

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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## SEPTEMBER 2015 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,094.2 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during September 2015 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,094.2 billion, 0.6 percent ( $\pm 1.8\%$ )\* above the revised August estimate of \$1,087.5 billion. The September figure is 14.1 percent ( $\pm 2.1\%$ ) above the September 2014 estimate of \$959.2 billion.

During the first 9 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$786.6 billion, 10.5 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) above the \$711.8 billion for the same period in 2014.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$794.2 billion, 0.6 percent ( $\pm 0.8\%$ )\* above the revised August estimate of \$789.7 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$394.7 billion in September, 1.9 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) above the revised August estimate of \$387.5 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$399.5 billion in September, 0.7 percent ( $\pm 0.8\%$ )\* below the revised August estimate of \$402.2 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In September, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$300.0 billion, 0.7 percent ( $\pm 3.0\%$ )\* above the revised August estimate of \$297.8 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$69.1 billion, 2.4 percent ( $\pm 4.1\%$ )\* above the revised August estimate of \$67.5 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$91.2 billion, 0.3 percent ( $\pm 7.2\%$ )\* above the revised August estimate of \$90.9 billion.

***October 2015 data will be released on December 1, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. EST.***

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

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

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### **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	Sep 2015 <sup>P</sup>	Aug 2015 <sup>r</sup>	Jul 2015 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2015	May 2015	Sep 2014	Percent change Sep 2015 from -	
							Aug 2015	Sep 2014
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,094,160</b>	<b>1,087,511</b>	<b>1,080,358</b>	<b>1,074,314</b>	<b>1,068,424</b>	<b>959,182</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>14.1</b>
Residential	401,321	394,066	388,681	382,553	379,735	342,529	1.8	17.2
Nonresidential	692,840	693,445	691,677	691,761	688,688	616,654	-0.1	12.4
Lodging	22,362	22,511	21,638	22,782	21,200	16,845	-0.7	32.8
Office	57,509	57,731	57,701	57,170	56,907	48,207	-0.4	19.3
Commercial	65,782	66,544	66,153	65,408	68,688	67,095	-1.1	-2.0
Health care	41,349	41,382	40,588	40,926	41,107	37,926	-0.1	9.0
Educational	87,635	85,953	87,668	87,699	84,956	78,587	2.0	11.5
Religious	3,373	3,194	3,466	3,351	3,432	3,345	5.6	0.8
Public safety	9,075	9,352	9,337	9,118	8,657	9,529	-3.0	-4.8
Amusement and recreation	22,041	21,989	21,826	23,909	21,458	16,871	0.2	30.6
Transportation	45,940	45,215	45,005	45,740	44,507	41,694	1.6	10.2
Communication	18,339	18,846	18,813	18,814	20,138	16,639	-2.7	10.2
Power	91,392	93,006	91,790	89,213	89,850	89,700	-1.7	1.9
Highway and street	91,642	91,328	91,793	91,685	89,817	83,307	0.3	10.0
Sewage and waste disposal	26,008	25,726	26,027	26,279	25,433	23,038	1.1	12.9
Water supply	14,500	13,903	14,212	14,939	13,741	13,736	4.3	5.6
Conservation and development	8,135	8,651	8,489	7,824	8,480	8,007	-6.0	1.6
Manufacturing	87,758	88,114	87,172	86,903	90,319	62,127	-0.4	41.3
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>794,159</b>	<b>789,717</b>	<b>781,249</b>	<b>773,489</b>	<b>776,452</b>	<b>684,862</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>16.0</b>
Residential	394,668	387,496	382,063	376,055	373,063	337,109	1.9	17.1
New single family	222,173	219,367	217,246	213,864	213,004	197,150	1.3	12.7
New multi-family	56,702	54,031	50,327	52,055	50,185	44,759	4.9	26.7
Nonresidential	399,491	402,222	399,186	397,434	403,390	347,753	-0.7	14.9
Lodging	21,780	21,978	21,074	22,284	20,790	16,323	-0.9	33.4
Office	49,300	49,519	49,533	49,311	48,236	40,807	-0.4	20.8
Commercial	62,966	63,726	63,336	62,627	66,318	64,973	-1.2	-3.1
Health care	32,306	32,387	31,633	31,944	32,063	28,335	-0.3	14.0
Educational	18,488	18,410	18,569	18,214	18,117	15,992	0.4	15.6
Religious	3,359	3,182	3,460	3,342	3,420	3,327	5.6	1.0
Amusement and recreation	11,144	11,272	11,089	11,630	10,357	7,499	-1.1	48.6
Transportation	13,940	13,388	13,355	13,233	13,242	11,552	4.1	20.7
Communication	18,133	18,671	18,633	18,615	20,014	16,430	-2.9	10.4
Power	79,550	80,713	80,416	78,518	79,521	79,216	-1.4	0.4
Manufacturing	86,988	87,450	86,332	86,169	89,649	61,638	-0.5	41.1
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>300,002</b>	<b>297,794</b>	<b>299,109</b>	<b>300,825</b>	<b>291,971</b>	<b>274,321</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>9.4</b>
Residential	6,653	6,571	6,618	6,498	6,673	5,420	1.2	22.7
Nonresidential	293,349	291,223	292,491	294,327	285,299	268,901	0.7	9.1
Office	8,209	8,212	8,167	7,859	8,670	7,399	0.0	10.9
Commercial	2,816	2,818	2,817	2,781	2,370	2,121	-0.1	32.8
Health care	9,042	8,995	8,955	8,983	9,044	9,592	0.5	-5.7
Educational	69,147	67,543	69,098	69,485	66,838	62,595	2.4	10.5
Public safety	8,877	9,115	9,082	8,836	8,343	9,250	-2.6	-4.0
Amusement and recreation	10,897	10,717	10,738	12,279	11,100	9,372	1.7	16.3
Transportation	32,000	31,827	31,650	32,507	31,266	30,142	0.5	6.2
Power	11,841	12,293	11,373	10,695	10,329	10,484	-3.7	12.9
Highway and street	91,178	90,898	91,135	91,206	89,306	82,953	0.3	9.9
Sewage and waste disposal	25,806	25,536	25,840	26,095	25,239	22,815	1.1	13.1
Water supply	13,975	13,339	13,659	14,414	13,197	13,247	4.8	5.5
Conservation and development	7,991	8,548	8,387	7,745	8,380	7,693	-6.5	3.9

