

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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Michael Davis, Linnet Holland, or John Tremblay  
(301) 763-1605

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## FEBRUARY 2009 CONSTRUCTION AT \$967.5 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during February 2009 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$967.5 billion, 0.9 percent ( $\pm 1.1\%$ )\* below the revised January estimate of \$976.2 billion. The February figure is 10.0 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ ) below the February 2008 estimate of \$1,075.3 billion.

During the first two months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$135.5 billion, 10.9 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ ) below the \$152.0 billion for the same period in 2008.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$665.9 billion, 1.6 percent ( $\pm 1.1\%$ ) below the revised January estimate of \$676.9 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$275.1 billion in February, 4.3 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) below the revised January estimate of \$287.4 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$390.7 billion in February, 0.3 percent ( $\pm 1.1\%$ )\* above the revised January estimate of \$389.5 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In February, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$301.7 billion, 0.8 percent ( $\pm 1.8\%$ )\* above the revised January estimate of \$299.2 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$86.9 billion, 1.7 percent ( $\pm 3.0\%$ )\* above the revised January estimate of \$85.5 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$77.7 billion, 0.5 percent ( $\pm 5.8\%$ )\* below the revised January estimate of \$78.0 billion.

*March 2009 data will be released on May 4, 2009 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.

In the May 2009 press release, normal revisions to the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data will revise back to January 2007.

\* 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	Feb 2009 <sup>p</sup>	Jan 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Nov 2008	Oct 2008	Feb 2008	Percent change Feb 2009 from -	
							Jan 2009	Feb 2008
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>967,523</b>	<b>976,161</b>	<b>1,012,017</b>	<b>1,044,551</b>	<b>1,082,279</b>	<b>1,075,303</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-10.0</b>
Residential	282,584	294,695	305,451	321,774	351,422	398,940	-4.1	-29.2
Nonresidential	684,939	681,466	706,566	722,777	730,857	676,363	0.5	1.3
Lodging	31,765	30,368	33,751	37,132	37,963	33,374	4.6	-4.8
Office	66,153	65,803	68,059	72,062	73,982	70,543	0.5	-6.2
Commercial	70,174	71,397	74,813	77,703	81,261	90,371	-1.7	-22.3
Health care	46,540	45,526	48,283	48,433	48,559	44,221	2.2	5.2
Educational	105,138	103,644	102,990	105,973	105,689	98,560	1.4	6.7
Religious	6,848	6,903	7,246	7,406	7,637	6,996	-0.8	-2.1
Public safety	13,125	13,451	13,970	14,362	12,836	11,785	-2.4	11.4
Amusement and recreation	20,548	19,905	21,245	21,529	22,534	23,204	3.2	-11.4
Transportation	33,386	32,974	33,885	35,436	36,046	34,490	1.2	-3.2
Communication	18,469	19,947	22,347	21,413	22,299	26,865	-7.4	-31.3
Power	67,943	69,724	77,855	77,127	74,092	64,327	-2.6	5.6
Highway and street	77,795	78,168	79,429	84,168	83,811	75,780	-0.5	2.7
Sewage and waste disposal	24,829	24,437	26,183	26,416	26,893	25,044	1.6	-0.9
Water supply	15,315	15,849	17,546	17,438	17,525	15,451	-3.4	-0.9
Conservation and development	5,264	4,941	5,954	5,410	5,232	5,342	6.5	-1.5
Manufacturing	81,648	78,430	73,012	70,771	74,501	50,009	4.1	63.3
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>665,860</b>	<b>676,945</b>	<b>705,303</b>	<b>727,986</b>	<b>766,915</b>	<b>783,663</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>-15.0</b>
Residential	275,133	287,402	298,356	314,127	343,800	392,020	-4.3	-29.8
Nonresidential	390,727	389,543	406,947	413,859	423,116	391,642	0.3	-0.2
Lodging	31,674	30,262	33,485	36,931	37,768	32,546	4.7	-2.7
Office	50,128	49,623	52,021	56,297	58,243	56,958	1.0	-12.0
Commercial	66,839	68,154	71,558	74,545	77,812	86,967	-1.9	-23.1
Health care	37,509	36,724	39,278	39,755	39,354	35,499	2.1	5.7
Educational	18,207	18,180	18,575	19,019	19,420	18,816	0.1	-3.2
Religious	6,841	6,897	7,246	7,382	7,637	6,990	-0.8	-2.1
Amusement and recreation	9,098	8,851	9,434	9,775	10,868	11,755	2.8	-22.6
Transportation	10,071	9,852	9,817	10,275	10,196	10,013	2.2	0.6
Communication	18,401	19,863	22,253	21,304	22,093	26,762	-7.4	-31.2
Power	59,158	61,486	69,041	66,357	63,491	53,116	-3.8	11.4
Manufacturing	81,186	77,957	72,565	70,359	73,998	49,459	4.1	64.1
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>301,663</b>	<b>299,216</b>	<b>306,715</b>	<b>316,565</b>	<b>315,364</b>	<b>291,640</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Residential	7,451	7,293	7,096	7,647	7,622	6,919	2.2	7.7
Nonresidential	294,212	291,923	299,619	308,917	307,742	284,721	0.8	3.3
Office	16,025	16,180	16,038	15,765	15,738	13,585	-1.0	18.0
Commercial	3,335	3,243	3,255	3,158	3,448	3,404	2.8	-2.0
Health care	9,031	8,801	9,005	8,678	9,205	8,722	2.6	3.5
Educational	86,931	85,463	84,415	86,953	86,269	79,744	1.7	9.0
Public safety	12,668	12,925	13,509	13,864	12,286	10,845	-2.0	16.8
Amusement and recreation	11,450	11,054	11,811	11,755	11,666	11,449	3.6	0.0
Transportation	23,316	23,122	24,068	25,162	25,850	24,477	0.8	-4.7
Power	8,785	8,238	8,814	10,771	10,602	11,211	6.6	-21.6
Highway and street	77,672	78,035	79,290	83,962	83,631	75,397	-0.5	3.0
Sewage and waste disposal	24,374	24,000	25,822	25,863	26,111	24,553	1.6	-0.7
Water supply	14,769	15,280	16,877	16,866	16,854	14,581	-3.3	1.3
Conservation and development	5,230	4,911	5,910	5,376	5,177	5,264	6.5	-0.6

