

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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

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## MAY 2009 CONSTRUCTION AT \$964.0 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during May 2009 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$964.0 billion, 0.9 percent ( $\pm 1.1\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$972.5 billion. The May figure is 11.6 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ ) below the May 2008 estimate of \$1,090.7 billion.

During the first 5 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$368.8 billion, 11.7 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ ) below the \$417.5 billion for the same period in 2008.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$649.2 billion, 1.0 percent ( $\pm 1.1\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$655.6 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$240.2 billion in May, 3.4 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) below the revised April estimate of \$248.8 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$409.0 billion in May, 0.5 percent ( $\pm 1.1\%$ )\* above the revised April estimate of \$406.9 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In May, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$314.9 billion, 0.6 percent ( $\pm 1.9\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$316.9 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$91.3 billion, 0.5 percent ( $\pm 2.7\%$ )\* above the revised April estimate of \$90.8 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$78.5 billion, 1.3 percent ( $\pm 6.6\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$79.5 billion.

*June 2009 data will be released on August 3, 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.

In this May 2009 press release, normal revisions to the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data were made back to January 2007.

\* 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 2009 <sup>p</sup>	Apr 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Mar 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2009 <sup>r</sup>	May 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Percent change May 2009 from -	
							Apr 2009	May 2008
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>964,048</b>	<b>972,508</b>	<b>966,699</b>	<b>970,413</b>	<b>974,294</b>	<b>1,090,708</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-11.6</b>
Residential	247,376	256,422	256,479	268,715	286,408	370,822	-3.5	-33.3
Nonresidential	716,672	716,086	710,220	701,698	687,887	719,886	0.1	-0.4
Lodging	31,021	31,855	31,339	29,231	29,327	37,746	-2.6	-17.8
Office	61,311	61,685	62,905	63,467	63,622	69,749	-0.6	-12.1
Commercial	63,644	67,034	69,087	69,986	69,975	88,931	-5.1	-28.4
Health care	47,997	47,877	47,827	47,917	46,021	47,193	0.3	1.7
Educational	109,180	108,319	109,166	105,325	103,520	105,483	0.8	3.5
Religious	6,766	7,036	6,997	7,166	7,044	7,043	-3.8	-3.9
Public safety	14,133	14,142	14,068	13,961	14,655	12,693	-0.1	11.3
Amusement and recreation	19,994	20,281	20,096	20,178	19,409	22,772	-1.4	-12.2
Transportation	33,599	33,119	31,720	31,383	31,663	33,174	1.4	1.3
Communication	21,270	21,208	19,959	19,916	21,200	29,816	0.3	-28.7
Power	91,717	89,796	85,743	83,378	79,468	81,451	2.1	12.6
Highway and street	78,612	79,737	79,380	81,528	79,273	79,187	-1.4	-0.7
Sewage and waste disposal	26,152	26,150	27,003	24,417	24,556	24,752	0.0	5.7
Water supply	16,005	16,180	16,217	16,149	15,461	17,144	-1.1	-6.6
Conservation and development	5,787	5,896	6,196	5,856	4,941	5,098	-1.8	13.5
Manufacturing	89,486	85,770	82,516	81,840	77,755	57,656	4.3	55.2
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>649,198</b>	<b>655,645</b>	<b>650,396</b>	<b>660,897</b>	<b>673,846</b>	<b>786,244</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-17.4</b>
Residential	240,245	248,794	248,859	260,813	278,786	363,536	-3.4	-33.9
Nonresidential	408,954	406,851	401,537	400,083	395,060	422,708	0.5	-3.3
Lodging	30,943	31,769	31,243	29,135	29,209	37,399	-2.6	-17.3
Office	46,644	46,583	48,084	48,418	49,014	57,001	0.1	-18.2
Commercial	59,675	63,278	64,954	66,470	66,712	85,217	-5.7	-30.0
Health care	38,450	38,752	38,401	38,567	37,439	38,682	-0.8	-0.6
Educational	17,911	17,518	17,792	17,773	17,921	18,207	2.2	-1.6
Religious	6,766	7,036	6,997	7,160	7,038	6,992	-3.8	-3.2
Amusement and recreation	8,712	8,915	9,312	9,354	8,937	11,220	-2.3	-22.4
Transportation	9,758	9,413	8,664	8,523	8,884	9,212	3.7	5.9
Communication	21,215	21,167	19,929	19,884	21,135	29,603	0.2	-28.3
Power	78,406	75,555	72,677	71,851	69,882	69,977	3.8	12.0
Manufacturing	88,899	85,226	81,963	81,314	77,252	57,139	4.3	55.6
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>314,850</b>	<b>316,863</b>	<b>316,303</b>	<b>309,516</b>	<b>300,448</b>	<b>304,464</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Residential	7,131	7,628	7,621	7,901	7,622	7,286	-6.5	-2.1
Nonresidential	307,718	309,234	308,682	301,615	292,826	297,178	-0.5	3.5
Office	14,667	15,103	14,822	15,048	14,607	12,747	-2.9	15.1
Commercial	3,969	3,756	4,133	3,516	3,263	3,714	5.7	6.9
Health care	9,546	9,124	9,426	9,350	8,582	8,511	4.6	12.2
Educational	91,269	90,801	91,374	87,552	85,599	87,276	0.5	4.6
Public safety	13,724	13,801	13,720	13,446	14,147	12,027	-0.6	14.1
Amusement and recreation	11,281	11,366	10,784	10,824	10,472	11,553	-0.7	-2.4
Transportation	23,842	23,706	23,056	22,861	22,779	23,962	0.6	-0.5
Power	13,311	14,241	13,066	11,527	9,585	11,474	-6.5	16.0
Highway and street	78,484	79,500	79,235	81,438	79,159	79,012	-1.3	-0.7
Sewage and waste disposal	25,616	25,621	26,635	23,967	24,123	24,166	0.0	6.0
Water supply	15,519	15,672	15,664	15,586	14,901	16,548	-1.0	-6.2
Conservation and development	5,771	5,871	6,088	5,839	4,919	5,062	-1.7	14.0

