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DECEMBER 2009 CONSTRUCTION AT \$902.5 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during December 2009 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$902.5 billion, 1.2 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* below the revised November estimate of \$913.2 billion. The December figure is 9.9 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$) below the December 2008 estimate of \$1,002.1 billion.

The value of construction in 2009 was \$939.1 billion, 12.4 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) below the \$1,072.1 billion spent in 2008.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$593.0 billion, 1.2 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) below the revised November estimate of \$599.9 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$260.4 billion in December, 2.8 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) below the revised November estimate of \$268.1 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$332.5 billion in December, 0.2 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$)* above the revised November estimate of \$331.8 billion.

The value of private construction in 2009 was \$621.8 billion, 18.8 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) below the \$766.2 billion spent in 2008. Residential construction in 2009 was \$252.2 billion, 28.0 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) below the 2008 figure of \$350.1 billion and nonresidential construction was \$369.6 billion, 11.2 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) below the \$416.1 billion in 2008.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In December, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$309.6 billion, 1.2 percent ($\pm 1.9\%$)* below the revised November estimate of \$313.3 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$80.3 billion, 0.4 percent ($\pm 2.9\%$)* below the revised November estimate of \$80.6 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$83.7 billion, 2.3 percent ($\pm 4.8\%$)* below the revised November estimate of \$85.7 billion.

The value of public construction in 2009 was \$317.3 billion, 3.7 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$) above the \$306.0 billion spent in 2008. Educational construction in 2009 was \$86.3 billion, 0.9 percent ($\pm 3.2\%$)* above the 2008 figure of \$85.5 billion and highway construction was \$84.6 billion, 3.7 percent ($\pm 3.5\%$) above the \$81.6 billion in 2008.

January 2010 data will be released on March 1, 2010 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 (± 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	Dec 2009 ^P	Nov 2009 ^r	Oct 2009 ^r	Sep 2009	Aug 2009	Dec 2008	Percent change Dec 2009 from -	
							Nov 2009	Dec 2008
Total Construction	902,545	913,191	923,888	910,461	925,524	1,002,128	-1.2	-9.9
Residential	268,699	276,235	280,117	251,563	252,733	299,389	-2.7	-10.3
