

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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## MAY 2016 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,143.3 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during May 2016 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,143.3 billion, 0.8 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$1,152.4 billion. The May figure is 2.8 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ ) above the May 2015 estimate of \$1,112.2 billion.

During the first 5 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$438.5 billion, 8.2 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) above the \$405.4 billion for the same period in 2015.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$859.3 billion, 0.3 percent ( $\pm 1.0\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$861.9 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$451.9 billion in May, nearly the same as ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* the revised April estimate of \$451.7 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$407.4 billion in May, 0.7 percent ( $\pm 1.0\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$410.1 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In May, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$284.0 billion, 2.3 percent ( $\pm 2.6\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$290.5 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$66.8 billion, 5.4 percent ( $\pm 3.5\%$ ) below the revised April estimate of \$70.6 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$88.9 billion, 0.2 percent ( $\pm 8.1\%$ )\* below the revised April estimate of \$89.1 billion.

*June 2016 data will be released on August 1, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. EDT.*

*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, 0.93 percent; private construction, 1.02 percent; and public construction, 1.35 percent.

In this May 2016 press release, normal revisions to the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data revised back to January 2014.

\* 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	May 2016 <sup>P</sup>	Apr 2016 <sup>r</sup>	Mar 2016 <sup>r</sup>	Feb 2016 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2016 <sup>r</sup>	May 2015 <sup>r</sup>	Percent change May 2016 from -	
							Apr 2016	May 2015
							<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,143,257</b>
Residential	458,334	458,239	475,094	462,484	456,604	435,415	0.0	5.3
Nonresidential	684,923	694,124	701,287	695,220	688,324	676,753	-1.3	1.2
Lodging	25,753	25,338	26,219	24,828	23,480	21,546	1.6	19.5
Office	64,093	63,989	63,365	62,570	58,243	54,753	0.2	17.1
Commercial	71,701	72,791	72,606	71,754	72,243	68,461	-1.5	4.7
Health care	40,755	40,665	42,016	39,940	38,513	39,461	0.2	3.3
Educational	84,038	88,697	89,910	89,624	85,691	84,066	-5.3	0.0
Religious	3,935	4,393	3,725	3,565	3,531	3,684	-10.4	6.8
Public safety	8,182	8,219	7,860	8,359	8,243	8,392	-0.5	-2.5
Amusement and recreation	21,445	21,551	21,229	21,012	20,217	19,929	-0.5	7.6
Transportation	43,575	44,836	45,285	44,050	44,129	45,392	-2.8	-4.0
Communication	19,029	18,700	18,421	19,721	22,039	21,053	1.8	-9.6
Power	95,977	96,137	94,682	94,314	94,940	94,574	-0.2	1.5
Highway and street	89,166	89,317	94,054	93,929	96,720	90,351	-0.2	-1.3
Sewage and waste disposal	23,461	24,741	24,704	26,237	25,941	24,465	-5.2	-4.1
Water supply	11,962	11,989	12,304	12,333	11,829	13,299	-0.2	-10.1
Conservation and development	8,062	7,485	7,839	8,243	7,354	8,049	7.7	0.2
Manufacturing	73,788	75,274	77,066	74,743	75,213	79,277	-2.0	-6.9
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>859,306</b>	<b>861,853</b>	<b>878,990</b>	<b>858,137</b>	<b>849,743</b>	<b>820,656</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Residential	451,880	451,739	468,362	455,693	450,037	428,694	0.0	5.4
New single family	239,225	242,319	246,787	248,938	248,134	225,004	-1.3	6.3
New multi-family	61,409	60,311	61,543	58,285	58,312	49,577	1.8	23.9
Nonresidential	407,427	410,114	410,629	402,444	399,706	391,962	-0.7	3.9
Lodging	25,501	25,029	25,801	24,270	23,113	21,141	1.9	20.6
Office	56,319	56,532	55,761	54,622	50,722	45,992	-0.4	22.5
Commercial	68,094	69,182	68,834	68,308	68,915	65,997	-1.6	3.2
Health care	32,066	31,892	33,054	31,540	30,563	30,645	0.5	4.6
Educational	17,265	18,082	17,854	18,288	17,703	16,777	-4.5	2.9
Religious	3,935	4,393	3,725	3,565	3,531	3,672	-10.4	7.2
Amusement and recreation	11,254	10,902	11,152	10,978	10,329	9,373	3.2	20.1
Transportation	13,175	12,956	12,547	11,954	12,568	12,866	1.7	2.4
Communication	18,865	18,617	18,238	19,568	21,879	20,908	1.3	-9.8
Power	86,922	87,107	86,337	84,321	84,907	84,387	-0.2	3.0
Manufacturing	73,157	74,538	76,414	73,989	74,525	78,595	-1.9	-6.9
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>283,951</b>	<b>290,510</b>	<b>297,390</b>	<b>299,567</b>	<b>295,186</b>	<b>291,511</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
Residential	6,454	6,500	6,732	6,791	6,567	6,721	-0.7	-4.0
Nonresidential	277,497	284,010	290,658	292,775	288,619	284,790	-2.3	-2.6
Office	7,773	7,458	7,604	7,949	7,521	8,762	4.2	-11.3
Commercial	3,607	3,609	3,773	3,446	3,328	2,464	-0.1	46.4
Health care	8,690	8,774	8,962	8,400	7,949	8,817	-1.0	-1.4
Educational	66,774	70,615	72,056	71,335	67,988	67,290	-5.4	-0.8
Public safety	8,123	8,162	7,784	8,272	8,139	8,137	-0.5	-0.2
Amusement and recreation	10,190	10,650	10,077	10,034	9,888	10,555	-4.3	-3.5
Transportation	30,401	31,881	32,738	32,096	31,561	32,526	-4.6	-6.5
Power	9,055	9,031	8,346	9,993	10,033	10,187	0.3	-11.1
Highway and street	88,914	89,066	93,783	93,666	96,484	89,901	-0.2	-1.1
Sewage and waste disposal	23,147	24,388	24,363	25,824	25,556	24,239	-5.1	-4.5
Water supply	11,797	11,816	12,147	12,142	11,673	12,718	-0.2	-7.2
Conservation and development	7,980	7,435	7,772	8,154	7,283	7,951	7.3	0.4