<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 2009 <sup>P</sup>	Apr 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Mar 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2009 <sup>r</sup>	May 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Year-to-date		Percent change
							May 2009	May 2008	
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>81,289</b>	<b>78,327</b>	<b>73,472</b>	<b>67,865</b>	<b>67,827</b>	<b>93,045</b>	<b>368,780</b>	<b>417,544</b>	<b>-11.7</b>
Residential	21,486	20,723	19,439	17,736	18,758	32,372	98,142	146,559	-33.0
Nonresidential	59,803	57,603	54,033	50,130	49,069	60,673	270,638	270,985	-0.1
Lodging	2,585	2,655	2,612	2,436	2,444	3,146	12,731	14,569	-12.6
Office	5,217	5,165	5,068	4,826	4,778	5,951	25,054	28,205	-11.2
Commercial	5,339	5,497	5,381	5,111	5,052	7,557	26,380	35,020	-24.7
Health care	4,031	3,985	3,911	3,735	3,609	3,985	19,271	18,658	3.3
Educational	9,132	8,546	7,970	7,178	7,207	8,825	40,033	38,341	4.4
Religious	556	569	547	548	534	580	2,753	2,813	-2.1
Public safety	1,154	1,159	1,088	1,022	1,107	1,045	5,530	4,849	14.0
Amusement and recreation	1,731	1,712	1,584	1,476	1,402	1,975	7,906	8,759	-9.7
Transportation	2,803	2,678	2,335	2,217	2,248	2,758	12,281	12,850	-4.4
Communication	1,681	1,730	1,669	1,430	1,473	2,466	7,983	11,323	-29.5
Power	7,569	7,258	6,953	6,522	6,100	6,700	34,402	30,493	12.8
Highway and street	6,676	5,824	4,665	4,068	3,787	6,949	25,021	25,503	-1.9
Sewage and waste disposal	2,212	2,122	2,029	1,689	1,710	2,120	9,762	9,495	2.8
Water supply	1,358	1,333	1,285	1,200	1,112	1,451	6,287	6,290	0.0
Conservation and development	439	471	487	432	393	402	2,223	2,052	8.3
Manufacturing	7,320	6,901	6,450	6,240	6,112	4,765	33,022	21,764	51.7
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>54,731</b>	<b>53,326</b>	<b>50,991</b>	<b>47,761</b>	<b>48,392</b>	<b>67,108</b>	<b>255,201</b>	<b>308,129</b>	<b>-17.2</b>
Residential	20,870	20,088	18,851	17,141	18,205	31,741	95,155	143,791	-33.8
Nonresidential	33,861	33,238	32,140	30,620	30,187	35,367	160,046	164,338	-2.6
Lodging	2,579	2,647	2,604	2,428	2,434	3,117	12,692	14,295	-11.2
Office	3,954	3,912	3,893	3,721	3,680	4,848	19,160	23,301	-17.8
Commercial	5,012	5,180	5,058	4,856	4,812	7,249	24,917	33,634	-25.9
Health care	3,230	3,210	3,107	2,990	2,944	3,282	15,481	15,194	1.9
Educational	1,554	1,476	1,350	1,292	1,330	1,616	7,002	7,190	-2.6
Religious	556	569	547	547	533	576	2,752	2,801	-1.7
Amusement and recreation	724	758	772	744	705	944	3,702	4,428	-16.4
Transportation	828	772	663	611	674	778	3,547	3,959	-10.4
Communication	1,677	1,726	1,667	1,427	1,467	2,448	7,964	11,247	-29.2
Power	6,347	6,000	5,961	5,692	5,418	5,615	29,418	25,797	14.0
Manufacturing	7,271	6,855	6,403	6,196	6,071	4,722	32,796	21,551	52.2
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>26,558</b>	<b>25,001</b>	<b>22,481</b>	<b>20,104</b>	<b>19,435</b>	<b>25,937</b>	<b>113,579</b>	<b>109,415</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Residential	617	636	588	594	553	631	2,987	2,768	7.9
Nonresidential	25,941	24,365	21,894	19,510	18,882	25,306	110,592	106,647	3.7
Office	1,264	1,253	1,175	1,105	1,098	1,103	5,894	4,904	20.2
Commercial	327	317	323	256	240	308	1,463	1,386	5.6
Health care	801	775	804	745	665	704	3,790	3,464	9.4
Educational	7,578	7,070	6,619	5,886	5,878	7,210	33,031	31,151	6.0
Public safety	1,120	1,132	1,061	985	1,069	990	5,366	4,545	18.1
Amusement and recreation	1,007	954	813	732	697	1,031	4,203	4,331	-3.0
Transportation	1,975	1,906	1,672	1,606	1,575	1,981	8,734	8,892	-1.8
Power	1,222	1,258	992	830	682	1,085	4,984	4,696	6.1
Highway and street	6,667	5,807	4,656	4,062	3,779	6,935	24,971	25,398	-1.7
Sewage and waste disposal	2,164	2,078	2,003	1,659	1,680	2,066	9,583	9,289	3.2
Water supply	1,319	1,291	1,241	1,159	1,071	1,402	6,081	5,988	1.6
Conservation and development	438	469	478	431	391	399	2,207	2,028	8.8

