

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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## AUGUST 2015 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,086.2 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during August 2015 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,086.2 billion, 0.7 percent ( $\pm 1.5\%$ )\* above the revised July estimate of \$1,079.1 billion. The August figure is 13.7 percent ( $\pm 2.1\%$ ) above the August 2014 estimate of \$955.0 billion.

During the first 8 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$683.4 billion, 9.8 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) above the \$622.4 billion for the same period in 2014.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$788.0 billion, 0.7 percent ( $\pm 0.7\%$ )\* above the revised July estimate of \$782.3 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$383.3 billion in August, 1.3 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised July estimate of \$378.5 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$404.7 billion in August, 0.2 percent ( $\pm 0.7\%$ )\* above the revised July estimate of \$403.8 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In August, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$298.2 billion, 0.5 percent ( $\pm 2.6\%$ )\* above the revised July estimate of \$296.8 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$67.4 billion, 0.2 percent ( $\pm 4.1\%$ )\* below the revised July estimate of \$67.5 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$90.4 billion, 0.4 percent ( $\pm 6.4\%$ )\* below the revised July estimate of \$90.7 billion.

*September 2015 data will be released on November 2, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. EST.*

*For more detailed data and methodologies, go to our website:*

<http://www.census.gov/constructionspending>

*To receive the latest updates on the Nation's key economic indicators, download the America's Economy app for Apple and Android smartphones and tablets.*

### 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, 0.75 percent; private construction, 0.86 percent; and public construction, 1.22 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 2015 <sup>P</sup>	Jul 2015 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2015 <sup>r</sup>	May 2015	Apr 2015	Aug 2014	Percent change Aug 2015 from -	
							Jul 2015	Aug 2014
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,086,224</b>	<b>1,079,069</b>	<b>1,074,314</b>	<b>1,068,424</b>	<b>1,044,641</b>	<b>955,017</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>13.7</b>
Residential	389,942	384,955	382,553	379,735	373,346	335,035	1.3	16.4
Nonresidential	696,283	694,114	691,761	688,688	671,296	619,983	0.3	12.3
Lodging	22,989	22,358	22,782	21,200	19,611	16,257	2.8	41.4
Office	57,602	57,693	57,170	56,907	54,220	45,931	-0.2	25.4
Commercial	64,704	65,503	65,408	68,688	67,405	63,878	-1.2	1.3
Health care	41,708	40,943	40,926	41,107	40,273	38,231	1.9	9.1
Educational	85,484	86,005	87,699	84,956	83,862	81,382	-0.6	5.0
Religious	3,211	3,543	3,351	3,432	3,392	3,367	-9.4	-4.6
Public safety	9,283	9,248	9,118	8,657	8,989	9,266	0.4	0.2
Amusement and recreation	22,546	22,248	23,909	21,458	20,090	16,743	1.3	34.7
Transportation	45,657	45,038	45,740	44,507	45,888	40,717	1.4	12.1
Communication	18,902	18,836	18,814	20,138	19,323	16,953	0.4	11.5
Power	91,983	90,921	89,213	89,850	89,646	98,573	1.2	-6.7
Highway and street	90,667	91,257	91,685	89,817	86,397	84,753	-0.6	7.0
Sewage and waste disposal	26,327	26,396	26,279	25,433	25,818	24,161	-0.3	9.0
Water supply	14,128	14,157	14,939	13,741	13,464	13,473	-0.2	4.9
Conservation and development	8,458	8,537	7,824	8,480	8,286	7,503	-0.9	12.7
Manufacturing	92,635	91,431	86,903	90,319	84,632	58,796	1.3	57.6
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>787,983</b>	<b>782,267</b>	<b>773,489</b>	<b>776,452</b>	<b>757,209</b>	<b>676,325</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>16.5</b>
Residential	383,250	378,490	376,055	373,063	366,837	330,001	1.3	16.1
New single family	218,828	217,265	213,864	213,004	210,439	191,927	0.7	14.0
New multi-family	53,462	51,014	52,055	50,185	49,472	42,860	4.8	24.7
Nonresidential	404,732	403,778	397,434	403,390	390,372	346,324	0.2	16.9
Lodging	22,467	21,769	22,284	20,790	19,190	15,691	3.2	43.2
Office	49,209	49,341	49,311	48,236	46,300	38,522	-0.3	27.7
Commercial	62,181	63,158	62,627	66,318	65,256	61,907	-1.5	0.4
Health care	32,674	31,998	31,944	32,063	31,321	28,365	2.1	15.2
Educational	18,096	18,475	18,214	18,117	16,864	16,805	-2.1	7.7
Religious	3,199	3,537	3,342	3,420	3,383	3,367	-9.6	-5.0
Amusement and recreation	11,626	11,448	11,630	10,357	9,702	7,129	1.6	63.1
Transportation	13,717	13,554	13,233	13,242	13,754	10,928	1.2	25.5
Communication	18,697	18,653	18,615	20,014	19,219	16,809	0.2	11.2
Power	79,564	79,631	78,518	79,521	79,792	87,224	-0.1	-8.8
Manufacturing	91,999	90,609	86,169	89,649	84,033	58,070	1.5	58.4
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>298,242</b>	<b>296,802</b>	<b>300,825</b>	<b>291,971</b>	<b>287,432</b>	<b>278,693</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Residential	6,691	6,466	6,498	6,673	6,509	5,034	3.5	32.9
Nonresidential	291,550	290,336	294,327	285,299	280,923	273,659	0.4	6.5
Office	8,393	8,353	7,859	8,670	7,919	7,409	0.5	13.3
Commercial	2,523	2,346	2,781	2,370	2,150	1,970	7.5	28.1
Health care	9,035	8,945	8,983	9,044	8,952	9,866	1.0	-8.4
Educational	67,389	67,530	69,485	66,838	66,999	64,577	-0.2	4.4
Public safety	9,077	8,991	8,836	8,343	8,662	9,034	1.0	0.5
Amusement and recreation	10,920	10,800	12,279	11,100	10,389	9,614	1.1	13.6
Transportation	31,940	31,484	32,507	31,266	32,134	29,789	1.4	7.2
Power	12,419	11,290	10,695	10,329	9,854	11,349	10.0	9.4
Highway and street	90,379	90,736	91,206	89,306	85,942	84,478	-0.4	7.0
Sewage and waste disposal	26,146	26,214	26,095	25,239	25,632	23,952	-0.3	9.2
Water supply	13,566	13,617	14,414	13,197	12,972	12,906	-0.4	5.1
Conservation and development	8,390	8,433	7,745	8,380	8,187	7,278	-0.5	15.3

