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## SEPTEMBER 2008 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,060.1 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during September 2008 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,060.1 billion, 0.3 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ )\* below the revised August estimate of \$1,063.5 billion. The September figure is 6.6 percent ( $\pm 2.1\%$ ) below the September 2007 estimate of \$1,134.9 billion.

During the first 9 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$807.3 billion, 6.2 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ ) below the \$860.5 billion for the same period in 2007.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$751.7 billion, 0.1 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised August estimate of \$751.1 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$336.5 billion in September, 1.3 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) below the revised August estimate of \$340.8 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$415.2 billion in September, 1.2 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised August estimate of \$410.3 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In September, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$308.4 billion, 1.3 percent ( $\pm 2.4\%$ )\* below the revised August estimate of \$312.4 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$86.5 billion, 0.3 percent ( $\pm 3.4\%$ )\* below the revised August estimate of \$86.7 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$79.9 billion, 1.5 percent ( $\pm 6.1\%$ )\* below the revised August estimate of \$81.2 billion.

*October 2008 data will be released on December 1, 2008 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 ( $\pm 3.1$ ) 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, 0.5 percent; private construction, 0.6 percent; and public construction, 0.7 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	Sep 2008 <sup>p</sup>	Aug 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Jul 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2008	May 2008	Sep 2007	Percent change Sep 2008 from -	
							Aug 2008	Sep 2007
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,060,079</b>	<b>1,063,523</b>	<b>1,060,011</b>	<b>1,086,584</b>	<b>1,088,289</b>	<b>1,134,860</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-6.6</b>
Residential	344,447	348,835	342,490	363,961	378,590	472,384	-1.3	-27.1
Nonresidential	715,633	714,688	717,521	722,623	709,699	662,477	0.1	8.0
Lodging	40,160	40,001	38,521	39,204	38,029	31,852	0.4	26.1
Office	75,254	73,999	73,157	72,275	72,186	67,109	1.7	12.1
Commercial	81,748	84,218	86,288	88,608	88,957	91,731	-2.9	-10.9
Health care	45,860	46,149	45,914	45,865	45,574	43,922	-0.6	4.4
Educational	105,552	104,982	105,029	104,951	105,362	99,011	0.5	6.6
Religious	6,720	6,591	6,936	6,796	6,864	7,603	2.0	-11.6
Public safety	12,708	12,801	12,603	12,093	12,229	10,483	-0.7	21.2
Amusement and recreation	22,588	23,013	23,132	23,219	23,648	22,872	-1.8	-1.2
Transportation	35,455	35,280	35,780	35,700	35,351	34,180	0.5	3.7
Communication	23,227	23,120	24,662	26,351	27,149	28,007	0.5	-17.1
Power	72,035	71,351	71,160	70,861	67,369	57,201	1.0	25.9
Highway and street	80,095	81,316	78,483	76,573	76,532	79,054	-1.5	1.3
Sewage and waste disposal	25,317	25,290	25,759	24,534	25,200	25,197	0.1	0.5
Water supply	17,762	17,720	18,162	17,508	16,575	15,713	0.2	13.0
Conservation and development	4,635	5,604	5,409	5,183	4,820	5,348	-17.3	-13.3
Manufacturing	66,515	63,252	66,526	72,900	63,853	43,195	5.2	54.0
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>751,653</b>	<b>751,091</b>	<b>751,525</b>	<b>780,394</b>	<b>784,145</b>	<b>837,690</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-10.3</b>
Residential	336,501	340,814	334,494	356,441	371,386	465,104	-1.3	-27.7
Nonresidential	415,152	410,278	417,031	423,953	412,759	372,586	1.2	11.4
Lodging	39,829	39,671	38,227	38,854	37,794	30,142	0.4	32.1
Office	59,478	58,464	58,080	57,355	57,831	55,372	1.7	7.4
Commercial	78,906	80,892	82,925	84,800	85,586	87,876	-2.5	-10.2
Health care	37,390	37,369	37,615	37,520	36,920	35,775	0.1	4.5
Educational	19,057	18,260	18,447	18,194	18,619	18,035	4.4	5.7
Religious	6,645	6,558	6,936	6,710	6,811	7,546	1.3	-11.9
Amusement and recreation	11,023	11,258	11,346	11,228	11,115	10,569	-2.1	4.3
Transportation	10,421	10,185	10,338	9,998	10,338	9,862	2.3	5.7
Communication	23,034	22,940	24,544	26,204	26,918	27,834	0.4	-17.2
Power	61,315	59,846	60,374	58,401	55,302	44,950	2.5	36.4
Manufacturing	66,045	62,762	66,056	72,406	63,317	42,772	5.2	54.4
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>308,426</b>	<b>312,432</b>	<b>308,486</b>	<b>306,190</b>	<b>304,144</b>	<b>297,171</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Residential	7,946	8,021	7,996	7,520	7,204	7,280	-0.9	9.1
Nonresidential	300,480	304,411	300,490	298,670	296,940	289,891	-1.3	3.7
Office	15,776	15,535	15,077	14,920	14,355	11,737	1.6	34.4
Commercial	2,842	3,326	3,363	3,808	3,372	3,855	-14.6	-26.3
Health care	8,471	8,780	8,299	8,346	8,654	8,146	-3.5	4.0
Educational	86,495	86,722	86,582	86,758	86,744	80,976	-0.3	6.8
Public safety	12,195	12,208	11,952	11,363	11,543	9,936	-0.1	22.7
Amusement and recreation	11,565	11,755	11,786	11,991	12,533	12,304	-1.6	-6.0
Transportation	25,034	25,096	25,443	25,702	25,013	24,318	-0.2	2.9
Power	10,720	11,505	10,785	12,460	12,067	12,251	-6.8	-12.5
Highway and street	79,945	81,196	78,316	76,407	76,355	78,577	-1.5	1.7
Sewage and waste disposal	24,610	24,719	25,140	23,814	24,467	24,831	-0.4	-0.9
Water supply	17,201	17,027	17,536	16,860	15,998	15,302	1.0	12.4
Conservation and development	4,556	5,508	5,330	5,163	4,784	5,294	-17.3	-13.9

