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## **AUGUST 2003 CONSTRUCTION AT \$882.7 BILLION ANNUAL RATE**

Construction put in place spending during August 2003 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$882.7 billion, 0.2 ( $\pm 1.8$ ) percent above the revised July estimate of \$880.8 billion, according to the U.S. Commerce Department's Census Bureau. The August figure is 4.0 ( $\pm 2.2$ ) percent above the August 2002 estimate of \$848.6 billion.

During the first 8 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$575.7 billion, 2.1 ( $\pm 1.4$ ) percent above the \$563.7 billion for the same period in 2002.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a rate of \$665.4 billion, 0.1 ( $\pm 1.6$ ) percent above the revised July estimate of \$664.8 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$453.4 billion in August, 1.4 ( $\pm 1.6$ ) percent above the revised July estimate of \$447.0 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In August, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$217.3 billion, 0.6 ( $\pm 2.7$ ) percent above the revised July estimate of \$216.0 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$58.9 billion, 2.2 ( $\pm 4.0$ ) percent below the revised July estimate of \$60.2 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$60.6 billion, 4.5 ( $\pm 7.7$ ) percent above the revised July estimate of \$58.0 billion.

September 2003 data will be released on November 3, 2003 at 10:00 AM EST.

### 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 errors 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. If the range contains zero, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease; that is, the change was not statistically significant. For any comparison cited without a confidence interval, the change is statistically significant. 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, 0.7 percent; private construction, 0.7 percent; and public construction, 1.6 percent.

More detailed data and a discussion of methodologies appear at our website: <http://www.census.gov/constructionspending>

**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 2003 <sup>P</sup>	Jul 2003 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2003 <sup>r</sup>	May 2003	Apr 2003	Aug 2002	Percent change Aug 2003 from -	
							Jul 2003	Aug 2002
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>882,684</b>	<b>880,755</b>	<b>878,757</b>	<b>871,859</b>	<b>871,871</b>	<b>848,598</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Residential	459,965	453,151	450,598	450,637	449,565	429,684	1.5	7.0
Lodging	11,008	10,884	11,365	11,711	11,558	10,127	1.1	8.7
Office	39,043	39,103	39,558	38,683	39,670	43,940	-0.2	-11.1
Commercial	64,792	63,885	62,126	59,697	58,871	60,647	1.4	6.8
Health care	30,041	30,077	30,584	29,567	29,949	27,789	-0.1	8.1
Educational	72,613	73,905	74,079	72,274	70,423	70,280	-1.7	3.3
Religious	8,637	8,662	8,603	8,552	8,270	8,076	-0.3	6.9
Public safety	9,081	9,056	8,435	8,348	8,108	8,646	0.3	5.0
Amusement and recreation	18,874	19,756	19,423	19,571	18,878	18,793	-4.5	0.4
Transportation	23,112	23,579	24,098	24,866	24,902	25,306	-2.0	-8.7
Communication	15,574	16,030	15,447	15,843	15,768	17,402	-2.8	-10.5
Power	28,545	34,455	33,889	34,810	38,531	27,315	-17.2	4.5
Highway and street	60,773	58,172	59,878	56,979	58,116	60,393	4.5	0.6
Sewage and waste disposal	12,852	12,528	12,592	12,817	12,293	12,021	2.6	6.9
Water supply	9,864	9,949	9,500	9,526	9,238	9,197	-0.9	7.3
Conservation and development	4,113	4,014	3,925	3,702	3,695	3,746	2.5	9.8
Manufacturing	13,796	13,552	14,656	14,277	14,035	15,237	1.8	-9.5
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>665,429</b>	<b>664,774</b>	<b>661,510</b>	<b>660,944</b>	<b>662,769</b>	<b>638,133</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Residential	453,388	446,951	444,440	444,858	443,880	423,571	1.4	7.0
Lodging	9,962	9,865	10,345	10,769	10,400	9,474	1.0	5.2
Office	28,497	28,664	29,275	28,580	29,299	33,911	-0.6	-16.0
Commercial	59,875	58,761	56,914	55,325	54,726	56,594	1.9	5.8
Health care	23,856	23,979	24,404	23,746	24,121	22,353	-0.5	6.7
Educational	13,754	13,700	13,898	13,861	13,188	12,290	0.4	11.9
Religious	8,613	8,653	8,589	8,387	8,209	8,072	-0.5	6.7
Amusement and recreation	6,951	7,322	7,262	6,859	6,808	7,466	-5.1	-6.9
Transportation	6,302	6,436	6,519	6,952	7,055	7,299	-2.1	-13.7
Communication	15,378	15,865	15,331	15,681	15,665	17,376	-3.1	-11.5
Power	23,918	29,829	28,931	30,677	34,516	23,548	-19.8	1.6
Manufacturing	13,678	13,477	14,495	14,176	13,892	15,059	1.5	-9.2
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>217,254</b>	<b>215,981</b>	<b>217,247</b>	<b>210,914</b>	<b>209,102</b>	<b>210,465</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Residential	6,577	6,200	6,157	5,779	5,686	6,114	6.1	7.6
Office	10,546	10,439	10,283	10,103	10,371	10,030	1.0	5.1
Commercial	4,918	5,124	5,212	4,372	4,146	4,054	-4.0	21.3
Health care	6,185	6,098	6,180	5,821	5,828	5,436	1.4	13.8
Educational	58,860	60,205	60,181	58,414	57,235	57,990	-2.2	1.5
Public safety	8,745	8,735	8,324	8,248	8,017	8,431	0.1	3.7
Amusement and recreation	11,923	12,433	12,161	12,712	12,070	11,328	-4.1	5.3
Transportation	16,810	17,143	17,579	17,913	17,847	18,007	-1.9	-6.6
Power	4,627	4,626	4,959	4,133	4,015	3,766	0.0	22.9
Highway and street	60,637	58,001	59,761	56,856	57,957	60,310	4.5	0.5
Sewage and waste disposal	12,533	12,230	12,193	12,539	12,073	11,777	2.5	6.4
Water supply	9,447	9,499	9,057	8,991	8,728	8,682	-0.5	8.8
Conservation and development	4,064	3,979	3,890	3,665	3,665	3,719	2.1	9.3

