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AUGUST 2005 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,108.5 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during August 2005 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,108.5 billion, 0.4 percent ($\pm 1.9\%$)* above the revised July estimate of \$1,104.1 billion. The August figure is 6.1 percent ($\pm 2.4\%$) above the August 2004 estimate of \$1,044.4 billion.

During the first 8 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$723.7 billion, 9.0 percent ($\pm 1.9\%$) above the \$664.2 billion for the same period in 2004.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$858.4 billion, 0.4 percent ($\pm 2.2\%$)* above the revised July estimate of \$855.3 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$614.6 billion in August, 0.2 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised July estimate of \$613.5 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$243.8 billion in August, 0.8 percent ($\pm 2.2\%$)* above the revised July estimate of \$241.8 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In August, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$250.2 billion, 0.5 percent ($\pm 2.7\%$)* above the revised July estimate of \$248.9 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$64.9 billion, 0.9 percent ($\pm 3.5\%$)* below the revised July estimate of \$65.5 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$66.9 billion, 1.4 percent ($\pm 7.0\%$)* above the revised July estimate of \$66.0 billion.

September 2005 data will be released on November 1, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. EST.

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, 0.8 percent; private construction, 0.7 percent; and public construction, 1.4 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 2005 ^P	Jul 2005 ^F	Jun 2005 ^F	May 2005	Apr 2005	Aug 2004	Percent change Aug 2005 from -	
							Jul 2005	Aug 2004
Total Construction	1,108,530	1,104,136	1,101,352	1,106,417	1,102,094	1,044,374	0.4	6.1
Residential	621,105	619,973	619,826	622,305	619,940	587,305	0.2	5.8
Nonresidential	487,426	484,162	481,526	484,111	482,154	457,070	0.7	6.6
Lodging	11,753	11,419	11,200	11,977	12,956	12,864	2.9	-8.6
Office	44,811	45,349	45,687	45,868	46,852	44,714	-1.2	0.2
Commercial	70,981	70,179	69,500	71,433	71,826	67,802	1.1	4.7
Health care	38,130	37,715	36,096	36,443	35,068	34,752	1.1	9.7
Educational	77,261	77,813	77,946	77,481	77,588	72,734	-0.7	6.2
Religious	7,311	7,527	7,595	7,562	7,798	8,039	-2.9	-9.1
Public safety	9,656	9,912	9,869	9,353	9,226	9,508	-2.6	1.6
Amusement and recreation	19,168	18,461	18,456	18,503	18,716	20,073	3.8	-4.5
Transportation	27,787	27,570	27,069	25,728	25,789	26,835	0.8	3.5
Communication	14,159	14,062	14,169	14,323	14,446	13,644	0.7	3.8
Power	34,001	33,698	33,608	35,695	32,787	32,910	0.9	3.3
Highway and street	67,261	66,426	66,764	65,684	66,353	58,511	1.3	15.0
Sewage and waste disposal	18,510	18,796	17,814	17,837	17,027	15,355	-1.5	20.5
Water supply	12,900	12,211	12,165	12,653	12,276	11,215	5.6	15.0
Conservation and development	5,581	5,366	5,510	5,460	4,891	5,157	4.0	8.2
Manufacturing	28,155	27,657	28,079	28,111	28,555	22,957	1.8	22.6
Total Private Construction ¹	858,371	855,273	854,089	859,715	859,421	815,324	0.4	5.3
Residential	614,572	613,458	613,343	615,799	613,293	580,221	0.2	5.9
Nonresidential	243,799	241,815	240,745	243,917	246,128	235,104	0.8	3.7
Lodging	11,450	11,099	10,909	11,675	12,768	12,484	3.2	-8.3
Office	34,117	34,512	34,888	34,803	35,006	32,734	-1.1	4.2
Commercial	65,738	65,372	64,688	66,810	66,698	62,995	0.6	4.4
Health care	29,714	29,601	27,996	27,592	26,956	27,144	0.4	9.5
Educational	12,405	12,340	12,569	12,796	13,015	12,789	0.5	-3.0
Religious	7,299	7,518	7,574	7,523	7,788	8,037	-2.9	-9.2
Amusement and recreation	7,678	7,241	7,559	7,336	8,240	8,913	6.0	-13.9
Transportation	6,861	6,769	6,874	6,231	6,362	6,567	1.4	4.5
Communication	14,012	13,946	13,916	14,254	14,406	13,557	0.5	3.4
Power	25,173	24,458	24,569	25,489	25,067	25,518	2.9	-1.4
Manufacturing	27,865	27,495	27,883	27,994	28,426	22,819	1.3	22.1
Total Public Construction ²	250,160	248,863	247,264	246,701	242,673	229,050	0.5	9.2
Residential	6,533	6,516	6,483	6,507	6,647	7,085	0.3	-7.8
Nonresidential	243,627	242,348	240,781	240,195	236,026	221,966	0.5	9.8
Office	10,694	10,837	10,799	11,066	11,846	11,979	-1.3	-10.7
Commercial	5,243	4,807	4,812	4,624	5,129	4,807	9.1	9.1
Health care	8,416	8,114	8,100	8,851	8,112	7,608	3.7	10.6
Educational	64,856	65,473	65,377	64,686	64,574	59,944	-0.9	8.2
Public safety	9,183	9,399	9,438	8,971	8,948	9,189	-2.3	-0.1
Amusement and recreation	11,490	11,220	10,897	11,167	10,475	11,160	2.4	3.0
Transportation	20,925	20,802	20,195	19,497	19,427	20,268	0.6	3.2
Power	8,828	9,241	9,039	10,207	7,720	7,393	-4.5	19.4
Highway and street	66,896	65,988	66,483	65,332	65,816	58,219	1.4	14.9
Sewage and waste disposal	18,300	18,653	17,563	17,553	16,789	15,025	-1.9	21.8
Water supply	12,597	11,941	11,988	12,410	12,047	10,746	5.5	17.2
Conservation and development	5,447	5,265	5,330	5,303	4,776	5,020	3.5	8.5

