

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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## MAY 2011 CONSTRUCTION AT \$753.5 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during May 2011 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$753.5 billion, 0.6 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$757.9 billion. The May figure is 7.1 percent ( $\pm 1.8\%$ ) below the May 2010 estimate of \$811.2 billion.

During the first 5 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$285.1 billion, 6.3 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ ) below the \$304.4 billion for the same period in 2010.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$477.2 billion, 0.4 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$479.3 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$228.9 billion in May, 2.1 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) below the revised April estimate of \$233.8 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$248.3 billion in May, 1.2 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ )\* above the revised April estimate of \$245.4 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In May, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$276.3 billion, 0.8 percent ( $\pm 2.2\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$278.6 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$68.6 billion, 2.3 percent ( $\pm 3.0\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$70.2 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$74.7 billion, 1.5 percent ( $\pm 7.5\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$75.9 billion.

*June 2011 data will be released on August 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 this 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	May 2011 <sup>P</sup>	Apr 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Mar 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2011 <sup>r</sup>	May 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Percent change May 2011 from -	
							Apr 2011	May 2010
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>753,483</b>	<b>757,851</b>	<b>762,557</b>	<b>764,198</b>	<b>771,982</b>	<b>811,249</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-7.1</b>
Residential	237,333	242,459	235,809	242,369	247,327	254,964	-2.1	-6.9
Nonresidential	516,149	515,393	526,748	521,830	524,655	556,286	0.1	-7.2
Lodging	8,461	8,227	8,753	8,478	8,572	11,297	2.8	-25.1
Office	32,823	32,761	33,939	33,763	34,258	37,728	0.2	-13.0
Commercial	40,326	40,319	40,258	40,302	40,008	40,280	0.0	0.1
Health care	38,843	39,247	39,371	37,986	37,668	39,166	-1.0	-0.8
Educational	81,233	83,407	84,004	81,151	82,065	88,658	-2.6	-8.4
Religious	4,065	4,225	4,410	4,321	4,867	5,457	-3.8	-25.5
Public safety	9,995	9,772	9,828	9,757	9,665	11,686	2.3	-14.5
Amusement and recreation	14,817	14,628	15,660	15,845	15,706	16,796	1.3	-11.8
Transportation	35,749	35,796	37,551	36,556	37,447	40,136	-0.1	-10.9
Communication	17,660	18,124	17,681	17,847	17,789	18,736	-2.6	-5.7
Power	80,740	77,903	80,506	79,987	80,111	73,443	3.6	9.9
Highway and street	74,749	75,910	77,478	79,081	80,168	84,355	-1.5	-11.4
Sewage and waste disposal	23,141	22,347	23,768	23,548	23,922	25,547	3.6	-9.4
Water supply	13,957	13,992	14,223	14,841	15,334	15,942	-0.3	-12.5
Conservation and development	7,381	7,131	7,224	7,698	7,285	7,114	3.5	3.8
Manufacturing	32,209	31,604	32,097	30,668	29,790	39,948	1.9	-19.4
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>477,213</b>	<b>479,275</b>	<b>477,158</b>	<b>478,700</b>	<b>482,099</b>	<b>506,752</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-5.8</b>
Residential	228,935	233,837	227,254	233,404	237,643	245,216	-2.1	-6.6
New single family	105,186	105,466	105,923	107,031	108,019	119,327	-0.3	-11.9
New multi-family	13,251	13,532	13,460	13,677	13,505	14,222	-2.1	-6.8
Nonresidential	248,278	245,437	249,904	245,296	244,456	261,537	1.2	-5.1
Lodging	7,848	7,732	8,214	8,034	8,122	11,015	1.5	-28.8
Office	21,194	20,916	21,823	21,596	22,145	24,186	1.3	-12.4
Commercial	36,730	36,882	37,035	37,259	36,999	37,660	-0.4	-2.5
Health care	28,325	28,573	28,810	27,673	27,239	30,098	-0.9	-5.9
Educational	12,612	13,185	12,974	12,298	12,128	13,472	-4.3	-6.4
Religious	4,038	4,191	4,380	4,297	4,845	5,404	-3.7	-25.3
Amusement and recreation	5,627	5,522	5,598	5,633	5,877	6,761	1.9	-16.8
Transportation	10,423	9,970	10,486	10,645	10,751	10,054	4.5	3.7
Communication	17,575	18,094	17,628	17,837	17,783	18,672	-2.9	-5.9
Power	70,763	67,787	69,771	68,718	68,130	63,484	4.4	11.5
Manufacturing	31,576	31,021	31,521	30,072	29,173	39,293	1.8	-19.6
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>276,270</b>	<b>278,577</b>	<b>285,399</b>	<b>285,498</b>	<b>289,883</b>	<b>304,497</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-9.3</b>
Residential	8,399	8,621	8,555	8,965	9,684	9,748	-2.6	-13.8
Nonresidential	267,871	269,955	276,844	276,534	280,199	294,749	-0.8	-9.1
Office	11,629	11,845	12,116	12,167	12,113	13,542	-1.8	-14.1
Commercial	3,597	3,437	3,224	3,044	3,010	2,619	4.7	37.3
Health care	10,518	10,673	10,561	10,313	10,429	9,067	-1.5	16.0
Educational	68,621	70,223	71,031	68,854	69,937	75,186	-2.3	-8.7
Public safety	9,806	9,590	9,628	9,615	9,558	11,466	2.3	-14.5
Amusement and recreation	9,190	9,106	10,061	10,212	9,829	10,035	0.9	-8.4
Transportation	25,326	25,826	27,065	25,911	26,696	30,082	-1.9	-15.8
Power	9,977	10,115	10,735	11,270	11,981	9,959	-1.4	0.2
Highway and street	74,733	75,892	77,413	79,018	80,096	84,212	-1.5	-11.3
Sewage and waste disposal	22,503	21,594	22,989	23,107	23,455	25,124	4.2	-10.4
Water supply	13,300	13,425	13,656	14,290	14,752	15,300	-0.9	-13.1
Conservation and development	7,312	7,087	7,169	7,660	7,250	7,104	3.2	2.9