<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	May 2016 <sup>P</sup>	Apr 2016 <sup>f</sup>	Mar 2016 <sup>f</sup>	Feb 2016 <sup>f</sup>	Jan 2016 <sup>f</sup>	May 2015 <sup>f</sup>	Year-to-date		
							May 2016	May 2015	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>98,044</b>	<b>92,999</b>	<b>88,984</b>	<b>79,903</b>	<b>78,610</b>	<b>94,756</b>	<b>438,539</b>	<b>405,422</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Residential	40,494	37,915	36,635	30,745	30,797	38,223	176,586	160,753	9.8
Nonresidential	57,550	55,084	52,349	49,157	47,813	56,532	261,953	244,668	7.1
Lodging	2,169	2,101	2,127	1,963	1,809	1,818	10,170	8,031	26.6
Office	5,457	5,323	5,060	4,710	4,372	4,638	24,921	20,539	21.3
Commercial	6,064	5,980	5,624	5,306	5,156	5,801	28,130	25,441	10.6
Health care	3,434	3,346	3,375	3,141	2,928	3,297	16,223	15,613	3.9
Educational	7,124	7,011	6,542	6,151	5,790	7,122	32,617	29,956	8.9
Religious	325	354	299	264	263	299	1,504	1,322	13.8
Public safety	674	665	614	615	636	687	3,203	3,365	-4.8
Amusement and recreation	1,867	1,776	1,666	1,532	1,462	1,725	8,303	7,378	12.5
Transportation	3,697	3,618	3,332	3,014	3,035	3,823	16,696	16,754	-0.3
Communication	1,559	1,469	1,492	1,438	1,453	1,695	7,410	7,253	2.2
Power	7,892	7,763	7,402	7,352	7,520	7,699	37,929	35,520	6.8
Highway and street	7,542	6,124	5,252	4,562	4,500	7,610	27,978	26,225	6.7
Sewage and waste disposal	1,993	1,942	1,819	1,779	1,778	2,085	9,311	9,167	1.6
Water supply	1,014	982	938	878	854	1,135	4,666	4,986	-6.4
Conservation and development	637	592	623	645	532	632	3,028	3,078	-1.6
Manufacturing	6,103	6,037	6,186	5,811	5,725	6,467	29,863	30,041	-0.6
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>74,160</b>	<b>70,814</b>	<b>68,585</b>	<b>60,866</b>	<b>60,343</b>	<b>70,320</b>	<b>334,766</b>	<b>305,460</b>	<b>9.6</b>
Residential	39,940	37,384	36,132	30,257	30,340	37,660	174,051	158,316	9.9
New single family	20,295	19,519	19,142	16,426	17,152	19,084	92,533	82,686	11.9
New multi-family	5,168	5,083	4,982	4,610	4,431	4,158	24,275	19,523	24.3
Nonresidential	34,220	33,430	32,452	30,609	30,003	32,660	160,715	147,144	9.2
Lodging	2,148	2,076	2,093	1,917	1,778	1,784	10,011	7,829	27.9
Office	4,792	4,705	4,466	4,118	3,811	3,895	21,892	17,303	26.5
Commercial	5,767	5,691	5,328	5,045	4,920	5,598	26,751	24,622	8.6
Health care	2,711	2,619	2,636	2,473	2,315	2,567	12,755	12,151	5.0
Educational	1,556	1,529	1,414	1,356	1,271	1,513	7,125	6,487	9.8
Religious	325	354	299	264	263	298	1,504	1,319	14.0
Amusement and recreation	963	919	911	849	802	801	4,444	3,539	25.6
Transportation	1,141	1,040	837	734	847	1,137	4,599	4,893	-6.0
Communication	1,545	1,462	1,477	1,425	1,440	1,683	7,348	7,191	2.2
Power	7,149	6,993	6,799	6,606	6,819	6,839	34,366	31,414	9.4
Manufacturing	6,051	5,976	6,132	5,748	5,668	6,410	29,575	29,801	-0.8
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>23,884</b>	<b>22,185</b>	<b>20,399</b>	<b>19,037</b>	<b>18,267</b>	<b>24,436</b>	<b>103,773</b>	<b>99,962</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Residential	555	531	503	489	457	564	2,535	2,438	4.0
Nonresidential	23,329	21,654	19,897	18,548	17,810	23,872	101,238	97,524	3.8
Office	665	618	594	592	560	743	3,029	3,236	-6.4
Commercial	297	288	296	261	236	203	1,379	819	68.4
Health care	722	726	739	668	613	731	3,468	3,462	0.2
Educational	5,568	5,483	5,128	4,794	4,519	5,609	25,492	23,468	8.6
Public safety	669	660	607	609	628	664	3,172	3,235	-1.9
Amusement and recreation	904	857	755	683	660	924	3,859	3,839	0.5
Transportation	2,556	2,578	2,495	2,280	2,188	2,686	12,097	11,861	2.0
Power	743	770	603	745	701	861	3,562	4,106	-13.2
Highway and street	7,523	6,108	5,237	4,548	4,486	7,573	27,902	26,113	6.9
Sewage and waste disposal	1,965	1,914	1,795	1,744	1,750	2,065	9,167	9,085	0.9
Water supply	1,001	969	927	865	842	1,087	4,604	4,769	-3.5
Conservation and development	630	588	617	637	526	623	2,998	3,023	-0.8