<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	Feb 2009 <sup>P</sup>	Jan 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Nov 2008	Oct 2008	Feb 2008	Year-to-date		Percent change
							Feb 2009	Feb 2008	
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>67,568</b>	<b>67,918</b>	<b>78,083</b>	<b>86,771</b>	<b>96,868</b>	<b>76,349</b>	<b>135,486</b>	<b>152,006</b>	<b>-10.9</b>
Residential	19,009	19,356	22,442	26,296	31,613	27,172	38,365	54,434	-29.5
Nonresidential	48,559	48,562	55,641	60,475	65,256	49,177	97,121	97,571	-0.5
Lodging	2,647	2,531	2,813	3,094	3,164	2,781	5,178	5,491	-5.7
Office	5,017	4,975	5,371	6,006	6,434	5,603	9,992	11,056	-9.6
Commercial	5,080	5,106	5,810	6,550	7,212	6,718	10,186	13,283	-23.3
Health care	3,570	3,568	3,977	4,191	4,215	3,511	7,137	6,971	2.4
Educational	7,163	7,216	7,641	8,445	9,043	6,872	14,379	13,905	3.4
Religious	513	519	582	655	684	526	1,031	1,074	-4.0
Public safety	960	1,024	1,169	1,226	1,134	866	1,985	1,757	13.0
Amusement and recreation	1,487	1,430	1,686	1,790	1,983	1,740	2,917	3,428	-14.9
Transportation	2,362	2,326	2,718	3,113	3,328	2,376	4,688	4,756	-1.4
Communication	1,320	1,381	2,206	1,739	2,015	2,057	2,701	4,059	-33.5
Power	5,211	5,400	6,446	6,432	6,347	5,078	10,612	10,043	5.7
Highway and street	3,813	3,743	5,053	6,921	8,644	3,980	7,556	7,762	-2.7
Sewage and waste disposal	1,702	1,713	2,049	2,327	2,558	1,768	3,415	3,536	-3.4
Water supply	1,116	1,127	1,341	1,468	1,591	1,148	2,243	2,165	3.6
Conservation and development	374	374	527	463	412	388	748	822	-9.0
Manufacturing	6,224	6,132	6,254	6,056	6,492	3,765	12,357	7,464	65.6
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>48,097</b>	<b>48,563</b>	<b>55,458</b>	<b>60,613</b>	<b>67,888</b>	<b>57,007</b>	<b>96,660</b>	<b>113,524</b>	<b>-14.9</b>
Residential	18,466	18,836	21,863	25,681	30,970	26,646	37,303	53,392	-30.1
Nonresidential	29,630	29,727	33,595	34,932	36,918	30,361	59,357	60,131	-1.3
Lodging	2,640	2,522	2,790	3,078	3,147	2,712	5,161	5,340	-3.4
Office	3,849	3,773	4,110	4,733	5,126	4,582	7,622	9,095	-16.2
Commercial	4,840	4,865	5,540	6,285	6,929	6,466	9,705	12,780	-24.1
Health care	2,860	2,879	3,230	3,453	3,460	2,816	5,739	5,598	2.5
Educational	1,312	1,333	1,420	1,530	1,639	1,373	2,645	2,747	-3.7
Religious	512	518	582	653	684	525	1,030	1,068	-3.6
Amusement and recreation	709	686	766	802	941	943	1,394	1,839	-24.2
Transportation	714	738	805	899	913	711	1,451	1,451	0.0
Communication	1,314	1,374	2,199	1,730	1,998	2,049	2,688	4,044	-33.5
Power	4,582	4,828	5,810	5,595	5,428	4,267	9,410	8,385	12.2
Manufacturing	6,186	6,093	6,217	6,021	6,451	3,719	12,279	7,373	66.5
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>19,472</b>	<b>19,355</b>	<b>22,625</b>	<b>26,158</b>	<b>28,981</b>	<b>19,342</b>	<b>38,827</b>	<b>38,482</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Residential	542	520	579	616	643	526	1,062	1,042	1.9
Nonresidential	18,929	18,835	22,046	25,542	28,338	18,817	37,764	37,440	0.9
Office	1,168	1,202	1,260	1,273	1,308	1,021	2,370	1,961	20.9
Commercial	240	241	269	265	283	252	481	504	-4.6
Health care	710	689	747	739	755	695	1,398	1,373	1.8
Educational	5,852	5,883	6,221	6,916	7,404	5,498	11,734	11,157	5.2
Public safety	929	988	1,136	1,185	1,083	800	1,916	1,615	18.6
Amusement and recreation	779	744	920	988	1,043	797	1,523	1,590	-4.2
Transportation	1,649	1,588	1,913	2,214	2,415	1,665	3,236	3,306	-2.1
Power	629	572	637	837	919	811	1,202	1,658	-27.5
Highway and street	3,805	3,733	5,043	6,901	8,627	3,954	7,538	7,695	-2.0
Sewage and waste disposal	1,671	1,682	2,019	2,278	2,494	1,733	3,352	3,470	-3.4
Water supply	1,076	1,088	1,291	1,425	1,527	1,086	2,164	2,040	6.1
Conservation and development	371	371	523	460	407	382	742	809	-8.3

