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## SEPTEMBER 2009 CONSTRUCTION AT \$940.3 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during September 2009 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$940.3 billion, 0.8 percent ( $\pm 1.8\%$ )\* above the revised August estimate of \$933.0 billion. The September figure is 13.0 percent ( $\pm 1.9\%$ ) below the September 2008 estimate of \$1,081.2 billion.

During the first 9 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$715.2 billion, 12.1 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) below the \$813.3 billion for the same period in 2008.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$613.9 billion, 0.5 percent ( $\pm 1.1\%$ )\* above the revised August estimate of \$610.9 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$256.0 billion in September, 3.9 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) above the revised August estimate of \$246.4 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$357.9 billion in September, 1.8 percent ( $\pm 1.1\%$ ) below the revised August estimate of \$364.5 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In September, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$326.4 billion, 1.3 percent ( $\pm 2.9\%$ )\* above the revised August estimate of \$322.1 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$88.7 billion, 0.1 percent ( $\pm 3.4\%$ )\* below the revised August estimate of \$88.8 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$85.5 billion, 1.0 percent ( $\pm 7.8\%$ )\* above the revised August estimate of \$84.6 billion.

*October 2009 data will be released on December 1, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. EST.*

*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.

\* 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	Sep 2009 <sup>p</sup>	Aug 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Jul 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2009	May 2009	Sep 2008	Percent change Sep 2009 from -	
							Aug 2009	Sep 2008
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>940,280</b>	<b>932,952</b>	<b>934,235</b>	<b>945,137</b>	<b>958,347</b>	<b>1,081,182</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-13.0</b>
Residential	264,105	254,231	245,898	245,279	249,143	358,146	3.9	-26.3
Nonresidential	676,175	678,721	688,337	699,858	709,204	723,036	-0.4	-6.5
Lodging	23,060	23,450	24,409	27,479	28,458	37,042	-1.7	-37.7
Office	53,928	54,252	55,978	57,164	58,693	72,396	-0.6	-25.5
Commercial	53,827	54,468	55,720	57,922	62,742	80,949	-1.2	-33.5
Health care	47,933	47,688	48,344	50,317	48,740	48,568	0.5	-1.3
Educational	105,230	105,275	105,213	108,056	107,757	104,670	0.0	0.5
Religious	6,233	6,237	6,234	6,442	6,105	7,190	-0.1	-13.3
Public safety	14,023	13,688	14,530	15,312	14,870	12,717	2.4	10.3
Amusement and recreation	18,248	18,464	19,286	19,798	19,546	21,212	-1.2	-14.0
Transportation	37,903	37,145	37,817	35,231	34,380	34,168	2.0	10.9
Communication	19,811	20,018	20,062	20,076	21,191	23,552	-1.0	-15.9
Power	90,489	91,591	90,799	92,164	92,684	83,918	-1.2	7.8
Highway and street	85,625	84,727	85,497	84,430	81,403	83,340	1.1	2.7
Sewage and waste disposal	24,600	24,125	23,945	24,407	25,324	25,205	2.0	-2.4
Water supply	16,423	16,154	16,472	16,190	15,543	17,115	1.7	-4.0
Conservation and development	5,261	5,716	5,706	5,656	5,778	4,735	-8.0	11.1
Manufacturing	73,582	75,724	78,325	79,215	85,991	66,262	-2.8	11.0
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>613,880</b>	<b>610,857</b>	<b>608,434</b>	<b>619,535</b>	<b>639,823</b>	<b>773,616</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-20.6</b>
Residential	255,969	246,389	237,273	236,970	241,407	350,445	3.9	-27.0
Nonresidential	357,912	364,468	371,161	382,565	398,415	423,171	-1.8	-15.4
Lodging	23,006	23,393	24,334	27,427	28,399	36,780	-1.7	-37.4
Office	38,976	39,412	39,967	42,103	44,106	58,432	-1.1	-33.3
Commercial	49,861	50,468	51,795	53,541	58,770	77,870	-1.2	-36.0
Health care	37,178	37,452	37,784	39,930	38,510	39,888	-0.7	-6.8
Educational	16,553	16,490	16,221	17,001	17,644	19,237	0.4	-14.0
Religious	6,183	6,222	6,213	6,439	6,105	7,120	-0.6	-13.2
Amusement and recreation	6,884	7,332	7,906	8,244	8,530	9,864	-6.1	-30.2
Transportation	9,018	9,038	9,368	9,395	9,829	10,074	-0.2	-10.5
Communication	19,790	20,006	20,033	20,020	21,134	23,398	-1.1	-15.4
Power	76,233	78,359	78,747	78,812	78,703	72,709	-2.7	4.8
Manufacturing	72,980	75,127	77,633	78,603	85,383	65,757	-2.9	11.0
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>326,400</b>	<b>322,095</b>	<b>325,801</b>	<b>325,603</b>	<b>318,524</b>	<b>307,566</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Residential	8,136	7,842	8,626	8,310	7,736	7,702	3.7	5.6
Nonresidential	318,264	314,254	317,175	317,293	310,788	299,865	1.3	6.1
Office	14,953	14,840	16,011	15,061	14,588	13,964	0.8	7.1
Commercial	3,966	4,000	3,925	4,381	3,972	3,078	-0.9	28.8
Health care	10,755	10,236	10,560	10,388	10,229	8,680	5.1	23.9
Educational	88,677	88,785	88,992	91,055	90,113	85,433	-0.1	3.8
Public safety	13,729	13,384	14,241	15,017	14,420	12,211	2.6	12.4
Amusement and recreation	11,364	11,132	11,380	11,555	11,016	11,347	2.1	0.1
Transportation	28,884	28,107	28,449	25,836	24,551	24,095	2.8	19.9
Power	14,256	13,232	12,052	13,352	13,981	11,208	7.7	27.2
Highway and street	85,486	84,634	85,399	84,303	81,298	83,186	1.0	2.8
Sewage and waste disposal	24,064	23,594	23,500	24,081	24,865	24,514	2.0	-1.8
Water supply	16,170	15,943	16,164	15,897	15,265	16,490	1.4	-1.9
Conservation and development	5,233	5,686	5,687	5,646	5,767	4,670	-8.0	12.1

