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AUGUST 2012 CONSTRUCTION AT \$837.1 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during August 2012 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$837.1 billion, 0.6 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$)* below the revised July estimate of \$842.0 billion. The August figure is 6.5 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) above the August 2011 estimate of \$786.3 billion.

During the first 8 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$545.2 billion, 9.0 percent ($\pm 1.5\%$) above the \$500.1 billion for the same period in 2011.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$562.2 billion, 0.5 percent ($\pm 1.2\%$)* below the revised July estimate of \$564.8 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$273.5 billion in August, 0.9 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised July estimate of \$271.1 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$288.7 billion in August, 1.7 percent ($\pm 1.2\%$) below the revised July estimate of \$293.7 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In August, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$274.9 billion, 0.8 percent ($\pm 3.3\%$)* below the revised July estimate of \$277.2 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$67.0 billion, 3.4 percent ($\pm 6.3\%$)* below the revised July estimate of \$69.4 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$80.8 billion, 0.6 percent ($\pm 6.9\%$)* below the revised July estimate of \$81.3 billion.

September 2012 data will be released on November 1, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. EDT.

For more detailed data and methodologies, go to our website:

<http://www.census.gov/constructionspending>

To receive the latest updates on the Nation's key economic indicators, download the America's Economy app for Apple and Android smartphones and tablets.

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, 1.3 percent; private construction, 1.7 percent; and public construction, 0.8 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	Aug 2012 ^P	Jul 2012 ^r	Jun 2012 ^r	May 2012	Apr 2012	Aug 2011	Percent change Aug 2012 from -	
							Jul 2012	Aug 2011
Total Construction	837,089	842,019	845,072	838,778	825,133	786,308	-0.6	6.5
Residential	279,865	277,436	277,734	268,937	260,635	241,058	0.9	16.1
Nonresidential	557,224	564,583	567,339	569,841	564,499	545,251	-1.3	2.2
Lodging	11,551	11,582	11,399	10,954	11,020	8,866	-0.3	30.3
Office	35,772	36,208	35,937	36,102	35,540	34,896	-1.2	2.5
Commercial	45,645	46,076	46,576	47,548	46,596	46,531	-0.9	-1.9
Health care	41,444	41,273	41,029	41,324	40,918	40,320	0.4	2.8
Educational	84,508	87,008	86,946	84,018	84,543	86,382	-2.9	-2.2
Religious	3,870	3,889	3,851	3,815	3,912	4,386	-0.5	-11.8
Public safety	10,517	10,185	10,159	10,628	10,276	10,949	3.3	-3.9
Amusement and recreation	15,255	15,571	15,784	16,160	15,566	15,895	-2.0	-4.0
Transportation	37,367	37,756	37,618	37,279	34,988	35,815	-1.0	4.3
Communication	16,711	17,307	17,429	16,917	16,911	17,482	-3.4	-4.4
Power	85,099	87,743	88,825	92,070	94,090	76,320	-3.0	11.5
Highway and street	80,968	81,505	82,290	80,383	79,553	78,041	-0.7	3.8
Sewage and waste disposal	22,105	21,592	21,369	22,013	22,325	21,953	2.4	0.7
Water supply	12,785	12,799	12,874	13,663	13,522	14,659	-0.1	-12.8
Conservation and development	5,751	5,901	6,081	6,435	6,094	7,734	-2.5	-25.6
Manufacturing	47,876	48,188	49,172	50,532	48,647	45,023	-0.6	6.3
Total Private Construction¹	562,201	564,824	566,395	562,145	552,328	501,493	-0.5	12.1
Residential	273,470	271,114	271,299	262,636	254,145	232,215	0.9	17.8
New single family	131,173	127,559	125,556	121,805	119,578	108,563	2.8	20.8
New multi-family	23,072	22,249	21,661	20,642	19,631	15,931	3.7	44.8
Nonresidential	288,731	293,710	295,096	299,509	298,183	269,278	-1.7	7.2
Lodging	10,811	10,822	10,614	10,350	10,313	8,089	-0.1	33.7
Office	25,465	25,590	25,372	25,335	24,294	23,156	-0.5	10.0
Commercial	42,436	43,009	43,374	44,184	43,382	42,494	-1.3	-0.1
Health care	30,194	30,350	30,207	30,282	30,377	28,972	-0.5	4.2
Educational	17,489	17,651	17,554	17,414	17,273	14,340	-0.9	22.0
Religious	3,825	3,872	3,825	3,785	3,890	4,332	-1.2	-11.7
Amusement and recreation	6,535	6,457	6,237	6,562	6,571	7,336	1.2	-10.9
Transportation	11,521	11,499	11,146	11,032	10,717	10,019	0.2	15.0
Communication	16,423	17,060	17,266	16,709	16,689	17,335	-3.7	-5.3
Power	75,739	78,619	80,032	82,845	85,518	67,461	-3.7	12.3
Manufacturing	46,933	47,286	48,140	49,446	47,873	44,214	-0.7	6.1
Total Public Construction²	274,888	277,195	278,677	276,633	272,805	284,816	-0.8	-3.5
Residential	6,395	6,322	6,434	6,300	6,490	8,843	1.2	-27.7
Nonresidential	268,493	270,873	272,243	270,332	266,315	275,973	-0.9	-2.7
Office	10,307	10,618	10,565	10,767	11,246	11,740	-2.9	-12.2
Commercial	3,209	3,067	3,202	3,364	3,214	4,037	4.6	-20.5
Health care	11,251	10,924	10,822	11,042	10,542	11,347	3.0	-0.8
Educational	67,019	69,357	69,392	66,605	67,270	72,042	-3.4	-7.0
Public safety	10,406	10,080	10,015	10,508	10,177	10,711	3.2	-2.8
Amusement and recreation	8,720	9,114	9,547	9,598	8,995	8,559	-4.3	1.9
Transportation	25,846	26,256	26,472	26,248	24,271	25,796	-1.6	0.2
Power	9,360	9,124	8,793	9,226	8,572	8,859	2.6	5.7
Highway and street	80,845	81,326	82,164	80,234	79,397	78,008	-0.6	3.6
Sewage and waste disposal	21,498	20,943	20,769	21,371	21,819	21,454	2.7	0.2
Water supply	12,353	12,298	12,506	13,099	13,061	14,074	0.4	-12.2
Conservation and development	5,664	5,839	5,989	6,344	6,027	7,560	-3.0	-25.1

