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AUGUST 2010 CONSTRUCTION AT \$811.8 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during August 2010 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$811.8 billion, 0.4 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$)* above the revised July estimate of \$808.6 billion. The August figure is 10.0 percent ($\pm 1.9\%$) below the August 2009 estimate of \$901.8 billion.

During the first 8 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$539.4 billion, 11.2 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) below the \$607.5 billion for the same period in 2009.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$498.2 billion, 0.9 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$)* below the revised July estimate of \$502.6 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$238.5 billion in August, 0.3 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* below the revised July estimate of \$239.1 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$259.7 billion in August, 1.4 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) below the revised July estimate of \$263.5 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In August, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$313.6 billion, 2.5 percent ($\pm 2.4\%$) above the revised July estimate of \$306.0 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$74.0 billion, 0.8 percent ($\pm 4.5\%$)* below the revised July estimate of \$74.6 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$83.4 billion, 5.0 percent ($\pm 6.4\%$)* above the revised July estimate of \$79.4 billion.

September 2010 data will be released on November 1, 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 (± 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.

* 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	Aug 2010 ^p	Jul 2010 ^r	Jun 2010 ^r	May 2010	Apr 2010	Aug 2009	Percent change Aug 2010 from -	
							Jul 2010	Aug 2009
Total Construction	811,826	808,587	820,198	819,702	843,148	901,787	0.4	-10.0
Residential	249,129	249,089	257,802	261,159	273,686	250,518	0.0	-0.6
Nonresidential	562,697	559,498	562,397	558,543	569,461	651,269	0.6	-13.6
Lodging	11,161	11,252	11,388	11,604	11,630	23,274	-0.8	-52.0
Office	34,815	34,851	37,037	37,376	38,295	50,748	-0.1	-31.4
Commercial	39,398	40,276	41,210	42,046	41,929	50,048	-2.2	-21.3
Health care	40,139	39,629	39,732	39,530	39,549	44,527	1.3	-9.9
Educational	87,156	87,706	87,693	88,143	87,810	101,774	-0.6	-14.4
Religious	5,030	5,094	5,488	5,481	5,476	6,001	-1.3	-16.2
Public safety	12,620	12,099	12,345	12,349	12,566	13,685	4.3	-7.8
Amusement and recreation	17,791	17,640	17,167	16,159	16,931	18,465	0.9	-3.7
Transportation	39,247	38,707	40,072	40,706	42,868	41,177	1.4	-4.7
Communication	18,248	18,588	17,727	18,321	18,107	19,891	-1.8	-8.3
Power	84,589	86,859	81,622	78,686	80,662	95,837	-2.6	-11.7
Highway and street	83,638	79,582	82,191	80,363	82,227	82,754	5.1	1.1
Sewage and waste disposal	28,152	26,981	25,819	24,984	25,041	23,846	4.3	18.1
Water supply	16,569	16,137	15,772	15,391	15,052	15,431	2.7	7.4
Conservation and development	6,486	6,430	7,795	6,597	6,529	5,482	0.9	18.3
Manufacturing	37,658	37,666	39,340	40,808	44,790	58,330	0.0	-35.4
Total Private Construction ¹	498,200	502,602	510,663	519,118	538,350	585,058	-0.9	-14.8
Residential	238,461	239,094	247,698	251,813	264,229	242,490	-0.3	-1.7
Nonresidential	259,739	263,508	262,966	267,305	274,121	342,568	-1.4	-24.2
Lodging	10,585	10,744	10,890	11,243	11,328	23,204	-1.5	-54.4
Office	21,969	22,000	23,632	24,317	25,153	36,462	-0.1	-39.7
Commercial	36,792	37,868	38,567	39,523	39,462	46,155	-2.8	-20.3
Health care	29,918	29,906	30,250	30,539	30,286	34,945	0.0	-14.4
Educational	13,200	13,139	13,679	13,577	14,154	16,920	0.5	-22.0
Religious	4,993	5,050	5,437	5,430	5,410	5,992	-1.1	-16.7
Amusement and recreation	6,531	6,551	6,730	6,232	6,545	7,247	-0.3	-9.9
Transportation	8,274	8,429	8,510	8,238	8,297	8,873	-1.8	-6.8
Communication	18,217	18,550	17,698	18,209	18,054	19,879	-1.8	-8.4
Power	70,741	72,835	67,737	68,575	70,076	83,726	-2.9	-15.5
Manufacturing	36,971	37,058	38,705	40,197	44,122	57,714	-0.2	-35.9
Total Public Construction ²	313,626	305,985	309,535	300,584	304,798	316,729	2.5	-1.0
Residential	10,668	9,995	10,104	9,346	9,457	8,028	6.7	32.9
Nonresidential	302,958	295,990	299,431	291,238	295,341	308,701	2.4	-1.9
Office	12,846	12,851	13,405	13,059	13,142	14,287	0.0	-10.1
Commercial	2,606	2,408	2,643	2,523	2,467	3,893	8.2	-33.1
Health care	10,221	9,724	9,482	8,990	9,263	9,581	5.1	6.7
Educational	73,956	74,567	74,014	74,566	73,656	84,854	-0.8	-12.8
Public safety	12,408	11,888	12,171	12,088	12,212	13,181	4.4	-5.9
Amusement and recreation	11,260	11,089	10,437	9,928	10,386	11,218	1.5	0.4
Transportation	30,973	30,279	31,561	32,467	34,571	32,305	2.3	-4.1
Power	13,848	14,025	13,886	10,111	10,586	12,111	-1.3	14.3
Highway and street	83,376	79,378	82,037	80,187	82,090	82,666	5.0	0.9
Sewage and waste disposal	27,730	26,611	25,447	24,583	24,642	23,265	4.2	19.2
Water supply	15,980	15,596	15,408	15,015	14,722	15,185	2.5	5.2
Conservation and development	6,422	6,375	7,730	6,588	6,518	5,450	0.7	17.8

