

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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

For Release at 10:00 A.M. EDT, Tuesday, September 1, 2009

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

CB09-134

## JULY 2009 CONSTRUCTION AT \$958.0 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during July 2009 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$958.0 billion, 0.2 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ )\* below the revised June estimate of \$959.5 billion. The July figure is 10.5 percent ( $\pm 1.8\%$ ) below the July 2008 estimate of \$1,070.2 billion.

During the first 7 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$543.8 billion, 11.4 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) below the \$613.5 billion for the same period in 2008.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$630.4 billion, 0.1 percent ( $\pm 1.0\%$ )\* above the revised June estimate of \$629.6 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$245.6 billion in July, 2.3 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) above the revised June estimate of \$240.1 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$384.9 billion in July, 1.2 percent ( $\pm 1.0\%$ ) below the revised June estimate of \$389.5 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In July, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$327.6 billion, 0.7 percent ( $\pm 2.6\%$ )\* below the revised June estimate of \$329.9 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$90.8 billion, 1.3 percent ( $\pm 3.7\%$ )\* below the revised June estimate of \$92.0 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$83.8 billion, 1.0 percent ( $\pm 7.0\%$ )\* below the revised June estimate of \$84.7 billion.

*August 2009 data will be released on October 1, 2009 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, 0.5 percent; private construction, 0.6 percent; and public construction, 0.7 percent.

New Length of Time data for Private Nonresidential, Private Multifamily and State and Local Construction are available. Go to the Related Studies menu on our website.

\* 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	Jul 2009 <sup>P</sup>	Jun 2009 <sup>r</sup>	May 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Apr 2009	Mar 2009	Jul 2008	Percent change Jul 2009 from -	
							Jun 2009	Jul 2008
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>958,037</b>	<b>959,507</b>	<b>958,347</b>	<b>971,363</b>	<b>966,699</b>	<b>1,070,249</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-10.5</b>
Residential	254,202	248,464	249,143	260,305	256,479	347,694	2.3	-26.9
Nonresidential	703,835	711,043	709,204	711,059	710,220	722,555	-1.0	-2.6
Lodging	24,061	26,250	28,458	30,310	31,339	37,259	-8.3	-35.4
Office	58,765	59,144	58,693	58,760	62,905	71,419	-0.6	-17.7
Commercial	58,405	59,460	62,742	65,808	69,087	86,404	-1.8	-32.4
Health care	49,851	50,104	48,740	48,109	47,827	48,825	-0.5	2.1
Educational	108,022	109,436	107,757	108,027	109,166	106,085	-1.3	1.8
Religious	6,508	6,415	6,105	6,858	6,997	7,040	1.4	-7.6
Public safety	14,636	14,819	14,870	14,202	14,068	12,754	-1.2	14.8
Amusement and recreation	20,192	20,317	19,546	19,918	20,096	21,454	-0.6	-5.9
Transportation	35,267	35,407	34,380	32,889	31,720	34,677	-0.4	1.7
Communication	20,088	20,079	21,191	21,171	19,959	25,135	0.0	-20.1
Power	91,094	92,802	92,684	92,096	85,743	82,797	-1.8	10.0
Highway and street	83,889	84,787	81,403	80,395	79,380	81,155	-1.1	3.4
Sewage and waste disposal	25,412	25,819	25,324	25,981	27,003	25,151	-1.6	1.0
Water supply	17,263	16,606	15,543	16,047	16,217	18,449	4.0	-6.4
Conservation and development	5,732	5,788	5,778	5,785	6,196	6,186	-1.0	-7.3
Manufacturing	84,652	83,811	85,991	84,703	82,516	57,766	1.0	46.5
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>630,422</b>	<b>629,601</b>	<b>639,823</b>	<b>654,126</b>	<b>650,396</b>	<b>759,801</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-17.0</b>
Residential	245,566	240,129	241,407	252,662	248,859	339,939	2.3	-27.8
Nonresidential	384,857	389,472	398,415	401,465	401,537	419,863	-1.2	-8.3
Lodging	24,002	26,200	28,399	30,224	31,243	36,974	-8.4	-35.1
Office	42,816	43,562	44,106	43,724	48,084	57,865	-1.7	-26.0
Commercial	54,108	55,044	58,770	62,121	64,954	82,759	-1.7	-34.6
Health care	38,831	39,427	38,510	38,886	38,401	40,293	-1.5	-3.6
Educational	17,174	17,436	17,644	17,359	17,792	19,120	-1.5	-10.2
Religious	6,496	6,412	6,105	6,857	6,997	7,040	1.3	-7.7
Amusement and recreation	8,289	8,421	8,530	8,835	9,312	10,425	-1.6	-20.5
Transportation	9,682	9,726	9,829	9,426	8,664	9,739	-0.5	-0.6
Communication	20,059	20,024	21,134	21,130	19,929	25,016	0.2	-19.8
Power	78,301	78,960	78,703	77,233	72,677	71,272	-0.8	9.9
Manufacturing	83,961	83,194	85,383	84,134	81,963	57,286	0.9	46.6
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>327,615</b>	<b>329,906</b>	<b>318,524</b>	<b>317,237</b>	<b>316,303</b>	<b>310,448</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Residential	8,637	8,335	7,736	7,643	7,621	7,756	3.6	11.4
Nonresidential	318,978	321,571	310,788	309,594	308,682	302,692	-0.8	5.4
Office	15,949	15,583	14,588	15,036	14,822	13,554	2.3	17.7
Commercial	4,297	4,416	3,972	3,687	4,133	3,645	-2.7	17.9
Health care	11,020	10,677	10,229	9,222	9,426	8,532	3.2	29.2
Educational	90,847	92,000	90,113	90,668	91,374	86,965	-1.3	4.5
Public safety	14,353	14,510	14,420	13,795	13,720	12,109	-1.1	18.5
Amusement and recreation	11,903	11,895	11,016	11,083	10,784	11,029	0.1	7.9
Transportation	25,585	25,681	24,551	23,463	23,056	24,939	-0.4	2.6
Power	12,793	13,841	13,981	14,863	13,066	11,525	-7.6	11.0
Highway and street	83,793	84,668	81,298	80,168	79,235	80,972	-1.0	3.5
Sewage and waste disposal	25,038	25,486	24,865	25,461	26,635	24,596	-1.8	1.8
Water supply	16,906	16,308	15,265	15,693	15,664	17,837	3.7	-5.2
Conservation and development	5,706	5,781	5,767	5,759	6,088	6,107	-1.3	-6.6

