



ECONOMICS  
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U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

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## SEPTEMBER 2003 CONSTRUCTION AT \$910.6 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

Construction put in place spending during September 2003 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$910.6 billion, 1.3 ( $\pm 1.8$ ) percent above the revised August estimate of \$898.8 billion, according to the U.S. Commerce Department's Census Bureau. The September figure is 6.5 ( $\pm 1.4$ ) percent above the September 2002 estimate of \$854.9 billion.

During the first 9 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$663.0 billion, 3.1 ( $\pm 1.4$ ) percent above the \$643.0 billion for the same period in 2002.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a rate of \$690.6 billion, 1.7 ( $\pm 1.4$ ) percent above the revised August estimate of \$678.9 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$471.4 billion in September, 1.4 ( $\pm 1.4$ ) percent above the revised August estimate of \$465.0 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In September, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$220.0 billion, nearly the same ( $\pm 2.6$  percent) as the revised August estimate of \$220.0 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$58.7 billion, nearly the same ( $\pm 4.3$  percent) as the revised August estimate of \$58.7 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$63.1 billion, 0.9 ( $\pm 6.2$ ) percent above the revised August estimate of \$62.5 billion.

October 2003 data will be released on December 1, 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	Sep 2003 <sup>p</sup>	Aug 2003 <sup>r</sup>	Jul 2003 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2003	May 2003	Sep 2002	Percent change Sep 2003 from -	
							Aug 2003	Sep 2002
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>910,626</b>	<b>898,828</b>	<b>892,599</b>	<b>878,757</b>	<b>871,859</b>	<b>854,874</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Residential	477,318	471,312	463,154	450,598	450,637	431,735	1.3	10.6
Lodging	11,701	10,446	10,241	11,365	11,711	10,094	12.0	15.9
Office	39,805	39,223	39,341	39,558	38,683	42,898	1.5	-7.2
Commercial	62,951	63,550	63,059	62,126	59,697	61,864	-0.9	1.8
Health care	30,029	29,193	29,753	30,584	29,567	28,486	2.9	5.4
Educational	72,586	72,378	73,639	74,079	72,274	71,022	0.3	2.2
Religious	8,576	8,472	8,531	8,603	8,552	7,903	1.2	8.5
Public safety	8,866	9,030	9,121	8,435	8,348	8,387	-1.8	5.7
Amusement and recreation	18,688	18,739	19,555	19,423	19,571	19,456	-0.3	-3.9
Transportation	24,321	24,201	24,187	24,098	24,866	24,750	0.5	-1.7
Communication	14,945	15,555	16,061	15,447	15,843	16,438	-3.9	-9.1
Power	36,276	32,728	35,871	33,889	34,810	29,957	10.8	21.1
Highway and street	63,339	62,711	60,070	59,878	56,979	62,330	1.0	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	13,204	13,119	12,719	12,592	12,817	11,789	0.6	12.0
Water supply	9,439	9,862	9,707	9,500	9,526	9,526	-4.3	-0.9
Conservation and development	3,357	3,820	3,893	3,925	3,702	3,799	-12.1	-11.6
Manufacturing	15,226	14,491	13,697	14,656	14,277	14,440	5.1	5.4
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>690,615</b>	<b>678,868</b>	<b>674,297</b>	<b>661,510</b>	<b>660,944</b>	<b>641,539</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Residential	471,445	464,959	457,079	444,440	444,858	425,692	1.4	10.7
Lodging	10,530	9,385	9,240	10,345	10,769	9,400	12.2	12.0
Office	28,974	28,489	28,513	29,275	28,580	33,587	1.7	-13.7
Commercial	57,867	58,745	58,200	56,914	55,325	57,795	-1.5	0.1
Health care	23,922	23,068	23,780	24,404	23,746	22,750	3.7	5.2
Educational	13,893	13,656	13,633	13,898	13,861	12,475	1.7	11.4
Religious	8,564	8,453	8,520	8,589	8,387	7,897	1.3	8.4
Amusement and recreation	7,035	7,017	7,262	7,262	6,859	7,106	0.3	-1.0
Transportation	6,278	6,290	6,398	6,519	6,952	7,002	-0.2	-10.3
Communication	14,830	15,428	15,909	15,331	15,681	16,397	-3.9	-9.6
Power	30,749	27,668	30,843	28,931	30,677	25,953	11.1	18.5
Manufacturing	15,038	14,382	13,623	14,495	14,176	14,228	4.6	5.7
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>220,011</b>	<b>219,961</b>	<b>218,303</b>	<b>217,247</b>	<b>210,914</b>	<b>213,335</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Residential	5,873	6,353	6,076	6,157	5,779	6,043	-7.6	-2.8
Office	10,831	10,734	10,828	10,283	10,103	9,310	0.9	16.3
Commercial	5,085	4,805	4,859	5,212	4,372	4,068	5.8	25.0
Health care	6,107	6,125	5,973	6,180	5,821	5,737	-0.3	6.4
Educational	58,693	58,721	60,006	60,181	58,414	58,547	0.0	0.2
Public safety	8,524	8,699	8,810	8,324	8,248	8,254	-2.0	3.3
Amusement and recreation	11,653	11,723	12,293	12,161	12,712	12,351	-0.6	-5.7
Transportation	18,043	17,911	17,789	17,579	17,913	17,747	0.7	1.7
Power	5,527	5,061	5,028	4,959	4,133	4,004	9.2	38.0
Highway and street	63,093	62,524	59,841	59,761	56,856	62,139	0.9	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	12,772	12,744	12,440	12,193	12,539	11,587	0.2	10.2
Water supply	9,024	9,461	9,264	9,057	8,991	9,104	-4.6	-0.9
Conservation and development	3,302	3,786	3,858	3,890	3,665	3,750	-12.8	-11.9

