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Estimates of Quarterly Revenue for Selected Services 3rd Quarter 2008

Special Notice: Quarterly services revenue estimates will be revised based on the results of the 2007 Service Annual Survey. Revised data will be released on March 11, 2009.

Seasonally adjusted revenue estimates for selected services industries will be introduced on March 11, 2009. Estimates from the fourth quarter of 2003 through the fourth quarter of 2008 will be released as part of the Annual Benchmark tables. For details on the estimates that will be produced, visit our website at <http://www.census.gov/indicator/qss/qssseasfaqs.html>

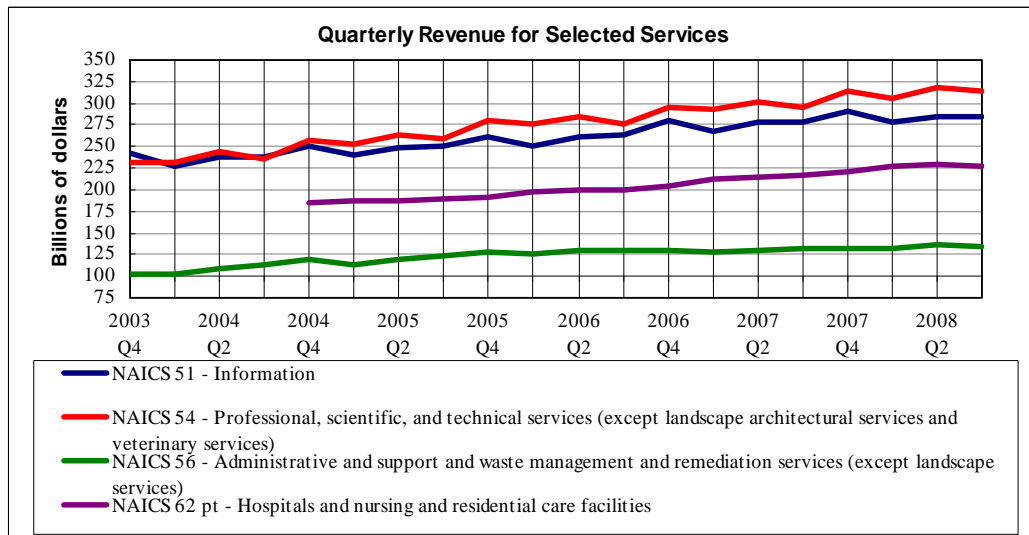
Information The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that the estimate of U.S. information sector revenue for the third calendar quarter of 2008, not adjusted for seasonal variation, holiday or trading-day differences, or price changes, was \$283.8 billion, a decrease of 0.2 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$)* from the second quarter of 2008 and up 2.0 percent ($\pm 1.2\%$) from the third quarter of 2007. The first quarter of 2008 to second quarter of 2008 percent change was revised from 2.5 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$) to 2.3 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$).

Professional, scientific, and technical services (except landscape architectural services and veterinary services) The estimate of U.S. professional, scientific, and technical services (except landscape architectural services and veterinary services) revenue for the third quarter of 2008, not adjusted for seasonal variation, holiday or trading-day differences, or price changes, was \$314.9 billion, a decrease of 1.3 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$) from the second quarter of 2008 and up 7.0 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) from the third quarter of 2007. The first quarter of 2008 to second quarter of 2008 percent change was revised from 4.2 percent ($\pm 1.2\%$) to 4.1 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$).

Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services (except landscape services) The estimate of U.S. administrative and support and waste management and remediation services (except landscape services) revenue for the third quarter of 2008, not adjusted for seasonal variation, holiday or trading-day differences, or price changes, was \$135.2 billion, a decrease of 0.5 percent ($\pm 1.7\%$)* from the second quarter of 2008 and up 2.4 percent ($\pm 2.5\%$)* from the third quarter of 2007. The first quarter of 2008 to second quarter of 2008 percent change was revised from 2.1 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$) to 2.5 percent ($\pm 1.7\%$).

Hospitals and nursing and residential care facilities The estimate of U.S. hospitals and nursing and residential care facilities revenue for the third quarter of 2008, not adjusted for seasonal variation, holiday or trading-day differences, or price changes, was \$227.7 billion, a decrease of 0.5 percent ($\pm 1.2\%$)* from the second quarter of 2008 and up 5.6 percent ($\pm 1.5\%$) from the third quarter of 2007. The first quarter of 2008 to second quarter of 2008 percent change was revised from 0.7 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$)* to 0.3 percent ($\pm 1.2\%$)*.