<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>1.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Residential	3.1	3.3	5.6	3.4	6.4
Nonresidential	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.7	1.0
Lodging	1.8	1.6	2.1	1.0	2.3
Office	2.5	2.1	2.6	1.6	2.6
Commercial	3.0	2.8	2.3	1.8	2.3
Health care	1.9	1.8	2.3	1.1	2.3
Educational	2.1	2.0	2.8	1.7	2.6
Religious	4.8	6.6	6.7	3.5	7.0
Public safety	3.3	2.3	3.9	2.3	4.2
Amusement and recreation	3.2	3.1	3.7	2.2	4.0
Transportation	2.6	2.4	3.8	2.1	5.5
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.3	1.5	1.7	2.2	1.6
Highway and street	3.5	2.9	4.0	3.6	4.3
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.9	4.0	3.2	4.3
Water supply	3.9	3.5	4.4	4.7	4.3
Conservation and development	4.4	2.5	5.8	4.2	7.5
Manufacturing	1.5	1.2	1.7	0.6	1.8
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.7	1.1
Lodging	1.8	1.6	2.1	1.0	2.3
Office	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.1	2.7
Commercial	3.1	2.9	2.3	1.8	2.4
Health care	2.3	2.3	2.7	1.2	2.6
Educational	3.5	3.7	4.2	2.2	4.0
Religious	4.8	6.6	6.7	3.5	7.0
Amusement and recreation	4.2	4.3	4.4	3.3	4.7
Transportation	7.5	12.5	9.6	10.7	12.4
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.1	1.7	1.5	2.5	1.2
Manufacturing	1.5	1.3	1.7	0.6	1.8
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Residential	3.1	3.3	5.6	3.4	6.4
Nonresidential	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.2	1.7
Office	3.0	1.9	7.5	1.7	6.2
Commercial	5.9	4.9	7.0	4.7	7.2
Health care	2.9	2.5	4.2	2.0	4.6
Educational	2.4	2.3	3.2	1.9	3.0
Public safety	3.4	2.4	4.3	2.4	4.6
Amusement and recreation	4.6	4.3	6.2	2.8	6.7
Transportation	2.7	2.4	4.1	2.1	6.0
Power	7.1	2.6	14.5	4.4	20.0
Highway and street	3.5	2.9	4.0	3.6	4.3
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.9	4.1	3.2	4.4
Water supply	4.0	3.6	4.7	4.8	4.5
Conservation and development	4.4	2.5	5.9	4.3	7.6

