

U.S. Census Bureau News

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, D.C. 20233

For Release at 10:00 A.M. EST, Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Michael Davis, Linnet Holland, or Trent Langley
(301) 763-1605

CB12-22

DECEMBER 2011 CONSTRUCTION AT \$816.4 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during December 2011 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$816.4 billion, 1.5 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$) above the revised November estimate of \$804.0 billion. The December figure is 4.3 percent ($\pm 1.9\%$) above the December 2010 estimate of \$782.9 billion.

The value of construction in 2011 was \$787.4 billion, 2.0 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) below the \$803.6 billion spent in 2010.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$529.7 billion, 2.1 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) above the revised November estimate of \$518.8 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$241.2 billion in December, 0.8 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised November estimate of \$239.4 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$288.5 billion in December, 3.3 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) above the revised November estimate of \$279.4 billion.

The value of private construction in 2011 was \$504.1 billion, 0.7 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$)* above the \$500.6 billion spent in 2010. Residential construction in 2011 was \$236.2 billion, 1.1 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$)* below the 2010 figure of \$238.8 billion and nonresidential construction was \$268.0 billion, 2.4 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$) above the \$261.8 billion in 2010.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In December, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$286.6 billion, 0.5 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$)* above the revised November estimate of \$285.3 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$70.6 billion, 0.6 percent ($\pm 3.4\%$)* below the revised November estimate of \$71.1 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$84.5 billion, 1.8 percent ($\pm 5.0\%$)* above the revised November estimate of \$82.9 billion.

The value of public construction in 2011 was \$283.3 billion, 6.5 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$) below the \$303.0 billion spent in 2010. Educational construction in 2011 was \$70.9 billion, 5.3 percent ($\pm 3.2\%$) below the 2010 figure of \$74.9 billion and highway construction was \$78.9 billion, 4.5 percent ($\pm 3.2\%$) below the \$82.5 billion in 2010.

January 2012 data will be released on March 1, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. EST.

