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FEBRUARY 2012 CONSTRUCTION AT \$808.9 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during February 2012 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$808.9 billion, 1.1 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* below the revised January estimate of \$818.1 billion. The February figure is 5.8 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$) above the February 2011 estimate of \$764.2 billion.

During the first 2 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$111.3 billion, 7.4 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$) above the \$103.7 billion for the same period in 2011.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$527.3 billion, 0.8 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$)* below the revised January estimate of \$531.7 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$246.5 billion in February, nearly the same as ($\pm 1.3\%$)* the revised January estimate of \$246.4 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$280.8 billion in February, 1.6 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) below the revised January estimate of \$285.3 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In February, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$281.6 billion, 1.7 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$)* below the revised January estimate of \$286.4 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$69.4 billion, 2.5 percent ($\pm 3.5\%$)* below the revised January estimate of \$71.2 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$79.4 billion, 2.6 percent ($\pm 5.1\%$)* below the revised January estimate of \$81.5 billion.

March 2012 data will be released on May 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 (± 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	Feb 2012 ^P	Jan 2012 ^r	Dec 2011 ^r	Nov 2011	Oct 2011	Feb 2011	Percent change Feb 2012 from -	
							Jan 2012	Feb 2011
Total Construction	808,860	818,079	824,768	816,042	801,193	764,198	-1.1	5.8
Residential	253,458	253,462	253,679	252,963	247,713	242,369	0.0	4.6
Nonresidential	555,402	564,617	571,089	563,079	553,480	521,830	-1.6	6.4
Lodging	7,682	7,932	8,512	8,808	8,447	8,478	-3.2	-9.4
Office	33,660	34,392	34,603	35,363	34,315	33,763	-2.1	-0.3
Commercial	42,298	43,427	44,325	44,312	43,506	40,302	-2.6	5.0
Health care	40,910	41,154	41,191	40,376	38,615	37,986	-0.6	7.7
Educational	84,194	86,254	85,456	86,185	86,100	81,151	-2.4	3.7
Religious	3,916	3,812	3,903	3,775	4,042	4,321	2.7	-9.4
Public safety	10,868	10,766	10,689	10,455	9,667	9,757	0.9	11.4
Amusement and recreation	15,499	16,121	15,723	15,874	15,852	15,845	-3.9	-2.2
Transportation	34,542	35,218	34,883	34,392	34,488	36,556	-1.9	-5.5
Communication	17,525	17,915	18,005	16,877	17,467	17,847	-2.2	-1.8
Power	97,693	99,323	102,161	98,792	94,869	79,987	-1.6	22.1
Highway and street	79,440	81,629	82,428	82,801	81,668	79,081	-2.7	0.5
Sewage and waste disposal	24,537	24,411	24,428	23,696	22,707	23,548	0.5	4.2
Water supply	13,801	14,198	13,441	13,873	14,156	14,841	-2.8	-7.0
Conservation and development	5,801	5,950	5,970	6,312	6,721	7,698	-2.5	-24.6
Manufacturing	43,037	42,114	45,372	41,189	40,860	30,668	2.2	40.3
Total Private Construction¹	527,293	531,699	538,545	529,112	520,746	478,700	-0.8	10.2
Residential	246,454	246,386	246,534	245,543	239,994	233,404	0.0	5.6
New single family	111,538	113,247	110,764	108,785	107,421	107,031	-1.5	4.2
New multi-family	17,194	16,851	16,429	16,270	15,223	13,677	2.0	25.7
Nonresidential	280,839	285,314	292,011	283,569	280,752	245,296	-1.6	14.5
Lodging	7,218	7,426	7,813	8,105	7,807	8,034	-2.8	-10.2
Office	22,204	22,805	22,764	22,875	22,817	21,596	-2.6	2.8
Commercial	39,050	40,272	40,736	40,908	40,309	37,259	-3.0	4.8
Health care	30,604	30,675	30,553	29,815	29,217	27,673	-0.2	10.6
Educational	14,765	15,032	14,795	15,231	14,668	12,298	-1.8	20.1
Religious	3,893	3,789	3,862	3,750	4,009	4,297	2.7	-9.4
Amusement and recreation	6,306	6,585	6,682	6,945	7,545	5,633	-4.2	11.9
Transportation	10,992	11,228	11,318	11,212	11,018	10,645	-2.1	3.3
Communication	17,348	17,697	17,787	16,701	17,265	17,837	-2.0	-2.7
Power	85,167	87,011	90,003	86,233	84,404	68,718	-2.1	23.9
Manufacturing	42,016	41,302	44,344	40,201	40,197	30,072	1.7	39.7
Total Public Construction²	281,567	286,379	286,222	286,930	280,448	285,498	-1.7	-1.4
Residential	7,004	7,076	7,145	7,419	7,719	8,965	-1.0	-21.9
Nonresidential	274,564	279,303	279,078	279,510	272,728	276,534	-1.7	-0.7
Office	11,457	11,587	11,839	12,488	11,498	12,167	-1.1	-5.8
Commercial	3,247	3,155	3,589	3,404	3,197	3,044	2.9	6.7
Health care	10,305	10,480	10,638	10,561	9,398	10,313	-1.7	-0.1
Educational	69,430	71,223	70,661	70,954	71,433	68,854	-2.5	0.8
Public safety	10,714	10,588	10,497	10,225	9,451	9,615	1.2	11.4
Amusement and recreation	9,193	9,537	9,041	8,930	8,307	10,212	-3.6	-10.0
Transportation	23,550	23,991	23,565	23,180	23,470	25,911	-1.8	-9.1
Power	12,526	12,313	12,158	12,559	10,465	11,270	1.7	11.1
Highway and street	79,356	81,463	82,390	82,780	81,654	79,018	-2.6	0.4
Sewage and waste disposal	24,104	23,903	23,961	23,037	22,206	23,107	0.8	4.3
Water supply	13,317	13,656	12,880	13,282	13,497	14,290	-2.5	-6.8
Conservation and development	5,680	5,850	5,873	6,219	6,616	7,660	-2.9	-25.8