<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	Aug 2015 <sup>P</sup>	Jul 2015 <sup>F</sup>	Jun 2015 <sup>F</sup>	May 2015	Apr 2015	Aug 2014	Year-to-date		
							Aug 2015	Aug 2014	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>100,910</b>	<b>98,420</b>	<b>97,465</b>	<b>91,286</b>	<b>84,136</b>	<b>88,749</b>	<b>683,419</b>	<b>622,428</b>	<b>9.8</b>
Residential	36,277	35,303	35,350	33,708	30,843	31,250	248,435	223,871	11.0
Nonresidential	64,633	63,117	62,115	57,578	53,293	57,499	434,984	398,557	9.1
Lodging	1,931	1,872	1,885	1,768	1,643	1,356	13,428	10,185	31.8
Office	4,984	4,899	4,880	4,792	4,455	3,991	35,715	28,882	23.7
Commercial	5,817	5,785	5,773	5,827	5,535	5,803	43,048	38,924	10.6
Health care	3,552	3,485	3,490	3,435	3,344	3,265	26,392	25,107	5.1
Educational	8,788	8,750	8,559	7,207	6,626	8,441	56,308	53,875	4.5
Religious	285	304	277	276	271	296	2,149	2,098	2.4
Public safety	805	761	791	713	734	796	5,807	6,042	-3.9
Amusement and recreation	2,019	1,934	2,048	1,852	1,653	1,507	13,604	10,474	29.9
Transportation	4,236	4,015	4,073	3,783	3,689	3,812	28,838	26,519	8.7
Communication	1,588	1,618	1,662	1,615	1,582	1,423	11,763	11,025	6.7
Power	7,710	7,574	7,579	7,307	7,084	7,903	56,449	70,343	-19.8
Highway and street	10,525	10,110	9,278	7,631	6,118	9,755	55,604	52,360	6.2
Sewage and waste disposal	2,461	2,350	2,381	2,109	2,013	2,241	16,530	14,648	12.8
Water supply	1,297	1,258	1,310	1,168	1,076	1,245	8,941	8,573	4.3
Conservation and development	748	729	660	654	675	651	5,265	4,484	17.4
Manufacturing	7,889	7,675	7,470	7,440	6,796	5,014	55,142	35,020	57.5
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>70,482</b>	<b>69,200</b>	<b>68,918</b>	<b>66,752</b>	<b>61,959</b>	<b>60,371</b>	<b>495,472</b>	<b>444,786</b>	<b>11.4</b>
Residential	35,686	34,729	34,750	33,143	30,285	30,803	244,241	220,664	10.7
New single family	20,581	20,147	19,122	18,090	16,982	18,088	139,959	122,737	14.0
New multi-family	4,686	4,399	4,601	4,260	4,218	3,756	33,255	26,641	24.8
Nonresidential	34,796	34,471	34,168	33,609	31,675	29,568	251,231	224,122	12.1
Lodging	1,887	1,823	1,844	1,734	1,608	1,309	13,105	9,915	32.2
Office	4,260	4,180	4,183	4,057	3,790	3,351	30,387	23,845	27.4
Commercial	5,588	5,592	5,530	5,628	5,365	5,625	41,558	37,727	10.2
Health care	2,788	2,728	2,711	2,692	2,610	2,435	20,518	18,522	10.8
Educational	1,673	1,723	1,734	1,625	1,436	1,569	11,757	11,354	3.5
Religious	284	303	277	275	270	296	2,143	2,095	2.3
Amusement and recreation	992	986	967	889	811	602	6,605	4,668	41.5
Transportation	1,253	1,210	1,183	1,168	1,124	1,016	8,433	7,313	15.3
Communication	1,571	1,603	1,645	1,605	1,573	1,411	11,652	10,909	6.8
Power	6,545	6,578	6,559	6,412	6,223	6,863	49,373	62,302	-20.8
Manufacturing	7,836	7,606	7,409	7,384	6,746	4,953	54,725	34,655	57.9
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>30,429</b>	<b>29,220</b>	<b>28,548</b>	<b>24,533</b>	<b>22,176</b>	<b>28,378</b>	<b>187,947</b>	<b>177,642</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Residential	591	574	600	565	558	447	4,194	3,208	30.7
Nonresidential	29,837	28,646	27,947	23,968	21,619	27,931	183,753	174,434	5.3
Office	724	719	697	736	665	640	5,329	5,037	5.8
Commercial	229	192	243	199	170	178	1,490	1,196	24.6
Health care	764	757	779	743	735	830	5,874	6,585	-10.8
Educational	7,115	7,027	6,826	5,582	5,191	6,872	44,552	42,521	4.8
Public safety	788	740	766	684	707	776	5,608	5,934	-5.5
Amusement and recreation	1,027	948	1,081	963	842	905	6,999	5,807	20.5
Transportation	2,983	2,805	2,891	2,615	2,565	2,796	20,405	19,206	6.2
Power	1,165	995	1,020	896	860	1,040	7,076	8,040	-12.0
Highway and street	10,496	10,062	9,245	7,594	6,091	9,727	55,383	52,280	5.9
Sewage and waste disposal	2,446	2,335	2,364	2,091	1,997	2,223	16,403	14,482	13.3
Water supply	1,243	1,212	1,264	1,120	1,036	1,192	8,590	8,213	4.6
Conservation and development	742	720	653	645	666	633	5,188	4,378	18.5

