

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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## FEBRUARY 2010 CONSTRUCTION AT \$846.2 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during February 2010 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$846.2 billion, 1.3 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* below the revised January estimate of \$857.8 billion. The February figure is 12.8 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) below the February 2009 estimate of \$970.4 billion.

During the first 2 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$116.2 billion, 14.4 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) below the \$135.7 billion for the same period in 2009.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$553.5 billion, 1.2 percent ( $\pm 1.1\%$ ) below the revised January estimate of \$560.1 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$250.8 billion in February, 2.1 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) below the revised January estimate of \$256.2 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$302.7 billion in February, 0.4 percent ( $\pm 1.1\%$ )\* below the revised January estimate of \$303.8 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In February, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$292.7 billion, 1.7 percent ( $\pm 1.9\%$ )\* below the revised January estimate of \$297.7 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$77.5 billion, 0.8 percent ( $\pm 3.0\%$ )\* below the revised January estimate of \$78.1 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$79.8 billion, 2.1 percent ( $\pm 7.4\%$ )\* below the revised January estimate of \$81.4 billion.

*March 2010 data will be released on May 3, 2010 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, 1.2 percent; private construction, 1.9 percent; and public construction, 1.2 percent.

In the May 2010 press release, revisions to unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data will revise back to January 2004 to incorporate and benchmark to the 2008 detailed structures data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Capital Expenditures Survey.

\* 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	Feb 2010 <sup>P</sup>	Jan 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Nov 2009	Oct 2009	Feb 2009	Percent change Feb 2010 from -	
							Jan 2010	Feb 2009
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>846,233</b>	<b>857,803</b>	<b>869,855</b>	<b>900,755</b>	<b>923,888</b>	<b>970,413</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>-12.8</b>
Residential	258,491	264,000	262,200	273,222	280,117	268,715	-2.1	-3.8
Nonresidential	587,742	593,802	607,656	627,532	643,771	701,698	-1.0	-16.2
Lodging	13,888	14,801	17,300	18,781	20,118	29,231	-6.2	-52.5
Office	43,677	44,843	45,909	47,412	49,674	63,467	-2.6	-31.2
Commercial	44,621	46,117	48,065	47,873	47,738	69,986	-3.2	-36.2
Health care	40,794	41,438	42,241	42,564	45,597	47,917	-1.6	-14.9
Educational	92,109	92,690	92,358	94,729	96,979	105,325	-0.6	-12.5
Religious	5,515	5,547	5,593	5,769	5,775	7,166	-0.6	-23.0
Public safety	13,049	12,970	13,436	13,867	13,583	13,961	0.6	-6.5
Amusement and recreation	15,647	15,995	15,690	16,584	17,575	20,178	-2.2	-22.5
Transportation	34,979	35,048	34,989	35,960	36,447	31,383	-0.2	11.5
Communication	19,936	19,799	20,102	19,639	19,572	19,916	0.7	0.1
Power	87,676	86,742	86,513	87,633	86,618	83,378	1.1	5.2
Highway and street	79,908	81,549	81,787	84,636	89,536	81,528	-2.0	-2.0
Sewage and waste disposal	23,694	24,953	24,945	25,402	24,220	24,417	-5.0	-3.0
Water supply	13,094	13,724	15,392	16,140	15,261	16,149	-4.6	-18.9
Conservation and development	5,884	6,057	6,076	6,215	6,787	5,856	-2.9	0.5
Manufacturing	53,273	51,531	57,262	64,331	68,292	81,840	3.4	-34.9
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>553,491</b>	<b>560,061</b>	<b>569,617</b>	<b>590,631</b>	<b>606,626</b>	<b>660,897</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-16.3</b>
Residential	250,776	256,218	253,764	265,026	271,846	260,813	-2.1	-3.8
Nonresidential	302,715	303,842	315,853	325,605	334,780	400,083	-0.4	-24.3
Lodging	13,609	14,581	17,093	18,545	19,974	29,135	-6.7	-53.3
Office	29,961	30,563	31,543	32,067	34,567	48,418	-2.0	-38.1
Commercial	41,355	42,859	44,520	43,964	43,979	66,470	-3.5	-37.8
Health care	31,962	32,654	32,722	32,980	35,370	38,567	-2.1	-17.1
Educational	14,653	14,619	14,483	14,884	15,472	17,773	0.2	-17.6
Religious	5,468	5,505	5,555	5,725	5,751	7,160	-0.7	-23.6
Amusement and recreation	5,068	5,243	5,589	5,908	6,356	9,354	-3.3	-45.8
Transportation	8,173	8,311	8,522	8,639	8,853	8,523	-1.7	-4.1
Communication	19,901	19,759	20,053	19,595	19,519	19,884	0.7	0.1
Power	78,292	77,250	77,435	77,897	75,687	71,851	1.3	9.0
Manufacturing	52,767	51,034	56,821	63,879	67,826	81,314	3.4	-35.1
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>292,742</b>	<b>297,742</b>	<b>300,239</b>	<b>310,124</b>	<b>317,262</b>	<b>309,516</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>-5.4</b>
Residential	7,715	7,782	8,436	8,197	8,271	7,901	-0.9	-2.4
Nonresidential	285,027	289,960	291,803	301,927	308,991	301,615	-1.7	-5.5
Office	13,716	14,280	14,366	15,345	15,107	15,048	-3.9	-8.9
Commercial	3,266	3,258	3,545	3,908	3,759	3,516	0.2	-7.1
Health care	8,832	8,783	9,518	9,584	10,227	9,350	0.6	-5.5
Educational	77,456	78,071	77,875	79,845	81,507	87,552	-0.8	-11.5
Public safety	12,518	12,504	12,846	13,300	13,072	13,446	0.1	-6.9
Amusement and recreation	10,579	10,752	10,101	10,676	11,220	10,824	-1.6	-2.3
Transportation	26,806	26,738	26,467	27,321	27,594	22,861	0.3	17.3
Power	9,384	9,492	9,078	9,736	10,931	11,527	-1.1	-18.6
Highway and street	79,761	81,434	81,686	84,477	89,405	81,438	-2.1	-2.1
Sewage and waste disposal	23,165	24,471	24,500	25,014	23,673	23,967	-5.3	-3.3
Water supply	12,802	13,340	15,039	15,776	15,047	15,586	-4.0	-17.9
Conservation and development	5,877	6,040	6,045	6,172	6,762	5,839	-2.7	0.7

