

U.S. Census Bureau News

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, D.C. 20233

For Release at 10:00 A.M. EST, Monday, December 1, 2008

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CB08-170

OCTOBER 2008 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,072.6 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during October 2008 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,072.6 billion, 1.2 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$)* below the revised September estimate of \$1,085.7 billion. The October figure is 4.6 percent ($\pm 1.9\%$) below the October 2007 estimate of \$1,124.2 billion.

During the first 10 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$906.3 billion, 5.7 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$) below the \$960.9 billion for the same period in 2007.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$756.5 billion, 2.0 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) below the revised September estimate of \$771.9 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$338.8 billion in October, 3.5 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) below the revised September estimate of \$351.2 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$417.7 billion in October, 0.7 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$)* below the revised September estimate of \$420.6 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In October, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$316.1 billion, 0.7 percent ($\pm 2.2\%$)* above the revised September estimate of \$313.8 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$88.0 billion, 1.2 percent ($\pm 2.9\%$)* above the revised September estimate of \$86.9 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$81.8 billion, 0.9 percent ($\pm 5.9\%$)* below the revised September estimate of \$82.5 billion.

November 2008 data will be released on January 5, 2009 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, 0.5 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	Oct 2008 ^p	Sep 2008 ^r	Aug 2008 ^r	Jul 2008	Jun 2008	Oct 2007	Percent change Oct 2008 from -	
							Sep 2008	Oct 2007
Total Construction	1,072,632	1,085,669	1,085,743	1,060,011	1,086,584	1,124,206	-1.2	-4.6
Residential	346,885	359,283	360,953	342,490	363,961	454,240	-3.5	-23.6
Nonresidential	725,747	726,386	724,790	717,521	722,623	669,966	-0.1	8.3
Lodging	39,292	39,064	39,896	38,521	39,204	33,313	0.6	17.9
Office	76,511	75,270	73,557	73,157	72,275	70,273	1.6	8.9
Commercial	81,795	80,752	85,121	86,288	88,608	92,141	1.3	-11.2
Health care	46,718	46,710	46,643	45,914	45,865	44,948	0.0	3.9
Educational	107,317	106,177	106,242	105,029	104,951	98,037	1.1	9.5
Religious	6,790	6,960	6,740	6,936	6,796	7,244	-2.4	-6.3
Public safety	12,757	12,838	12,629	12,603	12,093	10,291	-0.6	24.0
Amusement and recreation	23,818	23,073	23,091	23,132	23,219	22,449	3.2	6.1
Transportation	35,884	35,637	35,429	35,780	35,700	34,526	0.7	3.9
Communication	22,439	23,360	23,194	24,662	26,351	28,194	-3.9	-20.4
Power	71,722	76,302	73,975	71,160	70,861	58,846	-6.0	21.9
Highway and street	81,977	82,674	83,621	78,483	76,573	77,456	-0.8	5.8
Sewage and waste disposal	26,131	25,830	25,289	25,759	24,534	25,907	1.2	0.9
Water supply	17,922	18,061	17,827	18,162	17,508	15,396	-0.8	16.4
Conservation and development	5,180	4,847	5,751	5,409	5,183	5,739	6.9	-9.7
Manufacturing	69,496	68,836	65,785	66,526	72,900	45,208	1.0	53.7
Total Private Construction ¹	756,541	771,858	769,061	751,525	780,394	829,895	-2.0	-8.8
Residential	338,816	351,242	352,936	334,494	356,441	446,975	-3.5	-24.2
Nonresidential	417,725	420,616	416,126	417,031	423,953	382,919	-0.7	9.1
Lodging	39,085	38,831	39,473	38,227	38,854	32,052	0.7	21.9
Office	60,105	59,430	58,222	58,080	57,355	57,589	1.1	4.4
Commercial	78,539	77,646	81,627	82,925	84,800	88,568	1.2	-11.3
Health care	37,626	38,052	37,552	37,615	37,520	36,211	-1.1	3.9
Educational	19,331	19,238	18,738	18,447	18,194	18,142	0.5	6.6
Religious	6,790	6,882	6,706	6,936	6,710	7,202	-1.3	-5.7
Amusement and recreation	11,662	11,110	11,122	11,346	11,228	10,813	5.0	7.9
Transportation	10,256	10,270	10,103	10,338	9,998	9,830	-0.1	4.3
Communication	22,236	23,157	22,986	24,544	26,204	28,036	-4.0	-20.7
Power	60,762	65,520	62,190	60,374	58,401	47,737	-7.3	27.3
Manufacturing	69,022	68,327	65,260	66,056	72,406	44,825	1.0	54.0
Total Public Construction ²	316,091	313,811	316,681	308,486	306,190	294,311	0.7	7.4
Residential	8,069	8,041	8,017	7,996	7,520	7,265	0.3	11.1
Nonresidential	308,021	305,770	308,664	300,490	298,670	287,047	0.7	7.3
Office	16,406	15,840	15,335	15,077	14,920	12,684	3.6	29.3
Commercial	3,255	3,105	3,494	3,363	3,808	3,573	4.8	-8.9
Health care	9,092	8,657	9,090	8,299	8,346	8,738	5.0	4.1
Educational	87,986	86,938	87,503	86,582	86,758	79,896	1.2	10.1
Public safety	12,241	12,284	12,014	11,952	11,363	9,719	-0.4	25.9
Amusement and recreation	12,157	11,963	11,969	11,786	11,991	11,636	1.6	4.5
Transportation	25,628	25,367	25,326	25,443	25,702	24,695	1.0	3.8
Power	10,959	10,783	11,785	10,785	12,460	11,109	1.6	-1.4
Highway and street	81,762	82,488	83,474	78,316	76,407	76,936	-0.9	6.3
Sewage and waste disposal	25,301	25,102	24,696	25,140	23,814	25,591	0.8	-1.1
Water supply	17,227	17,441	17,105	17,536	16,860	14,908	-1.2	15.6
Conservation and development	5,124	4,780	5,681	5,330	5,163	5,720	7.2	-10.4

