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Joseph Huesman, Linnet Holland, or Trent Langley  
(301) 763-1605

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## SEPTEMBER 2012 CONSTRUCTION AT \$851.6 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during September 2012 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$851.6 billion, 0.6 percent ( $\pm 2.1\%$ )\* above the revised August estimate of \$846.2 billion. The September figure is 7.8 percent ( $\pm 2.1\%$ ) above the September 2011 estimate of \$790.3 billion.

During the first 9 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$624.8 billion, 8.9 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) above the \$573.7 billion for the same period in 2011.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$580.5 billion, 1.3 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised August estimate of \$572.8 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$285.9 billion in September, 2.8 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) above the revised August estimate of \$278.0 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$294.6 billion in September, 0.1 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* below the revised August estimate of \$294.8 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In September, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$271.1 billion, 0.8 percent ( $\pm 3.1\%$ )\* below the revised August estimate of \$273.4 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$66.7 billion, 0.8 percent ( $\pm 3.6\%$ )\* below the revised August estimate of \$67.2 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$78.4 billion, 1.6 percent ( $\pm 7.4\%$ )\* below the revised August estimate of \$79.6 billion.

*October 2012 data will be released on December 3, 2012 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, 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	Sep 2012 <sup>P</sup>	Aug 2012 <sup>F</sup>	Jul 2012 <sup>F</sup>	Jun 2012	May 2012	Sep 2011	Percent change Sep 2012 from -	
							Aug 2012	Sep 2011
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>851,563</b>	<b>846,167</b>	<b>846,645</b>	<b>845,072</b>	<b>838,778</b>	<b>790,294</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>7.8</b>
Residential	292,163	284,447	281,162	277,734	268,937	245,041	2.7	19.2
Nonresidential	559,400	561,720	565,483	567,339	569,841	545,253	-0.4	2.6
Lodging	11,230	11,537	11,588	11,399	10,954	8,981	-2.7	25.0
Office	35,848	36,633	35,877	35,937	36,102	35,011	-2.1	2.4
Commercial	45,400	47,540	46,266	46,576	47,548	44,564	-4.5	1.9
Health care	40,600	42,674	40,909	41,029	41,324	40,595	-4.9	0.0
Educational	83,815	84,407	85,986	86,946	84,018	86,626	-0.7	-3.2
Religious	3,553	3,785	3,921	3,851	3,815	4,272	-6.1	-16.8
Public safety	9,973	10,106	10,001	10,159	10,628	10,168	-1.3	-1.9
Amusement and recreation	16,039	15,603	15,971	15,784	16,160	16,028	2.8	0.1
Transportation	38,516	37,607	37,881	37,618	37,279	34,709	2.4	11.0
Communication	17,806	16,742	17,332	17,429	16,917	17,989	6.4	-1.0
Power	89,731	88,541	91,961	88,825	92,070	75,283	1.3	19.2
Highway and street	78,532	79,781	80,892	82,290	80,383	80,308	-1.6	-2.2
Sewage and waste disposal	21,543	21,642	20,934	21,369	22,013	22,027	-0.5	-2.2
Water supply	12,438	12,561	12,570	12,874	13,663	14,240	-1.0	-12.7
Conservation and development	6,404	6,229	5,839	6,081	6,435	6,848	2.8	-6.5
Manufacturing	47,973	46,333	47,555	49,172	50,532	47,605	3.5	0.8
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>580,467</b>	<b>572,815</b>	<b>572,425</b>	<b>566,395</b>	<b>562,145</b>	<b>507,210</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>14.4</b>
Residential	285,855	278,044	274,724	271,299	262,636	236,507	2.8	20.9
New single family	137,085	132,002	127,667	125,556	121,805	109,090	3.9	25.7
New multi-family	22,580	22,299	21,906	21,661	20,642	15,168	1.3	48.9
Nonresidential	294,612	294,771	297,701	295,096	299,509	270,704	-0.1	8.8
Lodging	10,579	10,820	10,843	10,614	10,350	8,238	-2.2	28.4
Office	26,322	26,421	25,711	25,372	25,335	22,645	-0.4	16.2
Commercial	42,717	44,404	43,321	43,374	44,184	40,923	-3.8	4.4
Health care	29,556	31,535	30,174	30,207	30,282	29,503	-6.3	0.2
Educational	17,146	17,166	17,424	17,554	17,414	14,993	-0.1	14.4
Religious	3,541	3,740	3,894	3,825	3,785	4,239	-5.3	-16.5
Amusement and recreation	6,668	6,888	6,648	6,237	6,562	7,683	-3.2	-13.2
Transportation	12,439	11,764	11,718	11,146	11,032	10,327	5.7	20.5
Communication	17,617	16,468	17,090	17,266	16,709	17,685	7.0	-0.4
Power	79,733	78,887	82,736	80,032	82,845	66,504	1.1	19.9
Manufacturing	47,088	45,366	46,642	48,140	49,446	46,497	3.8	1.3
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>271,095</b>	<b>273,352</b>	<b>274,220</b>	<b>278,677</b>	<b>276,633</b>	<b>283,083</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-4.2</b>
Residential	6,307	6,404	6,438	6,434	6,300	8,534	-1.5	-26.1
Nonresidential	264,788	266,948	267,782	272,243	270,332	274,549	-0.8	-3.6
Office	9,527	10,212	10,166	10,565	10,767	12,366	-6.7	-23.0
Commercial	2,683	3,136	2,945	3,202	3,364	3,641	-14.4	-26.3
Health care	11,044	11,139	10,735	10,822	11,042	11,091	-0.9	-0.4
Educational	66,670	67,241	68,563	69,392	66,605	71,634	-0.8	-6.9
Public safety	9,869	10,007	9,893	10,015	10,508	9,971	-1.4	-1.0
Amusement and recreation	9,371	8,715	9,323	9,547	9,598	8,345	7.5	12.3
Transportation	26,078	25,843	26,164	26,472	26,248	24,382	0.9	7.0
Power	9,998	9,654	9,224	8,793	9,226	8,779	3.6	13.9
Highway and street	78,366	79,613	80,659	82,164	80,234	80,298	-1.6	-2.4
Sewage and waste disposal	20,908	21,060	20,307	20,769	21,371	21,547	-0.7	-3.0
Water supply	12,187	12,192	12,101	12,506	13,099	13,570	0.0	-10.2
Conservation and development	6,353	6,133	5,773	5,989	6,344	6,738	3.6	-5.7

