

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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## MAY 2010 CONSTRUCTION AT \$841.9 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during May 2010 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$841.9 billion, 0.2 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$843.3 billion. The May figure is 8.0 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ ) below the May 2009 estimate of \$915.4 billion.

During the first 5 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$314.2 billion, 12.0 percent ( $\pm 1.1\%$ ) below the \$356.9 billion for the same period in 2009.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$536.3 billion, 0.5 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$538.9 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$260.8 billion in May, 0.4 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$261.7 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$275.6 billion in May, 0.6 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$277.2 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In May, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$305.5 billion, 0.4 percent ( $\pm 2.2\%$ )\* above the revised April estimate of \$304.4 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$74.0 billion, 0.9 percent ( $\pm 3.0\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$74.6 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$83.1 billion, 2.7 percent ( $\pm 8.2\%$ )\* above the revised April estimate of \$80.9 billion.

*June 2010 data will be released on August 2, 2010 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, 1.2 percent; private construction, 1.9 percent; and public construction, 1.2 percent.

In this May 2010 press release, revisions to unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data will revise back to January 2004 to incorporate and benchmark to the 2008 detailed structures data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Capital Expenditures Survey.

\* 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	May 2010 <sup>P</sup>	Apr 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Mar 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2010 <sup>r</sup>	May 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Percent change May 2010 from -	
							Apr 2010	May 2009
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>841,888</b>	<b>843,308</b>	<b>824,023</b>	<b>815,797</b>	<b>841,040</b>	<b>915,372</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-8.0</b>
Residential	270,239	271,306	258,293	257,485	274,405	241,574	-0.4	11.9
Nonresidential	571,650	572,003	565,730	558,312	566,635	673,798	-0.1	-15.2
Lodging	11,056	11,504	12,234	13,274	14,266	29,134	-3.9	-62.1
Office	36,858	37,438	39,464	41,229	42,069	55,706	-1.5	-33.8
Commercial	40,197	40,302	41,771	43,185	44,673	58,974	-0.3	-31.8
Health care	39,516	39,449	40,747	38,499	39,585	46,263	0.2	-14.6
Educational	87,516	88,641	88,992	90,953	92,373	107,525	-1.3	-18.6
Religious	5,696	5,466	5,690	5,653	5,519	5,974	4.2	-4.7
Public safety	12,703	12,852	13,099	12,843	12,860	14,848	-1.2	-14.4
Amusement and recreation	16,239	16,655	16,055	15,661	16,211	19,733	-2.5	-17.7
Transportation	42,360	43,347	42,616	39,228	37,061	37,234	-2.3	13.8
Communication	18,511	18,216	16,602	18,879	17,961	19,874	1.6	-6.9
Power	85,971	85,957	78,528	77,264	79,996	91,150	0.0	-5.7
Highway and street	83,242	81,059	79,123	75,835	76,880	78,855	2.7	5.6
Sewage and waste disposal	25,825	25,239	24,647	23,259	24,815	24,573	2.3	5.1
Water supply	15,900	15,070	14,530	13,662	13,305	15,142	5.5	5.0
Conservation and development	6,458	6,419	6,102	5,669	5,982	5,251	0.6	23.0
Manufacturing	43,601	44,389	45,532	43,219	43,079	63,563	-1.8	-31.4
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>536,344</b>	<b>538,906</b>	<b>524,419</b>	<b>524,637</b>	<b>547,629</b>	<b>600,708</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-10.7</b>
Residential	260,790	261,722	249,340	248,735	266,164	234,461	-0.4	11.2
Nonresidential	275,554	277,184	275,079	275,902	281,465	366,247	-0.6	-24.8
Lodging	10,573	11,196	11,960	13,004	14,059	29,040	-5.6	-63.6
Office	23,950	24,498	26,007	27,722	28,008	41,189	-2.2	-41.9
Commercial	37,753	37,902	39,032	40,076	41,560	55,066	-0.4	-31.4
Health care	30,660	30,397	31,533	29,606	31,150	36,739	0.9	-16.5
Educational	13,527	13,997	14,965	14,693	14,655	17,960	-3.4	-24.7
Religious	5,647	5,401	5,622	5,591	5,464	5,974	4.6	-5.5
Amusement and recreation	6,238	6,326	6,333	5,665	5,604	8,470	-1.4	-26.4
Transportation	8,200	8,259	8,258	8,149	8,230	9,202	-0.7	-10.9
Communication	18,414	18,164	16,544	18,844	17,935	19,818	1.4	-7.1
Power	76,258	76,005	68,330	68,596	70,858	78,337	0.3	-2.7
Manufacturing	43,000	43,721	45,017	42,674	42,575	63,028	-1.6	-31.8
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>305,545</b>	<b>304,403</b>	<b>299,604</b>	<b>291,160</b>	<b>293,411</b>	<b>314,663</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
Residential	9,449	9,584	8,953	8,750	8,241	7,112	-1.4	32.9
Nonresidential	296,096	294,819	290,651	282,410	285,170	307,551	0.4	-3.7
Office	12,908	12,941	13,457	13,507	14,061	14,517	-0.3	-11.1
Commercial	2,445	2,400	2,739	3,109	3,113	3,908	1.9	-37.4
Health care	8,856	9,052	9,214	8,893	8,436	9,524	-2.2	-7.0
Educational	73,989	74,644	74,027	76,260	77,719	89,566	-0.9	-17.4
Public safety	12,380	12,450	12,625	12,388	12,482	14,294	-0.6	-13.4
Amusement and recreation	10,001	10,329	9,722	9,996	10,607	11,263	-3.2	-11.2
Transportation	34,160	35,088	34,358	31,079	28,832	28,032	-2.6	21.9
Power	9,713	9,952	10,198	8,669	9,138	12,813	-2.4	-24.2
Highway and street	83,057	80,897	79,000	75,714	76,767	78,752	2.7	5.5
Sewage and waste disposal	25,447	24,865	24,208	22,862	24,426	24,089	2.3	5.6
Water supply	15,463	14,698	14,098	13,360	12,834	14,869	5.2	4.0
Conservation and development	6,449	6,408	6,094	5,660	5,965	5,240	0.6	23.1

