

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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## JANUARY 2012 CONSTRUCTION AT \$827.0 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during January 2012 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$827.0 billion, 0.1 percent ( $\pm 1.1\%$ )\* below the revised December estimate of \$827.6 billion. The January figure is 7.1 percent ( $\pm 1.8\%$ ) above the January 2011 estimate of \$772.0 billion.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$538.7 billion, nearly the same as ( $\pm 1.1\%$ )\* the revised December estimate of \$538.7 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$253.6 billion in January, 1.8 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) above the revised December estimate of \$249.2 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$285.0 billion in January, 1.5 percent ( $\pm 1.1\%$ ) below the revised December estimate of \$289.5 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In January, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$288.3 billion, 0.2 percent ( $\pm 1.8\%$ )\* below the revised December estimate of \$289.0 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$71.6 billion, 0.9 percent ( $\pm 3.4\%$ )\* below the revised December estimate of \$72.2 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$83.7 billion, 0.2 percent ( $\pm 3.8\%$ )\* below the revised December estimate of \$83.9 billion.

*February 2012 data will be released on April 2, 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.

\* 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	Jan 2012 <sup>P</sup>	Dec 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Nov 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Oct 2011	Sep 2011	Jan 2011	Percent change Jan 2012 from -	
							Dec 2011	Jan 2011
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>827,001</b>	<b>827,628</b>	<b>816,042</b>	<b>801,193</b>	<b>798,972</b>	<b>771,982</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Residential	260,642	256,449	252,963	247,713	241,690	247,327	1.6	5.4
Nonresidential	566,358	571,179	563,079	553,480	557,282	524,655	-0.8	7.9
Lodging	8,369	8,706	8,808	8,447	8,659	8,572	-3.9	-2.4
Office	34,469	34,920	35,363	34,315	34,967	34,258	-1.3	0.6
Commercial	43,130	44,123	44,312	43,506	44,939	40,008	-2.3	7.8
Health care	41,326	40,963	40,376	38,615	41,051	37,668	0.9	9.7
Educational	86,822	87,185	86,185	86,100	87,016	82,065	-0.4	5.8
Religious	3,744	3,880	3,775	4,042	4,143	4,867	-3.5	-23.1
Public safety	10,460	10,433	10,455	9,667	9,828	9,665	0.3	8.2
Amusement and recreation	15,977	15,656	15,874	15,852	16,142	15,706	2.1	1.7
Transportation	35,013	34,674	34,392	34,488	35,173	37,447	1.0	-6.5
Communication	17,884	18,022	16,877	17,467	18,158	17,789	-0.8	0.5
Power	99,689	101,249	98,792	94,869	92,114	80,111	-1.5	24.4
Highway and street	83,783	83,882	82,801	81,668	81,001	80,168	-0.1	4.5
Sewage and waste disposal	23,934	24,138	23,696	22,707	22,790	23,922	-0.8	0.1
Water supply	14,573	13,282	13,873	14,156	14,177	15,334	9.7	-5.0
Conservation and development	5,988	6,108	6,312	6,721	6,559	7,285	-2.0	-17.8
Manufacturing	41,197	43,957	41,189	40,860	40,565	29,790	-6.3	38.3
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>538,670</b>	<b>538,673</b>	<b>529,112</b>	<b>520,746</b>	<b>513,607</b>	<b>482,099</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>11.7</b>
Residential	253,639	249,196	245,543	239,994	233,393	237,643	1.8	6.7
New single family	113,940	111,205	108,785	107,421	106,849	108,019	2.5	5.5
New multi-family	16,205	16,096	16,270	15,223	15,270	13,505	0.7	20.0
Nonresidential	285,031	289,478	283,569	280,752	280,214	244,456	-1.5	16.6
Lodging	7,813	8,060	8,105	7,807	7,996	8,122	-3.1	-3.8
Office	22,792	22,959	22,875	22,817	22,808	22,145	-0.7	2.9
Commercial	40,152	40,564	40,908	40,309	41,485	36,999	-1.0	8.5
Health care	30,647	30,120	29,815	29,217	30,212	27,239	1.7	12.5
Educational	15,256	14,999	15,231	14,668	14,313	12,128	1.7	25.8
Religious	3,723	3,839	3,750	4,009	4,111	4,845	-3.0	-23.2
Amusement and recreation	6,721	6,654	6,945	7,545	7,782	5,877	1.0	14.4
Transportation	11,080	11,316	11,212	11,018	11,097	10,751	-2.1	3.1
Communication	17,721	17,804	16,701	17,265	17,931	17,783	-0.5	-0.3
Power	87,228	88,866	86,233	84,404	81,511	68,130	-1.8	28.0
Manufacturing	40,392	42,918	40,201	40,197	39,466	29,173	-5.9	38.5
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>288,331</b>	<b>288,955</b>	<b>286,930</b>	<b>280,448</b>	<b>285,365</b>	<b>289,883</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Residential	7,004	7,254	7,419	7,719	8,297	9,684	-3.4	-27.7
Nonresidential	281,327	281,701	279,510	272,728	277,068	280,199	-0.1	0.4
Office	11,677	11,961	12,488	11,498	12,159	12,113	-2.4	-3.6
Commercial	2,978	3,560	3,404	3,197	3,454	3,010	-16.3	-1.1
Health care	10,678	10,843	10,561	9,398	10,839	10,429	-1.5	2.4
Educational	71,565	72,186	70,954	71,433	72,703	69,937	-0.9	2.3
Public safety	10,250	10,218	10,225	9,451	9,632	9,558	0.3	7.2
Amusement and recreation	9,256	9,002	8,930	8,307	8,360	9,829	2.8	-5.8
Transportation	23,934	23,358	23,180	23,470	24,076	26,696	2.5	-10.3
Power	12,461	12,383	12,559	10,465	10,604	11,981	0.6	4.0
Highway and street	83,684	83,867	82,780	81,654	80,987	80,096	-0.2	4.5
Sewage and waste disposal	23,392	23,653	23,037	22,206	22,302	23,455	-1.1	-0.3
Water supply	14,018	12,717	13,282	13,497	13,500	14,752	10.2	-5.0
Conservation and development	5,890	6,010	6,219	6,616	6,432	7,250	-2.0	-18.8