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary <sup>F</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>0.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Residential	5.6	4.9	5.4	2.9	8.7
Nonresidential	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.9	1.3
Lodging	2.5	2.0	4.4	1.5	4.9
Office	1.9	1.8	2.8	1.0	2.3
Commercial	2.2	1.5	2.8	1.8	3.1
Health care	2.0	1.8	2.4	1.5	3.3
Educational	2.2	1.4	2.4	2.1	3.6
Religious	6.6	5.0	6.8	4.8	7.0
Public safety	3.5	2.2	2.7	2.9	4.1
Amusement and recreation	3.7	2.7	4.4	2.6	5.3
Transportation	2.5	1.7	2.6	1.5	3.6
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5
Highway and street	3.3	1.7	3.0	3.9	4.9
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.8	3.8	3.0	4.6
Water supply	4.8	3.3	4.2	3.5	6.1
Conservation and development	3.4	3.2	4.4	2.1	5.4
Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	1.4	0.5	1.7
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.2</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	5.7	5.4	6.1	2.5	6.7
Nonresidential	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.4	1.2
Lodging	2.5	2.0	4.4	1.6	5.0
Office	2.2	2.0	3.3	1.0	2.5
Commercial	2.3	1.5	2.8	1.4	3.0
Health care	2.5	2.2	3.1	1.8	4.2
Educational	2.9	2.5	3.9	1.8	4.9
Religious	6.6	5.1	6.8	4.8	7.0
Amusement and recreation	4.4	3.0	5.6	1.8	7.4
Transportation	6.3	5.8	5.0	6.5	6.3
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3
Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	1.5	0.5	1.8
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Residential	5.6	4.9	5.4	2.9	8.7
Nonresidential	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.6	2.2
Office	3.4	3.4	4.1	3.0	4.6
Commercial	8.7	6.5	8.4	26.2	26.3
Health care	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.3	3.3
Educational	2.6	1.7	2.8	2.5	4.3
Public safety	3.5	2.2	2.7	3.0	4.2
Amusement and recreation	5.5	4.2	6.5	4.9	7.2
Transportation	2.6	1.8	2.8	1.5	3.9
Power	3.8	2.8	4.8	5.5	6.8
Highway and street	3.3	1.7	2.9	3.9	4.9
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.8	3.9	3.0	4.6
Water supply	5.0	3.4	4.5	3.6	6.3
Conservation and development	3.3	3.3	4.5	2.1	5.5

NA Not applicable