

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
For Data - (301) 763-4673
For Questions - Michael Davis, Joe Huesman or Linnet Holland
(301) 763-1605

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AUGUST 2004 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,015.3 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

Construction put in place spending during August 2004 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,015.3 billion, 0.8 (± 1.9) percent above the revised July estimate of \$1,006.9 billion, according to the U.S. Commerce Department's Census Bureau. The August figure is 10.1 (± 2.4) percent above the August 2003 estimate of \$922.0 billion.

During the first 8 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$646.8 billion, 9.4 (± 1.6) percent above the \$591.2 billion for the same period in 2003.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$777.7 billion, 1.4 (± 1.9) percent above the revised July estimate of \$766.8 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$550.6 billion in August, 1.7 (± 1.9) percent above the revised July estimate of \$541.5 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$227.0 billion in August, 0.8 (± 1.9) percent above the revised July estimate of \$225.3 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In August, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$237.6 billion, 1.0 (± 2.9) percent below the revised July estimate of \$240.1 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$62.9 billion, 2.0 (± 4.2) percent below the revised July estimate of \$64.2 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$64.7 billion, 2.9 (± 7.7) percent below the revised July estimate of \$66.6 billion.

September 2004 data will be released on November 1, 2004 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 (± 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. 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, 0.6 percent; and public construction, 2.0 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 2004 ^P	Jul 2004 ^r	Jun 2004 ^r	May 2004	Apr 2004	Aug 2003	Percent change Aug 2004 from -	
							Jul 2004	Aug 2003
Total Construction	1,015,256	1,006,921	996,360	992,754	986,364	921,967	0.8	10.1
Residential	558,901	549,703	546,049	543,133	532,946	488,190	1.7	14.5
Nonresidential	456,354	457,218	450,312	449,622	453,418	433,777	-0.2	5.2
Lodging	13,162	13,066	12,864	12,251	12,470	10,921	0.7	20.5
Office	44,568	44,953	44,625	44,094	44,899	41,980	-0.9	6.2
Commercial	69,441	68,974	66,032	64,660	63,632	65,203	0.7	6.5
Health care	33,736	34,021	33,221	33,543	34,207	29,337	-0.8	15.0
Educational	76,077	76,586	77,645	75,320	76,551	75,697	-0.7	0.5
Religious	8,473	8,783	8,309	8,273	8,199	8,632	-3.5	-1.8
Public safety	9,320	8,931	8,855	8,644	8,530	9,422	4.4	-1.1
Amusement and recreation	20,428	20,461	19,924	20,513	19,774	19,299	-0.2	5.9
Transportation	25,999	26,267	24,511	25,107	26,873	25,297	-1.0	2.8
Communication	13,160	12,692	12,314	12,381	12,773	12,229	3.7	7.6
Power	31,035	30,407	32,010	31,865	32,912	29,259	2.1	6.1
Highway and street	65,069	66,985	67,781	69,390	69,273	63,298	-2.9	2.8
Sewage and waste disposal	15,692	15,084	14,548	15,210	14,777	13,803	4.0	13.7
Water supply	11,314	11,329	10,403	10,100	10,550	10,879	-0.1	4.0
Conservation and development	4,452	4,360	4,081	3,877	4,275	4,183	2.1	6.4
Manufacturing	14,431	14,320	13,189	14,394	13,724	14,338	0.8	0.6
Total Private Construction ¹	777,662	766,807	758,944	756,431	747,475	691,749	1.4	12.4
Residential	550,615	541,547	538,534	535,543	525,895	480,988	1.7	14.5
Nonresidential	227,047	225,260	220,410	220,888	221,580	210,761	0.8	7.7
Lodging	12,265	12,316	11,933	11,240	11,374	9,563	-0.4	28.3
Office	32,784	33,113	33,095	32,358	33,107	30,234	-1.0	8.4
Commercial	65,291	64,435	61,280	59,969	58,906	60,357	1.3	8.2
Health care	26,768	27,104	26,399	26,813	26,973	22,940	-1.2	16.7
Educational	13,204	12,398	12,191	12,978	13,634	13,670	6.5	-3.4
Religious	8,471	8,781	8,306	8,272	8,198	8,626	-3.5	-1.8
Amusement and recreation	8,774	8,843	8,590	8,858	8,323	7,895	-0.8	11.1
Transportation	6,242	6,527	6,423	6,412	6,640	6,321	-4.4	-1.2
Communication	13,038	12,566	12,182	12,249	12,635	12,111	3.8	7.7
Power	24,153	23,405	24,724	25,565	26,588	23,476	3.2	2.9
Manufacturing	14,312	14,162	13,018	14,257	13,430	14,278	1.1	0.2
Total Public Construction ²	237,594	240,114	237,416	236,323	238,889	230,218	-1.0	3.2
Residential	8,286	8,156	7,514	7,590	7,051	7,202	1.6	15.1
Nonresidential	229,307	231,958	229,902	228,733	231,838	223,016	-1.1	2.8
Office	11,783	11,840	11,530	11,736	11,793	11,746	-0.5	0.3
Commercial	4,150	4,540	4,752	4,691	4,726	4,846	-8.6	-14.4
Health care	6,969	6,917	6,823	6,729	7,234	6,398	0.8	8.9
Educational	62,873	64,188	65,454	62,342	62,917	62,026	-2.0	1.4
Public safety	9,003	8,650	8,543	8,297	8,192	9,160	4.1	-1.7
Amusement and recreation	11,653	11,619	11,335	11,656	11,451	11,405	0.3	2.2
Transportation	19,757	19,740	18,088	18,695	20,233	18,977	0.1	4.1
Power	6,882	7,002	7,286	6,300	6,324	5,783	-1.7	19.0
Highway and street	64,685	66,628	67,185	68,856	68,900	63,129	-2.9	2.5
Sewage and waste disposal	15,354	14,753	14,194	14,830	14,324	13,478	4.1	13.9
Water supply	10,839	10,847	9,890	9,671	10,149	10,523	-0.1	3.0
Conservation and development	4,220	4,198	3,586	3,649	4,067	4,003	0.5	5.4