<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 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	Sep 2008 <sup>P</sup>	Aug 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Jul 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2008	May 2008	Sep 2007	Year-to-date		Percent change
							Sep 2008	Sep 2007	
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>96,061</b>	<b>99,790</b>	<b>97,427</b>	<b>98,200</b>	<b>93,039</b>	<b>102,351</b>	<b>807,287</b>	<b>860,450</b>	<b>-6.2</b>
Residential	30,425	34,110	32,655	33,613	33,066	42,060	280,550	392,756	-28.6
Nonresidential	65,636	65,679	64,773	64,587	59,973	60,291	526,738	467,694	12.6
Lodging	3,347	3,333	3,210	3,267	3,169	2,654	27,714	20,473	35.4
Office	6,680	6,298	6,152	6,191	6,172	5,837	54,397	47,477	14.6
Commercial	7,424	7,598	7,587	7,838	7,571	8,418	65,604	65,635	0.0
Health care	3,941	3,893	3,853	3,910	3,892	3,747	33,963	31,605	7.5
Educational	9,573	10,625	10,415	9,966	8,817	8,960	78,896	72,395	9.0
Religious	596	594	605	581	573	679	5,136	5,629	-8.8
Public safety	1,228	1,120	1,074	1,031	994	977	9,072	7,101	27.8
Amusement and recreation	2,027	2,019	2,014	2,046	2,038	2,017	17,330	15,944	8.7
Transportation	3,311	3,213	3,134	3,114	2,947	3,230	25,854	23,369	10.6
Communication	1,978	1,882	2,118	2,262	2,217	2,192	18,931	19,285	-1.8
Power	6,333	6,265	6,178	6,120	5,584	5,002	51,393	38,553	33.3
Highway and street	9,007	8,987	8,542	7,843	6,798	8,454	59,247	56,579	4.7
Sewage and waste disposal	2,330	2,346	2,274	2,204	2,120	2,327	18,701	17,980	4.0
Water supply	1,613	1,612	1,561	1,546	1,404	1,428	12,499	11,835	5.6
Conservation and development	515	474	475	420	386	587	3,868	3,794	2.0
Manufacturing	5,735	5,423	5,583	6,247	5,293	3,781	44,134	30,041	46.9
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>65,678</b>	<b>68,874</b>	<b>67,681</b>	<b>69,528</b>	<b>67,150</b>	<b>73,631</b>	<b>578,455</b>	<b>646,910</b>	<b>-10.6</b>
Residential	29,658	33,405	31,955	32,938	32,451	41,380	274,934	387,370	-29.0
Nonresidential	36,019	35,469	35,725	36,590	34,699	32,251	303,521	259,541	16.9
Lodging	3,319	3,306	3,186	3,238	3,150	2,512	27,338	19,523	40.0
Office	5,144	4,916	4,857	4,877	4,945	4,707	43,453	39,138	11.0
Commercial	7,130	7,312	7,307	7,512	7,293	8,024	63,106	62,752	0.6
Health care	3,175	3,181	3,157	3,194	3,168	3,029	27,481	25,683	7.0
Educational	1,608	1,687	1,717	1,693	1,642	1,543	14,086	12,660	11.3
Religious	589	591	605	574	569	674	5,107	5,618	-9.1
Amusement and recreation	955	954	955	959	934	897	8,485	7,496	13.2
Transportation	911	883	873	875	901	886	7,503	6,881	9.0
Communication	1,962	1,867	2,108	2,250	2,197	2,178	18,800	19,223	-2.2
Power	5,353	5,196	5,235	5,002	4,462	3,883	42,649	29,452	44.8
Manufacturing	5,696	5,382	5,544	6,206	5,248	3,746	43,755	29,731	47.2
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>30,383</b>	<b>30,916</b>	<b>29,747</b>	<b>28,672</b>	<b>25,890</b>	<b>28,719</b>	<b>228,832</b>	<b>213,540</b>	<b>7.2</b>
Residential	767	706	699	675	616	680	5,616	5,386	4.3
Nonresidential	29,616	30,210	29,048	27,997	25,274	28,039	223,216	208,154	7.2
Office	1,536	1,382	1,295	1,314	1,227	1,130	10,944	8,340	31.2
Commercial	293	286	280	326	278	394	2,499	2,883	-13.3
Health care	766	713	696	716	724	718	6,482	5,922	9.5
Educational	7,965	8,938	8,698	8,273	7,175	7,417	64,810	59,735	8.5
Public safety	1,182	1,065	1,014	964	936	927	8,519	6,753	26.2
Amusement and recreation	1,072	1,064	1,059	1,088	1,105	1,120	8,845	8,448	4.7
Transportation	2,400	2,330	2,261	2,240	2,046	2,344	18,351	16,488	11.3
Power	980	1,069	943	1,118	1,121	1,119	8,744	9,101	-3.9
Highway and street	8,993	8,975	8,527	7,827	6,784	8,409	59,081	56,256	5.0
Sewage and waste disposal	2,271	2,297	2,222	2,130	2,053	2,296	18,245	17,701	3.1
Water supply	1,560	1,538	1,511	1,493	1,354	1,387	11,961	11,499	4.0
Conservation and development	509	466	469	419	383	582	3,821	3,696	3.4