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, 1.1 percent; private construction, 1.6 percent; and public construction, 1.3 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	Dec 2011 ^p	Nov 2011 ^r	Oct 2011 ^r	Sep 2011	Aug 2011	Dec 2010	Percent change Dec 2011 from -	
							Nov 2011	Dec 2010
Total Construction	816,383	804,041	801,193	798,972	790,277	782,880	1.5	4.3
Residential	248,548	246,709	247,713	241,690	238,307	239,361	0.7	3.8
Nonresidential	567,835	557,331	553,480	557,282	551,971	543,519	1.9	4.5
Lodging	8,428	8,623	8,447	8,659	8,534	9,943	-2.3	-15.2
Office	34,852	34,870	34,315	34,967	34,229	35,204	-0.1	-1.0
Commercial	43,929	43,796	43,506	44,939	46,001	38,539	0.3	14.0
Health care	39,723	39,207	38,615	41,051	40,594	40,291	1.3	-1.4
Educational	85,637	86,102	86,100	87,016	85,934	82,056	-0.5	4.4
Religious	3,972	3,875	4,042	4,143	4,235	4,926	2.5	-19.4
Public safety	9,929	10,124	9,667	9,828	10,238	9,608	-1.9	3.3
Amusement and recreation	15,576	15,810	15,852	16,142	15,574	16,140	-1.5	-3.5
Transportation	34,302	34,022	34,488	35,173	35,787	38,010	0.8	-9.8
Communication	18,002	16,883	17,467	18,158	17,756	18,342	6.6	-1.9
Power	101,045	98,378	94,869	92,114	89,949	90,500	2.7	11.7
Highway and street	84,497	82,973	81,668	81,001	78,628	82,513	1.8	2.4
Sewage and waste disposal	23,707	23,606	22,707	22,790	22,700	25,115	0.4	-5.6
Water supply	13,640	13,629	14,156	14,177	14,529	14,762	0.1	-7.6
Conservation and development	6,118	6,197	6,721	6,559	7,043	6,725	-1.3	-9.0
Manufacturing	44,479	39,239	40,860	40,565	40,239	30,847	13.4	44.2
Total Private Construction¹	529,737	518,786	520,746	513,607	506,059	488,966	2.1	8.3
Residential	241,188	239,352	239,994	233,393	229,889	229,963	0.8	4.9
New single family	110,959	109,291	107,421	106,849	106,600	107,044	1.5	3.7
New multi-family	16,095	16,145	15,223	15,270	15,724	13,543	-0.3	18.8
Nonresidential	288,549	279,434	280,752	280,214	276,171	259,004	3.3	11.4
Lodging	7,757	7,896	7,807	7,996	7,888	9,167	-1.8	-15.4
Office	22,758	22,870	22,817	22,808	22,740	22,910	-0.5	-0.7
Commercial	40,355	40,302	40,309	41,485	42,281	35,523	0.1	13.6
Health care	29,452	28,936	29,217	30,212	29,605	30,279	1.8	-2.7
Educational	15,026	15,033	14,668	14,313	13,844	12,690	0.0	18.4
Religious	3,931	3,850	4,009	4,111	4,191	4,886	2.1	-19.5
Amusement and recreation	6,621	7,001	7,545	7,782	6,952	6,203	-5.4	6.7
Transportation	11,351	11,210	11,018	11,097	10,971	10,293	1.3	10.3
Communication	17,785	16,704	17,265	17,931	17,653	18,324	6.5	-2.9
Power	88,647	85,906	84,404	81,511	79,267	77,164	3.2	14.9
Manufacturing	43,476	38,271	40,197	39,466	39,475	30,316	13.6	43.4
Total Public Construction²	286,646	285,255	280,448	285,365	284,218	293,914	0.5	-2.5
Residential	7,360	7,357	7,719	8,297	8,418	9,399	0.0	-21.7
Nonresidential	279,285	277,898	272,728	277,068	275,800	284,516	0.5	-1.8
Office	12,094	12,000	11,498	12,159	11,489	12,294	0.8	-1.6
Commercial	3,573	3,493	3,197	3,454	3,720	3,016	2.3	18.5
Health care	10,270	10,271	9,398	10,839	10,989	10,012	0.0	2.6
Educational	70,611	71,069	71,433	72,703	72,090	69,366	-0.6	1.8
Public safety	9,715	9,891	9,451	9,632	10,044	9,536	-1.8	1.9
Amusement and recreation	8,955	8,809	8,307	8,360	8,622	9,937	1.7	-9.9
Transportation	22,951	22,812	23,470	24,076	24,817	27,717	0.6	-17.2
Power	12,398	12,472	10,465	10,604	10,682	13,336	-0.6	-7.0
Highway and street	84,459	82,949	81,654	80,987	78,593	82,409	1.8	2.5
Sewage and waste disposal	23,238	23,114	22,206	22,302	22,204	24,650	0.5	-5.7
Water supply	13,070	13,013	13,497	13,500	14,007	14,162	0.4	-7.7
Conservation and development	6,020	6,105	6,616	6,432	6,986	6,716	-1.4	-10.4

