

U.S. Census Bureau News

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

For Release at 10:00 A.M. EST, Monday, January 5, 2009

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

CB09- 01

NOVEMBER 2008 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,078.4 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during November 2008 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,078.4 billion, 0.6 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$)* below the revised October estimate of \$1,085.3 billion. The November figure is 3.3 percent ($\pm 2.2\%$) below the November 2007 estimate of \$1,115.3 billion.

During the first 11 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$998.4 billion, 5.3 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) below the \$1,054.3 billion for the same period in 2007.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$756.4 billion, 1.5 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) below the revised October estimate of \$767.7 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$328.3 billion in November, 4.2 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) below the revised October estimate of \$342.6 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$428.2 billion in November, 0.7 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$)* above the revised October estimate of \$425.1 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In November, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$322.0 billion, 1.4 percent ($\pm 2.6\%$)* above the revised October estimate of \$317.6 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$88.7 billion, 1.3 percent ($\pm 2.7\%$)* above the revised October estimate of \$87.6 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$83.9 billion, 1.3 percent ($\pm 4.6\%$)* above the revised October estimate of \$82.8 billion.

December 2008 data will be released on February 2, 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	Nov 2008 ^P	Oct 2008 ^r	Sep 2008 ^r	Aug 2008	Jul 2008	Nov 2007	Percent change Nov 2008 from -	
							Oct 2008	Nov 2007
Total Construction	1,078,389	1,085,294	1,089,381	1,085,743	1,060,011	1,115,325	-0.6	-3.3
Residential	336,280	350,532	358,226	360,953	342,490	435,837	-4.1	-22.8
Nonresidential	742,109	734,762	731,155	724,790	717,521	679,488	1.0	9.2
Lodging	39,164	38,867	38,874	39,896	38,521	33,535	0.8	16.8
Office	76,931	76,070	75,261	73,557	73,157	69,784	1.1	10.2
Commercial	80,751	81,835	81,491	85,121	86,288	92,743	-1.3	-12.9
Health care	48,239	48,239	48,197	46,643	45,914	45,062	0.0	7.1
Educational	107,678	107,031	105,704	106,242	105,029	102,067	0.6	5.5
Religious	6,572	6,922	7,000	6,740	6,936	6,946	-5.1	-5.4
Public safety	14,437	13,212	12,412	12,629	12,603	11,121	9.3	29.8
Amusement and recreation	23,064	23,370	22,706	23,091	23,132	22,597	-1.3	2.1
Transportation	36,496	36,670	35,980	35,429	35,780	34,160	-0.5	6.8
Communication	20,725	22,298	23,193	23,194	24,662	28,385	-7.1	-27.0
Power	76,918	73,055	77,014	73,975	71,160	60,501	5.3	27.1
Highway and street	84,030	82,988	82,599	83,621	78,483	77,989	1.3	7.7
Sewage and waste disposal	26,711	26,780	26,024	25,289	25,759	26,161	-0.3	2.1
Water supply	17,811	17,804	17,662	17,827	18,162	14,966	0.0	19.0
Conservation and development	5,640	5,174	4,936	5,751	5,409	5,819	9.0	-3.1
Manufacturing	76,945	74,450	72,101	65,785	66,526	47,652	3.4	61.5
Total Private Construction ¹	756,439	767,719	777,025	769,061	751,525	816,941	-1.5	-7.4
Residential	328,275	342,647	350,165	352,936	334,494	428,661	-4.2	-23.4
Nonresidential	428,163	425,072	426,860	416,126	417,031	388,280	0.7	10.3
Lodging	39,006	38,737	38,624	39,473	38,227	32,484	0.7	20.1
Office	60,694	60,123	59,684	58,222	58,080	57,820	0.9	5.0
Commercial	77,517	78,556	78,408	81,627	82,925	89,127	-1.3	-13.0
Health care	39,236	38,932	39,466	37,552	37,615	36,127	0.8	8.6
Educational	18,934	19,414	19,791	18,738	18,447	18,414	-2.5	2.8
Religious	6,546	6,922	6,925	6,706	6,936	6,903	-5.4	-5.2
Amusement and recreation	10,882	11,410	10,786	11,122	11,346	11,359	-4.6	-4.2
Transportation	10,606	10,277	10,389	10,103	10,338	9,607	3.2	10.4
Communication	20,592	22,091	22,989	22,986	24,544	28,260	-6.8	-27.1
Power	65,693	62,376	66,089	62,190	60,374	48,889	5.3	34.4
Manufacturing	76,554	73,940	71,580	65,260	66,056	47,155	3.5	62.3
Total Public Construction ²	321,951	317,576	312,356	316,681	308,486	298,384	1.4	7.9
Residential	8,004	7,885	8,062	8,017	7,996	7,176	1.5	11.5
Nonresidential	313,946	309,691	304,294	308,664	300,490	291,208	1.4	7.8
Office	16,237	15,947	15,578	15,335	15,077	11,964	1.8	35.7
Commercial	3,234	3,279	3,083	3,494	3,363	3,616	-1.4	-10.6
Health care	9,003	9,307	8,731	9,090	8,299	8,936	-3.3	0.7
Educational	88,744	87,617	85,913	87,503	86,582	83,653	1.3	6.1
Public safety	13,950	12,664	11,899	12,014	11,952	10,536	10.2	32.4
Amusement and recreation	12,182	11,960	11,920	11,969	11,786	11,238	1.9	8.4
Transportation	25,890	26,392	25,590	25,326	25,443	24,553	-1.9	5.4
Power	11,225	10,679	10,925	11,785	10,785	11,612	5.1	-3.3
Highway and street	83,880	82,796	82,450	83,474	78,316	77,462	1.3	8.3
Sewage and waste disposal	26,133	25,948	25,317	24,696	25,140	25,675	0.7	1.8
Water supply	17,155	17,136	16,970	17,105	17,536	14,453	0.1	18.7
Conservation and development	5,605	5,119	4,869	5,681	5,330	5,794	9.5	-3.3