<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 2011 <sup>p</sup>	Apr 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Mar 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2011 <sup>r</sup>	May 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Year-to-date		
							May 2011	May 2010	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>63,776</b>	<b>60,906</b>	<b>56,731</b>	<b>51,412</b>	<b>52,278</b>	<b>68,504</b>	<b>285,104</b>	<b>304,386</b>	<b>-6.3</b>
Residential	20,651	20,101	17,426	15,493	16,369	22,174	90,041	96,254	-6.5
Nonresidential	43,124	40,805	39,305	35,920	35,909	46,330	195,063	208,133	-6.3
Lodging	705	686	729	707	714	941	3,541	5,175	-31.6
Office	2,794	2,739	2,726	2,554	2,569	3,183	13,382	15,833	-15.5
Commercial	3,438	3,332	3,159	2,947	2,874	3,442	15,750	16,232	-3.0
Health care	3,273	3,271	3,212	2,944	2,930	3,297	15,629	15,798	-1.1
Educational	6,823	6,605	6,234	5,575	5,652	7,395	30,889	33,478	-7.7
Religious	329	342	349	336	369	447	1,724	2,155	-20.0
Public safety	833	797	783	721	725	965	3,859	4,745	-18.7
Amusement and recreation	1,272	1,198	1,214	1,129	1,115	1,428	5,928	6,496	-8.7
Transportation	2,958	2,881	2,776	2,555	2,646	3,309	13,816	14,491	-4.7
Communication	1,486	1,422	1,502	1,280	1,131	1,482	6,820	6,921	-1.5
Power	6,497	6,167	6,136	5,855	5,916	6,020	30,571	27,448	11.4
Highway and street	6,321	5,233	4,427	3,810	3,756	7,024	23,548	24,636	-4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	1,942	1,787	1,799	1,620	1,664	2,143	8,812	9,724	-9.4
Water supply	1,189	1,147	1,118	1,047	1,074	1,357	5,575	5,677	-1.8
Conservation and development	571	565	584	562	540	540	2,822	2,479	13.8
Manufacturing	2,695	2,634	2,556	2,277	2,235	3,355	12,397	16,846	-26.4
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>40,568</b>	<b>39,378</b>	<b>36,516</b>	<b>33,095</b>	<b>33,763</b>	<b>43,149</b>	<b>183,319</b>	<b>196,729</b>	<b>-6.8</b>
Residential	19,940	19,415	16,773	14,843	15,673	21,351	86,643	92,733	-6.6
New single family	8,974	8,461	8,143	6,919	7,347	10,194	39,844	43,912	-9.3
New multi-family	1,143	1,138	1,096	1,062	1,021	1,231	5,460	6,230	-12.4
Nonresidential	20,628	19,963	19,743	18,252	18,090	21,798	96,677	103,996	-7.0
Lodging	654	644	685	670	677	918	3,329	5,071	-34.4
Office	1,805	1,754	1,768	1,656	1,676	2,062	8,659	10,394	-16.7
Commercial	3,140	3,065	2,901	2,713	2,641	3,224	14,460	15,182	-4.8
Health care	2,388	2,369	2,322	2,125	2,105	2,545	11,308	12,045	-6.1
Educational	1,124	1,106	1,023	892	875	1,207	5,019	5,507	-8.9
Religious	327	339	346	334	367	443	1,713	2,130	-19.6
Amusement and recreation	469	464	461	441	457	565	2,292	2,672	-14.2
Transportation	862	812	785	771	816	818	4,046	3,621	11.7
Communication	1,479	1,419	1,497	1,279	1,130	1,477	6,805	6,902	-1.4
Power	5,611	5,281	5,317	5,061	5,076	5,125	26,345	23,298	13.1
Manufacturing	2,642	2,585	2,508	2,227	2,184	3,301	12,146	16,601	-26.8
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>23,208</b>	<b>21,529</b>	<b>20,215</b>	<b>18,318</b>	<b>18,515</b>	<b>25,355</b>	<b>101,784</b>	<b>107,658</b>	<b>-5.5</b>
Residential	712	687	653	650	696	823	3,398	3,521	-3.5
Nonresidential	22,496	20,842	19,562	17,668	17,819	24,532	98,386	104,137	-5.5
Office	989	985	958	898	893	1,122	4,723	5,440	-13.2
Commercial	298	268	258	234	234	218	1,290	1,050	22.9
Health care	885	902	890	820	824	753	4,321	3,753	15.1
Educational	5,699	5,499	5,211	4,683	4,777	6,189	25,870	27,971	-7.5
Public safety	816	781	766	710	717	946	3,791	4,608	-17.7
Amusement and recreation	804	734	753	688	658	864	3,637	3,824	-4.9
Transportation	2,096	2,068	1,991	1,785	1,830	2,491	9,770	10,871	-10.1
Power	886	886	819	794	840	895	4,226	4,150	1.8
Highway and street	6,320	5,232	4,423	3,807	3,751	7,012	23,532	24,593	-4.3
Sewage and waste disposal	1,888	1,727	1,738	1,589	1,633	2,107	8,575	9,568	-10.4
Water supply	1,138	1,103	1,075	1,012	1,033	1,310	5,361	5,440	-1.5
Conservation and development	565	561	580	559	537	539	2,802	2,474	13.3

