

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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

For Release at 10:00 A.M. EDT, Monday, May 2, 2011

Michael Davis, Linnet Holland, or Trent Langley  
(301) 763-1605

CB11-76

## MARCH 2011 CONSTRUCTION AT \$768.9 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during March 2011 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$768.9 billion, 1.4 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$758.6 billion. The March figure is 6.7 percent ( $\pm 1.8\%$ ) below the March 2010 estimate of \$824.0 billion.

During the first 3 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$161.2 billion, 7.8 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ ) below the \$174.8 billion for the same period in 2010.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$476.1 billion, 2.2 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ ) above the revised February estimate of \$466.0 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$229.1 billion in March, 2.6 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) above the revised February estimate of \$223.2 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$247.0 billion in March, 1.8 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ ) above the revised February estimate of \$242.7 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In March, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$292.8 billion, 0.1 percent ( $\pm 2.2\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$292.6 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$68.5 billion, 0.5 percent ( $\pm 4.2\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$68.1 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$82.9 billion, 0.6 percent ( $\pm 7.8\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$82.4 billion.

*April 2011 data will be released on June 1, 2011 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, 1.1 percent; private construction, 1.6 percent; and public construction, 1.3 percent.

In the May 2011 press release, normal revisions to the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data will revise back to January 2009.

\* 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	Mar 2011 <sup>P</sup>	Feb 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2010	Nov 2010	Mar 2010	Percent change Mar 2011 from -	
							Feb 2011	Mar 2010
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>768,899</b>	<b>758,579</b>	<b>776,877</b>	<b>784,800</b>	<b>810,696</b>	<b>824,023</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>-6.7</b>
Residential	237,757	232,211	249,289	238,427	247,771	258,293	2.4	-8.0
Nonresidential	531,143	526,368	527,587	546,374	562,925	565,730	0.9	-6.1
Lodging	8,437	7,952	7,876	9,889	9,961	12,234	6.1	-31.0
Office	34,061	33,508	34,354	34,600	35,531	39,464	1.7	-13.7
Commercial	39,062	39,262	38,684	37,807	38,153	41,771	-0.5	-6.5
Health care	39,448	38,528	39,118	40,017	42,003	40,747	2.4	-3.2
Educational	80,764	80,066	81,990	81,279	83,188	88,992	0.9	-9.2
Religious	4,544	4,468	4,891	4,872	5,261	5,690	1.7	-20.1
Public safety	10,795	10,719	10,202	9,983	10,806	13,099	0.7	-17.6
Amusement and recreation	15,514	15,544	15,505	16,550	17,576	16,055	-0.2	-3.4
Transportation	39,573	39,492	39,116	38,510	38,009	42,616	0.2	-7.1
Communication	17,387	17,827	17,545	18,006	17,753	16,602	-2.5	4.7
Power	81,618	80,209	78,801	93,427	94,828	78,528	1.8	3.9
Highway and street	83,001	82,495	83,679	84,450	87,194	79,123	0.6	4.9
Sewage and waste disposal	22,923	23,202	23,691	24,715	25,390	24,647	-1.2	-7.0
Water supply	14,504	14,785	15,672	15,229	15,850	14,530	-1.9	-0.2
Conservation and development	6,743	7,170	6,906	6,514	7,821	6,102	-6.0	10.5
Manufacturing	32,767	31,141	29,560	30,526	33,601	45,532	5.2	-28.0
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>476,111</b>	<b>465,975</b>	<b>479,988</b>	<b>486,949</b>	<b>503,954</b>	<b>524,419</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>-9.2</b>
Residential	229,065	223,248	239,619	229,071	237,283	249,340	2.6	-8.1
New single family	105,889	106,961	108,129	107,083	106,486	116,852	-1.0	-9.4
New multi-family	12,488	12,765	12,686	13,129	14,455	14,379	-2.2	-13.2
Nonresidential	247,047	242,727	240,369	257,878	266,671	275,079	1.8	-10.2
Lodging	7,814	7,462	7,408	9,100	9,404	11,960	4.7	-34.7
Office	22,066	21,759	22,298	22,937	22,666	26,007	1.4	-15.2
Commercial	35,890	36,066	35,504	34,890	35,057	39,032	-0.5	-8.0
Health care	29,111	28,488	28,721	30,177	31,980	31,533	2.2	-7.7
Educational	12,301	11,929	12,052	12,627	13,177	14,965	3.1	-17.8
Religious	4,527	4,444	4,870	4,833	5,217	5,622	1.9	-19.5
Amusement and recreation	5,170	5,223	5,435	6,093	6,587	6,333	-1.0	-18.4
Transportation	9,043	9,647	9,583	9,031	8,934	8,258	-6.3	9.5
Communication	17,334	17,817	17,538	17,988	17,724	16,544	-2.7	4.8
Power	70,139	68,177	66,832	78,930	81,591	68,330	2.9	2.6
Manufacturing	32,201	30,532	28,933	30,019	33,027	45,017	5.5	-28.5
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>292,788</b>	<b>292,603</b>	<b>296,889</b>	<b>297,852</b>	<b>306,742</b>	<b>299,604</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
Residential	8,692	8,963	9,671	9,355	10,488	8,953	-3.0	-2.9
Nonresidential	284,096	283,641	287,218	288,496	296,254	290,651	0.2	-2.3
Office	11,995	11,749	12,055	11,663	12,864	13,457	2.1	-10.9
Commercial	3,172	3,196	3,180	2,917	3,096	2,739	-0.8	15.8
Health care	10,337	10,040	10,398	9,839	10,023	9,214	3.0	12.2
Educational	68,463	68,137	69,938	68,653	70,010	74,027	0.5	-7.5
Public safety	10,658	10,629	10,124	9,909	10,682	12,625	0.3	-15.6
Amusement and recreation	10,344	10,321	10,070	10,457	10,989	9,722	0.2	6.4
Transportation	30,530	29,845	29,533	29,479	29,075	34,358	2.3	-11.1
Power	11,479	12,032	11,969	14,497	13,237	10,198	-4.6	12.6
Highway and street	82,878	82,420	83,593	84,335	87,097	79,000	0.6	4.9
Sewage and waste disposal	22,301	22,700	23,207	24,266	24,973	24,208	-1.8	-7.9
Water supply	13,971	14,306	15,159	14,624	15,199	14,098	-2.3	-0.9
Conservation and development	6,708	7,132	6,871	6,504	7,803	6,094	-5.9	10.1