^PPreliminary ^rRevised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

²Includes 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 2012 ^p	Jan 2012 ^r	Dec 2011 ^r	Nov 2011	Oct 2011	Feb 2011	Year-to-date		
							Feb 2012	Feb 2011	Percent change
Total Construction	55,447	55,880	63,344	69,773	73,951	51,412	111,327	103,691	7.4
Residential	16,621	16,810	18,296	21,090	23,644	15,493	33,431	31,862	4.9
Nonresidential	38,826	39,070	45,049	48,684	50,308	35,920	77,897	71,829	8.4
Lodging	640	661	709	734	704	707	1,301	1,421	-8.4
Office	2,603	2,589	2,754	2,994	2,923	2,554	5,192	5,123	1.3
Commercial	3,087	3,106	3,415	3,753	3,852	2,947	6,193	5,821	6.4
Health care	3,175	3,218	3,358	3,439	3,310	2,944	6,393	5,874	8.8
Educational	5,832	5,978	6,185	6,792	7,214	5,575	11,810	11,227	5.2
Religious	305	294	314	335	365	336	599	705	-15.0
Public safety	818	813	877	905	810	721	1,630	1,446	12.7
Amusement and recreation	1,145	1,179	1,247	1,351	1,403	1,129	2,324	2,244	3.6
Transportation	2,456	2,527	2,775	2,996	3,144	2,555	4,983	5,202	-4.2
Communication	1,290	1,204	1,778	1,506	1,472	1,280	2,494	2,411	3.4
Power	7,165	7,297	9,256	9,135	9,052	5,855	14,463	11,771	22.9
Highway and street	3,982	3,907	5,095	7,279	8,553	3,810	7,889	7,566	4.3
Sewage and waste disposal	1,715	1,702	1,907	2,069	2,136	1,620	3,417	3,284	4.0
Water supply	994	998	1,019	1,187	1,292	1,047	1,992	2,121	-6.1
Conservation and development	433	442	507	553	520	562	876	1,102	-20.5
Manufacturing	3,186	3,156	3,854	3,657	3,555	2,277	6,341	4,513	40.5
Total Private Construction¹	37,085	37,460	42,715	45,595	48,273	33,095	74,544	66,858	11.5
Residential	16,093	16,296	17,723	20,465	23,005	14,843	32,388	30,516	6.1
New single family	7,534	7,771	8,167	9,477	9,771	6,919	15,305	14,267	7.3
New multi-family	1,332	1,270	1,280	1,362	1,287	1,062	2,602	2,083	24.9
Nonresidential	20,992	21,164	24,992	25,131	25,268	18,252	42,156	36,342	16.0
Lodging	602	619	651	675	651	670	1,220	1,346	-9.4
Office	1,748	1,727	1,802	1,950	1,989	1,656	3,475	3,332	4.3
Commercial	2,837	2,864	3,116	3,462	3,595	2,713	5,701	5,354	6.5
Health care	2,343	2,379	2,495	2,561	2,551	2,125	4,721	4,230	11.6
Educational	1,094	1,080	1,128	1,215	1,220	892	2,174	1,767	23.0
Religious	304	292	310	333	363	334	595	701	-15.1
Amusement and recreation	508	524	553	578	647	441	1,032	898	14.9
Transportation	806	854	939	1,001	988	771	1,660	1,587	4.6
Communication	1,275	1,186	1,760	1,491	1,456	1,279	2,461	2,409	2.2
Power	6,289	6,447	8,360	8,152	8,163	5,061	12,736	10,136	25.7
Manufacturing	3,100	3,088	3,769	3,575	3,500	2,227	6,188	4,411	40.3
Total Public Construction²	18,363	18,420	20,629	24,178	25,678	18,318	36,783	36,833	-0.1
Residential	528	514	573	625	639	650	1,042	1,346	-22.6
Nonresidential	17,835	17,906	20,057	23,553	25,039	17,668	35,740	35,487	0.7
Office	855	862	953	1,044	934	898	1,718	1,791	-4.1
Commercial	250	242	299	291	258	234	492	467	5.4