<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>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	
Residential	3.3	3.0	4.7	3.4	4.9	
Nonresidential	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.7	1.0	
Lodging	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.0	1.9	
Office	2.5	2.4	3.0	1.4	3.0	
Commercial	3.0	2.4	2.0	2.0	1.9	
Health care	1.9	1.7	2.3	1.1	2.4	
Educational	2.1	1.8	2.5	1.5	2.8	
Religious	5.2	4.9	5.2	4.1	5.3	
Public safety	3.1	2.1	3.5	1.6	4.1	
Amusement and recreation	3.4	3.4	3.8	1.8	4.0	
Transportation	2.6	1.8	2.4	1.5	2.5	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.1	
Highway and street	3.5	2.2	2.9	4.0	3.3	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.7	3.7	3.0	4.1	
Water supply	3.7	2.6	3.5	3.5	4.9	
Conservation and development	3.6	1.8	5.3	1.6	5.8	
Manufacturing	1.4	1.6	2.4	1.7	2.2	
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.4	
Nonresidential	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.0	
Lodging	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.0	2.0	
Office	3.2	3.3	3.1	1.9	3.3	
Commercial	3.1	2.5	2.0	2.1	1.9	
Health care	2.3	2.1	2.6	1.2	2.7	
Educational	3.5	3.2	3.6	2.0	3.5	
Religious	5.2	4.9	5.2	4.1	5.3	
Amusement and recreation	4.7	5.1	4.9	1.9	3.8	
Transportation	8.8	8.3	6.3	4.9	7.1	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.8	
Manufacturing	1.4	1.6	2.5	1.8	2.3	
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>	
Residential	3.3	3.0	4.7	3.4	4.9	
Nonresidential	1.3	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.6	
Office	2.5	1.7	6.9	1.8	5.1	
Commercial	6.1	4.7	6.5	3.2	9.1	
Health care	2.9	2.4	4.0	2.2	5.2	
Educational	2.4	2.0	2.9	1.7	3.3	
Public safety	3.2	2.2	3.8	1.6	4.4	
Amusement and recreation	4.8	4.6	5.8	2.7	6.9	
Transportation	2.6	1.9	2.6	1.5	2.7	
Power	6.4	4.3	13.6	3.6	16.4	
Highway and street	3.5	2.2	2.9	4.1	3.3	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.6	3.7	3.1	4.1	
Water supply	3.9	2.7	3.7	3.6	5.1	
Conservation and development	3.6	1.8	5.4	1.6	5.9	