^PPreliminary ^rRevised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately:
public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

²Includes 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	Aug 2012 ^p	Jul 2012 ^r	Jun 2012 ^r	May 2012	Apr 2012	Aug 2011	Year-to-date		
							Aug 2012	Aug 2011	Percent change
Total Construction	79,662	77,588	76,491	71,635	66,201	75,101	545,160	500,139	9.0
Residential	27,023	26,199	25,603	23,452	21,639	23,393	176,272	159,556	10.5
Nonresidential	52,639	51,389	50,888	48,183	44,563	51,708	368,888	340,582	8.3
Lodging	963	965	950	913	918	739	7,243	5,769	25.6
Office	3,158	3,082	3,128	3,116	2,966	3,082	23,594	22,742	3.7
Commercial	4,134	4,101	4,150	4,060	3,862	4,248	30,709	28,284	8.6
Health care	3,528	3,454	3,513	3,489	3,388	3,453	26,950	26,068	3.4
Educational	8,706	8,698	8,396	7,094	6,626	8,900	57,773	56,309	2.6
Religious	339	331	321	305	315	390	2,584	2,804	-7.8
Public safety	916	858	868	889	831	953	6,832	6,598	3.5
Amusement and recreation	1,363	1,383	1,362	1,396	1,281	1,412	10,357	10,553	-1.9
Transportation	3,498	3,352	3,314	3,134	2,787	3,336	23,265	22,725	2.4
Communication	1,492	1,445	1,497	1,466	1,324	1,566	11,003	11,284	-2.5
Power	7,339	7,381	7,454	7,560	7,373	6,515	59,391	45,308	31.1
Highway and street	9,383	8,769	8,247	6,993	5,502	9,167	50,718	48,515	4.5
Sewage and waste disposal	2,040	1,897	1,887	1,847	1,747	2,027	14,498	14,631	-0.9
Water supply	1,157	1,122	1,138	1,159	1,111	1,346	8,717	9,271	-6.0
Conservation and development	515	492	504	513	492	703	3,907	4,935	-20.8
Manufacturing	4,111	4,058	4,159	4,250	4,040	3,873	31,348	24,786	26.5
Total Private Construction¹	51,722	50,785	50,412	48,168	45,195	46,171	364,837	316,002	15.5
Residential	26,448	25,651	25,037	22,919	21,109	22,607	171,931	153,622	11.9
New single family	12,436	11,958	11,320	10,360	9,550	10,292	80,139	70,009	14.5
New multi-family	2,064	1,943	1,909	1,769	1,659	1,415	13,490	9,547	41.3
Nonresidential	25,274	25,134	25,375	25,249	24,087	23,564	192,906	162,381	18.8
Lodging	901	902	885	863	859	674	6,764	5,355	26.3
Office	2,240	2,187	2,219	2,211	2,020	2,036	16,459	14,839	10.9
Commercial	3,850	3,852	3,876	3,785	3,608	3,885	28,640	25,961	10.3
Health care	2,588	2,541	2,599	2,547	2,500	2,493	19,800	18,564	6.7
Educational	1,651	1,624	1,653	1,569	1,434	1,354	11,751	9,261	26.9
Religious	335	330	319	302	313	385	2,566	2,782	-7.8
Amusement and recreation	554	552	519	557	544	619	4,279	4,472	-4.3
Transportation	1,054	1,010	966	930	843	920	6,778	6,082	11.4
Communication	1,468	1,424	1,484	1,448	1,306	1,554	10,847	11,220	-3.3
Power	6,477	6,601	6,670	6,748	6,582	5,697	53,381	38,529	38.5
Manufacturing	4,032	3,983	4,073	4,159	3,975	3,806	30,724	24,345	26.2
Total Public Construction²	27,940	26,803	26,079	23,467	21,006	28,930	180,323	184,136	-2.1
Residential	575	548	567	533	530	786	4,341	5,935	-26.9
Nonresidential	27,365	26,255	25,513	22,934	20,476	28,144	175,982	178,202	-1.2
Office	918	895	909	905	946	1,046	7,135	7,904	-9.7
Commercial	284	249	274	275	254	363	2,069	2,323	-10.9
Health care	940	913	914	942	888	960	7,150	7,505	-4.7
Educational	7,055	7,074	6,743	5,524	5,192	7,546	46,022	47,048	-2.2
Public safety	906	849	855	878	823	932	6,752	6,457	4.6
Amusement and recreation	809	830	843	840	737	793	6,078	6,081	0.0
Transportation	2,443	2,342	2,348	2,204	1,944	2,416	16,488	16,642	-0.9
Power	862	781	784	812	791	818	6,010	6,779	-11.3
Highway and street	9,371	8,752	8,236	6,981	5,489	9,163	50,632	48,484	4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	1,985	1,843	1,833	1,793	1,706	1,981	14,087	14,267	-1.3
Water supply	1,116	1,080	1,110	1,115	1,076	1,289	8,434	8,875	-5.0
Conservation and development	508	487	497	506	486	688	3,850	4,896	-21.4

