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## AUGUST 2011 CONSTRUCTION AT \$799.1 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during August 2011 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$799.1 billion, 1.4 percent ( $\pm 2.1\%$ )\* above the revised July estimate of \$788.3 billion. The August figure is 0.9 percent ( $\pm 1.9\%$ )\* above the August 2010 estimate of \$791.7 billion.

During the first 8 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$511.4 billion, 3.0 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) below the \$527.3 billion for the same period in 2010.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$511.0 billion, 0.4 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised July estimate of \$508.9 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$237.8 billion in August, 0.7 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised July estimate of \$236.2 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$273.1 billion in August, 0.2 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised July estimate of \$272.6 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In August, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$288.2 billion, 3.1 percent ( $\pm 3.0\%$ ) above the revised July estimate of \$279.4 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$72.7 billion, 4.3 percent ( $\pm 4.8\%$ )\* above the revised July estimate of \$69.8 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$80.2 billion, 3.5 percent ( $\pm 8.6\%$ )\* above the revised July estimate of \$77.4 billion.

*September 2011 data will be released on November 1, 2011 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 ( $\pm 3.1$ ) 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, 1.1 percent; private construction, 1.6 percent; and public construction, 1.3 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 2011 <sup>P</sup>	Jul 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2011 <sup>r</sup>	May 2011	Apr 2011	Aug 2010	Percent change Aug 2011 from -	
							Jul 2011	Aug 2010
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>799,145</b>	<b>788,308</b>	<b>799,568</b>	<b>787,396</b>	<b>768,226</b>	<b>791,749</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Residential	246,092	243,824	252,273	257,200	247,042	239,236	0.9	2.9
Nonresidential	553,053	544,485	547,295	530,196	521,184	552,513	1.6	0.1
Lodging	7,946	8,419	8,792	8,308	8,203	11,131	-5.6	-28.6
Office	35,300	35,220	35,456	34,451	33,428	36,136	0.2	-2.3
Commercial	44,764	46,003	45,494	43,604	41,419	41,023	-2.7	9.1
Health care	41,838	41,979	41,594	39,395	39,361	40,484	-0.3	3.3
Educational	86,900	84,184	85,107	82,541	83,312	89,393	3.2	-2.8
Religious	4,022	3,953	3,824	4,131	4,206	4,842	1.7	-16.9
Public safety	10,122	9,609	10,279	9,960	9,829	10,742	5.3	-5.8
Amusement and recreation	15,553	15,351	15,332	15,896	14,408	17,602	1.3	-11.6
Transportation	35,792	34,995	35,956	35,621	36,258	37,922	2.3	-5.6
Communication	17,753	18,435	18,306	17,701	18,142	18,721	-3.7	-5.2
Power	90,687	88,945	88,976	86,258	81,210	74,609	2.0	21.5
Highway and street	80,205	77,449	76,369	74,812	74,817	83,646	3.6	-4.1
Sewage and waste disposal	23,651	22,626	23,070	22,990	22,804	27,256	4.5	-13.2
Water supply	14,328	14,212	13,180	13,270	13,562	16,283	0.8	-12.0
Conservation and development	7,273	6,828	7,126	7,353	7,294	6,832	6.5	6.5
Manufacturing	36,920	36,278	38,435	33,907	32,932	35,892	1.8	2.9
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>510,981</b>	<b>508,875</b>	<b>515,855</b>	<b>508,863</b>	<b>488,398</b>	<b>484,100</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Residential	237,842	236,243	243,939	249,019	238,289	228,865	0.7	3.9
New single family	106,401	105,526	105,226	104,965	105,598	110,240	0.8	-3.5
New multi-family	14,868	14,757	14,011	14,131	13,704	13,118	0.8	13.3
Nonresidential	273,139	272,632	271,916	259,843	250,110	255,235	0.2	7.0
Lodging	7,267	7,804	8,122	7,740	7,718	10,637	-6.9	-31.7
Office	24,220	24,194	23,539	22,697	21,416	23,520	0.1	3.0
Commercial	41,279	42,391	41,965	39,728	37,956	37,856	-2.6	9.0
Health care	30,902	30,802	30,307	28,569	28,700	30,788	0.3	0.4
Educational	14,177	14,431	13,860	13,009	13,333	13,248	-1.8	7.0
Religious	3,985	3,931	3,797	4,098	4,166	4,805	1.4	-17.1
Amusement and recreation	6,604	6,659	6,475	6,894	5,569	6,602	-0.8	0.0
Transportation	10,937	10,680	10,601	10,175	10,172	10,079	2.4	8.5
Communication	17,670	18,314	18,235	17,617	18,112	18,687	-3.5	-5.4
Power	78,458	76,276	75,869	74,626	69,058	62,335	2.9	25.9
Manufacturing	36,285	35,644	37,659	33,246	32,332	35,167	1.8	3.2
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>288,164</b>	<b>279,433</b>	<b>283,713</b>	<b>278,533</b>	<b>279,828</b>	<b>307,649</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>-6.3</b>
Residential	8,250	7,580	8,334	8,181	8,753	10,372	8.8	-20.5
Nonresidential	279,915	271,852	275,379	270,353	271,074	297,278	3.0	-5.8
Office	11,079	11,026	11,917	11,754	12,011	12,616	0.5	-12.2
Commercial	3,485	3,612	3,529	3,876	3,463	3,167	-3.5	10.0
Health care	10,936	11,177	11,287	10,826	10,661	9,696	-2.2	12.8
Educational	72,722	69,753	71,246	69,532	69,979	76,145	4.3	-4.5
Public safety	9,868	9,398	10,072	9,762	9,644	10,609	5.0	-7.0
Amusement and recreation	8,949	8,692	8,857	9,002	8,839	11,000	3.0	-18.6
Transportation	24,855	24,315	25,355	25,447	26,086	27,843	2.2	-10.7
Power	12,229	12,669	13,108	11,632	12,151	12,275	-3.5	-0.4
Highway and street	80,171	77,432	76,360	74,794	74,799	83,504	3.5	-4.0
Sewage and waste disposal	23,193	22,106	22,509	22,442	22,049	26,773	4.9	-13.4
Water supply	13,763	13,496	12,508	12,640	12,987	15,604	2.0	-11.8
Conservation and development	7,231	6,786	7,089	7,301	7,249	6,756	6.6	7.0