<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	Jan 2012 <sup>P</sup>	Dec 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Nov 2011 <sup>r</sup>	Oct 2011	Sep 2011	Jan 2011	Year-to-date		
							Jan 2012	Jan 2011	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>56,459</b>	<b>63,355</b>	<b>69,773</b>	<b>73,951</b>	<b>74,421</b>	<b>52,278</b>	<b>56,459</b>	<b>52,278</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Residential	17,354	18,452	21,090	23,644	21,840	16,369	17,354	16,369	6.0
Nonresidential	39,105	44,904	48,684	50,308	52,581	35,909	39,105	35,909	8.9
Lodging	697	726	734	704	722	714	697	714	-2.4
Office	2,607	2,793	2,994	2,923	3,225	2,569	2,607	2,569	1.5
Commercial	3,096	3,384	3,753	3,852	4,134	2,874	3,096	2,874	7.7
Health care	3,233	3,349	3,439	3,310	3,667	2,930	3,233	2,930	10.3
Educational	5,989	6,304	6,792	7,214	8,020	5,652	5,989	5,652	6.0
Religious	285	315	335	365	367	369	285	369	-22.8
Public safety	788	856	905	810	951	725	788	725	8.7
Amusement and recreation	1,164	1,242	1,351	1,403	1,485	1,115	1,164	1,115	4.4
Transportation	2,517	2,751	2,996	3,144	3,282	2,646	2,517	2,646	-4.9
Communication	1,200	1,778	1,506	1,472	1,580	1,131	1,200	1,131	6.1
Power	7,279	9,054	9,135	9,052	7,916	5,916	7,279	5,916	23.0
Highway and street	4,025	5,198	7,279	8,553	9,498	3,756	4,025	3,756	7.2
Sewage and waste disposal	1,669	1,879	2,069	2,136	2,141	1,664	1,669	1,664	0.3
Water supply	1,018	1,005	1,187	1,292	1,274	1,074	1,018	1,074	-5.2
Conservation and development	444	521	553	520	710	540	444	540	-17.8
Manufacturing	3,093	3,751	3,657	3,555	3,611	2,235	3,093	2,235	38.4
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>37,977</b>	<b>42,531</b>	<b>45,595</b>	<b>48,273</b>	<b>45,546</b>	<b>33,763</b>	<b>37,977</b>	<b>33,763</b>	<b>12.5</b>
Residential	16,844	17,863	20,465	23,005	21,016	15,673	16,844	15,673	7.5
New single family	7,766	8,181	9,477	9,771	10,008	7,347	7,766	7,347	5.7
New multi-family	1,216	1,253	1,362	1,287	1,306	1,021	1,216	1,021	19.1
Nonresidential	21,133	24,667	25,131	25,268	24,529	18,090	21,133	18,090	16.8
Lodging	651	672	675	651	666	677	651	677	-3.8
Office	1,736	1,828	1,950	1,989	2,016	1,676	1,736	1,676	3.6
Commercial	2,870	3,087	3,462	3,595	3,777	2,641	2,870	2,641	8.7
Health care	2,379	2,463	2,561	2,551	2,661	2,105	2,379	2,105	13.0
Educational	1,098	1,141	1,215	1,220	1,221	875	1,098	875	25.5
Religious	284	311	333	363	365	367	284	367	-22.6
Amusement and recreation	533	550	578	647	671	457	533	457	16.6
Transportation	849	942	1,001	988	994	816	849	816	4.0
Communication	1,186	1,760	1,491	1,456	1,561	1,130	1,186	1,130	5.0
Power	6,418	8,139	8,152	8,163	6,936	5,076	6,418	5,076	26.4
Manufacturing	3,026	3,664	3,575	3,500	3,519	2,184	3,026	2,184	38.6
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>18,482</b>	<b>20,825</b>	<b>24,178</b>	<b>25,678</b>	<b>28,875</b>	<b>18,515</b>	<b>18,482</b>	<b>18,515</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Residential	510	588	625	639	823	696	510	696	-26.7
Nonresidential	17,971	20,237	23,553	25,039	28,052	17,819	17,971	17,819	0.9
Office	872	964	1,044	934	1,209	893	872	893	-2.4
Commercial	225	298	291	258	357	234	225	234	-3.8
Health care	854	886	878	759	1,006	824	854	824	3.6
Educational	4,891	5,163	5,577	5,994	6,799	4,777	4,891	4,777	2.4
Public safety	773	840	886	791	934	717	773	717	7.8
Amusement and recreation	631	692	773	756	814	658	631	658	-4.1
Transportation	1,668	1,809	1,995	2,156	2,289	1,830	1,668	1,830	-8.9
Power	861	915	982	889	980	840	861	840	2.5
Highway and street	4,018	5,196	7,276	8,552	9,496	3,751	4,018	3,751	7.1
Sewage and waste disposal	1,633	1,842	2,011	2,091	2,096	1,633	1,633	1,633	0.0
Water supply	981	956	1,137	1,221	1,204	1,033	981	1,033	-5.0
Conservation and development	436	513	545	512	699	537	436	537	-18.8