<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>0.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Residential	4.8	4.6	5.4	4.7	5.7
Nonresidential	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.0
Lodging	2.2	1.9	2.9	0.9	3.0
Office	2.4	2.3	2.4	1.2	2.0
Commercial	2.5	2.1	2.5	1.5	2.7
Health care	2.0	1.8	2.9	1.6	3.0
Educational	2.1	1.6	2.4	1.7	2.6
Religious	7.2	7.3	9.4	14.3	7.5
Public safety	3.2	2.5	2.9	2.5	4.6
Amusement and recreation	3.5	2.5	3.7	3.0	5.0
Transportation	2.0	1.3	2.2	1.1	2.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Highway and street	3.6	2.5	3.3	4.9	4.8
Sewage and waste disposal	3.6	3.2	4.7	3.7	4.9
Water supply	4.5	3.4	4.7	4.6	5.5
Conservation and development	3.7	4.0	4.9	3.9	6.3
Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.9
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</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	6.2	5.9	5.4	1.9	5.3
Nonresidential	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.8
Lodging	2.3	1.9	2.9	0.9	3.0
Office	2.8	2.6	2.8	1.2	2.1
Commercial	2.4	2.1	2.4	1.6	2.7
Health care	2.4	2.2	3.6	2.0	3.6
Educational	3.0	2.7	3.8	2.1	4.1
Religious	7.2	7.4	9.4	14.3	7.6
Amusement and recreation	3.4	3.1	4.6	1.8	4.6
Transportation	6.7	5.5	5.3	4.8	4.5
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Manufacturing	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.9
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Residential	4.8	4.6	5.4	4.7	5.7
Nonresidential	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.6	1.9
Office	3.1	2.4	3.6	4.6	4.6
Commercial	14.9	14.1	21.5	4.2	15.2
Health care	3.1	2.5	3.4	2.2	4.5
Educational	2.5	1.9	2.8	2.1	3.2
Public safety	3.2	2.5	3.0	2.5	4.8
Amusement and recreation	5.9	4.1	5.6	5.7	8.3
Transportation	2.0	1.4	2.3	1.1	2.1
Power	4.7	3.1	3.2	3.2	6.0
Highway and street	3.6	2.5	3.3	4.9	4.8
Sewage and waste disposal	3.6	3.3	4.7	3.8	4.9
Water supply	4.6	3.4	5.0	4.6	5.8
Conservation and development	3.7	4.0	5.0	3.9	6.4

