

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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## DECEMBER 2015 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,116.6 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during December 2015 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,116.6 billion, 0.1 percent ( $\pm 1.2\%$ )\* above the revised November estimate of \$1,116.0 billion. The December figure is 8.2 percent ( $\pm 1.8\%$ ) above the December 2014 estimate of \$1,031.6 billion.

The value of construction in 2015 was \$1,097.3 billion, 10.5 percent ( $\pm 1.2\%$ ) above the \$993.4 billion spent in 2014.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$824.0 billion, 0.6 percent ( $\pm 0.8\%$ )\* below the revised November estimate of \$828.8 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$429.6 billion in December, 0.9 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised November estimate of \$425.8 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$394.4 billion in December, 2.1 percent ( $\pm 0.8\%$ ) below the revised November estimate of \$403.0 billion.

The value of private construction in 2015 was \$806.1 billion, 12.3 percent ( $\pm 1.5\%$ ) above the \$717.7 billion spent in 2014. Residential construction in 2015 was \$416.8 billion, 12.6 percent ( $\pm 2.1\%$ ) above the 2014 figure of \$370.0 billion and nonresidential construction was \$389.3 billion, 12.0 percent ( $\pm 1.5\%$ ) above the \$347.7 billion in 2014.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In December, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$292.5 billion, 1.9 percent ( $\pm 2.0\%$ )\* above the revised November estimate of \$287.1 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$69.4 billion, 0.5 percent ( $\pm 3.9\%$ )\* below the revised November estimate of \$69.8 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$95.4 billion, 9.4 percent ( $\pm 4.4\%$ ) above the revised November estimate of \$87.2 billion.

The value of public construction in 2015 was \$291.2 billion, 5.6 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ ) above the \$275.7 billion spent in 2014. Educational construction in 2015 was \$67.3 billion, 6.8 percent ( $\pm 3.5\%$ ) above the 2014 figure of \$63.0 billion and highway construction was \$89.6 billion, 6.7 percent ( $\pm 3.9\%$ ) above the \$84.0 billion in 2014.