^P Preliminary ^F 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 2005 ^P	Jul 2005 ^r	Jun 2005 ^r	May 2005	Apr 2005	Aug 2004	Year-to-date		
							Aug 2005	Aug 2004	Percent change
Total Construction	105,388	102,298	100,311	95,111	88,499	98,839	723,741	664,190	9.0
Residential	59,302	58,329	56,732	54,131	49,967	56,013	408,610	367,440	11.2
Nonresidential	46,086	43,970	43,579	40,980	38,533	42,827	315,131	296,750	6.2
Lodging	979	952	933	998	1,080	1,072	7,925	7,727	2.6
Office	3,879	3,802	3,975	3,956	3,950	3,863	30,302	29,707	2.0
Commercial	6,455	6,204	6,158	6,046	5,826	6,141	45,972	42,837	7.3
Health care	3,214	3,167	3,166	3,109	2,959	2,892	24,040	22,417	7.2
Educational	7,898	7,651	7,328	6,477	6,088	7,402	51,006	48,192	5.8
Religious	665	644	654	617	632	732	5,033	5,266	-4.4
Public safety	850	817	841	767	746	840	6,071	5,865	3.5
Amusement and recreation	1,694	1,568	1,605	1,611	1,589	1,732	12,398	13,234	-6.3
Transportation	2,644	2,485	2,419	2,174	2,041	2,497	17,238	17,073	1.0
Communication	1,280	1,135	1,252	1,158	1,145	1,173	9,230	8,337	10.7
Power	3,044	2,916	2,838	2,874	2,790	2,929	23,107	22,610	2.2
Highway and street	7,662	7,078	6,827	5,789	4,613	6,665	42,078	38,552	9.1
Sewage and waste disposal	1,773	1,678	1,636	1,559	1,353	1,442	11,249	10,171	10.6
Water supply	1,164	1,057	1,067	1,069	1,017	1,019	7,857	7,328	7.2
Conservation and development	504	471	468	424	379	459	3,327	2,964	12.2
Manufacturing	2,380	2,347	2,414	2,353	2,323	1,967	18,299	14,472	26.4
Total Private Construction ¹	80,174	78,595	77,178	74,087	69,781	76,017	564,494	515,304	9.5
Residential	58,722	57,777	56,156	53,576	49,437	55,393	404,296	363,160	11.3
Nonresidential	21,452	20,818	21,022	20,511	20,343	20,625	160,199	152,144	5.3
Lodging	954	925	909	973	1,064	1,040	7,753	7,332	5.7
Office	2,944	2,905	3,054	3,003	2,951	2,817	22,775	21,903	4.0
Commercial	5,985	5,815	5,728	5,647	5,399	5,714	42,766	39,557	8.1
Health care	2,507	2,509	2,457	2,365	2,292	2,258	18,640	17,597	5.9
Educational	1,158	1,105	1,146	1,103	1,074	1,211	8,460	8,520	-0.7
Religious	664	644	652	614	631	732	5,020	5,264	-4.6
Amusement and recreation	648	603	642	631	690	754	5,242	5,560	-5.7
Transportation	639	616	632	552	528	606	4,266	4,298	-0.7
Communication	1,268	1,125	1,231	1,152	1,142	1,166	9,151	8,234	11.1
Power	2,187	2,105	2,057	2,013	2,148	2,220	17,013	18,440	-7.7
Manufacturing	2,356	2,333	2,398	2,343	2,313	1,956	18,193	14,365	26.6
Total Public Construction ²	25,214	23,703	23,133	21,024	18,719	22,822	159,247	148,886	7.0
Residential	580	552	576	555	529	620	4,314	4,280	0.8
Nonresidential	24,635	23,152	22,557	20,469	18,190	22,202	154,933	144,606	7.1
Office	935	897	921	953	999	1,046	7,527	7,804	-3.5
Commercial	470	390	430	399	427	427	3,207	3,280	-2.2
Health care	707	658	709	744	667	635	5,400	4,820	12.0
Educational	6,740	6,545	6,182	5,374	5,014	6,191	42,546	39,672	7.2
Public safety	810	774	805	735	723	813	5,838	5,663	3.1
Amusement and recreation	1,046	964	963	980	899	979	7,155	7,674	-6.8
Transportation	2,005	1,870	1,787	1,622	1,513	1,891	12,973	12,775	1.5
Power	857	811	781	861	642	710	6,094	4,170	46.1
Highway and street	7,628	7,033	6,799	5,760	4,571	6,638	41,830	38,325	9.1
Sewage and waste disposal	1,752	1,667	1,612	1,537	1,336	1,409	11,089	9,921	11.8
Water supply	1,128	1,031	1,052	1,051	999	966	7,674	7,051	8.8
Conservation and development	493	462	453	411	370	447	3,231	2,844	13.6