^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	Aug 2010 ^p	Jul 2010 ^r	Jun 2010 ^r	May 2010	Apr 2010	Aug 2009	Year-to-date		
							Aug 2010	Aug 2009	Percent change
Total Construction	77,992	74,253	74,440	69,673	68,259	85,530	539,401	607,520	-11.2
Residential	25,299	23,619	23,755	22,897	22,585	25,233	171,430	166,550	2.9
Nonresidential	52,693	50,634	50,685	46,776	45,673	60,297	367,971	440,970	-16.6
Lodging	930	938	949	967	969	1,940	8,068	18,913	-57.3
Office	3,018	2,978	3,210	3,194	3,225	4,365	25,108	37,077	-32.3
Commercial	3,525	3,570	3,645	3,579	3,478	4,512	27,475	38,857	-29.3
Health care	3,418	3,305	3,432	3,331	3,305	3,779	26,194	30,467	-14.0
Educational	8,845	8,697	8,377	7,371	6,946	10,373	59,401	71,526	-17.0
Religious	440	437	461	451	438	537	3,523	4,217	-16.5
Public safety	1,084	1,038	1,053	1,001	1,014	1,172	8,124	9,354	-13.1
Amusement and recreation	1,613	1,537	1,500	1,389	1,451	1,648	11,033	12,950	-14.8
Transportation	3,640	3,475	3,505	3,392	3,406	3,892	25,759	24,295	6.0
Communication	1,587	1,556	1,567	1,462	1,469	1,632	11,545	12,616	-8.5
Power	7,072	7,132	6,978	6,498	6,624	7,883	53,174	58,768	-9.5
Highway and street	9,599	8,478	8,324	6,856	5,867	9,490	50,950	51,743	-1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	2,580	2,378	2,272	2,110	2,023	2,179	16,569	15,921	4.1
Water supply	1,499	1,405	1,400	1,314	1,243	1,375	9,941	10,287	-3.4
Conservation and development	560	546	654	498	519	466	4,142	3,525	17.5
Manufacturing	3,282	3,165	3,358	3,364	3,698	5,055	26,967	40,452	-33.3
Total Private Construction ¹	46,637	44,992	45,532	44,391	44,441	53,813	341,961	399,797	-14.5
Residential	24,361	22,740	22,839	22,100	21,809	24,538	165,189	161,436	2.3
Nonresidential	22,276	22,252	22,694	22,291	22,633	29,276	176,772	238,361	-25.8
Lodging	882	895	908	937	944	1,934	7,818	18,847	-58.5
Office	1,886	1,854	2,041	2,091	2,128	3,117	16,358	27,312	-40.1
Commercial	3,295	3,370	3,421	3,372	3,285	4,166	25,754	36,433	-29.3
Health care	2,559	2,511	2,623	2,583	2,525	2,989	20,073	24,347	-17.6
Educational	1,225	1,222	1,263	1,204	1,183	1,601	9,373	11,809	-20.6
Religious	437	434	457	447	432	536	3,487	4,213	-17.2
Amusement and recreation	552	556	566	528	574	623	4,191	5,669	-26.1
Transportation	744	744	762	705	675	801	5,393	5,888	-8.4
Communication	1,585	1,553	1,565	1,452	1,464	1,631	11,513	12,589	-8.5
Power	5,738	5,885	5,688	5,563	5,681	6,744	45,385	50,237	-9.7
Manufacturing	3,224	3,115	3,305	3,313	3,642	5,004	26,569	40,090	-33.7
Total Public Construction ²	31,355	29,261	28,908	25,282	23,817	31,717	197,440	207,723	-5.0
Residential	938	878	917	797	777	696	6,241	5,114	22.0
Nonresidential	30,417	28,383	27,991	24,485	23,041	31,021	191,199	202,609	-5.6
Office	1,132	1,124	1,170	1,102	1,097	1,248	8,750	9,765	-10.4
Commercial	229	200	224	207	193	347	1,720	2,424	-29.0
Health care	859	794	809	749	780	790	6,121	6,120	0.0
Educational	7,620	7,475	7,114	6,167	5,763	8,772	50,028	59,717	-16.2
Public safety	1,065	1,020	1,038	979	985	1,126	7,921	9,038	-12.4
Amusement and recreation	1,061	981	934	861	876	1,025	6,842	7,282	-6.0
Transportation	2,896	2,731	2,743	2,687	2,731	3,091	20,366	18,407	10.6
Power	1,334	1,246	1,290	936	943	1,139	7,789	8,531	-8.7
Highway and street	9,574	8,461	8,310	6,843	5,857	9,482	50,847	51,675	-1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	2,542	2,347	2,235	2,077	1,991	2,129	16,310	15,581	4.7
Water supply	1,437	1,362	1,374	1,286	1,216	1,350	9,667	10,104	-4.3
Conservation and development	555	541	648	498	519	464	4,123	3,505	17.6