***January 2016 data will be released on March 1, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. EST.***

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

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

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### **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, 0.75 percent; private construction, 0.86 percent; and public construction, 1.22 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	Dec 2015 <sup>P</sup>	Nov 2015 <sup>r</sup>	Oct 2015 <sup>r</sup>	Sep 2015	Aug 2015	Dec 2014	Percent change Dec 2015 from -	
							Nov 2015	Dec 2014
							<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,116,570</b>
Residential	435,353	432,295	431,164	432,381	427,507	402,840	0.7	8.1
Nonresidential	681,217	683,671	691,585	691,511	694,400	628,795	-0.4	8.3
Lodging	22,348	22,631	22,658	22,771	22,791	17,315	-1.3	29.1
Office	59,048	60,151	59,222	57,963	57,745	50,639	-1.8	16.6
Commercial	68,756	69,164	69,413	69,499	66,691	71,038	-0.6	-3.2
Health care	38,839	40,104	40,121	39,930	41,134	38,697	-3.2	0.4
Educational	88,036	88,755	86,003	88,356	86,172	80,033	-0.8	10.0
Religious	3,237	3,377	3,569	3,675	3,533	3,294	-4.1	-1.7
Public safety	8,338	8,737	9,648	8,823	9,198	9,003	-4.6	-7.4
Amusement and recreation	20,498	20,394	21,075	21,350	21,811	18,769	0.5	9.2
Transportation	44,651	45,008	45,118	45,392	44,754	43,633	-0.8	2.3
Communication	22,625	21,748	21,033	19,468	18,888	16,494	4.0	37.2
Power	86,278	86,496	86,825	90,026	93,675	80,217	-0.3	7.6
Highway and street	95,838	87,457	92,604	92,674	93,052	85,829	9.6	11.7
Sewage and waste disposal	23,732	23,420	24,843	25,161	25,098	26,293	1.3	-9.7
Water supply	12,934	13,319	14,132	13,758	14,117	13,845	-2.9	-6.6
Conservation and development	6,951	7,711	8,252	8,246	8,845	7,555	-9.9	-8.0
Manufacturing	79,107	85,200	87,070	84,420	86,897	66,142	-7.2	19.6
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>824,026</b>	<b>828,833</b>	<b>828,494</b>	<b>824,201</b>	<b>820,804</b>	<b>750,069</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>9.9</b>
Residential	429,606	425,785	424,657	425,703	420,742	397,351	0.9	8.1
New single family	231,316	229,036	226,079	222,680	219,790	212,747	1.0	8.7
New multi-family	52,806	51,440	53,420	57,168	54,421	47,157	2.7	12.0
Nonresidential	394,420	403,048	403,837	398,498	400,062	352,717	-2.1	11.8
Lodging	22,014	22,260	22,263	22,142	22,184	16,852	-1.1	30.6
Office	51,394	52,386	51,191	50,005	49,616	42,698	-1.9	20.4
Commercial	65,938	66,649	66,733	66,758	63,682	69,049	-1.1	-4.5
Health care	30,393	30,996	30,944	30,919	32,040	29,621	-1.9	2.6
Educational	18,645	18,987	19,020	18,342	18,131	16,624	-1.8	12.2
Religious	3,231	3,371	3,559	3,661	3,520	3,294	-4.2	-1.9
Amusement and recreation	10,641	10,669	10,445	10,519	11,059	9,193	-0.3	15.8
Transportation	13,541	13,768	13,403	13,321	12,961	13,192	-1.6	2.6
Communication	22,475	21,590	20,815	19,278	18,710	16,335	4.1	37.6
Power	76,667	76,502	77,580	78,354	80,513	68,273	0.2	12.3
Manufacturing	78,441	84,602	86,319	83,656	86,229	65,682	-7.3	19.4
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>292,545</b>	<b>287,133</b>	<b>294,256</b>	<b>299,691</b>	<b>301,103</b>	<b>281,566</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Residential	5,748	6,510	6,507	6,678	6,765	5,489	-11.7	4.7
Nonresidential	286,797	280,623	287,748	293,013	294,338	276,078	2.2	3.9
Office	7,655	7,765	8,031	7,958	8,129	7,941	-1.4	-3.6
Commercial	2,818	2,515	2,680	2,741	3,009	1,989	12.0	41.7
Health care	8,446	9,107	9,176	9,011	9,094	9,076	-7.3	-6.9
Educational	69,391	69,767	66,983	70,014	68,041	63,409	-0.5	9.4
Public safety	8,157	8,629	9,499	8,636	8,963	8,654	-5.5	-5.7
Amusement and recreation	9,857	9,725	10,630	10,831	10,752	9,576	1.4	2.9
Transportation	31,110	31,240	31,715	32,071	31,793	30,441	-0.4	2.2
Power	9,611	9,995	9,245	11,671	13,162	11,945	-3.8	-19.5
Highway and street	95,429	87,214	92,192	92,256	92,777	85,206	9.4	12.0
Sewage and waste disposal	23,572	23,227	24,608	24,929	24,860	26,095	1.5	-9.7
Water supply	12,758	12,744	13,584	13,186	13,549	13,276	0.1	-3.9
Conservation and development	6,839	7,562	8,031	8,111	8,743	7,389	-9.6	-7.4

