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JULY 2008 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,084.4 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during July 2008 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,084.4 billion, 0.6 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$)* below the revised June estimate of \$1,091.3 billion. The July figure is 4.8 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) below the July 2007 estimate of \$1,139.4 billion.

During the first 7 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$614.2 billion, 5.4 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$) below the \$649.5 billion for the same period in 2007.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$774.6 billion, 1.4 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) below the revised June estimate of \$785.9 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$357.8 billion in July, 2.3 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) below the revised June estimate of \$366.1 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$416.8 billion in July, 0.7 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$)* below the revised June estimate of \$419.8 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In July, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$309.7 billion, 1.4 percent ($\pm 2.2\%$)* above the revised June estimate of \$305.4 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$87.4 billion, 2.5 percent ($\pm 4.3\%$)* above the revised June estimate of \$85.3 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$76.0 billion, nearly the same as ($\pm 5.6\%$)* the revised June estimate of \$76.0 billion.

August 2008 data will be released on October 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 (± 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.

New Length of Time data for Private Nonresidential, Private Multifamily and State and Local Construction are available. Go to the Related Studies menu on our website.

* 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	Jul 2008 ^p	Jun 2008 ^r	May 2008 ^r	Apr 2008	Mar 2008	Jul 2007	Percent change Jul 2008 from -	
							Jun 2008	Jul 2007
Total Construction	1,084,355	1,091,259	1,088,289	1,085,175	1,090,471	1,139,449	-0.6	-4.8
Residential	365,583	373,573	378,590	390,584	398,614	501,179	-2.1	-27.1
Nonresidential	718,773	717,686	709,699	694,591	691,856	638,270	0.2	12.6
Lodging	39,307	39,334	38,029	36,304	34,458	30,289	-0.1	29.8
Office	74,969	73,421	72,186	71,302	71,259	64,173	2.1	16.8
Commercial	87,742	87,545	88,957	90,816	90,222	88,535	0.2	-0.9
Health care	45,371	45,321	45,574	45,532	45,583	42,666	0.1	6.3
Educational	105,277	103,479	105,362	103,218	102,456	99,066	1.7	6.3
Religious	6,501	6,671	6,864	7,054	6,951	7,628	-2.5	-14.8
Public safety	12,650	12,263	12,229	11,866	11,838	10,101	3.2	25.2
Amusement and recreation	23,870	23,455	23,648	23,234	23,226	22,416	1.8	6.5
Transportation	37,112	35,760	35,351	35,007	35,073	33,282	3.8	11.5
Communication	26,176	26,637	27,149	26,719	28,093	26,741	-1.7	-2.1
Power	67,561	69,114	67,369	65,850	66,503	54,453	-2.2	24.1
Highway and street	76,114	76,141	76,532	79,032	78,136	71,437	0.0	6.5
Sewage and waste disposal	25,636	25,030	25,200	25,211	25,504	23,942	2.4	7.1
Water supply	17,641	17,267	16,575	16,058	15,905	15,154	2.2	16.4
Conservation and development	5,507	5,339	4,820	4,893	5,134	5,223	3.1	5.4
Manufacturing	67,340	70,908	63,853	52,497	51,518	43,165	-5.0	56.0
Total Private Construction ¹	774,635	785,886	784,145	783,681	789,629	852,899	-1.4	-9.2
Residential	357,823	366,068	371,386	383,493	391,643	493,611	-2.3	-27.5
Nonresidential	416,813	419,818	412,759	400,188	397,986	359,288	-0.7	16.0
Lodging	39,013	38,984	37,794	35,886	33,720	29,069	0.1	34.2
Office	59,223	58,233	57,831	57,666	57,316	52,104	1.7	13.7
Commercial	84,285	83,937	85,586	87,474	86,942	84,639	0.4	-0.4
Health care	36,895	36,967	36,920	36,696	36,585	34,567	-0.2	6.7
Educational	17,840	18,199	18,619	18,525	18,829	17,690	-2.0	0.8
Religious	6,501	6,581	6,811	7,042	6,932	7,604	-1.2	-14.5
Amusement and recreation	11,293	11,039	11,115	11,377	11,370	10,562	2.3	6.9
Transportation	10,677	10,237	10,338	10,236	10,130	9,313	4.3	14.6
Communication	26,039	26,476	26,918	26,458	27,824	26,670	-1.7	-2.4
Power	56,055	56,505	55,302	54,459	54,812	42,476	-0.8	32.0
Manufacturing	66,882	70,416	63,317	51,960	51,051	42,860	-5.0	56.0
Total Public Construction ²	309,720	305,373	304,144	301,494	300,842	286,550	1.4	8.1
Residential	7,760	7,505	7,204	7,091	6,972	7,568	3.4	2.5
Nonresidential	301,960	297,868	296,940	294,403	293,870	278,982	1.4	8.2
Office	15,746	15,188	14,355	13,636	13,943	12,069	3.7	30.5
Commercial	3,456	3,609	3,372	3,342	3,280	3,896	-4.2	-11.3
Health care	8,476	8,354	8,654	8,835	8,997	8,099	1.5	4.7
Educational	87,437	85,280	86,744	84,693	83,627	81,376	2.5	7.4
Public safety	11,999	11,582	11,543	11,131	11,019	9,625	3.6	24.7
Amusement and recreation	12,577	12,417	12,533	11,856	11,856	11,854	1.3	6.1
Transportation	26,434	25,523	25,013	24,772	24,943	23,969	3.6	10.3
Power	11,506	12,610	12,067	11,392	11,691	11,977	-8.8	-3.9
Highway and street	75,958	75,969	76,355	78,826	77,906	71,064	0.0	6.9
Sewage and waste disposal	25,032	24,323	24,467	24,565	24,975	23,615	2.9	6.0
Water supply	17,022	16,603	15,998	15,275	15,068	14,766	2.5	15.3
Conservation and development	5,429	5,320	4,784	4,853	5,074	5,052	2.0	7.5