<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	May 2010 <sup>P</sup>	Apr 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Mar 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2010 <sup>r</sup>	May 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Year-to-date		
							May 2010	May 2009	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>71,424</b>	<b>67,957</b>	<b>61,860</b>	<b>55,827</b>	<b>57,097</b>	<b>77,332</b>	<b>314,167</b>	<b>356,865</b>	<b>-12.0</b>
Residential	23,534	22,122	19,178	16,574	17,524	21,023	98,931	96,728	2.3
Nonresidential	47,890	45,836	42,683	39,254	39,574	56,309	215,235	260,137	-17.3
Lodging	921	959	1,020	1,106	1,189	2,428	5,195	12,629	-58.9
Office	3,120	3,150	3,165	3,133	3,186	4,784	15,754	23,363	-32.6
Commercial	3,401	3,323	3,275	3,170	3,233	4,974	16,402	24,873	-34.1
Health care	3,327	3,290	3,331	2,997	3,075	3,899	16,019	18,922	-15.3
Educational	7,308	6,981	6,525	6,241	6,398	8,955	33,453	40,141	-16.7
Religious	464	440	449	434	414	492	2,199	2,642	-16.8
Public safety	1,029	1,044	1,035	938	962	1,208	5,008	5,629	-11.0
Amusement and recreation	1,411	1,432	1,270	1,128	1,146	1,705	6,387	7,874	-18.9
Transportation	3,545	3,450	3,092	2,667	2,583	3,099	15,336	13,408	14.4
Communication	1,474	1,469	1,415	1,342	1,148	1,572	6,848	7,541	-9.2
Power	7,099	7,042	6,447	6,138	6,286	7,487	33,011	35,492	-7.0
Highway and street	7,128	5,785	4,583	3,702	3,541	6,698	24,738	24,636	0.4
Sewage and waste disposal	2,201	2,045	1,859	1,626	1,721	2,087	9,452	9,507	-0.6
Water supply	1,364	1,246	1,153	993	934	1,292	5,689	6,195	-8.2
Conservation and development	487	517	492	419	454	402	2,369	2,133	11.1
Manufacturing	3,611	3,665	3,575	3,222	3,303	5,229	17,376	25,152	-30.9
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>45,656</b>	<b>44,156</b>	<b>40,661</b>	<b>36,998</b>	<b>38,308</b>	<b>50,844</b>	<b>205,780</b>	<b>242,788</b>	<b>-15.2</b>
Residential	22,725	21,330	18,493	15,915	16,933	20,407	95,395	93,784	1.7
Nonresidential	22,931	22,826	22,169	21,083	21,375	30,437	110,385	149,004	-25.9
Lodging	881	933	997	1,084	1,172	2,420	5,066	12,583	-59.7
Office	2,046	2,065	2,101	2,140	2,118	3,539	10,470	17,523	-40.2
Commercial	3,201	3,134	3,061	2,939	3,012	4,663	15,347	23,495	-34.7
Health care	2,586	2,526	2,554	2,295	2,423	3,099	12,385	15,272	-18.9
Educational	1,192	1,167	1,152	1,069	1,056	1,564	5,636	7,020	-19.7
Religious	460	434	443	428	410	492	2,175	2,640	-17.6
Amusement and recreation	534	559	536	448	431	713	2,508	3,699	-32.2
Transportation	704	677	613	549	602	790	3,144	3,505	-10.3
Communication	1,466	1,464	1,410	1,339	1,146	1,567	6,825	7,522	-9.3
Power	6,196	6,151	5,657	5,526	5,647	6,288	29,177	30,250	-3.5
Manufacturing	3,561	3,609	3,532	3,176	3,261	5,184	17,139	24,931	-31.3
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>25,768</b>	<b>23,801</b>	<b>21,199</b>	<b>18,829</b>	<b>18,789</b>	<b>26,488</b>	<b>108,387</b>	<b>114,077</b>	<b>-5.0</b>
Residential	810	792	685	659	591	616	3,536	2,944	20.1
Nonresidential	24,959	23,009	20,514	18,171	18,198	25,872	104,851	111,133	-5.7
Office	1,075	1,084	1,064	993	1,068	1,245	5,284	5,840	-9.5
Commercial	200	189	214	231	221	312	1,055	1,378	-23.4
Health care	741	764	777	702	652	800	3,634	3,651	-0.5
Educational	6,116	5,814	5,373	5,172	5,343	7,390	27,818	33,121	-16.0
Public safety	1,002	1,011	997	904	933	1,162	4,847	5,442	-10.9
Amusement and recreation	878	872	734	680	715	992	3,879	4,175	-7.1
Transportation	2,841	2,773	2,478	2,117	1,982	2,308	12,192	9,903	23.1
Power	903	890	790	612	639	1,199	3,834	5,242	-26.9
Highway and street	7,114	5,773	4,575	3,694	3,533	6,690	24,689	24,593	0.4
Sewage and waste disposal	2,170	2,016	1,826	1,598	1,694	2,045	9,304	9,301	0.0
Water supply	1,331	1,216	1,119	972	901	1,271	5,538	6,082	-8.9
Conservation and development	486	517	491	419	453	401	2,364	2,118	11.6

