

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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## MAY 2008 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,085.2 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during May 2008 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,085.2 billion, 0.4 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$1,089.3 billion. The May figure is 6.0 percent ( $\pm 2.1\%$ ) below the May 2007 estimate of \$1,154.6 billion.

During the first 5 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$416.6 billion, 5.1 percent ( $\pm 1.8\%$ ) below the \$438.7 billion for the same period in 2007.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$784.2 billion, 0.7 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$789.4 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$378.9 billion in May, 1.6 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) below the revised April estimate of \$385.1 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$405.3 billion in May, 0.2 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised April estimate of \$404.3 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In May, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$301.1 billion, 0.4 percent ( $\pm 2.2\%$ )\* above the revised April estimate of \$299.9 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$84.8 billion, 1.8 percent ( $\pm 3.5\%$ )\* above the revised April estimate of \$83.3 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$77.8 billion, 0.7 percent ( $\pm 6.6\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$78.3 billion.

*June 2008 data will be released on August 1, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. EDT.*

*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.

Effective with this May 2008 press release, expenditures on private residential improvements to rental, vacant, and seasonal properties are not included in the construction spending data. To allow comparable time series analysis, these expenditures have been removed from our historic data back to January 1993. (see tables) The construction spending estimate will continue to include expenditures on residential improvements to owner-occupied structures. In addition, seasonally adjusted federal construction revised back to 1996.

\* 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	May 2008 <sup>P</sup>	Apr 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Mar 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2008 <sup>r</sup>	May 2007 <sup>r</sup>	Percent change May 2008 from -	
							Apr 2008	May 2007
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,085,232</b>	<b>1,089,294</b>	<b>1,090,471</b>	<b>1,075,303</b>	<b>1,085,386</b>	<b>1,154,603</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-6.0</b>
Residential	385,928	392,239	398,614	398,940	412,040	528,047	-1.6	-26.9
Nonresidential	699,304	697,055	691,856	676,363	673,345	626,556	0.3	11.6
Lodging	37,856	36,889	34,458	33,374	32,513	27,904	2.6	35.7
Office	73,674	73,251	71,259	70,543	71,080	61,852	0.6	19.1
Commercial	89,108	90,089	90,222	90,371	90,090	88,435	-1.1	0.8
Health care	45,198	45,254	45,583	44,221	43,512	41,685	-0.1	8.4
Educational	103,649	102,037	102,456	98,560	100,616	95,482	1.6	8.6
Religious	6,745	6,980	6,951	6,996	7,291	7,454	-3.4	-9.5
Public safety	11,927	12,003	11,838	11,785	11,747	9,627	-0.6	23.9
Amusement and recreation	23,008	23,719	23,226	23,204	23,047	22,072	-3.0	4.2
Transportation	35,095	35,088	35,073	34,490	33,836	31,173	0.0	12.6
Communication	27,104	26,688	28,093	26,865	27,443	27,325	1.6	-0.8
Power	67,917	66,893	66,503	64,327	63,256	53,422	1.5	27.1
Highway and street	77,932	78,502	78,136	75,780	75,125	74,400	-0.7	4.7
Sewage and waste disposal	25,243	25,348	25,504	25,044	25,049	23,841	-0.4	5.9
Water supply	16,078	15,986	15,905	15,451	14,099	16,747	0.6	-4.0
Conservation and development	4,583	4,644	5,134	5,342	5,349	4,763	-1.3	-3.8
Manufacturing	54,188	53,684	51,518	50,009	49,295	40,375	0.9	34.2
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>784,169</b>	<b>789,413</b>	<b>789,629</b>	<b>783,663</b>	<b>794,594</b>	<b>868,495</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-9.7</b>
Residential	378,858	385,080	391,643	392,020	404,909	520,910	-1.6	-27.3
Nonresidential	405,311	404,333	397,986	391,642	389,685	347,585	0.2	16.6
Lodging	37,628	36,472	33,720	32,546	31,531	26,506	3.2	42.0
Office	59,117	58,923	57,316	56,958	58,418	50,641	0.3	16.7
Commercial	85,642	86,849	86,942	86,967	86,709	84,627	-1.4	1.2
Health care	36,299	36,426	36,585	35,499	35,055	33,445	-0.3	8.5
Educational	18,837	18,760	18,829	18,816	18,729	15,928	0.4	18.3
Religious	6,688	6,967	6,932	6,990	7,228	7,435	-4.0	-10.0
Amusement and recreation	11,201	11,843	11,370	11,755	11,605	10,020	-5.4	11.8
Transportation	10,252	10,270	10,130	10,013	9,776	9,049	-0.2	13.3
Communication	26,885	26,438	27,824	26,762	27,368	27,256	1.7	-1.4
Power	56,930	55,770	54,812	53,116	51,537	40,785	2.1	39.6
Manufacturing	53,633	53,125	51,051	49,459	48,756	39,950	1.0	34.3
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>301,063</b>	<b>299,881</b>	<b>300,842</b>	<b>291,640</b>	<b>290,792</b>	<b>286,108</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Residential	7,070	7,159	6,972	6,919	7,131	7,137	-1.2	-0.9
Nonresidential	293,993	292,722	293,870	284,721	283,661	278,971	0.4	5.4
Office	14,557	14,329	13,943	13,585	12,662	11,211	1.6	29.8
Commercial	3,466	3,241	3,280	3,404	3,381	3,808	6.9	-9.0
Health care	8,899	8,828	8,997	8,722	8,457	8,240	0.8	8.0
Educational	84,811	83,277	83,627	79,744	81,886	79,554	1.8	6.6
Public safety	11,200	11,242	11,019	10,845	10,661	9,183	-0.4	22.0
Amusement and recreation	11,808	11,877	11,856	11,449	11,442	12,052	-0.6	-2.0
Transportation	24,843	24,818	24,943	24,477	24,060	22,123	0.1	12.3
Power	10,986	11,123	11,691	11,211	11,719	12,638	-1.2	-13.1
Highway and street	77,773	78,304	77,906	75,397	74,601	73,933	-0.7	5.2
Sewage and waste disposal	24,586	24,674	24,975	24,553	24,638	23,457	-0.4	4.8
Water supply	15,457	15,165	15,068	14,581	13,218	16,272	1.9	-5.0
Conservation and development	4,547	4,604	5,074	5,264	5,277	4,589	-1.2	-0.9