^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	Nov 2008 ^P	Oct 2008 ^r	Sep 2008 ^r	Aug 2008	Jul 2008	Nov 2007	Year-to-date		Percent change
							Nov 2008	Nov 2007	
Total Construction	89,128	96,859	99,247	101,687	97,427	93,399	998,358	1,054,268	-5.3
Residential	27,056	31,417	31,889	35,100	32,655	35,852	341,475	469,008	-27.2
Nonresidential	62,073	65,443	67,358	66,588	64,773	57,547	656,884	585,261	12.2
Lodging	3,264	3,239	3,240	3,325	3,210	2,795	34,100	26,043	30.9
Office	6,433	6,622	6,714	6,252	6,152	5,896	67,440	59,395	13.5
Commercial	6,748	7,225	7,428	7,663	7,587	7,925	79,647	81,868	-2.7
Health care	4,142	4,179	4,179	3,960	3,853	3,808	42,588	39,308	8.3
Educational	8,584	9,159	9,626	10,725	10,415	8,190	96,792	88,951	8.8
Religious	571	619	630	608	605	608	6,375	6,879	-7.3
Public safety	1,250	1,156	1,166	1,104	1,074	990	11,400	9,000	26.7
Amusement and recreation	1,924	2,065	2,028	2,022	2,014	1,946	21,323	19,894	7.2
Transportation	3,198	3,380	3,395	3,226	3,134	3,017	32,529	29,615	9.8
Communication	1,691	2,015	1,979	1,884	2,118	2,555	22,641	24,436	-7.3
Power	6,377	6,223	6,786	6,497	6,178	5,031	64,678	48,710	32.8
Highway and street	6,950	8,528	9,385	9,223	8,542	6,582	75,338	71,087	6.0
Sewage and waste disposal	2,343	2,541	2,387	2,329	2,274	2,305	23,626	22,708	4.0
Water supply	1,498	1,616	1,617	1,615	1,561	1,261	15,620	14,500	7.7
Conservation and development	470	405	560	485	475	493	4,797	4,743	1.1
Manufacturing	6,632	6,471	6,239	5,672	5,583	4,145	57,990	38,123	52.1
Total Private Construction ¹	62,479	67,737	68,310	70,430	67,681	68,321	712,860	788,648	-9.6
Residential	26,409	30,748	31,105	34,394	31,955	35,248	334,527	462,420	-27.7
Nonresidential	36,070	36,989	37,205	36,037	35,725	33,073	378,333	326,228	16.0
Lodging	3,251	3,228	3,219	3,289	3,186	2,707	33,700	24,901	35.3
Office	5,110	5,289	5,195	4,897	4,857	4,885	53,885	48,993	10.0
Commercial	6,476	6,955	7,112	7,362	7,307	7,605	76,568	78,377	-2.3
Health care	3,370	3,414	3,393	3,223	3,157	3,046	34,525	31,889	8.3
Educational	1,520	1,643	1,678	1,749	1,717	1,471	17,381	15,651	11.1
Religious	569	619	624	605	605	605	6,344	6,861	-7.5
Amusement and recreation	900	992	926	938	955	966	10,331	9,409	9.8
Transportation	925	918	924	879	873	843	9,354	8,614	8.6
Communication	1,679	1,998	1,962	1,867	2,108	2,544	22,477	24,350	-7.7
Power	5,514	5,300	5,784	5,398	5,235	4,110	54,096	37,697	43.5
Manufacturing	6,600	6,428	6,195	5,628	5,544	4,104	57,528	37,740	52.4
Total Public Construction ²	26,650	29,122	30,937	31,257	29,747	25,078	285,498	265,621	7.5
Residential	646	668	784	706	699	604	6,947	6,588	5.4
Nonresidential	26,003	28,454	30,153	30,551	29,048	24,474	278,550	259,032	7.5
Office	1,323	1,333	1,519	1,355	1,295	1,011	13,555	10,402	30.3
Commercial	272	270	317	301	280	320	3,079	3,491	-11.8
Health care	772	765	786	737	696	762	8,064	7,419	8.7
Educational	7,065	7,516	7,948	8,976	8,698	6,719	79,411	73,300	8.3
Public safety	1,209	1,106	1,119	1,047	1,014	940	10,753	8,549	25.8
Amusement and recreation	1,024	1,073	1,103	1,083	1,059	980	10,992	10,485	4.8
Transportation	2,273	2,462	2,471	2,348	2,261	2,173	23,174	21,001	10.3
Power	863	923	1,002	1,099	943	921	10,583	11,014	-3.9
Highway and street	6,935	8,510	9,371	9,209	8,527	6,531	75,136	70,665	6.3
Sewage and waste disposal	2,293	2,472	2,327	2,279	2,222	2,263	23,048	22,360	3.1
Water supply	1,448	1,552	1,549	1,539	1,511	1,220	14,952	14,076	6.2
Conservation and development	467	400	554	479	469	491	4,746	4,641	2.3