<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 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>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Residential	4.2	4.1	5.8	2.3	10.0
Nonresidential	0.9	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.9
Lodging	3.0	3.6	1.6	1.9	1.5
Office	2.0	1.5	1.7	1.3	2.1
Commercial	3.6	2.6	1.7	2.1	1.8
Health care	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.3	2.0
Educational	2.1	1.7	2.0	1.7	2.2
Religious	5.6	4.9	5.5	3.7	6.9
Public safety	2.9	2.7	2.6	1.8	3.1
Amusement and recreation	3.7	2.8	3.0	2.4	3.5
Transportation	2.8	1.8	2.3	1.9	3.1
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6
Highway and street	3.5	2.5	3.6	5.1	4.7
Sewage and waste disposal	3.0	2.2	3.1	2.6	4.5
Water supply	3.6	2.9	3.7	4.3	5.5
Conservation and development	2.6	1.8	3.0	2.6	4.7
Manufacturing	1.8	3.0	1.9	3.7	1.4
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.8
Lodging	3.0	3.7	1.6	1.8	1.4
Office	3.0	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.2
Commercial	3.9	2.7	1.7	2.3	1.9
Health care	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.6	2.3
Educational	3.6	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1
Religious	5.7	5.0	5.5	3.8	6.8
Amusement and recreation	5.3	4.1	3.8	2.1	4.0
Transportation	11.5	10.5	11.3	6.2	7.9
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.4
Manufacturing	1.8	3.1	1.9	3.9	1.4
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Residential	4.2	4.1	5.8	2.3	10.0
Nonresidential	1.3	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.6
Office	2.1	1.9	3.2	1.5	3.4
Commercial	8.3	8.1	7.0	2.6	5.3
Health care	2.5	1.9	2.7	1.9	3.4
Educational	2.4	2.0	2.3	1.9	2.6
Public safety	3.0	2.7	2.6	1.8	3.2
Amusement and recreation	5.0	3.8	4.5	3.6	5.6
Transportation	2.8	1.8	2.4	2.1	3.2
Power	4.9	5.1	5.4	3.2	5.2
Highway and street	3.5	2.5	3.6	5.1	4.7
Sewage and waste disposal	3.0	2.2	3.2	2.6	4.6
Water supply	3.6	3.0	3.7	4.4	5.6
Conservation and development	2.7	1.8	3.0	2.6	4.7