<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	Sep 2015 <sup>p</sup>	Aug 2015 <sup>r</sup>	Jul 2015 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2015	May 2015	Sep 2014	Year-to-date		
							Sep 2015	Sep 2014	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>102,102</b>	<b>101,332</b>	<b>99,053</b>	<b>97,465</b>	<b>91,286</b>	<b>89,325</b>	<b>786,576</b>	<b>711,753</b>	<b>10.5</b>
Residential	37,389	36,843	36,065	35,350	33,708	31,593	287,152	255,464	12.4
Nonresidential	64,713	64,489	62,989	62,115	57,578	57,733	499,424	456,289	9.5
Lodging	1,903	1,891	1,805	1,885	1,768	1,431	15,225	11,616	31.1
Office	5,149	4,989	4,893	4,880	4,792	4,355	40,864	33,237	22.9
Commercial	6,032	6,003	5,826	5,773	5,827	6,171	49,308	45,095	9.3
Health care	3,705	3,543	3,469	3,490	3,435	3,406	30,071	28,514	5.5
Educational	7,993	8,849	8,956	8,559	7,207	7,151	64,567	61,026	5.8
Religious	307	283	295	277	276	303	2,445	2,401	1.8
Public safety	896	810	774	791	713	940	6,720	6,982	-3.8
Amusement and recreation	1,984	1,961	1,891	2,048	1,852	1,539	15,486	12,013	28.9
Transportation	4,358	4,220	4,016	4,073	3,783	3,915	33,181	30,434	9.0
Communication	1,618	1,585	1,618	1,662	1,615	1,478	13,379	12,503	7.0
Power	7,826	7,833	7,693	7,579	7,307	7,642	64,518	77,984	-17.3
Highway and street	10,561	10,620	10,164	9,278	7,631	9,558	66,315	61,918	7.1
Sewage and waste disposal	2,476	2,392	2,312	2,381	2,109	2,196	18,898	16,844	12.2
Water supply	1,320	1,272	1,259	1,310	1,168	1,242	10,236	9,814	4.3
Conservation and development	863	765	724	660	654	856	6,140	5,340	15.0
Manufacturing	7,723	7,473	7,295	7,470	7,440	5,550	62,070	40,570	53.0
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>71,952</b>	<b>70,908</b>	<b>69,562</b>	<b>68,918</b>	<b>66,752</b>	<b>61,819</b>	<b>568,212</b>	<b>506,605</b>	<b>12.2</b>
Residential	36,776	36,264	35,470	34,750	33,143	31,083	282,336	251,747	12.2
New single family	20,772	20,596	20,109	19,122	18,090	18,471	160,708	141,207	13.8
New multi-family	4,830	4,719	4,332	4,601	4,260	3,778	38,051	30,418	25.1
Nonresidential	35,176	34,644	34,092	34,168	33,609	30,735	285,877	254,858	12.2
Lodging	1,855	1,847	1,758	1,844	1,734	1,387	14,854	11,302	31.4
Office	4,386	4,278	4,189	4,183	4,057	3,656	34,801	27,501	26.5
Commercial	5,749	5,749	5,595	5,530	5,628	5,955	47,471	43,683	8.7
Health care	2,853	2,780	2,709	2,711	2,692	2,512	23,343	21,034	11.0
Educational	1,553	1,707	1,735	1,734	1,625	1,342	13,355	12,696	5.2
Religious	306	282	294	277	275	301	2,438	2,396	1.8
Amusement and recreation	976	957	951	967	889	657	7,512	5,325	41.1
Transportation	1,307	1,236	1,200	1,183	1,168	1,059	9,713	8,372	16.0
Communication	1,601	1,571	1,603	1,645	1,605	1,461	13,254	12,370	7.1
Power	6,781	6,677	6,682	6,559	6,412	6,738	56,391	69,040	-18.3
Manufacturing	7,659	7,418	7,225	7,409	7,384	5,509	61,585	40,164	53.3
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>30,149</b>	<b>30,424</b>	<b>29,492</b>	<b>28,548</b>	<b>24,533</b>	<b>27,507</b>	<b>218,364</b>	<b>205,149</b>	<b>6.4</b>
Residential	613	580	595	600	565	510	4,816	3,717	29.6
Nonresidential	29,537	29,845	28,897	27,947	23,968	26,997	213,547	201,432	6.0
Office	763	711	704	697	736	699	6,063	5,736	5.7
Commercial	283	254	232	243	199	216	1,838	1,412	30.2
Health care	852	764	760	779	743	895	6,728	7,479	-10.0
Educational	6,440	7,142	7,221	6,826	5,582	5,809	51,213	48,330	6.0
Public safety	879	790	753	766	684	916	6,502	6,850	-5.1
Amusement and recreation	1,008	1,004	940	1,081	963	882	7,975	6,689	19.2
Transportation	3,051	2,984	2,816	2,891	2,615	2,856	23,467	22,062	6.4
Power	1,044	1,156	1,011	1,020	896	904	8,127	8,944	-9.1
Highway and street	10,509	10,577	10,103	9,245	7,594	9,519	66,014	61,799	6.8
Sewage and waste disposal	2,457	2,376	2,296	2,364	2,091	2,176	18,751	16,658	12.6
Water supply	1,270	1,217	1,211	1,264	1,120	1,194	9,833	9,407	4.5
Conservation and development	851	756	715	653	645	830	6,049	5,209	16.1