<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	Dec 2015 <sup>P</sup>	Nov 2015 <sup>F</sup>	Oct 2015 <sup>F</sup>	Sep 2015	Aug 2015	Dec 2014	Year-to-date		
							Dec 2015	Dec 2014	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>85,903</b>	<b>93,377</b>	<b>102,523</b>	<b>104,237</b>	<b>104,574</b>	<b>79,535</b>	<b>1,097,346</b>	<b>993,409</b>	<b>10.5</b>
Residential	32,071	35,490	39,614	39,544	40,017	29,425	423,247	375,100	12.8
Nonresidential	53,832	57,886	62,909	64,693	64,557	50,110	674,099	618,310	9.0
Lodging	1,885	1,931	1,978	1,943	1,912	1,490	21,079	16,124	30.7
Office	4,847	5,162	5,277	5,187	4,998	4,165	56,196	46,056	22.0
Commercial	5,384	5,944	6,375	6,390	5,981	5,526	67,347	62,708	7.4
Health care	3,222	3,403	3,479	3,539	3,506	3,208	39,972	38,410	4.1
Educational	6,324	6,881	7,179	8,068	8,884	5,783	85,062	79,700	6.7
Religious	267	284	326	340	317	275	3,388	3,248	4.3
Public safety	686	754	798	864	787	744	8,904	9,380	-5.1
Amusement and recreation	1,614	1,729	1,933	1,918	1,947	1,483	20,681	16,630	24.4
Transportation	3,588	3,946	4,201	4,268	4,149	3,467	44,754	41,786	7.1
Communication	2,208	1,966	1,851	1,724	1,586	1,613	19,509	17,093	14.1
Power	7,306	7,551	7,737	7,741	7,885	7,252	87,078	101,216	-14.0
Highway and street	5,984	7,373	9,866	10,757	10,868	5,311	89,982	84,220	6.8
Sewage and waste disposal	1,850	2,031	2,368	2,395	2,331	2,080	25,005	23,321	7.2
Water supply	997	1,131	1,303	1,253	1,296	1,077	13,625	13,334	2.2
Conservation and development	581	638	671	874	781	641	8,058	7,323	10.0
Manufacturing	7,091	7,162	7,568	7,435	7,331	5,995	83,459	57,761	44.5
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>64,931</b>	<b>69,599</b>	<b>74,927</b>	<b>73,995</b>	<b>73,748</b>	<b>59,166</b>	<b>806,142</b>	<b>717,711</b>	<b>12.3</b>
Residential	31,624	34,944	39,030	38,922	39,413	28,986	416,819	370,045	12.6
New single family	17,176	20,027	20,580	20,818	20,624	15,737	218,564	193,600	12.9
New multi-family	4,137	4,288	4,557	4,864	4,727	3,696	51,075	41,806	22.2
Nonresidential	33,308	34,655	35,897	35,073	34,335	30,180	389,323	347,666	12.0
Lodging	1,857	1,900	1,945	1,890	1,861	1,451	20,606	15,698	31.3
Office	4,225	4,524	4,588	4,450	4,298	3,520	48,221	38,403	25.6
Commercial	5,156	5,723	6,141	6,116	5,712	5,364	64,820	60,761	6.7
Health care	2,527	2,647	2,729	2,697	2,740	2,456	31,050	28,556	8.7
Educational	1,432	1,488	1,579	1,536	1,674	1,262	17,804	16,699	6.6
Religious	266	284	325	338	316	275	3,379	3,242	4.2
Amusement and recreation	848	879	928	910	937	744	10,081	7,481	34.8
Transportation	1,146	1,285	1,264	1,202	1,168	1,100	13,236	11,823	12.0
Communication	2,195	1,953	1,833	1,708	1,571	1,600	19,341	16,919	14.3
Power	6,533	6,744	6,916	6,702	6,654	6,288	76,480	89,389	-14.4
Manufacturing	7,035	7,112	7,505	7,371	7,275	5,957	82,806	57,239	44.7
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>20,971</b>	<b>23,778</b>	<b>27,597</b>	<b>30,242</b>	<b>30,826</b>	<b>20,369</b>	<b>291,204</b>	<b>275,698</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Residential	447	546	584	622	605	440	6,428	5,054	27.2
Nonresidential	20,524	23,232	27,013	29,620	30,221	19,930	284,776	270,644	5.2
Office	622	638	689	737	700	645	7,975	7,653	4.2
Commercial	229	221	234	273	269	162	2,527	1,947	29.8
Health care	695	756	751	842	765	752	8,922	9,854	-9.5
Educational	4,891	5,394	5,600	6,532	7,210	4,521	67,258	63,001	6.8
Public safety	672	746	785	849	768	715	8,650	9,160	-5.6
Amusement and recreation	766	850	1,005	1,007	1,010	740	10,601	9,150	15.9
Transportation	2,442	2,661	2,937	3,066	2,981	2,367	31,519	29,963	5.2
Power	773	807	821	1,039	1,231	964	10,598	11,826	-10.4
Highway and street	5,949	7,346	9,825	10,708	10,841	5,255	89,598	83,961	6.7
Sewage and waste disposal	1,837	2,014	2,346	2,373	2,310	2,064	24,799	23,082	7.4
Water supply	982	1,079	1,254	1,198	1,242	1,028	13,101	12,775	2.6
Conservation and development	572	626	653	863	772	627	7,927	7,142	11.0