^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	0.8	1.0	1.4
Residential	3.2	1.8	5.5	2.4	5.5
Nonresidential	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.4
Lodging	1.9	1.4	2.2	1.1	2.5
Office	2.5	2.1	2.5	1.6	3.2
Commercial	2.9	2.0	2.2	1.7	3.2
Health care	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.7	2.6
Educational	2.1	1.4	2.0	1.5	3.4
Religious	4.3	2.7	3.4	3.0	5.8
Public safety	3.1	2.0	3.6	3.3	5.2
Amusement and recreation	3.3	2.2	3.2	2.2	4.4
Transportation	2.6	1.7	2.7	3.5	4.6
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.3	1.0	1.2	0.5	1.8
Highway and street	3.3	1.6	2.4	2.9	4.7
Sewage and waste disposal	3.6	2.4	3.2	10.6	12.7
Water supply	3.9	2.4	3.8	3.1	5.6
Conservation and development	5.1	2.9	4.2	7.1	7.2
Manufacturing	1.7	1.6	2.4	0.8	2.1
Total Private Construction	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.5
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.5
Lodging	1.9	1.5	2.3	1.1	2.5
Office	3.1	2.5	2.9	1.9	3.3
Commercial	3.1	2.1	2.3	1.8	3.3
Health care	2.2	1.8	2.1	2.0	3.1
Educational	3.4	2.5	3.6	1.4	4.1
Religious	4.3	2.7	3.4	3.0	5.8
Amusement and recreation	4.4	3.0	3.8	2.1	4.9
Transportation	5.9	4.5	7.8	4.1	6.9
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.4	1.7
Manufacturing	1.7	1.6	2.4	0.8	2.2
Total Public Construction	1.3	0.7	1.1	1.6	2.3
Residential	3.2	1.8	5.5	2.4	5.5
Nonresidential	1.3	0.7	1.2	1.6	2.3
Office	3.7	2.8	3.7	2.2	6.9
Commercial	6.1	4.5	6.4	4.7	6.0
Health care	3.0	2.4	2.8	2.6	3.8
Educational	2.4	1.5	2.3	1.7	3.9
Public safety	3.1	2.0	3.8	3.4	5.6
Amusement and recreation	4.8	3.2	5.1	3.6	7.5
Transportation	2.8	1.8	2.9	3.8	5.0
Power	8.5	6.4	6.8	3.7	11.4
Highway and street	3.4	1.6	2.5	2.9	4.7
Sewage and waste disposal	3.6	2.4	3.2	10.8	13.0
Water supply	4.0	2.5	3.9	3.1	5.8
Conservation and development	5.1	2.9	4.3	7.2	7.2

NA Not applicable