^pPreliminary ^rRevised¹Includes 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	Dec 2011 ^p	Nov 2011 ^r	Oct 2011 ^r	Sep 2011	Aug 2011	Dec 2010	Year-to-date		
							Dec 2011	Dec 2010	Percent change
Total Construction	62,260	68,483	73,951	74,421	75,838	60,066	787,406	803,621	-2.0
Residential	17,808	20,482	23,644	21,840	23,360	17,203	244,391	248,706	-1.7
Nonresidential	44,452	48,001	50,308	52,581	52,477	42,863	543,014	554,915	-2.1
Lodging	702	719	704	722	711	829	8,515	11,329	-24.8
Office	2,757	2,929	2,923	3,225	3,001	2,811	34,415	37,573	-8.4
Commercial	3,372	3,694	3,852	4,134	4,174	2,980	43,488	40,522	7.3
Health care	3,207	3,318	3,310	3,667	3,501	3,281	39,694	39,879	-0.5
Educational	6,192	6,799	7,214	8,020	8,836	6,019	84,692	88,227	-4.0
Religious	322	344	365	367	371	395	4,152	5,208	-20.3
Public safety	810	873	810	951	893	791	9,895	11,118	-11.0
Amusement and recreation	1,233	1,347	1,403	1,485	1,381	1,286	15,527	16,959	-8.4
Transportation	2,716	2,950	3,144	3,282	3,341	3,003	35,438	38,232	-7.3
Communication	1,778	1,506	1,472	1,580	1,585	1,843	17,817	18,261	-2.4
Power	8,969	9,066	9,052	7,916	7,891	8,166	89,528	78,540	14.0
Highway and street	5,227	7,258	8,553	9,498	9,205	5,108	78,881	82,657	-4.6
Sewage and waste disposal	1,843	2,064	2,136	2,141	2,115	1,965	23,156	26,063	-11.2
Water supply	1,048	1,165	1,292	1,274	1,349	1,138	14,022	15,305	-8.4
Conservation and development	521	536	520	710	636	602	6,926	6,937	-0.2
Manufacturing	3,756	3,434	3,555	3,611	3,488	2,648	36,868	38,106	-3.2
Total Private Construction¹	41,633	44,499	48,273	45,546	46,945	38,673	504,134	500,597	0.7
Residential	17,215	19,874	23,005	21,016	22,617	16,426	236,168	238,801	-1.1
New single family	8,175	9,534	9,771	10,008	10,092	7,872	106,807	112,569	-5.1
New multi-family	1,258	1,350	1,287	1,306	1,408	1,061	14,719	14,668	0.3
Nonresidential	24,418	24,625	25,268	24,529	24,328	22,247	267,966	261,796	2.4
Lodging	646	658	651	666	657	764	7,923	10,904	-27.3
Office	1,790	1,935	1,989	2,016	1,980	1,824	22,537	24,231	-7.0
Commercial	3,073	3,398	3,595	3,777	3,839	2,730	40,041	37,647	6.4
Health care	2,374	2,464	2,551	2,661	2,565	2,456	29,097	30,316	-4.0
Educational	1,140	1,195	1,220	1,221	1,317	961	13,760	13,356	3.0
Religious	318	342	363	365	367	392	4,121	5,156	-20.1
Amusement and recreation	543	581	647	671	586	514	6,548	6,541	0.1
Transportation	941	993	988	994	997	875	10,774	9,912	8.7
Communication	1,760	1,491	1,456	1,561	1,577	1,841	17,710	18,226	-2.8
Power	8,049	8,090	8,163	6,936	6,897	7,184	77,893	66,601	17.0
Manufacturing	3,672	3,353	3,500	3,519	3,425	2,604	36,122	37,478	-3.6
Total Public Construction²	20,627	23,984	25,678	28,875	28,892	21,393	283,271	303,024	-6.5
Residential	592	608	639	823	743	777	8,223	9,905	-17.0
Nonresidential	20,034	23,376	25,039	28,052	28,149	20,616	275,048	293,119	-6.2
Office	967	994	934	1,209	1,021	987	11,878	13,342	-11.0
Commercial	299	295	258	357	335	250	3,447	2,876	19.9
Health care	834	854	759	1,006	936	825	10,598	9,562	10.8
Educational	5,052	5,604	5,994	6,799	7,519	5,058	70,932	74,871	-5.3
Public safety	794	855	791	934	875	786	9,704	10,911	-11.1
Amusement and recreation	690	766	756	814	795	772	8,978	10,418	-13.8
Transportation	1,775	1,957	2,156	2,289	2,344	2,128	24,664	28,321	-12.9
Power	920	976	889	980	994	982	11,635	11,939	-2.5
Highway and street	5,224	7,255	8,552	9,496	9,201	5,100	78,851	82,548	-4.5
Sewage and waste disposal	1,807	2,021	2,091	2,096	2,070	1,929	22,616	25,642	-11.8
Water supply	999	1,112	1,221	1,204	1,298	1,085	13,408	14,641	-8.4
Conservation and development	512	528	512	699	631	601	6,860	6,910	-0.7