<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 2003 <sup>p</sup>	Jul 2003 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2003 <sup>r</sup>	May 2003	Apr 2003	Aug 2002	Year-to-date		
							Aug 2003	Aug 2002	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>83,003</b>	<b>81,599</b>	<b>80,121</b>	<b>74,884</b>	<b>70,568</b>	<b>80,473</b>	<b>575,733</b>	<b>563,664</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Residential	43,287	42,384	41,636	39,320	36,820	40,483	298,690	278,285	7.3
Lodging	917	907	947	976	963	844	7,314	7,479	-2.2
Office	3,357	3,307	3,421	3,345	3,278	3,797	26,057	30,296	-14.0
Commercial	5,822	5,615	5,442	4,959	4,801	5,487	40,038	41,357	-3.2
Health care	2,497	2,500	2,623	2,499	2,518	2,325	19,667	17,608	11.7
Educational	7,330	7,104	6,782	6,007	5,493	7,196	47,800	46,742	2.3
Religious	793	748	732	705	668	740	5,553	5,468	1.6
Public safety	795	737	705	688	652	752	5,459	5,743	-4.9
Amusement and recreation	1,665	1,676	1,714	1,696	1,601	1,648	12,652	12,434	1.8
Transportation	2,174	2,071	2,128	2,159	2,015	2,400	15,745	16,046	-1.9
Communication	1,311	1,415	1,328	1,306	1,288	1,541	9,970	12,025	-17.1
Power	2,505	3,339	3,041	2,893	3,208	2,610	23,315	24,015	-2.9
Highway and street	6,908	6,305	6,042	4,926	4,087	7,034	37,513	38,263	-2.0
Sewage and waste disposal	1,195	1,124	1,131	1,103	995	1,126	8,103	7,891	2.7
Water supply	871	848	820	810	753	825	6,257	5,881	6.4
Conservation and development	376	342	318	285	290	343	2,397	2,319	3.4
Manufacturing	1,200	1,176	1,312	1,208	1,138	1,324	9,205	11,812	-22.1
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>61,322</b>	<b>61,170</b>	<b>60,113</b>	<b>57,085</b>	<b>54,404</b>	<b>59,122</b>	<b>437,610</b>	<b>428,094</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Residential	42,728	41,867	41,097	38,837	36,360	39,966	294,771	274,262	7.5
Lodging	830	822	862	897	867	790	6,664	7,205	-7.5
Office	2,440	2,429	2,512	2,468	2,404	2,921	19,337	23,894	-19.1
Commercial	5,378	5,180	4,964	4,601	4,455	5,124	37,110	38,865	-4.5
Health care	1,994	1,990	2,092	2,017	2,039	1,886	15,828	14,192	11.5
Educational	1,308	1,293	1,270	1,214	1,079	1,171	9,012	8,823	2.1
Religious	791	748	730	691	663	739	5,521	5,465	1.0
Amusement and recreation	591	621	627	597	580	635	4,575	5,038	-9.2
Transportation	586	587	596	634	584	688	4,443	4,549	-2.3
Communication	1,295	1,402	1,319	1,294	1,279	1,538	9,885	11,957	-17.3
Power	2,070	2,948	2,658	2,553	2,891	2,245	20,647	21,561	-4.2
Manufacturing	1,191	1,170	1,298	1,200	1,126	1,310	9,138	11,641	-21.5
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>21,681</b>	<b>20,430</b>	<b>20,008</b>	<b>17,799</b>	<b>16,163</b>	<b>21,352</b>	<b>138,124</b>	<b>135,570</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Residential	559	518	539	483	461	517	3,919	4,023	-2.6
Office	917	877	909	877	874	876	6,720	6,402	5.0
Commercial	444	435	478	358	346	363	2,927	2,492	17.5
Health care	503	510	532	481	480	439	3,839	3,416	12.4
Educational	6,022	5,811	5,512	4,793	4,414	6,025	38,789	37,919	2.3
Public safety	767	711	695	680	644	731	5,356	5,613	-4.6
Amusement and recreation	1,075	1,055	1,087	1,099	1,021	1,013	8,077	7,396	9.2
Transportation	1,588	1,485	1,533	1,524	1,431	1,712	11,301	11,497	-1.7
Power	435	391	383	341	317	364	2,667	2,455	8.6
Highway and street	6,893	6,287	6,034	4,916	4,075	7,025	37,434	38,192	-2.0
Sewage and waste disposal	1,164	1,095	1,097	1,082	980	1,104	7,932	7,709	2.9
Water supply	830	811	785	770	712	772	5,955	5,632	5.7
Conservation and development	372	339	315	282	287	341	2,375	2,308	2.9