Health care	832	840	863	878	759	820	1,672	1,644	1.7
Educational	4,738	4,898	5,057	5,577	5,994	4,683	9,636	9,460	1.9
Public safety	806	799	862	886	791	710	1,605	1,428	12.4
Amusement and recreation	638	655	694	773	756	688	1,292	1,347	-4.1
Transportation	1,650	1,673	1,836	1,995	2,156	1,785	3,323	3,615	-8.1
Power	876	850	896	982	889	794	1,726	1,635	5.6
Highway and street	3,977	3,895	5,092	7,276	8,552	3,807	7,872	7,557	4.2
Sewage and waste disposal	1,684	1,668	1,871	2,011	2,091	1,589	3,352	3,222	4.0
Water supply	965	960	970	1,137	1,221	1,012	1,925	2,045	-5.9
Conservation and development	423	434	499	545	512	559	857	1,096	-21.8

^pPreliminary ^rRevised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

²Includes 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	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.1
Residential	4.0	4.1	2.6	3.8	2.7
Nonresidential	1.0	0.8	1.1	0.8	1.1
Lodging	4.2	2.8	4.8	2.3	4.8
Office	2.8	2.9	2.8	1.7	2.9
Commercial	3.7	3.2	3.8	2.4	3.6
Health care	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.4	2.1
Educational	2.3	2.0	2.7	1.9	2.8
Religious	7.1	7.6	7.6	6.1	9.2
Public safety	3.6	3.3	4.3	2.4	5.0
Amusement and recreation	3.6	3.4	4.6	2.5	4.6
Transportation	2.4	1.6	2.3	1.3	2.4
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.6	1.3	1.7	0.6	1.8
Highway and street	3.5	2.5	4.2	3.2	4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	3.6	3.9	4.8	3.3	5.7
Water supply	4.1	4.5	5.8	4.7	5.8
Conservation and development	3.1	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.2
Manufacturing	1.8	1.5	2.5	0.9	2.4
Total Private Construction	1.1	1.0	1.4	0.7	1.4
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	10.3	9.4	11.7	4.7	12.8
Nonresidential	1.1	1.0	1.4	0.7	1.4
Lodging	4.4	2.9	5.0	2.3	5.1
Office	4.4	4.6	4.3	2.2	4.3
Commercial	4.0	3.5	4.2	2.6	4.0
Health care	2.5	2.2	2.8	1.4	2.8
Educational	3.5	2.7	4.8	1.6	5.0
Religious	7.2	7.7	7.6	6.2	9.3
Amusement and recreation	4.2	4.1	4.8	2.0	5.1
Transportation	5.0	4.1	16.4	2.1	13.3
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.5	1.4	1.8	0.3	1.8
Manufacturing	1.9	1.5	2.6	0.9	2.4
Total Public Construction	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.5
Residential	4.0	4.1	2.6	3.8	2.7
Nonresidential	1.4	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.5
Office	2.6	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.8
Commercial	7.5	5.7	6.7	2.9	6.8
Health care	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.4	2.7
Educational	2.6	2.3	3.0	2.2	3.1
Public safety	3.7	3.3	4.3	2.4	5.0
Amusement and recreation	5.0	4.8	6.8	3.8	6.6
Transportation	2.5	1.7	2.3	1.4	2.4
Power	4.6	5.2	4.9	7.0	5.7
Highway and street	3.5	2.5	4.2	3.2	4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	3.9	4.9	3.4	5.9
Water supply	4.3	4.7	6.1	4.8	6.1
Conservation and development	3.2	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.2