^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	Jul 2008 ^P	Jun 2008 ^r	May 2008 ^r	Apr 2008	Mar 2008	Jul 2007	Year-to-date		Percent change
							Jul 2008	Jul 2007	
Total Construction	99,723	98,629	93,039	87,561	83,204	105,872	614,161	649,515	-5.4
Residential	35,317	34,790	33,066	31,592	30,654	48,303	219,853	303,108	-27.5
Nonresidential	64,406	63,839	59,973	55,969	52,550	57,569	394,309	346,406	13.8
Lodging	3,276	3,278	3,169	3,025	2,872	2,524	21,110	15,270	38.2
Office	6,324	6,266	6,172	6,112	5,735	5,438	41,666	35,835	16.3
Commercial	7,642	7,678	7,571	7,327	6,978	7,793	50,478	49,025	3.0
Health care	3,823	3,849	3,892	3,826	3,677	3,577	26,039	24,134	7.9
Educational	10,384	9,736	8,817	8,124	7,472	9,769	58,438	53,282	9.7
Religious	557	571	573	569	545	663	3,889	4,279	-9.1
Public safety	1,071	1,043	994	964	905	850	6,733	5,231	28.7
Amusement and recreation	2,079	2,055	2,038	1,941	1,817	1,949	13,358	11,792	13.3
Transportation	3,232	3,103	2,947	2,804	2,576	2,959	19,417	17,062	13.8
Communication	2,218	2,263	2,217	2,164	2,251	2,227	15,173	14,645	3.6
Power	5,822	5,963	5,584	5,443	5,428	4,676	38,283	28,683	33.5
Highway and street	8,125	7,803	6,798	5,700	4,608	7,667	40,796	39,516	3.2
Sewage and waste disposal	2,247	2,233	2,120	2,010	1,883	2,105	14,028	13,361	5.0
Water supply	1,498	1,513	1,404	1,339	1,260	1,293	9,179	8,988	2.1
Conservation and development	472	432	386	380	396	427	2,887	2,752	4.9
Manufacturing	5,638	6,054	5,293	4,242	4,148	3,652	32,838	22,554	45.6
Total Private Construction ¹	70,185	70,170	67,150	63,986	62,036	78,448	447,049	494,012	-9.5
Residential	34,644	34,116	32,451	31,013	30,122	47,650	215,737	299,106	-27.9
Nonresidential	35,541	36,054	34,699	32,973	31,914	30,799	231,312	194,906	18.7
Lodging	3,251	3,249	3,150	2,991	2,810	2,422	20,790	14,571	42.7
Office	4,957	4,935	4,945	4,979	4,641	4,405	33,552	29,763	12.7
Commercial	7,357	7,370	7,293	7,054	6,718	7,471	48,572	46,885	3.6
Health care	3,112	3,125	3,168	3,064	2,945	2,886	21,011	19,638	7.0
Educational	1,669	1,685	1,642	1,535	1,457	1,652	10,735	9,383	14.4
Religious	557	563	569	568	543	661	3,869	4,273	-9.5
Amusement and recreation	947	939	934	949	941	889	6,549	5,588	17.2
Transportation	909	897	901	847	763	795	5,767	5,142	12.2
Communication	2,206	2,250	2,197	2,143	2,229	2,221	15,069	14,602	3.2
Power	4,799	4,822	4,462	4,448	4,567	3,618	31,485	21,707	45.0
Manufacturing	5,600	6,013	5,248	4,197	4,109	3,627	32,540	22,322	45.8
Total Public Construction ²	29,538	28,460	25,890	23,575	21,168	27,423	167,112	155,502	7.5
Residential	673	674	616	579	532	653	4,116	4,002	2.8
Nonresidential	28,865	27,786	25,274	22,996	20,636	26,770	162,997	151,500	7.6
Office	1,367	1,331	1,227	1,133	1,095	1,033	8,114	6,072	33.6
Commercial	285	307	278	273	260	322	1,906	2,140	-10.9
Health care	711	725	724	762	732	690	5,028	4,496	11.8
Educational	8,716	8,051	7,175	6,589	6,015	8,118	47,703	43,899	8.7
Public safety	1,014	981	936	901	841	808	6,288	4,979	26.3
Amusement and recreation	1,131	1,115	1,105	992	876	1,060	6,809	6,204	9.8
Transportation	2,323	2,206	2,046	1,957	1,813	2,164	13,651	11,920	14.5
Power	1,023	1,141	1,121	995	860	1,058	6,798	6,976	-2.6
Highway and street	8,111	7,787	6,784	5,685	4,594	7,632	40,656	39,283	3.5
Sewage and waste disposal	2,196	2,161	2,053	1,958	1,843	2,077	13,681	13,141	4.1
Water supply	1,449	1,459	1,354	1,272	1,192	1,261	8,767	8,740	0.3
Conservation and development	465	431	383	376	391	413	2,855	2,671	6.9