<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	Feb 2010 <sup>P</sup>	Jan 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Nov 2009	Oct 2009	Feb 2009	Year-to-date		
							Feb 2010	Feb 2009	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>58,023</b>	<b>58,193</b>	<b>66,041</b>	<b>74,449</b>	<b>82,623</b>	<b>67,865</b>	<b>116,215</b>	<b>135,692</b>	<b>-14.4</b>
Residential	16,775	16,940	18,754	21,805	25,319	17,736	33,715	36,493	-7.6
Nonresidential	41,247	41,253	47,287	52,644	57,304	50,130	82,500	99,199	-16.8
Lodging	1,157	1,233	1,442	1,565	1,677	2,436	2,391	4,880	-51.0
Office	3,300	3,366	3,608	3,936	4,229	4,826	6,666	9,604	-30.6
Commercial	3,271	3,315	3,766	4,021	4,208	5,111	6,587	10,163	-35.2
Health care	3,153	3,218	3,421	3,600	3,896	3,735	6,371	7,344	-13.2
Educational	6,288	6,412	6,755	7,586	8,131	7,178	12,700	14,385	-11.7
Religious	419	416	452	515	515	548	835	1,082	-22.8
Public safety	957	968	1,125	1,185	1,145	1,022	1,925	2,130	-9.6
Amusement and recreation	1,111	1,128	1,230	1,392	1,546	1,476	2,239	2,878	-22.2
Transportation	2,388	2,451	2,779	3,203	3,421	2,217	4,839	4,465	8.4
Communication	1,426	1,300	1,992	1,658	1,724	1,430	2,726	2,903	-6.1
Power	6,766	6,543	6,998	7,137	7,487	6,522	13,310	12,622	5.5
Highway and street	3,914	3,773	5,102	7,120	9,186	4,068	7,687	7,855	-2.1
Sewage and waste disposal	1,655	1,754	1,926	2,244	2,286	1,689	3,409	3,399	0.3
Water supply	959	975	1,200	1,372	1,378	1,200	1,934	2,311	-16.3
Conservation and development	439	464	533	523	480	432	903	825	9.5
Manufacturing	4,044	3,936	4,959	5,587	5,997	6,240	7,981	12,353	-35.4
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>39,192</b>	<b>39,177</b>	<b>44,218</b>	<b>48,575</b>	<b>53,812</b>	<b>47,761</b>	<b>78,370</b>	<b>96,153</b>	<b>-18.5</b>
Residential	16,203	16,374	18,073	21,135	24,635	17,141	32,578	35,346	-7.8
Nonresidential	22,989	22,803	26,145	27,441	29,177	30,620	45,792	60,807	-24.7
Lodging	1,134	1,215	1,424	1,545	1,665	2,428	2,349	4,862	-51.7
Office	2,295	2,290	2,472	2,707	2,975	3,721	4,585	7,401	-38.0
Commercial	3,034	3,088	3,482	3,678	3,910	4,856	6,122	9,667	-36.7
Health care	2,463	2,549	2,632	2,791	3,074	2,990	5,012	5,934	-15.5
Educational	1,061	1,049	1,108	1,193	1,321	1,292	2,110	2,622	-19.5
Religious	415	412	448	511	513	547	827	1,081	-23.5
Amusement and recreation	403	407	456	490	541	744	810	1,449	-44.1
Transportation	558	613	728	782	797	611	1,171	1,284	-8.8
Communication	1,423	1,297	1,988	1,654	1,719	1,427	2,720	2,895	-6.0
Power	6,092	5,880	6,364	6,408	6,570	5,692	11,972	11,110	7.8
Manufacturing	4,002	3,895	4,922	5,550	5,958	6,196	7,897	12,267	-35.6
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>18,830</b>	<b>19,015</b>	<b>21,823</b>	<b>25,874</b>	<b>28,811</b>	<b>20,104</b>	<b>37,845</b>	<b>39,539</b>	<b>-4.3</b>
Residential	572	566	682	670	683	594	1,137	1,147	-0.9
Nonresidential	18,258	18,450	21,142	25,204	28,127	19,510	36,708	38,392	-4.4
Office	1,005	1,076	1,136	1,229	1,253	1,105	2,081	2,203	-5.5
Commercial	237	228	284	343	297	256	465	496	-6.3
Health care	690	669	790	810	821	745	1,358	1,410	-3.7
Educational	5,227	5,363	5,647	6,394	6,811	5,886	10,590	11,764	-10.0
Public safety	918	932	1,080	1,137	1,099	985	1,850	2,054	-9.9
Amusement and recreation	707	721	774	902	1,005	732	1,429	1,430	-0.1
Transportation	1,830	1,838	2,052	2,422	2,623	1,606	3,668	3,181	15.3
Power	674	664	634	728	918	830	1,338	1,512	-11.5
Highway and street	3,904	3,765	5,095	7,104	9,173	4,062	7,669	7,841	-2.2
Sewage and waste disposal	1,618	1,722	1,889	2,209	2,235	1,659	3,340	3,338	0.1
Water supply	937	944	1,171	1,343	1,358	1,159	1,881	2,230	-15.7
Conservation and development	439	462	531	520	478	431	901	822	9.6