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	2015 <sup>†</sup>	2014 <sup>†</sup>	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,112,433</b>	<b>1,005,628</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Residential	440,255	374,860	17.4	4.2
Nonresidential	672,178	630,768	6.6	0.5
Lodging	21,728	16,738	29.8	1.8
Office	55,188	46,582	18.5	2.1
Commercial	66,924	62,841	6.5	1.4
Health care	40,734	38,647	5.4	3.3
Educational	83,517	79,681	4.8	1.3
Religious	3,667	3,386	8.3	4.8
Public safety	8,729	9,437	-7.5	2.4
Amusement and recreation	19,878	16,773	18.5	2.4
Transportation	45,566	42,043	8.4	1.5
Communication	20,507	17,298	18.6	NA
Power	92,435	110,089	-16.0	0.4
Highway and street	89,751	84,743	5.9	1.4
Sewage and waste disposal	24,285	23,173	4.8	2.4
Water supply	13,107	13,380	-2.0	2.5
Conservation and development	7,985	7,310	9.2	2.5
Manufacturing	78,178	58,648	33.3	0.7
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>823,540</b>	<b>729,500</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Residential	433,691	369,793	17.3	1.1
New single family	233,049	193,600	20.4	4.0
New multi-family	52,146	41,553	25.5	5.6
Nonresidential	389,850	359,707	8.4	0.8
Lodging	21,163	16,306	29.8	1.8
Office	47,190	38,864	21.4	2.4
Commercial	64,273	60,890	5.6	1.4
Health care	32,221	28,885	11.5	4.1
Educational	16,907	16,583	2.0	2.2
Religious	3,658	3,380	8.2	4.8
Public safety	214	227	-5.7	13.1
Amusement and recreation	9,634	7,719	24.8	3.0
Transportation	13,528	12,151	11.3	4.2
Communication	20,339	17,105	18.9	NA
Power	81,938	98,206	-16.6	0.4
Sewage and waste disposal	275	241	14.1	13.0
Water supply	535	573	-6.6	8.7
Manufacturing	77,508	58,142	33.3	0.7
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>288,892</b>	<b>276,128</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Residential	6,564	5,067	29.5	4.2
Nonresidential	282,328	271,061	4.2	0.7
Office	7,998	7,717	3.6	2.6
Commercial	2,650	1,951	35.8	9.3
Health care	8,513	9,762	-12.8	2.2
Educational	66,610	63,098	5.6	1.5
Public safety	8,514	9,211	-7.6	2.5
Amusement and recreation	10,245	9,054	13.2	3.7
Transportation	32,038	29,892	7.2	1.6
Power	10,497	11,883	-11.7	2.5
Highway and street	89,402	84,487	5.8	1.4
Sewage and waste disposal	24,010	22,932	4.7	2.4
Water supply	12,572	12,807	-1.8	2.6
Conservation and development	7,868	7,129	10.4	2.6

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.