<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	Sep 2009 <sup>P</sup>	Aug 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Jul 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2009	May 2009	Sep 2008	Year-to-date		
							Sep 2009	Sep 2008	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>86,743</b>	<b>88,468</b>	<b>86,192</b>	<b>85,352</b>	<b>80,952</b>	<b>99,008</b>	<b>715,163</b>	<b>813,306</b>	<b>-12.1</b>
Residential	24,078	25,457	23,398	22,487	21,785	32,012	194,412	279,356	-30.4
Nonresidential	62,665	63,011	62,795	62,865	59,167	66,996	520,752	533,950	-2.5
Lodging	1,922	1,954	2,034	2,290	2,372	3,087	20,589	27,087	-24.0
Office	4,897	4,654	4,788	4,923	4,981	6,519	43,826	53,090	-17.4
Commercial	4,903	4,898	4,877	5,044	5,270	7,436	45,880	65,452	-29.9
Health care	4,173	4,025	4,032	4,328	4,084	4,218	35,876	35,167	2.0
Educational	9,613	10,576	10,560	10,287	9,015	9,559	80,926	79,289	2.1
Religious	555	557	533	533	501	641	4,856	5,233	-7.2
Public safety	1,359	1,168	1,270	1,311	1,210	1,215	10,695	9,294	15.1
Amusement and recreation	1,627	1,628	1,685	1,753	1,693	1,891	14,534	16,294	-10.8
Transportation	3,610	3,468	3,413	3,069	2,856	3,202	25,861	25,158	2.8
Communication	1,677	1,640	1,713	1,815	1,681	2,038	14,828	19,654	-24.6
Power	8,015	8,112	7,914	8,156	7,670	7,515	66,890	59,203	13.0
Highway and street	9,644	9,654	9,417	8,669	6,939	9,481	62,657	61,217	2.4
Sewage and waste disposal	2,264	2,182	2,107	2,138	2,150	2,308	18,361	18,453	-0.5
Water supply	1,460	1,428	1,411	1,406	1,310	1,554	11,934	12,549	-4.9
Conservation and development	591	495	509	460	437	537	4,267	4,027	6.0
Manufacturing	6,357	6,572	6,535	6,684	6,998	5,797	58,772	42,785	37.4
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>54,493</b>	<b>56,474</b>	<b>54,393</b>	<b>54,792</b>	<b>54,084</b>	<b>68,504</b>	<b>474,744</b>	<b>583,770</b>	<b>-18.7</b>
Residential	23,311	24,778	22,628	21,733	21,118	31,272	188,403	273,825	-31.2
Nonresidential	31,182	31,696	31,765	33,059	32,966	37,233	286,341	309,946	-7.6
Lodging	1,917	1,949	2,028	2,286	2,367	3,065	20,531	26,704	-23.1
Office	3,452	3,331	3,380	3,595	3,738	5,169	32,455	43,318	-25.1
Commercial	4,506	4,539	4,539	4,665	4,941	7,117	42,951	62,799	-31.6
Health care	3,192	3,190	3,158	3,435	3,227	3,447	28,443	28,777	-1.2
Educational	1,395	1,543	1,517	1,563	1,543	1,636	12,982	14,052	-7.6
Religious	550	556	531	532	501	635	4,848	5,206	-6.9
Amusement and recreation	578	616	669	699	714	843	6,258	7,902	-20.8
Transportation	795	792	791	807	836	887	6,736	7,308	-7.8
Communication	1,676	1,639	1,711	1,811	1,677	2,025	14,800	19,529	-24.2
Power	6,699	6,913	6,869	6,941	6,367	6,468	57,012	50,253	13.4
Manufacturing	6,307	6,523	6,477	6,633	6,948	5,755	58,334	42,407	37.6
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>32,250</b>	<b>31,994</b>	<b>31,799</b>	<b>30,560</b>	<b>26,868</b>	<b>30,504</b>	<b>240,419</b>	<b>229,535</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Residential	767	679	770	754	667	741	6,009	5,531	8.6