<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>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	
Residential	4.2	2.9	3.4	2.9	3.8	
Nonresidential	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Lodging	2.5	5.5	2.5	1.6	2.6	
Office	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.1	1.7	
Commercial	3.6	3.6	1.8	2.2	1.8	
Health care	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.8	
Educational	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.7	2.0	
Religious	5.6	6.6	6.2	4.2	6.2	
Public safety	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.7	3.4	
Amusement and recreation	3.8	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.1	
Transportation	2.7	2.2	2.6	1.5	2.5	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.8	
Highway and street	3.4	3.2	3.9	4.5	4.7	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	2.5	3.5	2.7	3.9	
Water supply	3.5	3.2	3.9	3.8	4.2	
Conservation and development	2.6	2.3	4.2	2.4	4.2	
Manufacturing	1.5	1.9	1.2	1.3	1.1	
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4	
Nonresidential	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.8	
Lodging	2.5	5.6	2.5	1.6	2.6	
Office	3.3	3.7	2.1	1.6	2.0	
Commercial	3.9	3.9	1.8	2.4	1.8	
Health care	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.6	2.0	
Educational	3.5	3.5	3.3	2.9	3.4	
Religious	5.6	6.7	6.2	4.3	6.2	
Amusement and recreation	5.5	4.8	3.6	4.7	3.6	
Transportation	11.0	16.8	13.7	4.9	15.6	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.2	0.5	
Manufacturing	1.5	2.0	1.2	1.3	1.1	
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	
Residential	4.2	2.9	3.4	2.9	3.8	
Nonresidential	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4	
Office	2.2	1.9	3.5	1.2	3.0	
Commercial	8.2	9.2	9.2	7.4	7.6	
Health care	2.7	2.3	3.1	2.5	3.3	
Educational	2.4	2.4	2.5	1.9	2.3	
Public safety	2.7	2.8	3.0	2.8	3.4	
Amusement and recreation	5.1	3.9	4.5	4.3	4.7	
Transportation	2.8	2.1	2.6	1.5	2.5	
Power	5.3	9.9	9.9	18.5	8.0	
Highway and street	3.4	3.2	3.9	4.6	4.7	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	2.5	3.5	2.7	4.0	
Water supply	3.6	3.2	3.9	3.9	4.2	
Conservation and development	2.6	2.3	4.2	2.4	4.2	