<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 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	Jul 2009 <sup>P</sup>	Jun 2009 <sup>r</sup>	May 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Apr 2009	Mar 2009	Jul 2008	Year-to-date		Percent change
							Jul 2009	Jul 2008	
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>88,714</b>	<b>86,628</b>	<b>80,952</b>	<b>78,292</b>	<b>73,472</b>	<b>99,100</b>	<b>543,750</b>	<b>613,511</b>	<b>-11.4</b>
Residential	24,652	22,842	21,785	21,276	19,439	33,483	146,486	212,980	-31.2
Nonresidential	64,062	63,786	59,167	57,016	54,033	65,617	397,264	400,531	-0.8
Lodging	2,005	2,188	2,372	2,526	2,612	3,105	16,581	20,847	-20.5
Office	5,053	5,089	4,981	4,910	5,068	6,159	34,705	40,413	-14.1
Commercial	5,118	5,187	5,270	5,345	5,381	7,663	36,463	50,439	-27.7
Health care	4,168	4,310	4,084	3,979	3,911	4,095	27,795	26,841	3.6
Educational	10,809	10,390	9,015	8,520	7,970	10,535	61,089	58,917	3.7
Religious	556	529	501	549	547	610	3,764	3,996	-5.8
Public safety	1,270	1,265	1,210	1,160	1,088	1,094	8,123	6,998	16.1
Amusement and recreation	1,767	1,785	1,693	1,686	1,584	1,866	11,393	12,529	-9.1
Transportation	3,167	3,096	2,856	2,645	2,335	3,038	18,565	18,822	-1.4
Communication	1,713	1,815	1,681	1,730	1,669	2,192	11,512	15,737	-26.8
Power	7,962	8,096	7,670	7,449	6,953	7,157	50,751	44,473	14.1
Highway and street	9,215	8,786	6,939	5,815	4,665	8,927	43,276	42,526	1.8
Sewage and waste disposal	2,256	2,307	2,150	2,093	2,029	2,220	14,234	13,907	2.4
Water supply	1,474	1,437	1,310	1,323	1,285	1,588	9,140	9,439	-3.2
Conservation and development	496	476	437	464	487	515	3,183	3,000	6.1
Manufacturing	7,033	7,032	6,998	6,825	6,450	4,852	46,689	31,648	47.5
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>56,855</b>	<b>55,618</b>	<b>54,084</b>	<b>53,364</b>	<b>50,991</b>	<b>68,989</b>	<b>367,065</b>	<b>445,299</b>	<b>-17.6</b>
Residential	23,881	22,087	21,118	20,638	18,851	32,803	141,921	208,871	-32.1
Nonresidential	32,974	33,531	32,966	32,727	32,140	36,186	225,144	236,427	-4.8
Lodging	2,000	2,183	2,367	2,519	2,604	3,081	16,534	20,521	-19.4
Office	3,657	3,726	3,738	3,665	3,893	4,982	26,079	33,181	-21.4
Commercial	4,740	4,804	4,941	5,035	5,058	7,355	34,246	48,409	-29.3
Health care	3,258	3,392	3,227	3,200	3,107	3,389	22,118	21,966	0.7
Educational	1,615	1,612	1,543	1,449	1,350	1,767	10,191	10,665	-4.4
Religious	555	529	501	549	547	610	3,761	3,978	-5.5
Amusement and recreation	697	710	714	762	772	882	5,103	6,197	-17.7
Transportation	819	841	836	768	663	808	5,211	5,568	-6.4
Communication	1,711	1,811	1,677	1,726	1,667	2,182	11,486	15,638	-26.6
Power	6,854	6,850	6,367	6,153	5,961	6,143	43,294	37,642	15.0
Manufacturing	6,975	6,980	6,948	6,777	6,403	4,812	46,350	31,356	47.8
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>31,859</b>	<b>31,010</b>	<b>26,868</b>	<b>24,928</b>	<b>22,481</b>	<b>30,111</b>	<b>176,685</b>	<b>168,213</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Residential	771	755	667	638	588	681	4,565	4,109	11.1
Nonresidential	31,088	30,255	26,201	24,290	21,894	29,431	172,120	164,104	4.9
Office	1,396	1,363	1,244	1,246	1,175	1,177	8,626	7,232	19.3
Commercial	379	382	328	310	323	308	2,217	2,029	9.3
Health care	910	918	857	778	804	706	5,677	4,875	16.5
Educational	9,193	8,778	7,472	7,071	6,619	8,768	50,898	48,252	5.5
Public safety	1,246	1,238	1,172	1,127	1,061	1,037	7,897	6,576	20.1
Amusement and recreation	1,070	1,075	980	924	813	984	6,290	6,333	-0.7
Transportation	2,348	2,255	2,020	1,877	1,672	2,230	13,354	13,254	0.8
Power	1,109	1,246	1,303	1,296	992	1,014	7,458	6,832	9.2
Highway and street	9,207	8,775	6,931	5,798	4,656	8,910	43,208	42,387	1.9
Sewage and waste disposal	2,224	2,275	2,109	2,050	2,003	2,172	13,998	13,593	3.0
Water supply	1,448	1,416	1,289	1,294	1,241	1,542	8,918	9,040	-1.3
Conservation and development	493	475	436	461	478	509	3,165	2,968	6.6