<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	May 2008 <sup>p</sup>	Apr 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Mar 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2008 <sup>r</sup>	May 2007 <sup>r</sup>	Year-to-date		Percent change
							May 2008	May 2007	
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>93,275</b>	<b>88,084</b>	<b>83,204</b>	<b>76,349</b>	<b>75,656</b>	<b>100,030</b>	<b>416,568</b>	<b>438,732</b>	<b>-5.1</b>
Residential	34,011	31,821	30,654	27,172	27,262	46,561	150,921	206,672	-27.0
Nonresidential	59,263	56,263	52,550	49,177	48,394	53,469	265,648	232,060	14.5
Lodging	3,155	3,074	2,872	2,781	2,709	2,325	14,591	10,320	41.4
Office	6,338	6,306	5,735	5,603	5,453	5,375	29,435	25,008	17.7
Commercial	7,590	7,297	6,978	6,718	6,565	7,565	35,148	33,352	5.4
Health care	3,849	3,785	3,677	3,511	3,460	3,587	18,283	16,981	7.7
Educational	8,646	7,999	7,472	6,872	7,033	7,964	38,022	34,211	11.1
Religious	558	560	545	526	549	622	2,737	2,975	-8.0
Public safety	977	979	905	866	891	783	4,618	3,537	30.6
Amusement and recreation	1,969	1,982	1,817	1,740	1,688	1,910	9,196	8,024	14.6
Transportation	2,946	2,826	2,576	2,376	2,380	2,609	13,103	11,346	15.5
Communication	2,215	2,164	2,251	2,057	2,002	2,316	10,689	10,054	6.3
Power	5,617	5,562	5,428	5,078	4,965	4,418	26,650	19,285	38.2
Highway and street	7,003	5,672	4,608	3,980	3,782	6,791	25,045	24,287	3.1
Sewage and waste disposal	2,151	2,009	1,883	1,768	1,768	2,062	9,578	9,074	5.6
Water supply	1,373	1,336	1,260	1,148	1,017	1,406	6,135	6,293	-2.5
Conservation and development	367	365	396	388	434	394	1,949	1,923	1.4
Manufacturing	4,511	4,346	4,148	3,765	3,699	3,343	20,469	15,393	33.0
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>67,496</b>	<b>64,618</b>	<b>62,036</b>	<b>57,007</b>	<b>56,517</b>	<b>75,408</b>	<b>307,673</b>	<b>337,316</b>	<b>-8.8</b>
Residential	33,394	31,231	30,122	26,646	26,746	45,925	148,140	204,000	-27.4
Nonresidential	34,102	33,387	31,914	30,361	29,771	29,483	159,534	133,317	19.7
Lodging	3,136	3,039	2,810	2,712	2,628	2,209	14,325	9,835	45.7
Office	5,075	5,097	4,641	4,582	4,513	4,414	23,907	20,985	13.9
Commercial	7,305	7,036	6,718	6,466	6,314	7,255	33,839	31,853	6.2
Health care	3,101	3,026	2,945	2,816	2,781	2,880	14,670	13,845	6.0
Educational	1,649	1,552	1,457	1,373	1,374	1,411	7,405	6,137	20.7
Religious	553	559	543	525	543	620	2,724	2,971	-8.3
Amusement and recreation	932	991	941	943	895	843	4,702	3,837	22.5
Transportation	889	851	763	711	739	792	3,953	3,541	11.6
Communication	2,197	2,143	2,229	2,049	1,996	2,310	10,613	10,026	5.9
Power	4,611	4,585	4,567	4,267	4,119	3,277	22,149	14,357	54.3
Manufacturing	4,465	4,300	4,109	3,719	3,654	3,308	20,247	15,228	33.0
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>25,779</b>	<b>23,466</b>	<b>21,168</b>	<b>19,342</b>	<b>19,140</b>	<b>24,622</b>	<b>108,895</b>	<b>101,416</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Residential	617	590	532	526	516	636	2,781	2,672	4.1
Nonresidential	25,161	22,876	20,636	18,817	18,624	23,986	106,114	98,743	7.5
Office	1,263	1,210	1,095	1,021	940	961	5,529	4,024	37.4
Commercial	285	261	260	252	251	310	1,309	1,499	-12.7
Health care	748	759	732	695	679	707	3,613	3,136	15.2
Educational	6,997	6,447	6,015	5,498	5,659	6,553	30,616	28,074	9.1
Public safety	913	914	841	800	816	746	4,283	3,371	27.1
Amusement and recreation	1,037	991	876	797	793	1,067	4,494	4,187	7.3
Transportation	2,057	1,975	1,813	1,665	1,641	1,816	9,150	7,805	17.2
Power	1,006	978	860	811	847	1,141	4,502	4,927	-8.6
Highway and street	6,990	5,658	4,594	3,954	3,742	6,755	24,937	24,129	3.3
Sewage and waste disposal	2,093	1,953	1,843	1,733	1,737	2,028	9,359	8,923	4.9
Water supply	1,321	1,265	1,192	1,086	954	1,364	5,818	6,119	-4.9
Conservation and development	364	362	391	382	428	380	1,926	1,869	3.0