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary <sup>r</sup>Revised

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>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 2011 <sup>P</sup>	Jul 2011 <sup>F</sup>	Jun 2011 <sup>F</sup>	May 2011	Apr 2011	Aug 2010	Year-to-date		
							Aug 2011	Aug 2010	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>77,260</b>	<b>72,258</b>	<b>72,357</b>	<b>67,296</b>	<b>61,817</b>	<b>76,170</b>	<b>511,409</b>	<b>527,344</b>	<b>-3.0</b>
Residential	24,512	22,894	22,958	22,798	20,532	23,713	162,982	166,335	-2.0
Nonresidential	52,748	49,364	49,400	44,498	41,285	52,456	348,427	361,009	-3.5
Lodging	662	702	733	692	684	928	5,623	7,946	-29.2
Office	3,100	2,991	3,101	2,940	2,799	3,134	22,779	25,245	-9.8
Commercial	4,072	4,109	4,066	3,710	3,401	3,725	28,339	27,099	4.6
Health care	3,601	3,495	3,563	3,318	3,270	3,470	26,332	25,948	1.5
Educational	8,920	8,339	8,215	6,956	6,621	9,123	56,511	60,229	-6.2
Religious	351	330	319	336	339	427	2,728	3,462	-21.2
Public safety	882	807	888	830	800	921	6,436	7,550	-14.8
Amusement and recreation	1,388	1,325	1,343	1,368	1,175	1,590	10,057	11,049	-9.0
Transportation	3,317	3,142	3,106	2,959	2,923	3,515	23,424	24,896	-5.9
Communication	1,584	1,461	1,616	1,486	1,422	1,628	11,481	11,652	-1.5
Power	8,132	7,715	7,671	7,085	6,454	6,679	54,965	47,201	16.4
Highway and street	9,390	8,066	7,649	6,358	5,140	9,635	48,597	51,091	-4.9
Sewage and waste disposal	2,207	1,992	2,049	1,920	1,812	2,504	15,062	16,861	-10.7
Water supply	1,310	1,252	1,165	1,117	1,113	1,483	9,196	10,005	-8.1
Conservation and development	650	554	612	575	581	594	4,660	4,300	8.4
Manufacturing	3,185	3,084	3,302	2,848	2,752	3,102	22,239	26,475	-16.0
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>48,021</b>	<b>45,719</b>	<b>45,781</b>	<b>43,817</b>	<b>40,142</b>	<b>45,299</b>	<b>326,854</b>	<b>330,920</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Residential	23,789	22,247	22,194	22,106	19,828	22,814	157,453	160,071	-1.6
New single family	10,068	9,879	9,492	8,952	8,473	10,403	69,273	75,733	-8.5
New multi-family	1,319	1,288	1,230	1,234	1,158	1,160	9,407	9,979	-5.7
Nonresidential	24,232	23,472	23,587	21,711	20,313	22,486	169,400	170,849	-0.8
Lodging	606	650	677	645	643	886	5,252	7,719	-32.0
Office	2,126	2,048	2,043	1,934	1,797	2,019	15,047	16,376	-8.1
Commercial	3,762	3,819	3,761	3,389	3,133	3,447	26,120	25,332	3.1
Health care	2,691	2,584	2,610	2,402	2,376	2,659	19,214	19,831	-3.1
Educational	1,329	1,326	1,318	1,153	1,119	1,236	9,034	9,205	-1.9
Religious	348	328	317	333	336	424	2,709	3,425	-20.9
Amusement and recreation	558	568	544	583	467	565	4,078	4,356	-6.4
Transportation	1,000	950	891	837	828	916	6,877	6,312	9.0
Communication	1,577	1,451	1,610	1,479	1,419	1,625	11,442	11,624	-1.6
Power	6,979	6,590	6,451	6,047	5,368	5,523	46,888	39,663	18.2
Manufacturing	3,132	3,031	3,238	2,793	2,702	3,042	21,815	26,060	-16.3
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>29,238</b>	<b>26,539</b>	<b>26,577</b>	<b>23,479</b>	<b>21,675</b>	<b>30,871</b>	<b>184,556</b>	<b>196,424</b>	<b>-6.0</b>
Residential	723	648	764	692	704	900	5,529	6,264	-11.7
Nonresidential	28,516	25,891	25,813	22,787	20,972	29,971	179,027	190,160	-5.9
Office	974	943	1,057	1,007	1,002	1,115	7,732	8,869	-12.8
Commercial	310	290	305	321	268	278	2,219	1,768	25.5
Health care	910	912	953	917	893	811	7,118	6,118	16.3
Educational	7,591	7,014	6,898	5,803	5,502	7,887	47,477	51,024	-7.0
Public safety	859	789	870	813	784	909	6,307	7,375	-14.5
Amusement and recreation	830	757	799	785	709	1,026	5,978	6,693	-10.7
Transportation	2,317	2,192	2,215	2,122	2,095	2,599	16,547	18,585	-11.0
Power	1,153	1,126	1,220	1,038	1,086	1,157	8,077	7,538	7.2
Highway and street	9,386	8,065	7,649	6,357	5,138	9,621	48,575	51,015	-4.8
Sewage and waste disposal	2,165	1,947	1,995	1,873	1,752	2,459	14,693	16,593	-11.5
Water supply	1,255	1,192	1,114	1,070	1,068	1,416	8,819	9,597	-8.1
Conservation and development	647	551	609	571	578	588	4,631	4,278	8.3