^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 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	Oct 2008 ^P	Sep 2008 ^r	Aug 2008 ^r	Jul 2008	Jun 2008	Oct 2007	Year-to-date		Percent change
							Oct 2008	Oct 2007	
Total Construction	95,024	98,152	101,687	97,427	98,200	100,420	906,300	960,870	-5.7
Residential	30,580	31,519	35,100	32,655	33,613	40,401	313,212	433,156	-27.7
Nonresidential	64,444	66,634	66,588	64,773	64,587	60,019	593,088	527,714	12.4
Lodging	3,274	3,255	3,325	3,210	3,267	2,776	30,888	23,249	32.9
Office	6,633	6,690	6,252	6,152	6,191	6,021	60,993	53,499	14.0
Commercial	7,237	7,344	7,663	7,587	7,838	8,308	72,827	73,943	-1.5
Health care	4,055	4,040	3,960	3,853	3,910	3,894	38,184	35,500	7.6
Educational	9,150	9,619	10,725	10,415	9,966	8,366	88,192	80,761	9.2
Religious	601	622	608	605	581	642	5,778	6,270	-7.8
Public safety	1,117	1,227	1,104	1,074	1,031	909	10,172	8,010	27.0
Amusement and recreation	2,102	2,054	2,022	2,014	2,046	2,005	19,462	17,948	8.4
Transportation	3,326	3,331	3,226	3,134	3,114	3,229	29,213	26,598	9.8
Communication	2,015	1,979	1,884	2,118	2,262	2,596	20,949	21,881	-4.3
Power	6,109	6,702	6,497	6,178	6,120	5,126	58,103	43,679	33.0
Highway and street	8,332	9,267	9,223	8,542	7,843	7,927	68,075	64,506	5.5
Sewage and waste disposal	2,463	2,364	2,329	2,274	2,204	2,423	21,183	20,403	3.8
Water supply	1,622	1,645	1,615	1,561	1,546	1,405	14,156	13,240	6.9
Conservation and development	414	548	485	475	420	455	4,326	4,249	1.8
Manufacturing	5,995	5,948	5,672	5,583	6,247	3,937	50,591	33,978	48.9
Total Private Construction ¹	66,182	67,294	70,430	67,681	69,528	73,417	647,809	720,327	-10.1
Residential	29,902	30,743	34,394	31,955	32,938	39,802	306,910	427,172	-28.2
Nonresidential	36,280	36,551	36,037	35,725	36,590	33,615	340,899	293,156	16.3
Lodging	3,257	3,236	3,289	3,186	3,238	2,671	30,496	22,194	37.4
Office	5,250	5,150	4,897	4,857	4,877	4,970	48,691	44,108	10.4
Commercial	6,974	7,026	7,362	7,307	7,512	8,020	70,025	70,772	-1.1
Health care	3,314	3,266	3,223	3,157	3,194	3,160	30,927	28,843	7.2
Educational	1,636	1,633	1,749	1,717	1,693	1,519	15,810	14,180	11.5
Religious	601	616	605	605	574	638	5,748	6,256	-8.1
Amusement and recreation	1,010	951	938	955	959	947	9,475	8,443	12.2
Transportation	923	900	879	873	875	889	8,410	7,771	8.2
Communication	1,998	1,962	1,867	2,108	2,250	2,583	20,798	21,806	-4.6
Power	5,154	5,715	5,398	5,235	5,002	4,134	48,367	33,586	44.0
Manufacturing	5,955	5,905	5,628	5,544	6,206	3,905	50,166	33,636	49.1
Total Public Construction ²	28,842	30,859	31,257	29,747	28,672	27,003	258,491	240,543	7.5
Residential	677	776	706	699	675	599	6,302	5,985	5.3
Nonresidential	28,165	30,083	30,551	29,048	27,997	26,404	252,189	234,558	7.5
Office	1,383	1,540	1,355	1,295	1,314	1,051	12,302	9,391	31.0
Commercial	263	318	301	280	326	288	2,802	3,171	-11.6
Health care	741	774	737	696	716	735	7,256	6,657	9.0
Educational	7,514	7,986	8,976	8,698	8,273	6,847	72,382	66,582	8.7
Public safety	1,071	1,177	1,047	1,014	964	856	9,567	7,609	25.7
Amusement and recreation	1,092	1,102	1,083	1,059	1,088	1,057	9,986	9,505	5.1
Transportation	2,403	2,431	2,348	2,261	2,240	2,340	20,803	18,828	10.5
Power	955	987	1,099	943	1,118	992	9,737	10,093	-3.5
Highway and street	8,311	9,250	9,209	8,527	7,827	7,878	67,881	64,134	5.8
Sewage and waste disposal	2,394	2,305	2,279	2,222	2,130	2,397	20,654	20,097	2.8
Water supply	1,554	1,586	1,539	1,511	1,493	1,357	13,542	12,856	5.3
Conservation and development	410	543	479	469	419	453	4,277	4,150	3.1