<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>0.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Residential	4.4	3.1	6.6	3.8	6.6
Nonresidential	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.8	1.3
Lodging	2.1	1.8	2.9	1.0	2.9
Office	2.5	2.6	3.6	2.3	3.9
Commercial	3.0	2.5	2.8	1.7	3.1
Health care	1.9	1.6	2.3	1.3	2.6
Educational	2.1	1.8	2.6	1.9	3.0
Religious	4.6	3.3	3.9	4.1	4.7
Public safety	3.2	2.6	4.8	2.4	4.8
Amusement and recreation	3.8	2.8	3.8	2.4	5.1
Transportation	2.6	1.9	3.0	1.3	3.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.3	1.4	1.4	0.7	2.0
Highway and street	3.4	2.4	3.2	4.1	3.9
Sewage and waste disposal	3.3	2.7	3.5	3.3	4.5
Water supply	4.1	3.0	5.0	4.1	6.4
Conservation and development	5.2	4.2	5.7	3.6	5.7
Manufacturing	1.9	1.7	2.8	1.0	2.9
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.2	1.0	1.5	0.8	1.7
Lodging	2.2	1.8	3.0	1.0	3.0
Office	2.9	3.0	3.9	2.5	4.4
Commercial	3.2	2.6	2.9	1.8	3.2
Health care	2.3	2.0	2.7	1.5	3.1
Educational	3.5	2.9	4.8	3.0	5.6
Religious	4.6	3.3	3.9	4.0	4.7
Amusement and recreation	4.6	4.1	5.3	2.2	4.9
Transportation	5.7	4.6	8.2	2.2	5.8
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.0	1.3	0.8	0.6	1.9
Manufacturing	1.8	1.7	2.8	1.0	3.0
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Residential	4.4	3.1	6.6	3.8	6.6
Nonresidential	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.8
Office	4.4	5.1	6.6	5.6	5.0
Commercial	6.4	5.3	6.9	7.1	8.5
Health care	2.8	2.5	3.7	2.0	3.8
Educational	2.4	2.0	3.0	2.2	3.4
Public safety	3.3	2.7	4.9	2.6	5.0
Amusement and recreation	5.6	3.8	5.4	4.1	8.2
Transportation	2.8	2.0	3.2	1.4	3.3
Power	7.2	9.1	6.1	4.9	7.2
Highway and street	3.4	2.4	3.2	4.1	3.9
Sewage and waste disposal	3.3	2.7	3.5	3.4	4.5
Water supply	4.1	3.1	5.0	4.4	6.5
Conservation and development	5.2	4.2	5.8	3.6	5.9