<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>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Residential	3.4	3.1	2.6	2.1	2.9
Nonresidential	0.9	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1
Lodging	5.2	4.8	3.9	4.1	4.0
Office	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.8	2.3
Commercial	3.3	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.3
Health care	2.1	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.1
Educational	2.2	2.1	2.4	1.7	3.0
Religious	6.4	6.6	5.9	4.7	6.4
Public safety	2.9	2.4	2.3	2.6	3.0
Amusement and recreation	4.1	3.2	3.4	4.2	4.5
Transportation	2.7	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.8
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.9	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.2
Highway and street	3.5	2.5	3.4	4.7	4.0
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	2.7	2.8	3.4	4.2
Water supply	3.9	3.2	4.3	3.8	5.4
Conservation and development	3.0	2.1	3.0	1.8	2.7
Manufacturing	1.8	1.3	2.2	1.3	3.2
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.9</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	11.1	11.4	6.1	3.8	7.4
Nonresidential	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.1
Lodging	5.4	5.0	3.9	4.3	4.0
Office	3.3	3.2	2.8	2.7	3.5
Commercial	3.6	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.2
Health care	2.7	2.2	2.3	1.4	2.5
Educational	3.7	3.2	3.6	2.2	4.4
Religious	6.5	6.6	6.0	4.7	6.5
Amusement and recreation	4.5	3.3	3.5	2.5	3.9
Transportation	7.2	6.1	10.5	3.9	11.5
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.4	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.7
Manufacturing	1.8	1.4	2.2	1.3	3.2
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Residential	3.4	3.1	2.6	2.1	2.9
Nonresidential	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.6
Office	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.4
Commercial	6.9	6.7	12.3	12.1	16.7
Health care	2.9	2.7	3.6	5.1	3.5
Educational	2.4	2.4	2.8	1.9	3.5
Public safety	3.0	2.4	2.3	2.6	3.0
Amusement and recreation	5.8	4.6	5.2	6.1	6.9
Transportation	2.8	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.9
Power	5.7	3.4	7.1	4.1	7.4
Highway and street	3.5	2.5	3.4	4.7	4.0
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	2.7	2.8	3.5	4.2
Water supply	4.0	3.3	4.5	3.9	5.5
Conservation and development	3.0	2.1	2.9	1.8	2.6