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	2011 [†]	2010	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
Total Construction	789,780	803,621	-1.7	0.5
Residential	245,487	248,706	-1.3	2.6
Nonresidential	544,293	554,915	-1.9	0.5
Lodging	8,538	11,329	-24.6	3.2
Office	34,478	37,573	-8.2	2.0
Commercial	43,590	40,522	7.6	2.3
Health care	39,966	39,879	0.2	1.7
Educational	84,678	88,227	-4.0	1.5
Religious	4,135	5,208	-20.6	4.5
Public safety	9,993	11,118	-10.1	2.3
Amusement and recreation	15,543	16,959	-8.3	2.3
Transportation	35,543	38,232	-7.0	1.7
Communication	17,817	18,261	-2.4	NA
Power	89,884	78,540	14.4	0.4
Highway and street	78,771	82,657	-4.7	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	23,225	26,063	-10.9	2.3
Water supply	14,015	15,305	-8.4	2.3
Conservation and development	6,929	6,937	-0.1	2.2
Manufacturing	37,191	38,106	-2.4	1.3
Total Private Construction¹	506,312	500,597	1.1	0.8
Residential	237,267	238,801	-0.6	1.1
New single family	106,742	112,569	-5.2	4.0
New multi-family	14,753	14,668	0.6	9.4
Nonresidential	269,046	261,796	2.8	0.8
Lodging	7,945	10,904	-27.1	3.3
Office	22,563	24,231	-6.9	3.0
Commercial	40,147	37,647	6.6	2.5
Health care	29,315	30,316	-3.3	2.3
Educational	13,767	13,356	3.1	2.6
Religious	4,104	5,156	-20.4	4.5
Public safety	190	207	-8.2	13.9
Amusement and recreation	6,555	6,541	0.2	3.3
Transportation	10,781	9,912	8.8	5.4
Communication	17,710	18,226	-2.8	NA
Power	78,266	66,601	17.5	0.3
Sewage and waste disposal	554	421	31.6	15.9
Water supply	612	664	-7.8	9.8
Manufacturing	36,440	37,478	-2.8	1.4
Total Public Construction²	283,468	303,024	-6.5	0.7
Residential	8,220	9,905	-17.0	2.6
Nonresidential	275,248	293,119	-6.1	0.7
Office	11,914	13,342	-10.7	1.7
Commercial	3,443	2,876	19.7	5.9
Health care	10,651	9,562	11.4	1.7
Educational	70,910	74,871	-5.3	1.7
Public safety	9,804	10,911	-10.1	2.3
Amusement and recreation	8,988	10,418	-13.7	3.0
Transportation	24,762	28,321	-12.6	1.9
Power	11,618	11,939	-2.7	2.4
Highway and street	78,741	82,548	-4.6	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	22,671	25,642	-11.6	2.3
Water supply	13,403	14,641	-8.5	2.4
Conservation and development	6,863	6,910	-0.7	2.2

NA Not applicable [†]Revised

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

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