Nonresidential	633,846	636,957	643,771	658,897	672,791	702,739	-0.5	-9.8
Lodging	17,285	18,728	20,118	21,689	23,232	32,062	-7.7	-46.1
Office	49,177	48,389	49,674	49,927	53,947	66,625	1.6	-26.2
Commercial	48,190	47,789	47,738	51,681	52,677	74,131	0.8	-35.0
Health care	45,460	44,178	45,597	45,527	47,223	49,200	2.9	-7.6
Educational	96,176	95,872	96,979	99,578	103,326	101,845	0.3	-5.6
Religious	6,107	5,944	5,775	6,073	6,138	7,278	2.7	-16.1
Public safety	14,189	13,703	13,583	14,067	14,039	14,604	3.5	-2.8
Amusement and recreation	15,906	16,403	17,575	17,802	18,450	20,342	-3.0	-21.8
Transportation	35,482	36,200	36,447	37,886	37,259	32,844	-2.0	8.0
Communication	20,350	19,684	19,572	20,369	20,025	22,002	3.4	-7.5
Power	91,732	88,817	86,618	91,710	91,792	80,830	3.3	13.5
Highway and street	83,853	85,822	89,536	88,338	85,663	80,850	-2.3	3.7
Sewage and waste disposal	24,884	25,770	24,220	24,750	24,424	25,786	-3.4	-3.5
Water supply	15,451	16,740	15,261	15,621	15,740	17,582	-7.7	-12.1
Conservation and development	6,397	6,460	6,787	5,334	5,687	6,158	-1.0	3.9
Manufacturing	63,207	66,460	68,292	68,547	73,170	70,600	-4.9	-10.5
Total Private Construction ¹	592,957	599,873	606,626	590,459	605,167	696,560	-1.2	-14.9
Residential	260,448	268,075	271,846	243,231	244,651	292,307	-2.8	-10.9
Nonresidential	332,510	331,798	334,780	347,229	360,517	404,253	0.2	-17.7
Lodging	17,065	18,478	19,974	21,631	23,177	31,799	-7.6	-46.3
Office	33,426	32,748	34,567	35,307	39,300	51,584	2.1	-35.2
Commercial	44,403	44,126	43,979	47,998	48,848	70,965	0.6	-37.4
Health care	35,426	34,561	35,370	34,966	37,222	40,409	2.5	-12.3
Educational	15,918	15,278	15,472	16,324	16,822	18,273	4.2	-12.9
Religious	6,065	5,903	5,751	5,994	6,123	7,278	2.7	-16.7
Amusement and recreation	5,854	5,785	6,356	6,554	7,334	9,224	1.2	-36.5
Transportation	8,538	8,721	8,853	9,049	9,142	9,953	-2.1	-14.2
Communication	20,308	19,622	19,519	20,348	20,013	21,921	3.5	-7.4
Power	81,058	79,024	75,687	79,560	78,628	71,059	2.6	14.1
Manufacturing	62,728	66,039	67,826	67,949	72,565	70,165	-5.0	-10.6
Total Public Construction ²	309,588	313,319	317,262	320,001	320,356	305,568	-1.2	1.3
Residential	8,252	8,159	8,271	8,332	8,083	7,082	1.1	16.5
Nonresidential	301,337	305,159	308,991	311,669	312,274	298,486	-1.3	1.0
Office	15,751	15,641	15,107	14,620	14,647	15,041	0.7	4.7
Commercial	3,787	3,663	3,759	3,683	3,829	3,167	3.4	19.6
Health care	10,034	9,618	10,227	10,561	10,001	8,791	4.3	14.1
Educational	80,258	80,593	81,507	83,255	86,503	83,572	-0.4	-4.0
Public safety	13,494	13,083	13,072	13,498	13,544	14,147	3.1	-4.6
Amusement and recreation	10,052	10,618	11,220	11,248	11,116	11,119	-5.3	-9.6
Transportation	26,945	27,479	27,594	28,837	28,117	22,891	-1.9	17.7
Power	10,674	9,793	10,931	12,150	13,164	9,771	9.0	9.2
Highway and street	83,743	85,671	89,405	88,170	85,574	80,724	-2.3	3.7
Sewage and waste disposal	24,369	25,366	23,673	24,208	23,906	25,435	-3.9	-4.2
Water supply	15,083	16,443	15,047	15,377	15,530	16,936	-8.3	-10.9
Conservation and development	6,366	6,417	6,762	5,307	5,657	6,114	-0.8	4.1