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	2008 <sup>r</sup>	2007 <sup>r</sup>	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,072,132</b>	<b>1,150,688</b>	<b>-6.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Residential	357,408	500,468	-28.6	1.7
Nonresidential	714,724	650,220	9.9	0.5
Lodging	35,818	28,706	24.8	1.4
Office	70,305	65,259	7.7	1.9
Commercial	84,942	89,684	-5.3	1.9
Health care	47,699	43,766	9.0	1.4
Educational	104,081	96,758	7.6	1.3
Religious	7,125	7,540	-5.5	3.4
Public safety	12,936	10,201	26.8	1.9
Amusement and recreation	21,488	21,212	1.3	2.2
Transportation	33,953	31,877	6.5	1.7
Communication	25,649	27,580	-7.0	NA
Power	80,160	59,305	35.2	0.8
Highway and street	81,801	76,682	6.7	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	25,143	24,872	1.1	1.9
Water supply	16,951	15,798	7.3	2.3
Conservation and development	5,405	5,260	2.8	2.4
Manufacturing	61,269	45,720	34.0	1.3
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>766,170</b>	<b>861,615</b>	<b>-11.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Residential	350,078	493,246	-29.0	1.1
Nonresidential	416,092	368,369	13.0	0.7
Lodging	35,379	27,481	28.7	1.4
Office	57,084	53,815	6.1	2.3
Commercial	81,495	85,858	-5.1	2.0
Health care	39,101	35,588	9.9	1.7
Educational	18,585	16,691	11.3	2.6
Religious	7,097	7,522	-5.7	3.4
Public safety	650	595	9.2	6.8
Amusement and recreation	10,316	10,193	1.2	3.1
Transportation	9,896	9,009	9.8	5.5
Communication	25,496	27,488	-7.2	NA
Power	68,702	47,365	45.0	0.7
Sewage and waste disposal	548	408	34.3	22.2
Water supply	696	516	34.9	5.7
Manufacturing	60,784	45,303	34.2	1.3
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>305,962</b>	<b>289,073</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Residential	7,330	7,222	1.5	1.7
Nonresidential	298,632	281,852	6.0	0.7
Office	13,222	11,445	15.5	1.9
Commercial	3,447	3,827	-9.9	4.6
Health care	8,598	8,179	5.1	2.3
Educational	85,496	80,068	6.8	1.4
Public safety	12,286	9,606	27.9	1.9
Amusement and recreation	11,172	11,019	1.4	3.1
Transportation	24,057	22,868	5.2	1.8
Power	11,457	11,940	-4.0	4.7
Highway and street	81,592	76,248	7.0	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	24,596	24,464	0.5	1.9
Water supply	16,255	15,282	6.4	2.4
Conservation and development	5,350	5,155	3.8	2.4

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.