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	2008 <sup>r</sup>	2007	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,074,093</b>	<b>1,137,152</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Residential	363,353	499,650	-27.3	1.7
Nonresidential	710,739	637,502	11.5	0.5
Lodging	36,668	28,728	27.6	1.4
Office	72,195	64,731	11.5	2.0
Commercial	85,244	88,777	-4.0	2.0
Health care	46,650	42,882	8.8	1.4
Educational	104,177	96,348	8.1	1.3
Religious	7,105	7,447	-4.6	3.1
Public safety	12,522	9,899	26.5	1.8
Amusement and recreation	22,794	21,719	4.9	2.2
Transportation	35,110	32,420	8.3	1.6
Communication	24,895	27,040	-7.9	NA
Power	71,304	53,371	33.6	0.9
Highway and street	80,479	76,021	5.9	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	25,675	24,665	4.1	2.0
Water supply	16,906	15,583	8.5	2.4
Conservation and development	5,325	5,226	1.9	2.8
Manufacturing	63,689	42,644	49.4	1.5
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>766,603</b>	<b>850,009</b>	<b>-9.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Residential	355,883	492,499	-27.7	1.1
Nonresidential	410,720	357,510	14.9	0.8
Lodging	36,237	27,503	31.8	1.4
Office	57,455	53,377	7.6	2.3
Commercial	81,891	84,999	-3.7	2.1
Health care	37,883	34,776	8.9	1.7
Educational	18,806	17,071	10.2	2.5
Religious	7,074	7,429	-4.8	3.1
Public safety	681	495	37.6	5.4
Amusement and recreation	10,948	10,352	5.8	2.9
Transportation	10,128	9,444	7.2	4.4
Communication	24,726	26,947	-8.2	NA
Power	60,115	41,481	44.9	0.8
Sewage and waste disposal	602	383	57.2	21.3
Water supply	712	460	54.8	6.8
Manufacturing	63,189	42,229	49.6	1.5
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>307,490</b>	<b>287,143</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Residential	7,470	7,151	4.5	1.7
Nonresidential	300,020	279,992	7.2	0.7
Office	14,740	11,353	29.8	2.7
Commercial	3,353	3,778	-11.2	4.4
Health care	8,767	8,106	8.2	2.3
Educational	85,371	79,278	7.7	1.5
Public safety	11,842	9,404	25.9	1.9
Amusement and recreation	11,846	11,367	4.2	3.2
Transportation	24,982	22,976	8.7	1.7
Power	11,189	11,890	-5.9	5.8
Highway and street	80,262	75,563	6.2	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	25,073	24,282	3.3	2.0
Water supply	16,194	15,122	7.1	2.5
Conservation and development	5,270	5,120	2.9	2.8

NA Not Applicable <sup>r</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.