<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 2003 <sup>p</sup>	Aug 2003 <sup>r</sup>	Jul 2003 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2003	May 2003	Sep 2002	Year-to-date		
							Sep 2003	Sep 2002	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>84,757</b>	<b>84,453</b>	<b>82,631</b>	<b>80,121</b>	<b>74,884</b>	<b>79,378</b>	<b>662,972</b>	<b>643,042</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Residential	43,817	44,315	43,324	41,636	39,320	39,574	344,475	317,858	8.4
Lodging	975	871	853	947	976	841	8,188	8,320	-1.6
Office	3,515	3,364	3,323	3,421	3,345	3,789	29,594	34,085	-13.2
Commercial	5,812	5,707	5,541	5,442	4,959	5,634	45,661	46,992	-2.8
Health care	2,584	2,416	2,470	2,623	2,499	2,458	22,140	20,066	10.3
Educational	6,761	7,302	7,099	6,782	6,007	6,625	54,528	53,367	2.2
Religious	753	780	732	732	705	693	6,277	6,161	1.9
Public safety	809	795	749	705	688	805	6,279	6,547	-4.1
Amusement and recreation	1,687	1,624	1,649	1,714	1,696	1,737	14,270	14,171	0.7
Transportation	2,304	2,261	2,133	2,128	2,159	2,364	18,197	18,410	-1.2
Communication	1,307	1,306	1,414	1,328	1,306	1,368	11,270	13,392	-15.8
Power	3,166	2,886	3,362	3,041	2,893	2,684	26,884	26,700	0.7
Highway and street	7,404	7,121	6,487	6,042	4,926	7,096	45,313	45,359	-0.1
Sewage and waste disposal	1,258	1,220	1,143	1,131	1,103	1,116	9,405	9,007	4.4
Water supply	863	884	832	820	810	887	7,116	6,767	5.2
Conservation and development	379	349	333	318	285	429	2,740	2,747	-0.3
Manufacturing	1,365	1,252	1,189	1,312	1,208	1,280	10,635	13,092	-18.8
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>62,454</b>	<b>62,513</b>	<b>61,941</b>	<b>60,113</b>	<b>57,085</b>	<b>57,867</b>	<b>502,027</b>	<b>485,964</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Residential	43,259	43,768	42,809	41,097	38,837	38,994	340,012	313,256	8.5
Lodging	878	782	770	862	897	783	7,442	7,988	-6.8
Office	2,524	2,428	2,406	2,512	2,468	2,919	21,826	26,814	-18.6
Commercial	5,288	5,279	5,134	4,964	4,601	5,232	42,253	44,097	-4.2
Health care	2,014	1,918	1,972	2,092	2,017	1,917	17,748	16,109	10.2
Educational	1,181	1,295	1,282	1,270	1,214	1,062	10,169	9,887	2.9
Religious	752	779	731	730	691	693	6,244	6,158	1.4
Amusement and recreation	603	593	615	627	597	610	5,175	5,649	-8.4
Transportation	573	590	585	596	634	642	5,018	5,192	-3.4
Communication	1,295	1,295	1,402	1,319	1,294	1,364	11,181	13,322	-16.1
Power	2,600	2,417	2,939	2,658	2,553	2,278	23,586	23,839	-1.1
Manufacturing	1,349	1,244	1,183	1,298	1,200	1,259	10,553	12,900	-18.2
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>22,303</b>	<b>21,940</b>	<b>20,690</b>	<b>20,008</b>	<b>17,799</b>	<b>21,512</b>	<b>160,945</b>	<b>157,081</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Residential	558	546	515	539	483	580	4,462	4,603	-3.1
Office	991	935	917	909	877	870	7,769	7,272	6.8
Commercial	525	428	407	478	358	402	3,408	2,894	17.8
Health care	570	498	498	532	481	541	4,392	3,957	11.0
Educational	5,580	6,007	5,817	5,512	4,793	5,564	44,359	43,482	2.0
Public safety	780	768	723	695	680	772	6,149	6,386	-3.7
Amusement and recreation	1,084	1,031	1,034	1,087	1,099	1,127	9,096	8,523	6.7
Transportation	1,731	1,672	1,548	1,533	1,524	1,722	13,180	13,219	-0.3
Power	565	469	423	383	341	406	3,298	2,861	15.3
Highway and street	7,381	7,103	6,464	6,034	4,916	7,080	45,203	45,272	-0.2
Sewage and waste disposal	1,216	1,184	1,116	1,097	1,082	1,097	9,190	8,806	4.4
Water supply	822	844	795	785	770	844	6,775	6,476	4.6
Conservation and development	374	346	330	315	282	425	2,715	2,733	-0.7