Nonresidential	31,483	31,315	31,030	29,806	26,201	29,763	234,410	224,004	4.6
Office	1,445	1,323	1,408	1,328	1,244	1,351	11,370	9,773	16.3
Commercial	397	360	338	378	328	320	2,929	2,653	10.4
Health care	981	835	874	893	857	771	7,433	6,390	16.3
Educational	8,218	9,033	9,043	8,724	7,472	7,923	67,944	65,237	4.1
Public safety	1,332	1,141	1,244	1,285	1,172	1,168	10,416	8,772	18.7
Amusement and recreation	1,049	1,011	1,016	1,055	980	1,048	8,276	8,392	-1.4
Transportation	2,815	2,676	2,621	2,262	2,020	2,315	19,125	17,850	7.1
Power	1,316	1,199	1,046	1,215	1,303	1,046	9,878	8,950	10.4
Highway and street	9,630	9,645	9,408	8,657	6,931	9,466	62,567	61,052	2.5
Sewage and waste disposal	2,217	2,136	2,070	2,106	2,109	2,253	18,027	18,037	-0.1
Water supply	1,435	1,407	1,388	1,384	1,289	1,490	11,668	12,004	-2.8
Conservation and development	589	493	507	459	436	531	4,244	3,983	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>0.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Residential	4.2	2.8	3.6	3.8	4.8
Nonresidential	0.9	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.2
Lodging	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5
Office	2.3	2.0	2.4	1.6	2.2
Commercial	3.2	2.3	1.7	2.6	2.5
Health care	1.8	1.6	2.1	1.1	2.1
Educational	2.1	1.5	2.2	1.9	2.7
Religious	5.5	3.5	3.8	5.0	4.6
Public safety	2.9	2.0	3.2	1.9	3.7
Amusement and recreation	3.8	3.1	3.4	2.5	4.0
Transportation	2.8	2.1	2.6	3.1	6.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.9
Highway and street	3.6	1.7	2.4	4.9	5.2
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.3	2.8	3.2	4.4
Water supply	3.8	2.4	3.2	2.6	4.3
Conservation and development	3.1	1.6	3.9	2.5	5.4
Manufacturing	1.4	1.1	1.9	0.7	1.3
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.9
Lodging	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5
Office	3.2	2.7	2.6	2.2	2.3
Commercial	3.4	2.5	1.7	2.8	2.5
Health care	2.2	1.9	2.5	1.2	2.2
Educational	3.6	2.8	2.9	2.5	3.2
Religious	5.5	3.5	3.9	5.0	4.6
Amusement and recreation	5.4	4.5	4.0	3.7	4.0
Transportation	9.9	7.7	5.9	6.5	7.8
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6
Manufacturing	1.4	1.1	1.9	0.7	1.4
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Residential	4.2	2.8	3.6	3.8	4.8
Nonresidential	1.3	0.7	1.2	1.8	2.2
Office	2.2	2.0	4.6	1.5	3.8
Commercial	6.6	4.9	6.5	7.3	13.1
Health care	2.8	2.3	3.7	2.2	5.6
Educational	2.4	1.7	2.6	2.1	3.3
Public safety	3.0	2.0	3.4	1.9	3.9
Amusement and recreation	5.0	4.3	5.3	3.4	6.7
Transportation	2.9	2.2	2.8	3.2	6.4
Power	4.5	3.6	7.3	3.9	10.8
Highway and street	3.6	1.7	2.5	4.9	5.2
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.3	2.9	3.3	4.5
Water supply	3.9	2.5	3.3	2.6	4.4
Conservation and development	3.1	1.6	3.9	2.5	5.4

NA Not applicable