^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	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.2	
Residential	3.3	1.9	5.8	2.1	5.4	
Nonresidential	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.2	
Lodging	1.9	1.5	2.3	1.1	2.7	
Office	2.6	2.2	2.6	1.6	3.2	
Commercial	3.1	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.6	
Health care	1.8	1.4	1.9	1.3	2.0	
Educational	2.1	1.4	2.1	1.5	3.2	
Religious	4.3	2.9	3.5	2.3	4.7	
Public safety	3.1	2.0	3.8	2.0	4.5	
Amusement and recreation	3.4	2.3	3.4	3.2	4.9	
Transportation	2.5	1.7	2.7	2.0	3.8	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	1.4	1.1	1.2	0.7	1.1	
Highway and street	3.4	1.7	2.5	3.7	4.9	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	2.1	3.0	3.1	5.1	
Water supply	3.9	2.5	4.0	3.1	5.7	
Conservation and development	5.0	3.0	4.4	3.3	6.5	
Manufacturing	1.6	1.7	2.5	0.8	1.2	
Total Private Construction	1.1	0.8	1.2	0.7	1.3	
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.4	
Nonresidential	1.1	0.8	1.2	0.7	1.3	
Lodging	1.9	1.5	2.4	1.1	2.8	
Office	3.1	2.5	3.0	2.0	3.4	
Commercial	3.3	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.6	
Health care	2.2	1.7	2.2	1.6	2.4	
Educational	3.4	2.5	3.7	1.9	4.3	
Religious	4.3	2.9	3.5	2.3	4.7	
Amusement and recreation	4.4	3.1	4.1	3.6	5.9	
Transportation	5.6	4.6	8.3	4.2	4.8	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.7	
Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	2.5	0.8	1.3	
Total Public Construction	1.3	0.7	1.2	1.4	2.0	
Residential	3.3	1.9	5.8	2.1	5.4	
Nonresidential	1.3	0.8	1.2	1.5	2.1	
Office	3.7	3.1	3.9	2.3	7.3	
Commercial	6.5	4.8	6.9	4.3	8.0	
Health care	2.9	2.4	2.9	1.9	3.6	
Educational	2.4	1.6	2.4	1.8	3.7	
Public safety	3.2	2.1	3.9	2.1	4.8	
Amusement and recreation	4.9	3.3	5.3	4.9	7.7	
Transportation	2.7	1.8	2.9	2.1	4.3	
Power	8.4	7.3	6.8	7.8	10.1	
Highway and street	3.4	1.7	2.6	3.7	4.9	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	2.1	3.0	3.2	5.2	
Water supply	4.0	2.6	4.1	3.2	6.0	
Conservation and development	5.1	3.0	4.5	3.3	6.5	

NA Not applicable