

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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## MARCH 2012 CONSTRUCTION AT \$808.1 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during March 2012 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$808.1 billion, 0.1 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$807.3 billion. The March figure is 6.0 percent ( $\pm 1.9\%$ ) above the March 2011 estimate of \$762.6 billion.

During the first 3 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$171.2 billion, 6.7 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ ) above the \$160.4 billion for the same period in 2011.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$531.9 billion, 0.7 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$528.1 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$244.1 billion in March, 0.7 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$242.5 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$287.8 billion in March, 0.7 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$285.7 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In March, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$276.2 billion, 1.1 percent ( $\pm 2.2\%$ )\* below the revised February estimate of \$279.1 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$69.1 billion, 1.2 percent ( $\pm 3.5\%$ )\* below the revised February estimate of \$70.0 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$77.0 billion, 0.8 percent ( $\pm 7.7\%$ )\* below the revised February estimate of \$77.6 billion.

*April 2012 data will be released on June 1, 2012 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, 1.3 percent; private construction, 1.7 percent; and public construction, 0.8 percent.

In the May 2012 press release, normal revisions to the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data will revise back to January 2010.

\* 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	Mar 2012 <sup>p</sup>	Feb 2012 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2012 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2011	Nov 2011	Mar 2011	Percent change Mar 2012 from -	
							Feb 2012	Mar 2011
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>808,069</b>	<b>807,270</b>	<b>818,604</b>	<b>824,768</b>	<b>816,042</b>	<b>762,557</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Residential	251,214	249,465	255,080	253,679	252,963	235,809	0.7	6.5
Nonresidential	556,854	557,805	563,524	571,089	563,079	526,748	-0.2	5.7
Lodging	9,001	8,496	8,639	8,512	8,808	8,753	5.9	2.8
Office	34,746	33,665	34,907	34,603	35,363	33,939	3.2	2.4
Commercial	43,829	44,617	45,551	44,325	44,312	40,258	-1.8	8.9
Health care	41,290	41,483	41,059	41,191	40,376	39,371	-0.5	4.9
Educational	84,377	85,228	85,844	85,456	86,185	84,004	-1.0	0.4
Religious	4,117	4,210	3,972	3,903	3,775	4,410	-2.2	-6.6
Public safety	10,515	10,931	10,666	10,689	10,455	9,828	-3.8	7.0
Amusement and recreation	15,395	15,721	16,150	15,723	15,874	15,660	-2.1	-1.7
Transportation	35,328	34,621	35,341	34,883	34,392	37,551	2.0	-5.9
Communication	17,520	17,331	17,597	18,005	16,877	17,681	1.1	-0.9
Power	95,931	96,054	98,674	102,161	98,792	80,506	-0.1	19.2
Highway and street	77,157	77,651	77,184	82,428	82,801	77,478	-0.6	-0.4
Sewage and waste disposal	23,941	24,638	24,473	24,428	23,696	23,768	-2.8	0.7
Water supply	12,791	13,361	14,052	13,441	13,873	14,223	-4.3	-10.1
Conservation and development	6,096	5,874	5,956	5,970	6,312	7,224	3.8	-15.6
Manufacturing	44,820	43,923	43,459	45,372	41,189	32,097	2.0	39.6
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>531,910</b>	<b>528,137</b>	<b>538,517</b>	<b>538,545</b>	<b>529,112</b>	<b>477,158</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>11.5</b>
Residential	244,110	242,461	247,854	246,534	245,543	227,254	0.7	7.4
New single family	116,884	112,598	114,115	110,764	108,785	105,923	3.8	10.3
New multi-family	16,594	17,117	16,527	16,429	16,270	13,460	-3.1	23.3
Nonresidential	287,800	285,675	290,663	292,011	283,569	249,904	0.7	15.2
Lodging	8,449	8,042	8,146	7,813	8,105	8,214	5.1	2.9
Office	23,709	22,496	23,099	22,764	22,875	21,823	5.4	8.6
Commercial	40,548	41,443	42,329	40,736	40,908	37,035	-2.2	9.5
Health care	30,825	30,919	30,711	30,553	29,815	28,810	-0.3	7.0
Educational	15,275	15,274	15,256	14,795	15,231	12,974	0.0	17.7
Religious	4,083	4,187	3,948	3,862	3,750	4,380	-2.5	-6.8
Amusement and recreation	6,126	6,332	6,581	6,682	6,945	5,598	-3.3	9.4
Transportation	11,277	10,570	11,341	11,318	11,212	10,486	6.7	7.5
Communication	17,191	17,134	17,363	17,787	16,701	17,628	0.3	-2.5
Power	85,199	85,044	87,534	90,003	86,233	69,771	0.2	22.1
Manufacturing	43,697	42,939	42,661	44,344	40,201	31,521	1.8	38.6
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>276,159</b>	<b>279,134</b>	<b>280,086</b>	<b>286,222</b>	<b>286,930</b>	<b>285,399</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-3.2</b>
Residential	7,104	7,004	7,225	7,145	7,419	8,555	1.4	-17.0
Nonresidential	269,054	272,130	272,861	279,078	279,510	276,844	-1.1	-2.8
Office	11,037	11,169	11,809	11,839	12,488	12,116	-1.2	-8.9
Commercial	3,281	3,174	3,222	3,589	3,404	3,224	3.4	1.8
Health care	10,465	10,564	10,348	10,638	10,561	10,561	-0.9	-0.9
Educational	69,102	69,954	70,588	70,661	70,954	71,031	-1.2	-2.7
Public safety	10,432	10,816	10,492	10,497	10,225	9,628	-3.6	8.4
Amusement and recreation	9,269	9,389	9,569	9,041	8,930	10,061	-1.3	-7.9
Transportation	24,051	24,051	24,000	23,565	23,180	27,065	0.0	-11.1
Power	10,733	11,011	11,140	12,158	12,559	10,735	-2.5	0.0
Highway and street	77,016	77,598	77,039	82,390	82,780	77,413	-0.8	-0.5
Sewage and waste disposal	23,278	24,047	23,760	23,961	23,037	22,989	-3.2	1.3
Water supply	12,345	12,927	13,496	12,880	13,282	13,656	-4.5	-9.6
Conservation and development	6,008	5,773	5,849	5,873	6,219	7,169	4.1	-16.2