<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 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>1.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Residential	4.0	2.7	4.1	3.5	6.2
Lodging	3.8	3.4	3.8	1.5	4.1
Office	2.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.6
Commercial	2.6	1.7	2.6	1.9	3.0
Health care	3.1	2.8	3.3	1.9	3.4
Educational	2.3	1.7	2.3	2.2	3.1
Religious	4.4	3.4	4.5	3.2	6.6
Public safety	3.4	2.4	2.8	2.2	4.3
Amusement and recreation	3.5	2.9	3.3	2.4	3.5
Transportation	2.6	2.0	2.6	1.9	2.7
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.9	0.9	0.9	3.2	1.4
Highway and street	3.8	2.5	3.6	4.8	5.4
Sewage and waste disposal	4.6	2.8	3.8	4.4	7.8
Water supply	4.4	2.8	4.0	3.7	5.9
Conservation and development	4.3	3.1	4.5	4.4	6.5
Manufacturing	3.7	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.8
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.4
Lodging	4.0	3.5	3.8	1.6	4.2
Office	3.6	2.5	2.3	2.4	3.0
Commercial	2.7	1.8	2.7	2.0	3.1
Health care	3.7	3.4	3.8	2.2	3.9
Educational	3.9	3.0	4.4	3.6	5.5
Religious	4.5	3.4	4.5	3.2	6.6
Amusement and recreation	5.2	4.9	5.6	3.1	6.7
Transportation	8.2	8.2	8.0	10.3	7.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.6	0.9	1.1	3.6	1.3
Manufacturing	3.7	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.8
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Residential	4.0	2.7	4.1	3.5	6.2
Office	3.8	2.9	3.4	3.3	4.1
Commercial	11.9	8.3	11.5	7.2	12.4
Health care	4.3	3.5	5.0	2.8	6.1
Educational	2.7	1.9	2.7	2.5	3.6
Public safety	3.3	2.4	2.8	2.3	4.2
Amusement and recreation	4.5	3.5	3.9	3.5	3.9
Transportation	2.7	2.0	2.7	1.8	2.9
Power	17.3	6.3	11.4	5.3	17.8
Highway and street	3.8	2.5	3.6	4.8	5.4
Sewage and waste disposal	4.6	2.8	3.8	4.5	7.9
Water supply	4.5	2.9	4.1	3.8	6.3
Conservation and development	4.3	3.1	4.5	4.5	6.6

NA Not applicable