^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	1.1	1.2
Residential	3.7	2.8	4.6	3.1	6.8
Nonresidential	0.9	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.2
Lodging	3.7	3.2	1.6	2.4	2.2
Office	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.2	2.2
Commercial	3.5	2.2	1.7	1.9	2.3
Health care	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.3	2.4
Educational	2.0	1.5	1.8	2.5	2.6
Religious	5.7	4.5	5.0	2.7	5.8
Public safety	3.1	2.5	2.3	2.2	3.2
Amusement and recreation	3.6	2.6	3.1	3.1	5.2
Transportation	2.7	1.8	2.3	2.3	4.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.5	1.0
Highway and street	3.3	1.8	2.5	4.0	5.3
Sewage and waste disposal	2.9	1.8	2.8	4.0	5.6
Water supply	3.6	2.4	3.2	3.9	6.1
Conservation and development	2.7	1.7	3.0	4.3	6.9
Manufacturing	2.1	2.6	1.6	2.6	1.1
Total Private Construction	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8
Lodging	3.7	3.3	1.6	2.4	2.2
Office	2.9	2.0	1.7	1.8	2.5
Commercial	3.9	2.3	1.7	1.9	2.5
Health care	2.5	1.9	1.9	1.4	2.7
Educational	3.6	3.0	2.9	2.2	3.3
Religious	5.8	4.5	5.0	2.7	5.8
Amusement and recreation	5.1	3.9	3.9	2.3	5.2
Transportation	10.8	7.7	9.7	7.7	14.3
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3
Manufacturing	2.2	2.7	1.6	2.7	1.1
Total Public Construction	1.2	0.7	1.0	1.5	2.0
Residential	3.7	2.8	4.6	3.1	6.8
Nonresidential	1.2	0.7	1.1	1.5	2.1
Office	2.1	1.8	2.7	1.4	3.1
Commercial	7.9	6.3	5.1	6.9	6.5
Health care	2.4	1.7	2.6	2.7	4.1
Educational	2.3	1.7	2.1	2.8	3.1
Public safety	3.2	2.6	2.4	2.2	3.3
Amusement and recreation	4.8	3.4	4.7	4.6	8.0
Transportation	2.8	1.8	2.4	2.4	4.1
Power	5.6	6.3	7.0	3.6	11.6
Highway and street	3.3	1.8	2.5	4.0	5.3
Sewage and waste disposal	3.0	1.8	2.8	4.0	5.7
Water supply	3.6	2.5	3.3	4.1	6.1
Conservation and development	2.7	1.7	3.0	4.3	6.9

NA Not applicable