^P Preliminary ^r Revised

¹ 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.

² 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	Dec 2009 ^P	Nov 2009 ^r	Oct 2009 ^r	Sep 2009	Aug 2009	Dec 2008	Year-to-date		
							Dec 2009	Dec 2008	Percent change
Total Construction	68,461	75,470	82,623	84,662	87,895	77,203	939,063	1,072,132	-12.4
Residential	19,229	22,114	25,319	23,424	25,278	21,894	260,240	357,408	-27.2
Nonresidential	49,232	53,356	57,304	61,238	62,618	55,309	678,823	714,724	-5.0
Lodging	1,440	1,561	1,677	1,807	1,936	2,672	25,134	35,818	-29.8
Office	3,844	4,013	4,229	4,519	4,640	5,241	55,519	70,305	-21.0
Commercial	3,745	4,013	4,208	4,664	4,723	5,773	57,431	84,942	-32.4
Health care	3,693	3,716	3,896	3,996	4,004	4,028	46,982	47,699	-1.5
Educational	7,035	7,675	8,131	9,058	10,417	7,511	103,052	104,081	-1.0
Religious	497	528	515	536	546	588	6,365	7,125	-10.7
Public safety	1,196	1,171	1,145	1,363	1,204	1,230	14,246	12,936	10.1
Amusement and recreation	1,250	1,377	1,546	1,595	1,629	1,603	18,676	21,488	-13.1
Transportation	2,816	3,226	3,421	3,598	3,488	2,628	35,332	33,953	4.1
Communication	2,024	1,659	1,724	1,745	1,640	2,170	20,303	25,649	-20.8
Power	7,337	7,247	7,487	8,169	8,139	6,698	89,144	80,160	11.2
Highway and street	5,215	7,225	9,186	10,023	9,770	5,137	84,777	81,801	3.6
Sewage and waste disposal	1,931	2,269	2,286	2,263	2,216	1,989	24,881	25,143	-1.0
Water supply	1,194	1,420	1,378	1,389	1,398	1,361	15,824	16,951	-6.6
Conservation and development	552	535	480	593	488	534	5,828	5,405	7.8
Manufacturing	5,464	5,724	5,997	5,920	6,382	6,148	75,329	61,269	22.9
Total Private Construction ¹	45,954	49,350	53,812	52,918	55,977	54,812	621,788	766,170	-18.8
Residential	18,561	21,446	24,635	22,632	24,576	21,318	252,164	350,078	-28.0
Nonresidential	27,393	27,903	29,177	30,286	31,401	33,494	369,624	416,092	-11.2
Lodging	1,422	1,540	1,665	1,803	1,931	2,650	25,025	35,379	-29.3
Office	2,593	2,760	2,975	3,115	3,345	4,071	40,460	57,084	-29.1
Commercial	3,445	3,700	3,910	4,299	4,379	5,516	53,639	81,495	-34.2
Health care	2,863	2,916	3,074	3,018	3,185	3,295	37,116	39,101	-5.1
Educational	1,224	1,223	1,321	1,376	1,578	1,405	16,766	18,585	-9.8
Religious	493	524	513	529	545	588	6,345	7,097	-10.6
Amusement and recreation	476	478	541	551	617	747	7,726	10,316	-25.1
Transportation	723	787	797	806	804	832	9,066	9,896	-8.4
Communication	2,020	1,654	1,719	1,744	1,639	2,163	20,261	25,496	-20.5
Power	6,571	6,503	6,570	7,033	6,924	5,991	77,000	68,702	12.1
Manufacturing	5,424	5,689	5,958	5,870	6,331	6,112	74,777	60,784	23.0
Total Public Construction ²	22,507	26,120	28,811	31,744	31,918	22,391	317,275	305,962	3.7
Residential	668	668	683	792	702	577	8,076	7,330	10.2
Nonresidential	21,839	25,453	28,127	30,952	31,216	21,814	309,199	298,632	3.5
Office	1,251	1,254	1,253	1,405	1,294	1,170	15,059	13,222	13.9
Commercial	301	313	297	365	344	257	3,792	3,447	10.0
Health care	830	800	821	978	820	733	9,866	8,598	14.7
Educational	5,811	6,451	6,811	7,682	8,839	6,106	86,286	85,496	0.9
Public safety	1,142	1,118	1,099	1,310	1,159	1,196	13,770	12,286	12.1
Amusement and recreation	774	899	1,005	1,044	1,012	856	10,951	11,172	-2.0
Transportation	2,093	2,440	2,623	2,792	2,684	1,796	26,266	24,057	9.2
Power	767	745	918	1,136	1,215	707	12,144	11,457	6.0
Highway and street	5,207	7,209	9,173	10,007	9,761	5,128	84,647	81,592	3.7
Sewage and waste disposal	1,887	2,232	2,235	2,215	2,171	1,959	24,414	24,596	-0.7
Water supply	1,163	1,397	1,358	1,364	1,376	1,313	15,484	16,255	-4.7
Conservation and development	549	532	478	591	485	530	5,797	5,350	8.4

^P Preliminary ^r Revised

¹ 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.