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	2010 <sup>r</sup>	2009 <sup>r</sup>	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>803,621</b>	<b>903,201</b>	<b>-11.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Residential	248,706	253,928	-2.1	2.3
Nonresidential	554,915	649,273	-14.5	0.5
Lodging	11,329	25,499	-55.6	3.6
Office	37,573	51,908	-27.6	1.5
Commercial	40,522	54,069	-25.1	2.1
Health care	39,879	44,845	-11.1	1.5
Educational	88,227	103,202	-14.5	1.3
Religious	5,208	6,192	-15.9	4.3
Public safety	11,118	13,787	-19.4	2.1
Amusement and recreation	16,959	19,404	-12.6	2.7
Transportation	38,232	36,701	4.2	2.0
Communication	18,261	19,753	-7.6	NA
Power	78,540	88,861	-11.6	0.7
Highway and street	82,657	82,166	0.6	1.3
Sewage and waste disposal	26,063	24,830	5.0	1.8
Water supply	15,305	15,471	-1.1	2.2
Conservation and development	6,937	5,750	20.6	1.6
Manufacturing	38,106	56,836	-33.0	1.6
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>500,597</b>	<b>588,306</b>	<b>-14.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Residential	238,801	245,912	-2.9	1.1
New single family	112,569	105,336	6.9	4.0
New multi-family	14,668	28,538	-48.6	5.6
Nonresidential	261,796	342,394	-23.5	0.7
Lodging	10,904	25,388	-57.1	3.7
Office	24,231	37,282	-35.0	2.0
Commercial	37,647	50,460	-25.4	2.3
Health care	30,316	35,309	-14.1	2.1
Educational	13,356	16,851	-20.7	2.8
Religious	5,156	6,177	-16.5	4.3
Public safety	207	471	-56.1	16.9
Amusement and recreation	6,541	8,402	-22.1	3.7
Transportation	9,912	9,056	9.5	5.3
Communication	18,226	19,712	-7.5	NA
Power	66,601	76,064	-12.4	0.3
Sewage and waste disposal	421	468	-10.0	9.2
Water supply	664	319	108.2	8.8
Manufacturing	37,478	56,296	-33.4	1.7
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>303,024</b>	<b>314,895</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Residential	9,905	8,015	23.6	2.3
Nonresidential	293,119	306,880	-4.5	0.6
Office	13,342	14,626	-8.8	2.0
Commercial	2,876	3,609	-20.3	4.9
Health care	9,562	9,536	0.3	1.6
Educational	74,871	86,351	-13.3	1.4
Public safety	10,911	13,316	-18.1	2.1
Amusement and recreation	10,418	11,002	-5.3	3.7
Transportation	28,321	27,646	2.4	2.1
Power	11,939	12,797	-6.7	5.8
Highway and street	82,548	82,056	0.6	1.3
Sewage and waste disposal	25,642	24,362	5.3	1.3
Water supply	14,641	15,152	-3.4	2.3
Conservation and development	6,910	5,720	20.8	1.6

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.