<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	Mar 2011 <sup>P</sup>	Feb 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2010	Nov 2010	Mar 2010	Year-to-date		
							Mar 2011	Mar 2010	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>57,283</b>	<b>51,301</b>	<b>52,611</b>	<b>59,763</b>	<b>68,776</b>	<b>61,860</b>	<b>161,195</b>	<b>174,785</b>	<b>-7.8</b>
Residential	17,528	14,840	16,329	16,966	20,371	19,178	48,697	53,275	-8.6
Nonresidential	39,756	36,461	36,282	42,797	48,405	42,683	112,498	121,510	-7.4
Lodging	703	663	656	824	830	1,020	2,022	3,315	-39.0
Office	2,700	2,516	2,575	2,779	3,018	3,165	7,791	9,484	-17.9
Commercial	3,072	2,874	2,773	2,934	3,221	3,275	8,719	9,678	-9.9
Health care	3,193	2,960	3,014	3,297	3,629	3,331	9,166	9,402	-2.5
Educational	5,902	5,493	5,668	5,992	6,637	6,525	17,063	19,164	-11.0
Religious	357	342	369	394	466	449	1,068	1,296	-17.6
Public safety	860	786	757	838	935	1,035	2,404	2,935	-18.1
Amusement and recreation	1,203	1,102	1,083	1,297	1,500	1,270	3,388	3,544	-4.4
Transportation	2,877	2,722	2,760	3,029	3,292	3,092	8,358	8,341	0.2
Communication	1,471	1,263	1,125	1,812	1,627	1,415	3,859	3,905	-1.2
Power	6,731	6,307	6,145	8,151	8,570	6,447	19,183	18,871	1.7
Highway and street	4,705	3,944	3,876	5,164	7,554	4,583	12,525	11,826	5.9
Sewage and waste disposal	1,723	1,597	1,642	1,920	2,215	1,859	4,961	5,206	-4.7
Water supply	1,141	1,060	1,089	1,169	1,348	1,153	3,291	3,080	6.9
Conservation and development	544	525	524	587	676	492	1,592	1,365	16.6
Manufacturing	2,575	2,308	2,226	2,609	2,886	3,575	7,110	10,100	-29.6
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>36,812</b>	<b>32,656</b>	<b>33,769</b>	<b>38,137</b>	<b>42,956</b>	<b>40,661</b>	<b>103,237</b>	<b>115,967</b>	<b>-11.0</b>
Residential	16,875	14,178	15,636	16,203	19,506	18,493	46,689	51,340	-9.1
New single family	8,157	6,923	7,346	7,869	9,258	8,998	22,426	24,146	-7.1
New multi-family	1,012	995	959	1,035	1,217	1,170	2,966	3,625	-18.2
Nonresidential	19,937	18,478	18,134	21,935	23,450	22,169	56,549	64,627	-12.5
Lodging	651	622	617	758	784	997	1,890	3,252	-41.9
Office	1,768	1,667	1,676	1,835	1,943	2,101	5,112	6,359	-19.6
Commercial	2,825	2,632	2,533	2,687	2,951	3,061	7,991	9,012	-11.3
Health care	2,332	2,170	2,201	2,488	2,792	2,554	6,702	7,273	-7.9
Educational	945	866	869	970	1,064	1,152	2,679	3,276	-18.2
Religious	356	340	367	391	463	443	1,063	1,281	-17.0
Amusement and recreation	431	411	417	489	544	536	1,259	1,415	-11.0
Transportation	668	698	743	723	775	613	2,110	1,764	19.6
Communication	1,466	1,262	1,124	1,811	1,625	1,410	3,853	3,895	-1.1
Power	5,854	5,473	5,329	7,113	7,557	5,657	16,656	16,829	-1.0
Manufacturing	2,528	2,258	2,174	2,567	2,838	3,532	6,960	9,970	-30.2
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>20,471</b>	<b>18,645</b>	<b>18,842</b>	<b>21,625</b>	<b>25,820</b>	<b>21,199</b>	<b>57,957</b>	<b>58,818</b>	<b>-1.5</b>
Residential	653	662	694	763	865	685	2,008	1,935	3.8
Nonresidential	19,818	17,983	18,148	20,862	24,955	20,514	55,949	56,883	-1.6
Office	931	849	899	944	1,075	1,064	2,679	3,125	-14.3
Commercial	247	242	240	247	270	214	729	666	9.5
Health care	861	790	813	809	836	777	2,464	2,130	15.7
Educational	4,957	4,628	4,799	5,021	5,573	5,373	14,383	15,888	-9.5
Public safety	849	780	752	833	925	997	2,380	2,835	-16.0
Amusement and recreation	772	691	666	809	956	734	2,128	2,129	0.0
Transportation	2,208	2,023	2,017	2,306	2,517	2,478	6,248	6,577	-5.0
Power	877	833	816	1,038	1,013	790	2,527	2,041	23.8
Highway and street	4,698	3,940	3,870	5,156	7,545	4,575	12,507	11,802	6.0
Sewage and waste disposal	1,674	1,562	1,609	1,884	2,179	1,826	4,845	5,118	-5.3
Water supply	1,100	1,031	1,054	1,116	1,292	1,119	3,184	2,992	6.4
Conservation and development	541	521	521	587	675	491	1,583	1,362	16.2

