,490	-0.4	-3.0
Office	10,695	11,250	11,229	10,982	11,485	12,071	-4.9	-11.4
Commercial	3,310	3,153	3,191	3,098	3,159	3,731	5.0	-11.3
Health care	10,918	10,448	10,594	10,437	10,555	11,478	4.5	-4.9
Educational	65,026	67,014	68,055	68,943	69,635	70,013	-3.0	-7.1
Public safety	10,091	10,044	10,486	10,825	10,621	9,945	0.5	1.5
Amusement and recreation	9,043	8,952	9,407	9,446	9,892	9,394	1.0	-3.7
Transportation	23,822	23,698	23,447	24,442	24,626	25,484	0.5	-6.5
Power	9,145	8,397	8,417	9,410	9,718	9,166	8.9	-0.2
Highway and street	78,000	78,356	77,687	77,484	75,957	76,772	-0.5	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	21,539	21,832	22,254	23,058	22,865	21,732	-1.3	-0.9
Water supply	12,896	13,155	13,069	13,184	13,770	12,529	-2.0	2.9
Conservation and development	6,753	6,223	6,237	5,965	5,863	7,778	8.5	-13.2

^PPreliminary ^rRevised

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

²Includes 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	May 2012 ^p	Apr 2012 ^r	Mar 2012 ^r	Feb 2012 ^r	Jan 2012 ^r	May 2011 ^r	Year-to-date		
							May 2012	May 2011	Percent change
Total Construction	70,734	66,164	60,939	56,108	56,535	65,845	310,480	283,811	9.4
Residential	23,548	21,698	18,755	16,543	17,058	22,330	97,602	91,861	6.2
Nonresidential	47,186	44,466	42,184	39,566	39,477	43,515	212,878	191,950	10.9
Lodging	919	917	927	805	802	714	4,370	3,553	23.0
Office	3,014	2,977	2,865	2,642	2,638	2,982	14,135	13,644	3.6
Commercial	4,055	3,897	3,646	3,394	3,362	3,703	18,354	16,000	14.7
Health care	3,466	3,364	3,264	3,178	3,136	3,283	16,409	15,731	4.3
Educational	6,961	6,670	6,363	5,950	5,943	6,996	31,886	30,777	3.6
Religious	284	315	321	330	321	331	1,572	1,727	-9.0
Public safety	848	820	836	820	815	840	4,139	3,895	6.3
Amusement and recreation	1,330	1,291	1,237	1,155	1,180	1,441	6,192	6,287	-1.5
Transportation	2,894	2,742	2,435	2,329	2,416	2,895	12,817	13,300	-3.6
Communication	1,462	1,324	1,363	1,255	1,162	1,461	6,566	6,683	-1.8
Power	7,697	7,380	7,500	7,212	7,572	5,705	37,361	26,218	42.5
Highway and street	6,641	5,405	4,333	3,853	3,641	6,375	23,872	23,490	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	1,860	1,778	1,760	1,668	1,651	1,867	8,717	8,600	1.4
Water supply	1,131	1,118	1,041	989	1,000	1,110	5,280	5,444	-3.0
Conservation and development	543	503	499	453	438	598	2,436	2,988	-18.5
Manufacturing	4,081	3,964	3,797	3,534	3,399	3,214	18,775	13,613	37.9
Total Private Construction¹	48,070	45,329	41,788	38,090	38,677	42,493	211,952	181,747	16.6
Residential	23,009	21,174	18,246	16,011	16,510	21,580	94,950	88,231	7.6
New single family	10,351	9,549	9,018	7,621	7,877	9,029	44,416	40,061	10.9
New multi-family	1,758	1,627	1,476	1,382	1,290	1,183	7,532	5,540	36.0
Nonresidential	25,061	24,155	23,542	22,079	22,166	20,912	117,002	93,516	25.1
Lodging	859	857	852	748	754	664	4,070	3,326	22.4
Office	2,112	2,029	1,969	1,833	1,780	1,966	9,723	8,800	10.5
Commercial	3,785	3,650	3,393	3,155	3,121	3,396	17,104	14,666	16.6
Health care	2,539	2,488	2,389	2,339	2,297	2,305	12,052	11,150	8.1
Educational	1,544	1,485	1,404	1,243	1,173	1,200	6,849	5,143	33.2
Religious	282	313	319	328	320	329	1,561	1,714	-8.9
Amusement and recreation	558	558	537	503	513	626	2,669	2,621	1.8
Transportation	910	838	667	598	709	774	3,723	3,478	7.0
Communication	1,448	1,306	1,337	1,239	1,142	1,452	6,472	6,657	-2.8
Power	6,907	6,619	6,859	6,546	6,899	4,917	33,829	22,038	53.5
Manufacturing	3,993	3,899	3,712	3,455	3,335	3,160	18,393	13,360	37.7
Total Public Construction²	22,665	20,835	19,151	18,018	17,858	23,353	98,528	102,064	-3.5
Residential	539	524	509	531	548	750	2,652	3,630	-26.9
Nonresidential	22,126	20,311	18,642	17,487	17,310	22,603	95,876	98,434	-2.6
Office	901	949	896	808	857	1,016	4,411	4,845	-9.0
Commercial	270	247	253	239	242	307	1,250	1,334	-6.3
Health care	927	877	875	839	839	978	4,357	4,581	-4.9
Educational	5,418	5,185	4,958	4,706	4,770	5,796	25,037	25,634	-2.3
Public safety	839	813	828	811	802	820	4,093	3,821	7.1
Amusement and recreation	772	733	700	652	667	816	3,524	3,666	-3.9
Transportation	1,984	1,904	1,768	1,731	1,707	2,121	9,094	9,822	-7.4
Power	790	762	641	666	673	789	3,532	4,180	-15.5
Highway and street	6,630	5,393	4,324	3,849	3,629	6,372	23,825	23,469	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	1,809	1,723	1,705	1,623	1,599	1,822	8,458	8,370	1.1
Water supply	1,089	1,084	1,014	963	962	1,056	5,110	5,220	-2.1
Conservation and development	535	497	491	445	431	595	2,398	2,973	-19.3