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	2009 <sup>r</sup>	2008 <sup>r</sup>	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>907,784</b>	<b>1,067,564</b>	<b>-15.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Residential	253,577	357,746	-29.1	2.6
Nonresidential	654,207	709,818	-7.8	0.5
Lodging	25,474	35,806	-28.9	2.5
Office	52,717	68,563	-23.1	1.7
Commercial	55,042	86,212	-36.2	2.3
Health care	45,111	46,902	-3.8	1.7
Educational	102,907	104,890	-1.9	1.3
Religious	6,206	7,225	-14.1	3.3
Public safety	14,099	13,083	7.8	2.2
Amusement and recreation	18,901	21,829	-13.4	2.8
Transportation	38,459	35,471	8.4	1.9
Communication	19,754	26,487	-25.4	NA
Power	89,405	81,075	10.3	0.5
Highway and street	82,028	81,361	0.8	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	24,410	25,696	-5.0	1.8
Water supply	15,561	16,752	-7.1	2.0
Conservation and development	5,624	5,234	7.5	1.4
Manufacturing	58,513	53,234	9.9	1.0
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>592,326</b>	<b>758,827</b>	<b>-21.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Residential	245,621	350,257	-29.9	1.1
Nonresidential	346,705	408,569	-15.1	0.7
Lodging	25,350	35,364	-28.3	2.5
Office	37,904	55,502	-31.7	2.4
Commercial	51,286	82,654	-38.0	2.5
Health care	35,651	38,437	-7.2	2.1
Educational	16,800	18,624	-9.8	2.6
Religious	6,190	7,197	-14.0	3.3
Public safety	486	623	-22.0	6.9
Amusement and recreation	7,817	10,508	-25.6	3.9
Transportation	8,983	9,934	-9.6	7.6
Communication	19,713	26,343	-25.2	NA
Power	77,622	69,242	12.1	0.4
Sewage and waste disposal	488	665	-26.6	11.1
Water supply	295	466	-36.7	11.1
Manufacturing	57,976	52,754	9.9	1.1
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>315,459</b>	<b>308,738</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Residential	7,956	7,489	6.2	2.6
Nonresidential	307,502	301,249	2.1	0.7
Office	14,812	13,061	13.4	1.8
Commercial	3,756	3,558	5.6	6.3
Health care	9,460	8,464	11.8	2.0
Educational	86,107	86,267	-0.2	1.5
Public safety	13,613	12,460	9.3	2.2
Amusement and recreation	11,084	11,320	-2.1	3.9
Transportation	29,476	25,537	15.4	2.0
Power	11,784	11,833	-0.4	3.6
Highway and street	81,915	81,161	0.9	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	23,922	25,031	-4.4	1.9
Water supply	15,266	16,286	-6.3	2.1
Conservation and development	5,593	5,179	8.0	1.4

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.