^pPreliminary ^rRevised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

²Includes 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	1.3	1.3
Residential	3.9	3.0	1.9	3.2	2.9
Nonresidential	1.0	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.3
Lodging	3.0	1.9	4.9	2.2	5.5
Office	3.4	3.3	3.5	1.5	3.6
Commercial	3.7	2.8	3.3	2.5	3.8
Health care	2.0	1.9	2.2	1.1	2.6
Educational	2.3	1.5	2.3	3.2	3.7
Religious	6.9	5.0	6.4	5.4	7.0
Public safety	3.3	2.4	3.2	2.3	4.4
Amusement and recreation	3.8	3.0	3.6	4.1	4.6
Transportation	2.0	1.8	2.7	2.7	3.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.9
Highway and street	3.4	1.9	2.7	4.2	3.8
Sewage and waste disposal	3.6	2.9	3.1	3.6	4.5
Water supply	4.0	2.7	3.2	4.7	4.5
Conservation and development	3.8	2.7	1.8	2.5	3.0
Manufacturing	1.6	1.1	2.0	0.6	2.9
Total Private Construction	1.1	1.0	1.3	0.7	1.4
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
New single family	5.0	4.0	6.8	6.0	6.0
New multi-family	9.4	8.1	11.7	4.3	11.3
Nonresidential	1.1	1.0	1.3	0.7	1.4
Lodging	3.1	2.0	5.2	2.3	5.8
Office	5.2	4.8	5.4	2.0	5.4
Commercial	4.1	3.1	3.7	2.6	4.2
Health care	2.6	2.5	3.0	1.4	3.3
Educational	3.3	3.0	5.1	2.4	5.9
Religious	7.0	5.0	6.5	5.4	7.0
Amusement and recreation	5.0	4.1	4.6	3.0	5.5
Transportation	4.0	3.1	7.6	4.2	9.4
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.2
Manufacturing	1.7	1.1	2.1	0.6	2.9
Total Public Construction	1.3	0.8	1.1	2.0	1.8
Residential	3.9	3.0	1.9	3.2	2.9
Nonresidential	1.4	0.8	1.1	2.0	1.9
Office	2.4	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.4
Commercial	5.8	4.4	5.6	6.8	7.2
Health care	2.5	2.1	2.3	1.6	3.2
Educational	2.6	1.7	2.5	3.8	4.2
Public safety	3.3	2.5	3.2	2.3	4.5
Amusement and recreation	5.2	4.1	5.1	5.9	6.7
Transportation	2.2	2.0	2.9	2.9	3.1
Power	5.2	4.1	3.6	5.9	9.6
Highway and street	3.4	1.9	2.7	4.2	3.8
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.9	3.2	3.6	4.6
Water supply	4.2	2.8	3.4	4.8	4.6
Conservation and development	3.8	2.7	1.8	2.5	2.9

NA Not applicable