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 <sup>r</sup>	2008	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>935,622</b>	<b>1,072,132</b>	<b>-12.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Residential	259,456	357,408	-27.4	2.4
Nonresidential	676,165	714,724	-5.4	0.5
Lodging	25,139	35,818	-29.8	1.8
Office	55,205	70,305	-21.5	1.8
Commercial	57,460	84,942	-32.4	2.1
Health care	46,594	47,699	-2.3	1.5
Educational	102,684	104,081	-1.3	1.3
Religious	6,307	7,125	-11.5	3.0
Public safety	14,190	12,936	9.7	2.0
Amusement and recreation	18,671	21,488	-13.1	2.8
Transportation	35,272	33,953	3.9	2.1
Communication	20,270	25,649	-21.0	NA
Power	88,694	80,160	10.6	0.5
Highway and street	84,560	81,801	3.4	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	24,850	25,143	-1.2	1.9
Water supply	15,783	16,951	-6.9	2.1
Conservation and development	5,798	5,405	7.3	1.4
Manufacturing	74,688	61,269	21.9	1.0
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>619,277</b>	<b>766,170</b>	<b>-19.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Residential	251,364	350,078	-28.2	1.1
Nonresidential	367,913	416,092	-11.6	0.7
Lodging	25,033	35,379	-29.2	1.8
Office	40,286	57,084	-29.4	2.5
Commercial	53,654	81,495	-34.2	2.2
Health care	36,760	39,101	-6.0	1.8
Educational	16,619	18,585	-10.6	2.6
Religious	6,287	7,097	-11.4	3.0
Public safety	463	650	-28.8	8.3
Amusement and recreation	7,718	10,316	-25.2	4.1
Transportation	9,066	9,896	-8.4	6.9
Communication	20,229	25,496	-20.7	NA
Power	76,699	68,702	11.6	0.5
Sewage and waste disposal	458	548	-16.4	17.8
Water supply	345	696	-50.4	15.9
Manufacturing	74,135	60,784	22.0	1.0
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>316,345</b>	<b>305,962</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Residential	8,093	7,330	10.4	2.4
Nonresidential	308,252	298,632	3.2	0.7
Office	14,919	13,222	12.8	1.8
Commercial	3,807	3,447	10.4	4.9
Health care	9,835	8,598	14.4	2.0
Educational	86,065	85,496	0.7	1.5
Public safety	13,727	12,286	11.7	2.0
Amusement and recreation	10,953	11,172	-2.0	3.9
Transportation	26,206	24,057	8.9	2.2
Power	11,995	11,457	4.7	3.1
Highway and street	84,430	81,592	3.5	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	24,392	24,596	-0.8	2.0
Water supply	15,438	16,255	-5.0	2.1
Conservation and development	5,767	5,350	7.8	1.4

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.