^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 2004 ^P	Jul 2004 ^r	Jun 2004 ^r	May 2004	Apr 2004	Aug 2003	Year-to-date		
							Aug 2004	Aug 2003	Percent change
Total Construction	95,489	92,133	90,360	85,213	80,161	86,461	646,841	591,213	9.4
Residential	52,514	50,496	49,648	47,584	43,865	45,793	354,118	309,743	14.3
Nonresidential	42,975	41,636	40,712	37,629	36,297	40,668	292,724	281,469	4.0
Lodging	1,097	1,089	1,072	1,021	1,039	910	8,064	7,569	6.5
Office	3,849	3,840	3,827	3,754	3,785	3,593	29,048	26,874	8.1
Commercial	6,328	6,211	5,808	5,348	5,183	5,860	42,437	40,690	4.3
Health care	2,819	2,813	2,914	2,856	2,907	2,433	21,655	19,747	9.7
Educational	7,710	7,506	7,253	6,221	5,987	7,660	50,358	49,651	1.4
Religious	777	757	709	683	661	795	5,365	5,618	-4.5
Public safety	818	733	747	706	697	816	5,600	5,818	-3.7
Amusement and recreation	1,752	1,750	1,743	1,770	1,684	1,658	13,145	13,203	-0.4
Transportation	2,432	2,340	2,176	2,129	2,160	2,363	16,637	16,433	1.2
Communication	1,156	1,093	1,106	961	1,066	1,005	8,101	8,072	0.4
Power	2,627	2,561	2,654	2,579	2,773	2,558	21,660	21,224	2.1
Highway and street	7,455	7,042	7,003	5,965	4,837	7,154	42,245	39,057	8.2
Sewage and waste disposal	1,496	1,334	1,308	1,285	1,184	1,288	9,653	8,762	10.2
Water supply	1,015	980	900	849	861	978	6,893	6,863	0.4
Conservation and development	404	371	334	291	343	377	2,651	2,537	4.5
Manufacturing	1,240	1,218	1,158	1,212	1,130	1,221	9,213	9,354	-1.5
Total Private Construction ¹	71,649	69,400	68,130	65,409	61,741	63,603	494,354	445,350	11.0
Residential	51,786	49,799	48,984	46,951	43,294	45,172	349,351	305,391	14.4
Nonresidential	19,863	19,601	19,146	18,458	18,446	18,431	145,002	139,958	3.6
Lodging	1,022	1,026	994	937	948	797	7,416	6,755	9.8
Office	2,807	2,858	2,807	2,742	2,787	2,579	21,307	19,571	8.9
Commercial	5,944	5,812	5,402	4,952	4,786	5,431	39,533	37,801	4.6
Health care	2,232	2,258	2,313	2,303	2,319	1,909	17,237	15,677	10.0
Educational	1,244	1,153	1,120	1,135	1,121	1,298	8,575	9,049	-5.2
Religious	777	757	709	683	660	795	5,364	5,610	-4.4
Amusement and recreation	730	756	739	766	707	654	5,555	5,016	10.7
Transportation	579	593	585	575	553	597	4,328	4,287	1.0
Communication	1,145	1,082	1,095	950	1,054	995	8,013	8,008	0.1
Power	1,989	1,960	2,039	2,063	2,271	2,041	17,414	18,158	-4.1
Manufacturing	1,230	1,205	1,144	1,200	1,105	1,216	9,091	9,280	-2.0
Total Public Construction ²	23,840	22,733	22,230	19,804	18,421	22,858	152,488	145,863	4.5
Residential	727	698	664	633	571	621	4,766	4,352	9.5
Nonresidential	23,113	22,036	21,566	19,171	17,850	22,237	147,721	141,511	4.4
Office	1,043	982	1,020	1,012	998	1,014	7,741	7,304	6.0
Commercial	384	400	406	396	398	429	2,904	2,888	0.6
Health care	587	555	600	553	588	524	4,418	4,070	8.6
Educational	6,466	6,353	6,133	5,086	4,866	6,362	41,783	40,602	2.9
Public safety	792	710	721	677	669	794	5,405	5,719	-5.5
Amusement and recreation	1,022	995	1,004	1,004	977	1,004	7,590	8,187	-7.3
Transportation	1,853	1,747	1,591	1,555	1,607	1,766	12,309	12,145	1.4
Power	638	602	615	517	502	517	4,246	3,066	38.5
Highway and street	7,419	7,007	6,943	5,922	4,814	7,138	41,948	38,947	7.7
Sewage and waste disposal	1,464	1,305	1,279	1,257	1,151	1,257	9,407	8,609	9.3
Water supply	966	938	857	815	828	941	6,641	6,593	0.7
Conservation and development	384	357	293	272	326	362	2,472	2,422	2.1