<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>0.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Residential	5.4	4.7	3.9	3.5	5.5
Nonresidential	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.1
Lodging	2.4	1.8	3.7	1.1	3.4
Office	2.2	2.1	2.8	1.1	2.8
Commercial	2.4	1.4	2.5	1.4	2.3
Health care	1.9	1.6	1.9	0.9	2.3
Educational	2.2	1.3	1.8	2.0	3.0
Religious	7.2	5.0	6.2	3.4	8.4
Public safety	3.1	2.3	2.6	2.0	3.3
Amusement and recreation	3.6	2.4	3.5	2.4	4.1
Transportation	2.3	1.6	1.9	1.8	2.6
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.0
Highway and street	3.3	1.4	2.4	2.7	5.6
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.4	3.0	2.9	5.2
Water supply	4.6	2.4	3.1	3.8	6.6
Conservation and development	3.3	2.6	3.0	1.5	2.4
Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.4	0.9
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.0</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	6.1	5.6	4.7	1.7	4.8
Nonresidential	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.5	1.0
Lodging	2.5	1.8	3.8	1.1	3.4
Office	2.5	2.5	3.3	1.2	3.3
Commercial	2.4	1.4	2.5	1.4	2.3
Health care	2.4	2.0	2.4	1.1	2.8
Educational	3.0	2.2	3.4	1.5	3.8
Religious	7.2	5.0	6.3	3.4	8.4
Amusement and recreation	3.8	3.0	4.6	2.0	4.7
Transportation	7.0	5.1	4.9	6.5	10.1
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.6
Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.4	0.9
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Residential	5.4	4.7	3.9	3.5	5.5
Nonresidential	1.4	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.9
Office	3.4	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.8
Commercial	12.2	9.4	11.5	8.5	16.4
Health care	3.0	2.2	2.1	2.0	3.0
Educational	2.6	1.5	2.1	2.4	3.8
Public safety	3.2	2.3	2.6	2.0	3.4
Amusement and recreation	5.7	3.7	5.1	4.1	6.5
Transportation	2.4	1.7	2.1	1.9	2.7
Power	4.2	2.6	4.2	3.0	7.8
Highway and street	3.3	1.4	2.4	2.7	5.6
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.4	3.1	2.9	5.2
Water supply	4.8	2.5	3.2	4.0	7.1
Conservation and development	3.3	2.6	3.1	1.5	2.4

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	2015 <sup>P</sup>	2014	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,097,346</b>	<b>993,409</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Residential	423,247	375,100	12.8	4.7
Nonresidential	674,099	618,310	9.0	0.5
Lodging	21,079	16,124	30.7	1.8
Office	56,196	46,056	22.0	2.1
Commercial	67,347	62,708	7.4	1.4
Health care	39,972	38,410	4.1	1.6
Educational	85,062	79,700	6.7	1.3
Religious	3,388	3,248	4.3	5.0
Public safety	8,904	9,380	-5.1	2.3
Amusement and recreation	20,681	16,630	24.4	2.4
Transportation	44,754	41,786	7.1	1.6
Communication	19,509	17,093	14.1	NA
Power	87,078	101,216	-14.0	0.4
Highway and street	89,982	84,220	6.8	1.4
Sewage and waste disposal	25,005	23,321	7.2	2.4
Water supply	13,625	13,334	2.2	2.4
Conservation and development	8,058	7,323	10.0	2.6
Manufacturing	83,459	57,761	44.5	0.8
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>806,142</b>	<b>717,711</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Residential	416,819	370,045	12.6	1.1
New single family	218,564	193,600	12.9	4.0
New multi-family	51,075	41,806	22.2	5.6
Nonresidential	389,323	347,666	12.0	0.6
Lodging	20,606	15,698	31.3	1.8
Office	48,221	38,403	25.6	2.5
Commercial	64,820	60,761	6.7	1.4
Health care	31,050	28,556	8.7	2.0
Educational	17,804	16,699	6.6	2.2
Religious	3,379	3,242	4.2	5.0
Public safety	254	219	16.0	12.4
Amusement and recreation	10,081	7,481	34.8	3.0
Transportation	13,236	11,823	12.0	5.1
Communication	19,341	16,919	14.3	NA
Power	76,480	89,389	-14.4	0.4
Sewage and waste disposal	206	239	-13.8	12.1
Water supply	524	559	-6.3	8.6
Manufacturing	82,806	57,239	44.7	0.8
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>291,204</b>	<b>275,698</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Residential	6,428	5,054	27.2	4.7
Nonresidential	284,776	270,644	5.2	0.7
Office	7,975	7,653	4.2	2.7
Commercial	2,527	1,947	29.8	9.4
Health care	8,922	9,854	-9.5	2.2
Educational	67,258	63,001	6.8	1.5
Public safety	8,650	9,160	-5.6	2.3
Amusement and recreation	10,601	9,150	15.9	3.7
Transportation	31,519	29,963	5.2	1.7
Power	10,598	11,826	-10.4	2.6
Highway and street	89,598	83,961	6.7	1.4
Sewage and waste disposal	24,799	23,082	7.4	2.4
Water supply	13,101	12,775	2.6	2.5
Conservation and development	7,927	7,142	11.0	2.6

NA Not applicable <sup>P</sup>Preliminary

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

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