For survey description and an explanation of the measures of sampling variability included in this report, please see the last page of the publication.



Fourth quarter 2008 revenue is scheduled to be released on March 11, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. EDT. The scheduled release dates for the remainder of 2009 are as follows: June 10 (first quarter), September 9 (second quarter), and December 10 (third quarter).

This report is available on the day of issue through the Department of Commerce's STAT-USA Website; for more information, call (202) 482-1986.

* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. The Census Bureau does not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

Our Internet site is <http://www.census.gov/qss>

Table 1. Selected Services - Estimated Quarterly Revenue for Employer Firms

[Estimates have not been adjusted for seasonal variation, holiday or trading-day differences, or price changes. Estimates are based on data from the Quarterly Services Survey and have been adjusted using results of the 2006 Service Annual Survey. All estimates are based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For additional information see www.census.gov/qss]

2002 NAICS code	Kind of business	Total revenue (millions of dollars)						Percent change				Year to date		
		3Q 2008 (p)	2Q 2008 (r)	1Q 2008	4Q 2007	3Q 2007	2Q 2007	3Q 2008 from 2Q 2008 (p)	2Q 2008 from 1Q 2008 (r)	3Q 2008 from 3Q 2007 (p)	2Q 2008 from 2Q 2007 (r)	2008 (p)	2007	2008 from 2007 (p)
51	Information	283,786	284,417	277,999	291,482	278,143	278,188	-0.2	2.3	2.0	2.2	846,202	824,815	2.6
511	Publishing industries (except Internet)	72,031	71,936	70,412	76,810	71,496	71,040	0.1	2.2	0.7	1.3	214,379	211,870	1.2
51111	Newspaper publishers	10,031	10,303	10,274	11,932	11,413	11,889	-2.6	0.3	-12.1	-13.3	30,608	34,441	-11.1
51112	Periodical publishers	11,722	11,287	11,228	12,333	12,077	11,970	3.9	0.5	-2.9	-5.7	34,237	35,057	-2.3
5111 pt	Book, directory and mailing list, and other publishers ¹	14,034	12,275	11,820	13,380	14,484	11,944	14.3	3.8	-3.1	2.8	38,129	37,987	0.4
5112	Software publishers	36,244	38,071	37,090	39,165	33,522	35,237	-4.8	2.6	8.1	8.0	111,405	104,385	6.7
512	Motion picture and sound recording industries	24,287	26,492	25,050	27,603	24,569	26,328	-8.3	5.8	-1.1	0.6	75,829	75,560	0.4
515	Broadcasting (except Internet)	25,064	25,299	24,197	25,734	23,598	24,404	-0.9	4.6	6.2	3.7	74,560	71,002	5.0
5151	Radio and television broadcasting	13,359	13,761	13,532	14,609	13,057	14,198	-2.9	1.7	2.3	-3.1	40,652	40,874	-0.5
5152	Cable and other subscription programming	11,705	11,538	10,665	11,125	10,541	10,206	1.4	8.2	11.0	13.1	33,908	30,128	12.5
516, 5181, 519	Internet publishing and broadcasting, Internet service providers and web search portals, and other information services	17,268	16,673	16,597	17,017	15,405	14,661	3.6	0.5	12.1	13.7	50,538	44,037	14.8
517	Telecommunications	127,733	126,130	124,598	126,384	124,969	123,138	1.3	1.2	2.2	2.4	378,461	368,189	2.8
5171	Wired telecommunications carriers	45,916	45,734	45,937	47,241	48,124	48,081	0.4	-0.4	-4.6	-4.9	137,587	144,023	-4.5