<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>0.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Residential	5.5	4.7	4.8	3.9	6.4
Nonresidential	0.9	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.3
Lodging	2.4	2.0	4.2	1.0	4.3
Office	2.0	2.3	3.2	1.4	3.1
Commercial	2.3	1.5	2.7	1.8	2.9
Health care	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.2	2.7
Educational	2.2	1.4	2.2	2.1	3.3
Religious	6.7	5.0	6.4	4.2	8.1
Public safety	3.4	2.4	2.8	3.3	4.6
Amusement and recreation	3.7	2.6	4.2	2.8	5.7
Transportation	2.5	1.7	2.4	1.9	3.1
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5
Highway and street	3.4	1.6	2.8	4.4	5.1
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.7	3.6	3.0	4.8
Water supply	4.7	3.0	3.8	3.5	6.1
Conservation and development	3.4	3.0	4.0	2.6	3.9
Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	1.3	0.5	1.5
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.5</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	5.8	5.5	5.9	1.9	7.0
Nonresidential	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.5	1.2
Lodging	2.5	2.0	4.2	1.0	4.4
Office	2.3	2.7	3.8	1.6	3.6
Commercial	2.3	1.5	2.8	1.8	2.8
Health care	2.5	2.2	3.0	1.3	3.5
Educational	3.0	2.3	3.8	2.3	4.3
Religious	6.7	5.0	6.4	4.2	8.2
Amusement and recreation	4.2	3.0	5.3	1.3	6.9
Transportation	6.3	5.2	4.8	3.6	4.5
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3
Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	1.4	0.5	1.5
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Residential	5.5	4.7	4.8	3.9	6.4
Nonresidential	1.4	0.7	1.2	1.8	2.2
Office	3.4	3.1	3.8	2.9	4.5
Commercial	9.8	8.9	11.1	9.7	26.3
Health care	2.9	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.8
Educational	2.6	1.6	2.6	2.5	4.0
Public safety	3.5	2.4	2.8	3.4	4.7
Amusement and recreation	5.6	4.1	6.2	5.1	8.5
Transportation	2.6	1.8	2.7	2.1	3.4
Power	3.8	2.7	4.2	4.0	5.1
Highway and street	3.4	1.6	2.8	4.4	5.2
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.7	3.7	3.0	4.9
Water supply	4.9	3.1	4.1	3.6	6.2
Conservation and development	3.4	3.1	4.1	2.6	3.9

NA Not applicable