^pPreliminary ^rRevised¹Includes 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	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.2
Residential	3.7	2.6	1.7	3.5	2.7
Nonresidential	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.3
Lodging	4.6	3.2	2.2	1.9	4.8
Office	2.7	2.0	1.7	1.7	2.2
Commercial	3.5	2.3	3.0	2.0	3.6
Health care	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.5	2.5
Educational	2.3	1.5	1.8	1.9	3.3
Religious	6.9	4.5	3.6	4.5	6.9
Public safety	3.4	2.3	2.2	2.6	3.7
Amusement and recreation	3.6	2.3	2.7	2.5	4.6
Transportation	2.5	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.2
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.6	0.4	0.7	1.1	0.7
Highway and street	3.6	1.6	2.0	3.1	6.3
Sewage and waste disposal	3.4	2.3	2.1	3.0	4.1
Water supply	3.9	2.3	2.8	3.4	4.6
Conservation and development	3.2	2.2	1.9	3.6	3.0
Manufacturing	1.8	1.3	2.0	0.9	3.3
Total Private Construction	1.1	0.8	0.9	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	10.6	9.4	6.0	4.1	9.4
Nonresidential	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.4
Lodging	4.8	3.3	2.3	2.0	5.0
Office	4.2	3.0	2.7	2.4	3.4
Commercial	3.8	2.5	3.2	2.2	4.1
Health care	2.5	2.3	2.4	1.8	3.4
Educational	3.6	2.6	3.6	2.3	9.7
Religious	7.0	4.5	3.6	4.5	7.0
Amusement and recreation	4.2	3.3	4.5	3.2	5.4
Transportation	5.9	5.4	9.8	4.3	13.6
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Manufacturing	1.9	1.4	2.1	0.9	3.4
Total Public Construction	1.3	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.7
Residential	3.7	2.6	1.7	3.5	2.7
Nonresidential	1.4	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.8
Office	2.6	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.4
Commercial	7.6	5.9	6.5	3.7	4.5
Health care	2.9	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.4
Educational	2.6	1.7	2.0	2.1	3.2
Public safety	3.5	2.3	2.3	2.6	3.7
Amusement and recreation	5.0	3.0	3.4	3.3	6.3
Transportation	2.7	1.9	1.8	2.3	2.2
Power	4.3	2.4	6.0	8.3	4.8
Highway and street	3.6	1.6	2.0	3.1	6.3
Sewage and waste disposal	3.5	2.3	2.2	3.1	4.2
Water supply	4.1	2.4	2.9	3.5	4.9
Conservation and development	3.2	2.2	1.9	3.7	3.0

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 ^p	2010	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
Total Construction	787,406	803,621	-2.0	0.5
Residential	244,391	248,706	-1.7	2.6
Nonresidential	543,014	554,915	-2.1	0.5
Lodging	8,515	11,329	-24.8	3.2
Office	34,415	37,573	-8.4	2.0
Commercial	43,488	40,522	7.3	2.3
Health care	39,694	39,879	-0.5	1.7
Educational	84,692	88,227	-4.0	1.5
Religious	4,152	5,208	-20.3	4.5
Public safety	9,895	11,118	-11.0	2.3
Amusement and recreation	15,527	16,959	-8.4	2.3
Transportation	35,438	38,232	-7.3	1.7
Communication	17,817	18,261	-2.4	NA
Power	89,528	78,540	14.0	0.4
Highway and street	78,881	82,657	-4.6	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	23,156	26,063	-11.2	2.3
Water supply	14,022	15,305	-8.4	2.3
Conservation and development	6,926	6,937	-0.2	2.2
Manufacturing	36,868	38,106	-3.2	1.3
Total Private Construction¹	504,134	500,597	0.7	0.8
Residential	236,168	238,801	-1.1	1.1
New single family	106,807	112,569	-5.1	4.0
New multi-family	14,719	14,668	0.3	9.4
Nonresidential	267,966	261,796	2.4	0.8
Lodging	7,923	10,904	-27.3	3.3
Office	22,537	24,231	-7.0	3.0
Commercial	40,041	37,647	6.4	2.5
Health care	29,097	30,316	-4.0	2.3
Educational	13,760	13,356	3.0	2.6
Religious	4,121	5,156	-20.1	4.5
Public safety	191	207	-7.7	13.9
Amusement and recreation	6,548	6,541	0.1	3.3
Transportation	10,774	9,912	8.7	5.4
Communication	17,710	18,226	-2.8	NA
Power	77,893	66,601	17.0	0.3
Sewage and waste disposal	540	421	28.3	15.9
Water supply	614	664	-7.5	9.8
Manufacturing	36,122	37,478	-3.6	1.4
Total Public Construction²	283,271	303,024	-6.5	0.7
Residential	8,223	9,905	-17.0	2.6
Nonresidential	275,048	293,119	-6.2	0.7
Office	11,878	13,342	-11.0	1.7
Commercial	3,447	2,876	19.9	5.9
Health care	10,598	9,562	10.8	1.7
Educational	70,932	74,871	-5.3	1.7
Public safety	9,704	10,911	-11.1	2.3
Amusement and recreation	8,978	10,418	-13.8	3.0
Transportation	24,664	28,321	-12.9	1.9
Power	11,635	11,939	-2.5	2.4
Highway and street	78,851	82,548	-4.5	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	22,616	25,642	-11.8	2.3
Water supply	13,408	14,641	-8.4	2.4
Conservation and development	6,860	6,910	-0.7	2.2

NA Not applicable ^pPreliminary¹Includes 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.