5172	Wireless telecommunications carriers (except satellite)	49,071	47,846	46,981	46,966	45,935	44,215	2.6	1.8	6.8	8.2	143,898	133,282	8.0
5175	Cable and other program distribution	27,351	27,078	26,306	26,495	25,248	25,267	1.0	2.9	8.3	7.2	80,735	74,225	8.8
517 pt	Other telecommunications ²	5,395	5,472	5,374	5,682	5,662	5,575	-1.4	1.8	-4.7	-1.8	16,241	16,659	-2.5
5182	Data processing, hosting, and related services	17,403	17,887	17,145	17,934	18,106	18,617	-2.7	4.3	-3.9	-3.9	52,435	54,157	-3.2
54	Professional, scientific, and technical services	322,022	325,861	312,628	320,572	300,703	307,559	-1.2	4.2	7.1	6.0	960,511	906,102	6.0
54 pt	Professional, scientific, and technical services (except landscape architectural services and veterinary services)	314,888	318,878	306,336	314,284	294,410	301,062	-1.3	4.1	7.0	5.9	940,102	887,354	5.9
5411	Legal services	61,968	62,839	57,245	69,246	58,763	60,702	-1.4	9.8	5.5	3.5	182,052	178,327	2.1
5412	Accounting, tax preparation, bookkeeping, and payroll services	22,394	28,189	31,628	23,998	21,837	26,891	-20.6	-10.9	2.6	4.8	82,211	79,071	4.0
5413	Architectural, engineering, and related services	70,724	67,720	63,959	65,158	62,931	60,405	4.4	5.9	12.4	12.1	202,403	182,174	11.1
5413 pt	Architectural and related services ³	17,738	17,120	16,475	16,872	16,126	15,838	3.6	3.9	10.0	8.1	51,333	47,718	7.6
54133	Engineering services	52,986	50,600	47,484	48,286	46,805	44,567	4.7	6.6	13.2	13.5	151,070	134,456	12.4
5415	Computer systems design and related services	58,394	58,803	57,260	56,126	54,272	54,554	-0.7	2.7	7.6	7.8	174,457	159,987	9.0
5416	Management, scientific, and technical consulting services	41,169	41,197	39,270	40,790	40,030	41,003	-0.1	4.9	2.8	0.5	121,636	119,358	1.9
5417	Scientific research and development services	27,604	27,117	25,224	26,022	25,147	24,844	1.8	7.5	9.8	9.1	79,945	74,136	7.8
5418	Advertising and related services	19,777	19,256	18,775	19,418	18,260	18,489	2.7	2.6	8.3	4.1	57,808	54,115	6.8
541 pt	Other professional, scientific, and technical services ⁴	19,992	20,740	19,267	19,814	19,463	20,671	-3.6	7.6	2.7	0.3	59,999	58,934	1.8
56	Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	148,486	148,717	143,130	145,789	145,327	145,041	-0.2	3.9	2.2	2.5	440,333	427,536	3.0
56 pt	Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services (except landscape services)	135,212	135,886	132,578	132,781	132,037	131,431	-0.5	2.5	2.4	3.4	403,676	390,509	3.4
561	Administrative and support services	127,570	127,646	123,988	126,215	125,897	126,269	-0.1	3.0	1.3	1.1	379,204	371,595	2.0
5613	Employment services	46,250	46,072	45,439	46,701	44,071	43,819	0.4	1.4	4.9	5.1	137,761	130,354	5.7
5615	Travel arrangement and reservation services	8,548	8,755	8,233	7,918	8,287	8,804	-2.4	6.3	3.1	-0.6	25,536	25,373	0.6
561 pt	Other administrative and support services ⁵	72,772	72,819	70,316	71,596	73,539	73,646	-0.1	3.6	-1.0	-1.1	215,907	215,868	Z
562	Waste management and remediation services	20,916	21,071	19,142	19,574	19,430	18,772	-0.7	10.1	7.6	12.2	61,129	55,941	9.3