<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	Mar 2012 <sup>P</sup>	Feb 2012 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2012 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2011	Nov 2011	Mar 2011	Year-to-date		
							Mar 2012	Mar 2011	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>59,772</b>	<b>55,247</b>	<b>56,158</b>	<b>63,344</b>	<b>69,773</b>	<b>56,731</b>	<b>171,177</b>	<b>160,422</b>	<b>6.7</b>
Residential	18,591	16,258	17,025	18,296	21,090	17,426	51,874	49,288	5.2
Nonresidential	41,181	38,990	39,133	45,049	48,684	39,305	119,304	111,133	7.4
Lodging	750	708	720	709	734	729	2,178	2,150	1.3
Office	2,768	2,605	2,620	2,754	2,994	2,726	7,993	7,849	1.8
Commercial	3,423	3,287	3,304	3,415	3,753	3,159	10,013	8,980	11.5
Health care	3,322	3,207	3,200	3,358	3,439	3,212	9,728	9,086	7.1
Educational	6,212	5,914	5,926	6,185	6,792	6,234	18,052	17,461	3.4
Religious	328	333	306	314	335	349	967	1,053	-8.2
Public safety	837	825	807	877	905	783	2,469	2,230	10.7
Amusement and recreation	1,204	1,161	1,182	1,247	1,351	1,214	3,546	3,458	2.5
Transportation	2,623	2,454	2,529	2,775	2,996	2,776	7,606	7,978	-4.7
Communication	1,412	1,276	1,180	1,778	1,506	1,502	3,867	3,912	-1.2
Power	7,155	6,995	7,251	9,256	9,135	6,136	21,401	17,907	19.5
Highway and street	4,293	3,849	3,693	5,095	7,279	4,427	11,835	11,994	-1.3
Sewage and waste disposal	1,823	1,735	1,713	1,907	2,069	1,799	5,271	5,083	3.7
Water supply	997	962	990	1,019	1,187	1,118	2,950	3,239	-8.9
Conservation and development	475	437	443	507	553	584	1,355	1,686	-19.6
Manufacturing	3,561	3,242	3,270	3,854	3,657	2,556	10,073	7,069	42.5
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>40,458</b>	<b>37,048</b>	<b>38,094</b>	<b>42,715</b>	<b>45,595</b>	<b>36,516</b>	<b>115,600</b>	<b>103,374</b>	<b>11.8</b>
Residential	18,055	15,729	16,498	17,723	20,465	16,773	50,282	47,289	6.3
New single family	8,975	7,549	7,775	8,167	9,477	8,143	24,299	22,410	8.4
New multi-family	1,346	1,338	1,249	1,280	1,362	1,096	3,933	3,180	23.7
Nonresidential	22,403	21,319	21,597	24,992	25,131	19,743	65,319	56,085	16.5
Lodging	704	670	679	651	675	685	2,053	2,031	1.1
Office	1,894	1,775	1,742	1,802	1,950	1,768	5,410	5,100	6.1
Commercial	3,162	3,040	3,058	3,116	3,462	2,901	9,260	8,255	12.2
Health care	2,456	2,355	2,374	2,495	2,561	2,322	7,185	6,552	9.7
Educational	1,196	1,134	1,088	1,128	1,215	1,023	3,418	2,790	22.5
Religious	326	331	304	310	333	346	960	1,047	-8.3
Amusement and recreation	510	506	521	553	578	461	1,537	1,359	13.1
Transportation	829	767	858	939	1,001	785	2,455	2,372	3.5
Communication	1,385	1,259	1,160	1,760	1,491	1,497	3,804	3,907	-2.6
Power	6,365	6,235	6,489	8,360	8,152	5,317	19,089	15,453	23.5
Manufacturing	3,467	3,160	3,204	3,769	3,575	2,508	9,831	6,920	42.1
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>19,315</b>	<b>18,199</b>	<b>18,063</b>	<b>20,629</b>	<b>24,178</b>	<b>20,215</b>	<b>55,577</b>	<b>57,048</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
Residential	536	529	527	573	625	653	1,592	1,999	-20.4
Nonresidential	18,779	17,671	17,536	20,057	23,553	19,562	53,985	55,048	-1.9
Office	875	830	878	953	1,044	958	2,583	2,749	-6.0
Commercial	261	247	246	299	291	258	753	725	3.9
Health care	865	852	825	863	878	890	2,543	2,534	0.4
Educational	5,015	4,780	4,838	5,057	5,577	5,211	14,633	14,671	-0.3
Public safety	830	816	794	862	886	766	2,441	2,194	11.3
Amusement and recreation	694	655	661	694	773	753	2,010	2,099	-4.2
Transportation	1,793	1,687	1,671	1,836	1,995	1,991	5,151	5,606	-8.1
Power	790	760	761	896	982	819	2,312	2,454	-5.8
Highway and street	4,283	3,846	3,682	5,092	7,276	4,423	11,812	11,981	-1.4
Sewage and waste disposal	1,769	1,694	1,665	1,871	2,011	1,738	5,128	4,960	3.4
Water supply	965	936	951	970	1,137	1,075	2,853	3,120	-8.6
Conservation and development	468	429	434	499	545	580	1,331	1,676	-20.6