^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	1.0	0.9	1.3	
Residential	3.8	2.5	6.5	2.4	7.4	
Nonresidential	0.9	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.3	
Lodging	2.0	1.6	2.6	1.1	3.1	
Office	2.6	2.5	3.2	1.7	3.1	
Commercial	3.1	2.4	2.6	1.7	2.4	
Health care	1.9	1.5	2.1	1.3	2.4	
Educational	2.1	1.5	2.4	2.3	3.5	
Religious	4.4	3.1	3.8	3.1	5.6	
Public safety	3.1	2.3	4.4	2.5	5.5	
Amusement and recreation	3.6	2.6	3.8	2.0	5.6	
Transportation	2.6	1.6	3.0	2.2	6.7	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.0	
Highway and street	3.3	1.9	2.7	3.5	4.5	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.2	2.4	3.2	2.9	4.7	
Water supply	4.0	2.8	4.6	3.7	6.9	
Conservation and development	5.2	3.5	5.1	5.1	6.7	
Manufacturing	1.8	1.2	2.7	1.0	2.3	
Total Private Construction	1.2	0.9	1.3	0.7	1.3	
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.4	
Nonresidential	1.2	0.9	1.3	0.7	1.3	
Lodging	2.0	1.7	2.7	1.1	3.2	
Office	3.0	2.8	3.5	2.1	3.5	
Commercial	3.2	2.5	2.7	1.7	2.5	
Health care	2.3	1.9	2.4	1.3	2.9	
Educational	3.4	2.8	4.4	1.9	4.6	
Religious	4.4	3.1	3.8	3.0	5.6	
Amusement and recreation	4.5	3.6	4.7	2.3	5.6	
Transportation	5.9	4.8	8.3	7.0	11.4	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	1.1	1.2	0.5	0.9	0.6	
Manufacturing	1.7	1.2	2.8	1.0	2.3	
Total Public Construction	1.3	0.8	1.3	1.4	2.1	
Residential	3.8	2.5	6.5	2.4	7.4	
Nonresidential	1.3	0.8	1.3	1.5	2.1	
Office	4.1	4.1	5.3	2.4	5.5	
Commercial	6.3	4.9	6.9	8.8	8.6	
Health care	2.9	2.6	3.5	2.5	3.8	
Educational	2.4	1.7	2.6	2.7	4.1	
Public safety	3.2	2.5	4.6	2.6	5.8	
Amusement and recreation	5.3	3.7	5.7	3.1	9.2	
Transportation	2.7	1.7	3.2	2.3	7.2	
Power	7.8	8.1	6.8	6.2	4.5	
Highway and street	3.3	1.9	2.7	3.5	4.5	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.3	2.4	3.2	2.9	4.7	
Water supply	4.1	2.9	4.7	3.8	7.0	
Conservation and development	5.2	3.5	5.3	5.1	6.9	

NA Not applicable