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2002 NAICS code	Kind of business	Total revenue (millions of dollars)						Percent change				Year to date		
		3Q 2008 (p)	2Q 2008 (r)	1Q 2008	4Q 2007	3Q 2007	2Q 2007	3Q 2008 from 2Q 2008 (p)	2Q 2008 from 1Q 2008 (r)	3Q 2008 from 3Q 2007 (p)	2Q 2008 from 2Q 2007 (r)	2008 (p)	2007	2008 from 2007 (p)
62 pt	Selected health care services ⁶	227,721	228,874	228,168	219,990	215,550	214,413	-0.5	0.3	5.6	6.7	684,763	641,842	6.7
622	Hospitals	185,902	186,770	186,917	179,555	175,999	175,653	-0.5	-0.1	5.6	6.3	559,589	525,441	6.5
623	Nursing and residential care facilities	41,819	42,104	41,251	40,435	39,551	38,760	-0.7	2.1	5.7	8.6	125,174	116,401	7.5

(p) Preliminary estimate. (r) Revised estimate. Z Less than .05 percent.

(1) Includes NAICS 51113 (book publishers), 51114 (directory and mailing list publishers), and 51119 (other publishers).

(2) Includes NAICS 5173 (telecommunications resellers), 5174 (satellite telecommunications), and 5179 (other telecommunications).

(3) Includes all of NAICS 5413 (architectural, engineering, and related services) except 54133 (engineering services).

(4) Includes NAICS 5414 (specialized design services) and 5419 (other professional, scientific, and technical services).

(5) Includes NAICS 5611 (office administrative services), 5612 (facilities support services), 5614 (business support services), 5616 (investigation and security services), 5617 (services to buildings and dwellings), and 5619 (other support services).

(6) Includes NAICS 622 (hospitals) and 623 (nursing and residential care facilities).

Note: Sector totals and subsector totals may include data for kinds of business not shown. Table 2 provides estimated measures of sampling variability. Data users who create their own estimates using data from this report should cite the U.S. Census Bureau as the source of the original data only. Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at www.census.gov/svsd/www/qssreliability.html.

Table 2. Selected Services - Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability

[Estimates are shown as percents and are based on data from the Quarterly Services Survey]

2002 NAICS code	Kind of business	Median coefficient of variation for quarterly total revenue	Median standard error ¹ for percent change		Coefficient of variation for year to date	Standard error for percent change
			Ratio of two consecutive quarters	Current quarter to current quarter last year	2008	2008 year to date from 2007 year to date
51	Information	1.0	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.6
511	Publishing industries (except Internet)	2.6	0.9	1.0	2.6	0.9
51111	Newspaper publishers	4.4	1.3	1.6	4.5	1.5
51112	Periodical publishers	6.7	2.5	1.8	7.1	1.4
5111 pt	Book, directory and mailing list, and other publishers	2.4	0.9	1.3	2.2	1.0
5112	Software publishers	3.9	1.9	2.6	3.6	2.5
512	Motion picture and sound recording industries	3.5	1.4	2.4	3.4	1.8
515	Broadcasting (except Internet)	2.4	0.6	0.9	2.4	0.8
5151	Radio and television broadcasting	3.4	0.9	1.5	3.4	1.4
5152	Cable and other subscription programming	1.7	0.4	1.0	1.6	0.5
516,	Internet publishing and broadcasting, Internet					
5181,	service providers and web search portals,					
519	and other information services	7.0	1.5	3.8	7.2	3.5
517	Telecommunications	1.2	0.4	1.0	1.1	1.0
5171	Wired telecommunications carriers	3.1	0.6	1.7	3.0	1.7
5172	Wireless telecommunications carriers (except satellite)	1.6	0.4	1.0	1.7	1.1
5175	Cable and other program distribution	1.3	0.2	0.7	1.3	0.6
517 pt	Other telecommunications	6.0	1.0	2.8	6.2	2.7
5182	Data processing, hosting, and related services	4.0	1.6	4.1	3.9	3.7
54	Professional, scientific, and technical services	2.2	0.6	1.3	2.1	1.3
54 pt	Professional, scientific, and technical services (except landscape architectural services and veterinary services)	2.2	0.6	1.3	2.1	1.3
5411	Legal services	7.5	3.0	5.0	7.5	4.6
5412	Accounting, tax preparation, bookkeeping, and payroll services	9.0	2.7	3.6	9.1	3.1
5413	Architectural, engineering, and related services	3.1	1.8	2.4	2.9	2.1
5413 pt	Architectural and related services	5.4	4.4	4.3	5.1	3.6
54133	Engineering services	3.2	1.5	2.8	2.9	2.3
5415	Computer systems design and related services	4.1	1.8	3.0	4.1	2.9
5416	Management, scientific, and technical consulting services	5.0	1.6	2.5	5.1	2.1
5417	Scientific research and development services	10.2	1.5	2.6	10.4	2.6
5418	Advertising and related services	4.1	1.4	2.6	3.9	2.4
541 pt	Other professional, scientific, and technical services	4.0	1.5	5.1	3.8	6.3
56	Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	2.6	1.2	1.9	2.7	1.6
56 pt	Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services (except landscape services)	3.0	1.0	1.5	3.1	1.3
561	Administrative and support services	3.0	1.4	1.5	3.0	1.2
5613	Employment services	5.7	1.4	2.1	5.7	2.2
5615	Travel arrangement and reservation services	4.2	2.0	2.9	3.6	2.2
561 pt	Other administrative and support services	3.4	1.9	2.7	3.6	2.4
562	Waste management and remediation services	8.0	1.7	5.8	7.8	5.9
62 pt	Selected health care services	2.6	0.7	0.9	2.7	0.7
622	Hospitals	3.1	0.7	0.9	3.1	0.7
623	Nursing and residential care facilities	5.6	1.1	1.7	5.7	1.3

(1) The medians are based on estimates for the most recent four quarters.