<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>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Residential	3.5	2.8	3.0	1.8	3.9
Nonresidential	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.1
Lodging	4.9	5.4	4.2	2.6	5.0
Office	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.8	2.4
Commercial	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.9
Health care	2.0	1.7	2.0	1.7	2.2
Educational	2.1	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.8
Religious	6.0	6.5	6.7	4.2	6.7
Public safety	3.1	2.5	2.3	3.7	3.3
Amusement and recreation	4.1	4.0	4.1	2.5	4.4
Transportation	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.8	3.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.8
Highway and street	3.5	3.3	4.8	4.9	6.0
Sewage and waste disposal	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.6	3.7
Water supply	3.8	3.4	4.6	3.8	5.4
Conservation and development	3.1	2.7	4.1	2.6	4.3
Manufacturing	1.9	1.5	2.1	0.9	2.2
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>
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	11.0	13.0	7.0	3.7	7.7
Nonresidential	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.1
Lodging	5.1	5.7	4.2	2.7	5.0
Office	3.0	3.4	2.9	2.7	3.3
Commercial	3.5	2.9	2.7	2.8	3.0
Health care	2.6	2.3	2.3	1.6	2.4
Educational	3.6	3.3	3.5	2.1	3.7
Religious	6.1	6.6	6.8	4.2	6.9
Amusement and recreation	4.8	3.9	3.9	2.3	3.6
Transportation	7.7	8.6	13.9	5.1	11.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7
Manufacturing	2.0	1.5	2.1	0.9	2.2
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Residential	3.5	2.8	3.0	1.8	3.9
Nonresidential	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.8
Office	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.6
Commercial	6.2	5.8	11.9	4.0	12.1
Health care	2.5	2.3	3.3	4.1	4.8
Educational	2.4	2.3	2.8	2.6	3.2
Public safety	3.1	2.5	2.4	3.8	3.4
Amusement and recreation	5.7	5.7	6.3	3.5	7.4
Transportation	2.7	2.4	2.1	2.9	3.0
Power	5.8	3.5	10.1	3.9	5.6
Highway and street	3.5	3.3	4.8	4.9	6.0
Sewage and waste disposal	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.7	3.7
Water supply	3.9	3.5	4.8	3.9	5.7
Conservation and development	3.1	2.7	4.1	2.6	4.3

NA Not applicable