<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 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 2012 <sup>P</sup>	Aug 2012 <sup>F</sup>	Jul 2012 <sup>F</sup>	Jun 2012	May 2012	Sep 2011	Year-to-date		
							Sep 2012	Sep 2011	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>77,971</b>	<b>80,839</b>	<b>78,070</b>	<b>76,491</b>	<b>71,635</b>	<b>73,515</b>	<b>624,789</b>	<b>573,654</b>	<b>8.9</b>
Residential	26,448	27,625	26,641	25,603	23,452	22,148	203,764	181,705	12.1
Nonresidential	51,523	53,214	51,429	50,888	48,183	51,367	421,025	391,949	7.4
Lodging	936	961	966	950	913	748	8,178	6,517	25.5
Office	3,198	3,262	3,052	3,128	3,116	3,243	26,865	25,986	3.4
Commercial	4,106	4,362	4,140	4,150	4,060	4,088	35,082	32,372	8.4
Health care	3,611	3,669	3,435	3,513	3,489	3,609	30,684	29,677	3.4
Educational	7,662	8,709	8,632	8,396	7,094	7,975	65,373	64,283	1.7
Religious	316	332	336	321	305	377	2,897	3,181	-8.9
Public safety	943	886	845	868	889	983	7,733	7,580	2.0
Amusement and recreation	1,440	1,397	1,411	1,362	1,396	1,475	11,860	12,028	-1.4
Transportation	3,558	3,522	3,355	3,314	3,134	3,230	26,850	25,955	3.4
Communication	1,434	1,491	1,444	1,497	1,466	1,559	12,436	12,844	-3.2
Power	7,392	7,589	7,644	7,454	7,560	6,347	67,295	51,655	30.3
Highway and street	8,934	9,379	8,750	8,247	6,993	9,426	59,629	57,940	2.9
Sewage and waste disposal	1,986	1,999	1,842	1,887	1,847	2,045	16,387	16,676	-1.7
Water supply	1,119	1,141	1,094	1,138	1,159	1,285	9,793	10,556	-7.2
Conservation and development	646	567	488	504	513	747	4,601	5,682	-19.0
Manufacturing	4,243	3,947	3,995	4,159	4,250	4,231	35,363	29,018	21.9
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>51,033</b>	<b>52,833</b>	<b>51,441</b>	<b>50,412</b>	<b>48,168</b>	<b>44,861</b>	<b>417,636</b>	<b>360,863</b>	<b>15.7</b>
Residential	25,847	27,047	26,082	25,037	22,919	21,307	198,807	174,928	13.7
New single family	12,876	12,472	11,932	11,320	10,360	10,233	93,025	80,242	15.9
New multi-family	1,912	1,998	1,923	1,909	1,769	1,277	15,317	10,824	41.5
Nonresidential	25,186	25,786	25,359	25,375	25,249	23,554	218,828	185,935	17.7
Lodging	882	902	904	885	863	687	7,648	6,042	26.6
Office	2,285	2,328	2,190	2,219	2,211	1,990	18,836	16,829	11.9
Commercial	3,838	4,081	3,898	3,876	3,785	3,716	32,755	29,677	10.4
Health care	2,588	2,733	2,539	2,599	2,547	2,581	22,530	21,144	6.6
Educational	1,440	1,618	1,590	1,653	1,569	1,272	13,124	10,533	24.6
Religious	315	329	333	319	302	375	2,877	3,156	-8.8
Amusement and recreation	573	586	569	519	557	660	4,900	5,132	-4.5
Transportation	1,098	1,062	1,016	966	930	933	7,889	7,015	12.5
Communication	1,418	1,468	1,424	1,484	1,448	1,534	12,266	12,754	-3.8
Power	6,474	6,692	6,852	6,670	6,748	5,531	60,322	44,059	36.9
Manufacturing	4,169	3,866	3,919	4,073	4,159	4,139	34,662	28,484	21.7
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>26,938</b>	<b>28,006</b>	<b>26,629</b>	<b>26,079</b>	<b>23,467</b>	<b>28,655</b>	<b>207,154</b>	<b>212,791</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
Residential	601	578	559	567	533	842	4,957	6,776	-26.8
Nonresidential	26,337	27,428	26,070	25,513	22,934	27,813	202,197	206,015	-1.9
Office	913	933	862	909	905	1,253	8,030	9,157	-12.3
Commercial	268	281	242	274	275	372	2,328	2,695	-13.6
Health care	1,024	935	897	914	942	1,028	8,153	8,533	-4.5
Educational	6,222	7,091	7,043	6,743	5,524	6,702	52,250	53,750	-2.8
Public safety	934	878	836	855	878	965	7,644	7,422	3.0
Amusement and recreation	867	812	843	843	840	815	6,960	6,896	0.9
Transportation	2,460	2,460	2,339	2,348	2,204	2,297	18,961	18,940	0.1
Power	918	896	792	784	812	816	6,973	7,595	-8.2
Highway and street	8,918	9,363	8,728	8,236	6,981	9,425	59,518	57,909	2.8
Sewage and waste disposal	1,933	1,948	1,790	1,833	1,793	2,004	15,929	16,271	-2.1
Water supply	1,094	1,106	1,055	1,110	1,115	1,215	9,493	10,090	-5.9
Conservation and development	642	559	482	497	506	737	4,539	5,633	-19.4