<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>1.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Residential	3.9	5.3	2.8	3.2	2.8
Nonresidential	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.7	1.2
Lodging	4.4	2.7	5.1	1.4	5.1
Office	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5
Commercial	3.6	4.3	4.6	2.1	4.6
Health care	2.0	2.0	2.5	1.4	2.5
Educational	2.3	2.2	3.2	1.8	3.2
Religious	7.0	7.6	6.5	4.0	6.5
Public safety	3.5	3.5	4.2	2.5	4.2
Amusement and recreation	3.6	3.5	5.0	2.6	5.0
Transportation	2.4	1.7	2.6	1.5	2.6
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.9
Highway and street	3.5	2.6	4.8	2.4	4.8
Sewage and waste disposal	3.5	3.6	4.7	2.9	4.7
Water supply	4.0	4.8	6.4	5.0	6.4
Conservation and development	3.1	2.5	2.6	5.1	2.6
Manufacturing	1.8	1.8	2.8	0.7	2.8
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.5</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	10.6	10.6	10.8	4.8	10.8
Nonresidential	1.1	1.0	1.5	0.7	1.5
Lodging	4.6	2.8	5.3	1.4	5.3
Office	4.3	4.3	3.7	3.8	3.7
Commercial	4.0	4.8	5.1	2.4	5.1
Health care	2.5	2.3	3.1	1.3	3.1
Educational	3.6	3.0	5.4	2.0	5.4
Religious	7.1	7.6	6.5	4.1	6.5
Amusement and recreation	4.2	3.7	4.8	2.5	4.8
Transportation	5.5	4.4	17.0	3.0	17.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.6
Manufacturing	1.9	1.9	2.9	0.7	2.9
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Residential	3.9	5.3	2.8	3.2	2.8
Nonresidential	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.1	1.6
Office	2.6	2.0	2.5	1.8	2.5
Commercial	7.4	3.6	5.9	3.1	5.9
Health care	3.0	4.2	4.4	3.5	4.4
Educational	2.6	2.6	3.6	2.1	3.6
Public safety	3.6	3.6	4.2	2.5	4.2
Amusement and recreation	5.0	5.2	7.7	4.0	7.7
Transportation	2.6	1.8	2.6	1.7	2.6
Power	4.5	5.8	5.5	5.1	5.5
Highway and street	3.5	2.6	4.8	2.4	4.8
Sewage and waste disposal	3.5	3.6	4.8	2.9	4.8
Water supply	4.2	5.1	6.8	5.3	6.8
Conservation and development	3.1	2.5	2.5	5.2	2.5