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary <sup>F</sup>Revised

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>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
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Residential	3.4	2.9	2.0	2.7	2.5
Nonresidential	1.0	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.3
Lodging	5.3	4.1	3.1	3.2	3.0
Office	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.8	2.6
Commercial	3.5	2.5	3.2	2.3	4.1
Health care	2.1	1.5	1.7	1.4	2.2
Educational	2.2	1.8	2.2	2.5	3.1
Religious	6.7	5.8	4.9	5.7	6.1
Public safety	3.3	2.7	2.6	3.0	3.9
Amusement and recreation	4.1	2.7	3.0	3.4	4.3
Transportation	2.8	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.9
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.7	0.5	1.0	0.5	1.3
Highway and street	3.7	2.1	2.7	5.4	4.3
Sewage and waste disposal	3.2	2.5	2.4	3.4	3.7
Water supply	3.9	2.7	3.4	4.3	4.6
Conservation and development	2.8	1.9	2.2	2.8	2.9
Manufacturing	1.6	1.4	2.3	1.0	1.8
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>
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	10.9	10.4	5.4	3.8	9.2
Nonresidential	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.3
Lodging	5.5	4.3	3.1	3.4	3.0
Office	3.7	3.2	3.0	2.5	4.2
Commercial	3.8	2.7	3.3	2.4	4.5
Health care	2.7	2.0	2.1	1.7	2.7
Educational	3.7	3.0	3.8	2.4	5.1
Religious	6.7	5.8	5.0	5.8	6.2
Amusement and recreation	4.2	2.9	3.7	1.9	4.6
Transportation	6.8	4.5	10.5	4.1	13.6
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3
Manufacturing	1.6	1.4	2.3	1.1	1.9
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Residential	3.4	2.9	2.0	2.7	2.5
Nonresidential	1.4	0.9	1.1	2.0	1.7
Office	2.6	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.7
Commercial	7.8	6.8	9.9	7.1	8.2
Health care	2.9	2.1	2.7	1.9	3.4
Educational	2.5	2.1	2.5	3.0	3.4
Public safety	3.3	2.7	2.6	3.0	4.0
Amusement and recreation	5.9	3.9	4.2	5.5	5.9
Transportation	2.9	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.9
Power	5.1	2.8	8.0	3.9	9.4
Highway and street	3.7	2.1	2.7	5.4	4.3
Sewage and waste disposal	3.2	2.6	2.4	3.5	3.8
Water supply	4.1	2.8	3.5	4.6	4.8
Conservation and development	2.8	1.9	2.2	2.9	2.9

NA Not applicable