^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	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.5	
Residential	5.7	3.3	5.7	3.3	9.5	
Nonresidential	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.5	
Lodging	3.5	2.7	4.0	2.1	4.7	
Office	3.7	3.0	4.3	2.5	3.9	
Commercial	2.7	2.2	3.1	3.2	2.9	
Health care	2.6	2.5	3.6	1.6	3.9	
Educational	2.2	1.6	2.5	2.0	3.3	
Religious	4.3	3.4	4.2	2.8	4.8	
Public safety	3.5	2.6	3.5	2.7	4.4	
Amusement and recreation	4.0	2.9	3.4	2.7	4.4	
Transportation	3.7	2.8	3.2	5.9	7.3	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	1.4	1.3	1.2	2.6	2.2	
Highway and street	3.5	2.3	3.7	4.4	5.8	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.6	2.2	3.9	3.3	5.4	
Water supply	4.1	2.4	3.5	4.3	7.1	
Conservation and development	6.2	4.9	7.1	3.4	10.9	
Manufacturing	5.3	4.5	5.8	3.2	4.8	
Total Private Construction	1.5	1.2	1.8	1.4	1.7	
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4	
Nonresidential	1.5	1.2	1.8	1.4	1.7	
Lodging	3.6	2.7	4.1	2.1	4.7	
Office	4.8	3.7	5.4	3.1	4.8	
Commercial	2.9	2.3	3.2	3.3	3.0	
Health care	3.1	2.9	4.2	1.9	4.6	
Educational	4.4	3.6	4.4	3.1	5.2	
Religious	4.4	3.4	4.2	2.8	4.8	
Amusement and recreation	5.9	4.8	5.5	4.6	5.9	
Transportation	7.3	4.4	4.8	5.1	5.5	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	2.5	
Manufacturing	5.3	4.6	5.8	3.2	4.8	
Total Public Construction	1.4	0.9	1.5	1.7	2.2	
Residential	5.7	3.3	5.7	3.3	9.5	
Nonresidential	1.4	0.9	1.5	1.7	2.3	
Office	3.2	2.3	2.6	2.1	3.5	
Commercial	5.2	3.7	6.1	6.3	8.5	
Health care	3.7	3.1	4.3	2.3	5.8	
Educational	2.4	1.8	2.9	2.2	3.8	
Public safety	3.6	2.6	3.5	2.6	4.4	
Amusement and recreation	5.3	3.4	4.0	3.1	6.3	
Transportation	4.5	3.0	3.5	6.3	8.1	
Power	3.9	3.6	4.8	7.2	4.8	
Highway and street	3.5	2.3	3.7	4.4	5.8	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.6	2.2	3.9	3.3	5.5	
Water supply	4.1	2.4	3.6	4.4	6.8	
Conservation and development	6.5	5.1	7.6	3.5	11.4	

NA Not applicable