^pPreliminary ^rRevised

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

²Includes 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	0.7	1.0	0.9	1.2
Residential	4.0	3.6	2.1	4.6	2.4
Nonresidential	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.9	1.3
Lodging	3.5	2.5	5.9	1.9	6.2
Office	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.1	4.6
Commercial	3.9	3.9	4.5	2.9	3.5
Health care	1.9	1.8	2.3	1.3	2.7
Educational	2.2	1.6	2.6	1.9	3.0
Religious	7.0	6.6	7.7	4.0	8.3
Public safety	3.7	2.8	3.7	3.2	4.2
Amusement and recreation	3.6	3.2	3.9	4.4	5.9
Transportation	2.0	1.3	2.5	2.0	3.1
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.5
Highway and street	3.4	2.4	3.5	3.8	5.0
Sewage and waste disposal	3.6	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.9
Water supply	4.0	3.5	4.3	3.9	5.3
Conservation and development	3.6	2.9	2.1	4.8	4.6
Manufacturing	1.8	1.2	2.1	1.0	2.4
Total Private Construction	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.0	1.5
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
New single family	5.0	4.0	6.8	6.0	6.0
New multi-family	9.6	8.4	11.1	4.0	14.3
Nonresidential	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.0	1.5
Lodging	3.6	2.7	6.2	1.9	6.6
Office	5.1	5.3	5.2	4.8	7.1
Commercial	4.3	4.3	5.1	3.1	3.8
Health care	2.4	2.4	3.1	1.6	3.7
Educational	3.3	2.9	5.8	2.2	6.0
Religious	7.1	6.6	7.8	4.0	8.4
Amusement and recreation	4.6	4.3	4.8	3.8	6.7
Transportation	4.3	3.5	9.8	2.3	6.3
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.2	0.4
Manufacturing	1.8	1.3	2.2	1.0	2.5
Total Public Construction	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.7
Residential	4.0	3.6	2.1	4.6	2.4
Nonresidential	1.4	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.8
Office	2.5	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.5
Commercial	6.5	4.4	5.4	6.9	9.0
Health care	2.4	2.3	2.9	1.8	3.2
Educational	2.5	1.8	2.8	2.3	3.3
Public safety	3.7	2.9	3.7	3.2	4.2
Amusement and recreation	5.0	4.3	5.6	6.9	9.0
Transportation	2.2	1.4	2.6	2.2	3.2
Power	5.0	3.8	3.5	6.3	3.8
Highway and street	3.4	2.4	3.5	3.8	5.0
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	3.2	3.9	3.2	5.0
Water supply	4.3	3.6	4.5	4.1	5.6
Conservation and development	3.6	3.0	2.1	4.8	4.6