<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>0.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Residential	3.9	3.9	5.2	4.7	6.2
Nonresidential	0.9	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1
Lodging	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.0	1.6
Office	2.4	2.2	2.7	1.6	2.4
Commercial	3.0	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.8
Health care	1.8	1.6	2.3	1.1	2.8
Educational	2.1	1.5	2.3	2.0	2.9
Religious	5.4	4.3	4.4	3.7	5.8
Public safety	3.0	2.0	3.4	1.6	3.9
Amusement and recreation	3.7	3.3	3.7	3.5	4.4
Transportation	2.5	1.8	2.2	2.7	2.9
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.8
Highway and street	3.6	2.3	3.0	4.4	4.5
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.5	3.3	2.9	4.1
Water supply	3.7	2.4	3.4	3.8	5.4
Conservation and development	3.4	1.7	4.3	3.3	4.6
Manufacturing	1.4	1.3	2.3	0.6	2.2
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.6	1.0
Lodging	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.0	1.6
Office	3.2	3.1	2.8	2.0	2.5
Commercial	3.1	2.5	1.8	1.9	1.8
Health care	2.2	2.0	2.7	1.2	3.2
Educational	3.6	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.5
Religious	5.4	4.3	4.4	3.7	5.8
Amusement and recreation	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.0	5.3
Transportation	9.2	7.7	6.0	6.0	6.7
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.6
Manufacturing	1.4	1.3	2.3	0.6	2.2
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Residential	3.9	3.9	5.2	4.7	6.2
Nonresidential	1.3	0.9	1.3	1.6	1.9
Office	2.4	1.6	5.6	2.2	4.3
Commercial	6.4	4.8	6.5	5.1	9.7
Health care	2.9	2.3	4.0	2.2	4.8
Educational	2.4	1.7	2.7	2.3	3.4
Public safety	3.1	2.0	3.6	1.6	4.1
Amusement and recreation	5.1	4.5	5.7	5.1	7.3
Transportation	2.6	1.9	2.4	2.9	3.2
Power	5.6	3.5	9.7	2.5	6.3
Highway and street	3.6	2.3	3.0	4.4	4.5
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.5	3.3	2.9	4.1
Water supply	3.9	2.5	3.5	3.8	5.5
Conservation and development	3.4	1.7	4.3	3.3	4.7

NA Not applicable