<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>1.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Residential	3.9	2.8	1.9	3.0	3.5
Nonresidential	1.0	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.3
Lodging	2.9	1.8	4.6	1.6	4.2
Office	3.4	3.2	3.5	1.6	4.4
Commercial	3.7	2.7	3.2	2.0	3.6
Health care	2.0	1.9	2.2	1.6	2.5
Educational	2.3	1.5	2.2	2.0	3.1
Religious	6.9	4.7	6.0	4.2	6.2
Public safety	3.3	2.5	3.0	2.1	3.7
Amusement and recreation	4.0	3.1	3.6	4.9	5.7
Transportation	2.0	1.7	2.6	1.7	2.9
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.5
Highway and street	3.5	1.9	2.5	4.5	4.1
Sewage and waste disposal	3.6	2.8	3.0	3.0	4.2
Water supply	4.0	2.5	2.9	3.8	4.7
Conservation and development	3.7	2.5	1.8	2.6	3.3
Manufacturing	1.5	1.0	1.9	1.1	1.8
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.4</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	9.3	8.0	10.7	2.6	8.9
Nonresidential	1.1	1.0	1.2	0.8	1.4
Lodging	3.0	1.9	4.8	1.7	4.5
Office	5.2	4.7	5.5	1.9	7.1
Commercial	4.0	2.9	3.5	2.1	4.0
Health care	2.6	2.5	3.0	2.1	3.3
Educational	3.3	2.9	4.8	3.1	4.3
Religious	6.9	4.7	6.1	4.2	6.2
Amusement and recreation	5.1	4.2	4.7	2.5	5.3
Transportation	4.1	2.8	8.1	4.3	10.9
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4
Manufacturing	1.6	1.1	2.0	1.2	1.9
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Residential	3.9	2.8	1.9	3.0	3.5
Nonresidential	1.4	0.8	1.1	1.9	1.8
Office	2.5	1.6	1.7	2.7	2.7
Commercial	5.7	4.2	5.4	2.5	5.5
Health care	2.5	2.0	2.2	1.7	2.6
Educational	2.7	1.7	2.5	2.2	3.5
Public safety	3.3	2.5	3.0	2.1	3.8
Amusement and recreation	5.5	4.2	5.1	7.6	9.2
Transportation	2.2	1.8	2.7	1.8	3.0
Power	5.1	3.9	3.5	6.1	5.3
Highway and street	3.5	1.9	2.5	4.5	4.1
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.8	3.1	3.0	4.2
Water supply	4.2	2.5	3.1	3.9	5.0
Conservation and development	3.7	2.5	1.8	2.6	3.4

NA Not applicable