NA Not applicable

Table 4. Annual Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States

(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	2011 ^r	2010 ^r	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
Total Construction	778,238	804,561	-3.3	0.5
Residential	245,686	249,112	-1.4	2.8
Nonresidential	532,552	555,449	-4.1	0.5
Lodging	8,880	11,635	-23.7	2.6
Office	34,647	37,850	-8.5	2.1
Commercial	43,571	39,450	10.4	2.8
Health care	39,713	39,344	0.9	1.5
Educational	84,320	88,405	-4.6	1.4
Religious	4,224	5,288	-20.1	4.6
Public safety	10,236	11,153	-8.2	2.4
Amusement and recreation	16,174	16,943	-4.5	2.1
Transportation	34,867	38,340	-9.1	1.5
Communication	17,533	17,730	-1.1	NA
Power	73,965	77,945	-5.1	0.4
Highway and street	78,896	82,529	-4.4	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	22,606	25,991	-13.0	2.3
Water supply	14,169	15,322	-7.5	2.5
Conservation and development	7,371	7,172	2.8	2.1
Manufacturing	41,382	40,350	2.6	1.4
Total Private Construction¹	494,961	500,595	-1.1	0.8
Residential	236,960	238,819	-0.8	1.1
New single family	108,178	112,569	-3.9	4.0
New multi-family	14,772	14,686	0.6	9.4
Nonresidential	258,001	261,776	-1.4	0.8
Lodging	8,217	11,201	-26.6	2.7
Office	22,538	24,368	-7.5	3.2
Commercial	39,972	36,504	9.5	3.0
Health care	28,606	29,552	-3.2	1.9
Educational	14,180	13,418	5.7	2.5
Religious	4,191	5,237	-20.0	4.6
Public safety	208	241	-13.7	12.3
Amusement and recreation	6,984	6,483	7.7	3.1
Transportation	9,841	9,894	-0.5	4.3
Communication	17,384	17,689	-1.7	NA
Power	63,935	66,117	-3.3	0.3
Sewage and waste disposal	563	439	28.2	15.0
Water supply	641	717	-10.6	10.4
Manufacturing	40,631	39,778	2.1	1.5
Total Public Construction²	283,277	303,966	-6.8	0.7
Residential	8,726	10,294	-15.2	2.8
Nonresidential	274,551	293,672	-6.5	0.7
Office	12,108	13,482	-10.2	1.7
Commercial	3,600	2,947	22.2	5.6
Health care	11,107	9,792	13.4	1.9
Educational	70,140	74,986	-6.5	1.6
Public safety	10,028	10,913	-8.1	2.4
Amusement and recreation	9,190	10,461	-12.1	2.8
Transportation	25,025	28,446	-12.0	1.6
Power	10,030	11,828	-15.2	2.5
Highway and street	78,858	82,417	-4.3	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	22,043	25,552	-13.7	2.4
Water supply	13,528	14,605	-7.4	2.7
Conservation and development	7,298	7,146	2.1	2.1

NA Not applicable ^rRevised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately:
highway and street, and conservation and development.

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