<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 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>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Residential	3.4	2.0	6.1	2.0	5.4
Nonresidential	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.3
Lodging	1.9	1.5	2.4	1.5	2.9
Office	2.6	2.2	2.7	1.3	3.0
Commercial	3.1	2.1	2.3	1.9	2.7
Health care	1.8	1.5	2.0	1.1	2.4
Educational	2.1	1.4	2.2	1.8	3.0
Religious	4.3	3.0	3.8	4.2	6.0
Public safety	3.1	2.2	4.0	2.2	5.0
Amusement and recreation	3.4	2.4	3.5	2.7	5.2
Transportation	2.5	1.6	2.8	2.0	4.9
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.4	2.2
Highway and street	3.3	1.7	2.6	3.8	5.1
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	2.3	3.1	2.8	6.1
Water supply	3.9	2.7	4.1	3.3	5.6
Conservation and development	5.1	3.1	4.6	4.6	6.0
Manufacturing	1.6	1.2	2.2	1.2	1.6
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.1	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.4
Lodging	1.9	1.6	2.5	1.5	3.1
Office	3.1	2.5	3.0	1.5	3.2
Commercial	3.3	2.2	2.4	2.0	2.8
Health care	2.2	1.8	2.4	1.3	2.9
Educational	3.4	2.7	4.0	2.4	4.2
Religious	4.3	3.0	3.8	4.2	6.0
Amusement and recreation	4.4	3.2	4.3	2.8	4.8
Transportation	5.7	4.8	9.5	3.3	13.8
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.2	1.0	0.6	0.4	1.7
Manufacturing	1.6	1.2	2.2	1.2	1.6
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Residential	3.4	2.0	6.1	2.0	5.4
Nonresidential	1.3	0.8	1.2	1.5	2.2
Office	3.8	3.3	4.2	2.6	6.6
Commercial	6.4	5.2	6.9	5.5	7.8
Health care	2.9	2.4	3.0	2.0	3.7
Educational	2.4	1.6	2.5	2.1	3.5
Public safety	3.2	2.4	4.2	2.3	5.4
Amusement and recreation	4.9	3.5	5.4	4.4	8.6
Transportation	2.7	1.7	2.9	2.2	5.2
Power	8.4	7.6	7.0	10.5	11.8
Highway and street	3.4	1.7	2.6	3.8	5.1
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	2.3	3.1	2.8	6.1
Water supply	4.0	2.8	4.2	3.5	5.8
Conservation and development	5.2	3.1	4.7	4.7	6.0

NA Not applicable