² 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	
Total Construction	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	
Residential	4.2	2.4	3.1	2.6	4.4	
Nonresidential	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	
Lodging	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.0	1.4	
Office	2.3	1.8	2.1	1.2	2.7	
Commercial	3.4	2.1	1.3	3.0	2.0	
Health care	2.0	1.5	1.8	1.1	2.3	
Educational	2.0	1.3	1.7	1.6	2.4	
Religious	5.5	3.0	3.1	3.3	6.1	
Public safety	3.0	2.0	2.7	2.9	4.3	
Amusement and recreation	3.8	2.8	2.7	2.2	2.8	
Transportation	2.8	2.1	2.4	1.7	3.6	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.7	
Highway and street	3.5	1.5	2.2	3.0	5.4	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	1.9	2.3	3.1	4.1	
Water supply	3.6	2.1	2.6	3.3	4.6	
Conservation and development	2.6	1.4	3.4	1.9	4.9	
Manufacturing	1.5	1.0	1.4	0.9	1.2	
Total Private Construction	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.9	
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4	
Nonresidential	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.9	
Lodging	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.0	1.4	
Office	3.2	2.5	2.2	1.6	2.7	
Commercial	3.7	2.2	1.4	3.3	1.9	
Health care	2.4	1.8	2.1	1.3	2.5	
Educational	3.5	2.6	2.7	2.1	3.7	
Religious	5.6	3.0	3.2	3.4	6.1	
Amusement and recreation	5.5	4.1	3.2	3.8	3.4	
Transportation	10.4	6.9	5.1	7.1	7.1	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.6	
Manufacturing	1.5	1.0	1.4	0.9	1.3	
Total Public Construction	1.3	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.7	
Residential	4.2	2.4	3.1	2.6	4.4	
Nonresidential	1.3	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.7	
Office	2.2	1.8	3.6	1.7	4.3	
Commercial	7.5	4.9	6.5	4.4	10.8	
Health care	2.7	2.0	3.1	1.9	4.6	
Educational	2.3	1.5	2.0	1.8	2.8	
Public safety	3.1	2.0	2.8	2.9	4.4	
Amusement and recreation	5.1	3.9	4.3	2.6	4.2	
Transportation	2.8	2.2	2.6	1.8	3.8	
Power	4.1	3.1	5.7	2.2	6.9	
Highway and street	3.5	1.5	2.2	3.0	5.4	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	2.0	2.3	3.1	4.1	
Water supply	3.7	2.1	2.6	3.2	4.6	
Conservation and development	2.6	1.4	3.4	1.9	4.9	

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	2009 ^P	2008	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
Total Construction	939,063	1,072,132	-12.4	0.5
Residential	260,240	357,408	-27.2	2.4
Nonresidential	678,823	714,724	-5.0	0.5
Lodging	25,134	35,818	-29.8	1.8
Office	55,519	70,305	-21.0	1.8
Commercial	57,431	84,942	-32.4	2.1
Health care	46,982	47,699	-1.5	1.5
Educational	103,052	104,081	-1.0	1.3
Religious	6,365	7,125	-10.7	3.0
Public safety	14,246	12,936	10.1	2.0
Amusement and recreation	18,676	21,488	-13.1	2.8
Transportation	35,332	33,953	4.1	2.1
Communication	20,303	25,649	-20.8	NA
Power	89,144	80,160	11.2	0.5
Highway and street	84,777	81,801	3.6	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	24,881	25,143	-1.0	1.9
Water supply	15,824	16,951	-6.6	2.1
Conservation and development	5,828	5,405	7.8	1.4
Manufacturing	75,329	61,269	22.9	1.0
Total Private Construction ¹	621,788	766,170	-18.8	0.7
Residential	252,164	350,078	-28.0	1.1
Nonresidential	369,624	416,092	-11.2	0.7
Lodging	25,025	35,379	-29.3	1.8
Office	40,460	57,084	-29.1	2.5
Commercial	53,639	81,495	-34.2	2.2
Health care	37,116	39,101	-5.1	1.8
Educational	16,766	18,585	-9.8	2.6
Religious	6,345	7,097	-10.6	3.0
Public safety	476	650	-26.8	6.5
Amusement and recreation	7,726	10,316	-25.1	4.1
Transportation	9,066	9,896	-8.4	6.9
Communication	20,261	25,496	-20.5	NA
Power	77,000	68,702	12.1	0.5
Sewage and waste disposal	467	548	-14.8	11.6
Water supply	340	696	-51.1	8.6
Manufacturing	74,777	60,784	23.0	1.0
Total Public Construction ²	317,275	305,962	3.7	0.7
Residential	8,076	7,330	10.2	2.4
Nonresidential	309,199	298,632	3.5	0.7
Office	15,059	13,222	13.9	1.8
Commercial	3,792	3,447	10.0	4.9
Health care	9,866	8,598	14.7	2.0
Educational	86,286	85,496	0.9	1.5
Public safety	13,770	12,286	12.1	2.0
Amusement and recreation	10,951	11,172	-2.0	3.9
Transportation	26,266	24,057	9.2	2.2
Power	12,144	11,457	6.0	3.1
Highway and street	84,647	81,592	3.7	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	24,414	24,596	-0.7	2.0
Water supply	15,484	16,255	-4.7	2.1
Conservation and development	5,797	5,350	8.4	1.4

NA Not Applicable ^P Preliminary

¹ Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: highway and street, and conservation and development.

² Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately: lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.