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 <sup>†</sup>	2010	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>789,791</b>	<b>803,621</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Residential	245,643	248,706	-1.2	2.6
Nonresidential	544,149	554,915	-1.9	0.5
Lodging	8,554	11,329	-24.5	3.2
Office	34,516	37,573	-8.1	2.0
Commercial	43,559	40,522	7.5	2.3
Health care	39,957	39,879	0.2	1.7
Educational	84,797	88,227	-3.9	1.5
Religious	4,136	5,208	-20.6	4.5
Public safety	9,972	11,118	-10.3	2.3
Amusement and recreation	15,539	16,959	-8.4	2.3
Transportation	35,519	38,232	-7.1	1.7
Communication	17,817	18,261	-2.4	15.0
Power	89,682	78,540	14.2	0.4
Highway and street	78,873	82,657	-4.6	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	23,197	26,063	-11.0	2.3
Water supply	14,000	15,305	-8.5	2.3
Conservation and development	6,943	6,937	0.1	2.2
Manufacturing	37,087	38,106	-2.7	1.3
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>506,128</b>	<b>500,597</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Residential	237,407	238,801	-0.6	1.1
New single family	106,757	112,569	-5.2	4.0
New multi-family	14,726	14,668	0.4	9.4
Nonresidential	268,721	261,796	2.6	0.8
Lodging	7,966	10,904	-26.9	3.3
Office	22,590	24,231	-6.8	3.0
Commercial	40,118	37,647	6.6	2.5
Health care	29,283	30,316	-3.4	2.3
Educational	13,780	13,356	3.2	2.6
Religious	4,105	5,156	-20.4	4.5
Public safety	191	207	-7.7	13.9
Amusement and recreation	6,553	6,541	0.2	3.3
Transportation	10,784	9,912	8.8	5.4
Communication	17,710	18,226	-2.8	NA
Power	78,045	66,601	17.2	0.3
Sewage and waste disposal	555	421	31.8	15.9
Water supply	611	664	-8.0	9.8
Manufacturing	36,336	37,478	-3.0	1.4
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>283,663</b>	<b>303,024</b>	<b>-6.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Residential	8,236	9,905	-16.9	2.6
Nonresidential	275,428	293,119	-6.0	0.7
Office	11,926	13,342	-10.6	1.7
Commercial	3,441	2,876	19.6	5.9
Health care	10,674	9,562	11.6	1.7
Educational	71,017	74,871	-5.1	1.7
Public safety	9,781	10,911	-10.4	2.3
Amusement and recreation	8,987	10,418	-13.7	3.0
Transportation	24,735	28,321	-12.7	1.9
Power	11,636	11,939	-2.5	2.4
Highway and street	78,845	82,548	-4.5	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	22,642	25,642	-11.7	2.3
Water supply	13,389	14,641	-8.6	2.4
Conservation and development	6,877	6,910	-0.5	2.2

NA Not applicable <sup>†</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.