Note: Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at www.census.gov/svsd/www/qssreliability.html.

Survey Description

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Quarterly Services Survey (QSS) to provide national estimates of quarterly revenue for employer firms located in the United States and classified in select service industries. The QSS sample includes firms classified in NAICS 51 (Information), NAICS 54 (Professional, scientific, and technical services), NAICS 56 (Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services), and NAICS 62 (Hospitals and nursing and residential care facilities). Each quarter, questionnaires are mailed to a probability sample of approximately 6,000 employer firms selected from the larger Service Annual Survey (SAS) sample. The QSS sample includes firms of all sizes and is updated on a quarterly basis to account for new service businesses, deaths, and other changes to the survey universe. Data for nonresponding firms are imputed based on data for similar-sized firms classified in the same kind of business. For NAICS 51 (Information sector), imputed revenue amounts to about 9 percent of the total revenue estimate; for NAICS 54 (Professional, scientific, and technical services except landscape architectural services and veterinary services) imputed revenue amounts to about 24 percent; for NAICS 56 (Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services except landscape services) imputed revenue amounts to about 29 percent, and for NAICS 62 (Hospitals and nursing and residential care facilities) imputed revenue amounts to about 21 percent. Quarterly revenue estimates are obtained by summing weighted data (either reported or imputed), where the weight for a particular unit is the reciprocal of its probability of being selected into the sample. The quarterly revenue estimates are adjusted using SAS results. Additional information on the QSS can be found on the Census Bureau website at: <http://www.census.gov/qss>.

Reliability of the Estimates

The estimates in this report may differ from the actual, but unknown, population values. For a particular estimate, statisticians define this difference as the total error of the estimate. When describing the accuracy of survey results, it is convenient to discuss total error as the sum of sampling error and nonsampling error.

Nonsampling error is the difference between the actual population parameter and the value that would be derived by surveying the entire set of units identified as the survey universe (the sampling frame). There are many potential contributors to nonsampling error – the inclusion of erroneous units in the survey (overcoverage), the exclusion of eligible units from the survey (undercoverage), nonresponse, misreporting, mistakes in recording and coding responses, misinterpretation of questions, and other errors of collection, response, coverage, or processing. Though nonsampling error is not measured directly, the Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the process to minimize this type of error.

Sampling error is the average difference between the estimate and the result that would be obtained from a complete enumeration of the sampling frame conducted under the same survey conditions. This error occurs because only a subset of the entire sampling frame is measured in a sample survey. Common measures of sampling error are the sampling variance, the standard error, and the coefficient of variation (CV). The sampling variance is defined as the squared difference, averaged over all possible samples of the same size and design, between the estimator and its average value. The standard error is the square root of the sampling variance. The CV expresses the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. For example, an estimate of 200 units that has an estimated standard error of 10 units has an estimated CV of 5 percent. The sampling variance, standard error, and CV of an estimate can be estimated from the selected sample because the sample was selected using probability sampling. Standard errors and coefficients of variation are given in Table 2 of this report.

The first page of this release gives statements about the change in revenue from a prior period. Each change estimate is accompanied by a number in parentheses, called the “margin of error.” The margin of error can be used to construct a 90-percent confidence interval, which is interpreted as follows. If, for each possible sample, an estimate and its approximate standard error are obtained, then for approximately 90 percent of the possible samples, the interval from 1.65 standard errors below to 1.65 standard errors above the estimate would include the average of the estimates derived from all possible samples. If, for example, a particular change estimate is +1.2 percent and its associated margin of error is ± 1.5 percentage points, then the 90-percent confidence interval for the change estimate is -0.3 percent to +2.7 percent. If the interval contains 0, then one does not have sufficient evidence to conclude at the 90-percent confidence level that the actual change is different from zero. Each comparison stated in this report has undergone statistical testing and is significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted.

Data users should take into account the estimates of sampling error and the potential effects of nonsampling error when using the statistics in this publication.