NA Not applicable

Table 4. **Annual Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States**  
(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	2007 <sup>f</sup>	2006 <sup>f</sup>	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,137,152</b>	<b>1,167,554</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Residential	499,650	619,814	-19.4	4.4
Nonresidential	637,502	547,741	16.4	0.6
Lodging	28,728	18,139	58.4	1.8
Office	64,731	54,187	19.5	1.7
Commercial	88,777	76,713	15.7	2.2
Health care	42,882	38,472	11.5	1.5
Educational	96,348	84,928	13.4	1.3
Religious	7,447	7,749	-3.9	2.9
Public safety	9,899	7,768	27.4	2.5
Amusement and recreation	21,719	19,033	14.1	2.8
Transportation	32,420	27,964	15.9	1.9
Communication	27,040	22,219	21.7	NA
Power	53,371	39,754	34.3	1.2
Highway and street	76,021	72,040	5.5	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	24,665	23,186	6.4	2.0
Water supply	15,583	14,960	4.2	2.5
Conservation and development	5,226	5,130	1.9	2.9
Manufacturing	42,644	35,500	20.1	1.4
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>850,009</b>	<b>912,169</b>	<b>-6.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Residential	492,499	613,731	-19.8	1.1
Nonresidential	357,510	298,438	19.8	0.9
Lodging	27,503	17,624	56.1	1.8
Office	53,377	45,680	16.8	1.9
Commercial	84,999	73,368	15.9	2.3
Health care	34,776	32,016	8.6	1.8
Educational	17,071	13,839	23.4	2.6
Religious	7,429	7,740	-4.0	2.9
Public safety	495	419	18.1	8.3
Amusement and recreation	10,352	9,326	11.0	3.2
Transportation	9,444	8,654	9.1	5.2
Communication	26,947	22,187	21.5	NA
Power	41,481	31,164	33.1	1.3
Sewage and waste disposal	383	305	25.6	17.8
Water supply	460	477	-3.6	15.9
Manufacturing	42,229	35,086	20.4	1.3
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>287,143</b>	<b>255,385</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Residential	7,151	6,083	17.6	4.4
Nonresidential	279,992	249,303	12.3	0.7
Office	11,353	8,507	33.5	3.2
Commercial	3,778	3,345	12.9	4.4
Health care	8,106	6,456	25.6	2.0
Educational	79,278	71,089	11.5	1.5
Public safety	9,404	7,350	27.9	2.6
Amusement and recreation	11,367	9,707	17.1	4.5
Transportation	22,976	19,310	19.0	2.0
Power	11,890	8,590	38.4	3.0
Highway and street	75,563	71,567	5.6	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	24,282	22,881	6.1	2.0
Water supply	15,122	14,483	4.4	2.5
Conservation and development	5,120	5,047	1.4	3.0

NA Not Applicable      <sup>f</sup> Revised

<sup>1</sup> Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately:  
highway and street, and conservation and development.

<sup>2</sup> Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately:  
lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.