<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	3.9	2.6	4.1	2.5	5.3
Lodging	3.8	3.3	3.7	2.1	5.2
Office	2.8	2.0	2.0	1.8	3.6
Commercial	2.6	1.7	2.6	2.0	3.4
Health care	3.1	2.7	3.1	1.7	3.8
Educational	2.3	1.5	2.2	2.3	3.0
Religious	4.4	3.3	4.3	4.7	5.5
Public safety	3.3	2.3	2.8	2.4	4.6
Amusement and recreation	3.4	2.7	3.1	2.4	3.8
Transportation	2.6	2.0	2.5	2.4	3.3
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.8	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.6
Highway and street	3.8	2.1	3.5	3.9	5.3
Sewage and waste disposal	4.3	2.7	3.9	3.1	7.7
Water supply	4.4	2.8	3.9	3.2	5.3
Conservation and development	4.3	3.2	4.3	4.9	5.7
Manufacturing	3.8	3.0	3.1	2.4	4.0
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.6
Lodging	4.0	3.4	3.7	2.2	5.2
Office	3.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	4.1
Commercial	2.7	1.7	2.7	1.9	3.3
Health care	3.7	3.3	3.6	1.9	4.5
Educational	4.0	2.9	4.2	2.8	5.4
Religious	4.4	3.3	4.3	4.7	5.5
Amusement and recreation	5.2	4.7	5.6	3.7	6.1
Transportation	8.4	8.1	7.5	7.0	7.5
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.5	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.6
Manufacturing	3.8	3.1	3.1	2.3	4.0
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Residential	3.9	2.6	4.1	2.5	5.3
Office	3.8	2.7	3.4	2.3	5.0
Commercial	11.9	8.2	11.8	9.4	18.9
Health care	4.4	3.3	4.8	2.9	5.5
Educational	2.7	1.7	2.6	2.7	3.4
Public safety	3.2	2.3	2.7	2.5	4.4
Amusement and recreation	4.5	3.2	3.5	3.1	4.8
Transportation	2.7	2.0	2.6	2.5	3.7
Power	16.5	4.1	13.5	5.0	30.8
Highway and street	3.8	2.1	3.5	3.9	5.3
Sewage and waste disposal	4.4	2.7	4.0	3.2	7.7
Water supply	4.5	2.9	4.0	3.2	5.5
Conservation and development	4.3	3.1	4.3	4.9	5.7

NA Not applicable