^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	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.5
Residential	5.3	6.0	6.4	3.0	9.8
Nonresidential	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.5
Lodging	4.1	3.3	4.1	2.0	5.9
Office	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.6	4.2
Commercial	3.0	2.1	2.8	2.0	4.4
Health care	3.0	2.7	4.0	1.6	4.5
Educational	2.4	1.8	2.5	2.3	3.5
Religious	4.5	3.7	4.3	3.8	5.9
Public safety	3.6	2.8	3.5	2.5	4.5
Amusement and recreation	4.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.8
Transportation	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.2	0.8	1.0	1.4	1.6
Highway and street	3.6	2.1	3.1	4.7	4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	3.8	2.6	3.9	4.6	5.9
Water supply	4.2	2.4	3.8	4.4	6.2
Conservation and development	4.8	4.2	5.1	5.5	6.5
Manufacturing	3.6	3.3	3.4	2.4	3.7
Total Private Construction	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.2	2.1
Residential	5.0	1.2	1.4	1.2	2.1
Nonresidential	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.2	2.1
Lodging	4.1	3.4	4.3	2.0	6.1
Office	4.7	4.2	4.3	4.5	5.1
Commercial	3.1	2.2	2.9	2.0	4.7
Health care	3.6	3.2	4.7	1.9	5.3
Educational	4.1	3.4	3.9	2.5	5.2
Religious	4.5	3.7	4.3	3.8	5.9
Amusement and recreation	5.9	4.7	6.3	3.6	6.9
Transportation	9.9	5.7	7.5	1.9	8.6
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.2	2.1
Manufacturing	3.7	3.4	3.4	2.4	3.7
Total Public Construction	1.4	0.9	1.4	1.8	2.0
Residential	5.3	6.0	6.4	3.0	9.8
Nonresidential	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.8	2.0
Office	3.2	2.7	3.5	2.5	4.5
Commercial	9.5	6.4	9.4	10.1	8.2
Health care	3.8	3.3	4.9	2.7	5.7
Educational	2.7	2.1	2.9	2.6	4.1
Public safety	3.6	2.8	3.4	2.6	4.5
Amusement and recreation	5.3	4.1	4.5	5.0	6.5
Transportation	3.2	2.6	2.9	3.3	3.1
Power	4.9	3.5	4.6	4.7	9.5
Highway and street	3.6	2.2	3.1	4.8	4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	3.8	2.6	3.9	4.7	6.0
Water supply	4.2	2.5	3.9	4.5	6.2
Conservation and development	5.1	4.5	5.3	5.7	6.8

NA Not applicable