<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>1.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Residential	4.0	3.9	2.4	2.5	2.3
Nonresidential	1.0	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.2
Lodging	3.9	2.7	5.7	1.4	6.4
Office	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.2	3.1
Commercial	3.8	5.1	5.5	1.8	5.1
Health care	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.4	2.5
Educational	2.3	1.9	2.7	1.8	3.4
Religious	7.2	7.5	8.1	7.0	9.4
Public safety	3.6	3.1	4.1	3.3	4.2
Amusement and recreation	3.6	3.2	4.3	2.7	4.4
Transportation	2.3	1.4	2.3	2.0	2.6
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.6	1.2
Highway and street	3.5	2.7	3.7	4.8	5.0
Sewage and waste disposal	3.6	3.5	4.1	3.1	4.2
Water supply	4.1	4.1	5.0	5.2	4.6
Conservation and development	3.2	2.8	1.9	2.4	2.1
Manufacturing	1.8	1.4	2.2	0.7	2.0
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
New single family	5.0	4.0	6.8	6.0	6.0
New multi-family	9.8	9.0	9.7	3.0	10.2
Nonresidential	1.1	1.2	1.6	0.8	1.6
Lodging	4.1	2.8	6.0	1.3	6.7
Office	4.5	4.6	4.3	3.0	5.0
Commercial	4.2	5.7	6.2	2.0	5.7
Health care	2.5	2.3	2.9	1.7	3.3
Educational	3.5	2.8	5.2	1.9	5.5
Religious	7.3	7.6	8.2	7.0	9.6
Amusement and recreation	4.3	4.2	4.8	2.4	4.8
Transportation	4.6	3.4	19.5	3.5	21.1
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.4	0.9	1.3	1.6	1.0
Manufacturing	1.9	1.4	2.3	0.6	2.0
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Residential	4.0	3.9	2.4	2.5	2.3
Nonresidential	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.7
Office	2.6	1.9	2.1	2.5	2.1
Commercial	7.4	4.9	5.9	3.3	5.3
Health care	2.9	2.9	3.2	2.6	3.6
Educational	2.6	2.2	3.0	2.2	3.9
Public safety	3.6	3.2	4.1	3.3	4.3
Amusement and recreation	5.0	4.5	6.3	4.2	6.3
Transportation	2.4	1.5	2.3	2.1	2.5
Power	4.8	4.7	4.4	6.9	5.2
Highway and street	3.5	2.7	3.7	4.8	5.0
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	3.5	4.3	3.2	4.4
Water supply	4.3	4.4	5.3	5.2	4.7
Conservation and development	3.2	2.8	1.9	2.4	2.1

NA Not applicable