



## Peter Bethke

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## Construction Spending Rises Less Than Expected

Construction spending scrambled **back into positive territory** by a tiny bit in December, gaining 0.1 percent from November's level to an estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,116.6 billion. The gain came even as the November estimate was revised down even further from a 0.4 percent loss to a negative 0.6 percent at \$1.116.0 billion. The December figure was still well above the spending pace in December 2014 of \$1,031.6 billion, an increase of 8.2 percent.

The December numbers, released Monday by the U.S. Census Bureau, were **significantly lower** than analysts had predicted, a range, according to *Econoday* and *Bloomberg* of 0.3 percent to 1.3 percent with a consensus of 0.6 percent.

On an **unadjusted** basis there was an estimated \$86,903 billion spent during the month compared to \$93,377 billion in November and \$79,535 billion in December 2014. Spending on construction for the entire year is estimated to be up 10.5 percent from 2014.

Spending on **private construction** was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$824.0 billion, down 0.6 percent from the revised November pace of \$828.8 billion but 9.9 percent higher than a year earlier. On non-adjusted basis overall privately funded construction rose 12.8 percent for the year to date through December compared to the same period in 2014.

Private spending on **residential** construction was significantly healthier than construction overall. December expenditures were estimated at a seasonally adjusted rate of \$429,606 compared to \$425,785, an increase of 0.9 percent and 8.1 percent higher than the previous December. Single family construction rose a percentage point from November at \$231,316 billion, an annual increase of 8.7 percent. Multi-family fared even better with a month-over-month gain of 2.7 percent to \$52,806 billion, a 12.0 percent increase year-over-year.

Expenditures on privately funded residential construction were estimated at \$31,624 on a non-seasonally adjusted basis and year to date was up 12.6 percent from the same period in 2014. Single-family construction rose 12.9 percent year-to-date and multifamily was 22.2 percent higher.

While the numbers are still very small, publicly-funded residential construction did rise in 2014, finishing the year at a total of \$6,428 billion, an

## National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
<b>Mortgage News Daily</b>			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.43%	+0.02	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	5.95%	0.00	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	5.82%	+0.02	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	6.62%	0.00	0.00
5/1 ARM	6.28%	-0.01	0.00

<b>Freddie Mac</b>			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.35%	-0.51	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	5.51%	-0.65	0.00

<b>Mortgage Bankers Assoc.</b>			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.44%	-0.06	0.54
15 Yr. Fixed	5.88%	-0.16	0.68
30 Yr. FHA	6.36%	-0.06	0.85
30 Yr. Jumbo	6.75%	+0.07	0.39
5/1 ARM	5.98%	-0.27	0.65

Rates as of: 8/30

## Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Aug 28	226.9	+0.49%
Building Permits	Mar	1.46M	-3.95%
Housing Starts	Mar	1.32M	-13.15%
New Home Sales	Mar	693K	+4.68%
Pending Home Sales	Feb	75.6	+1.75%
Existing Home Sales	Feb	3.97M	-0.75%

increase of 27.2 percent from the end of December 2014.

	Value	Change
Builder Confidence	Mar 51	+6.25%

## Celebrating my 21st year and specializing in lending in Wisconsin, NW Florida coast and Hwy 30a

You're in the right place. Helping people with home loans is all I have done for almost 21 years. Clear explanations, patience and expert advice are what my clients can expect. Information and education make the difference and to help people understand the loan process. Spending my day helping my clients is what I love to do!

**Peter Bethke**

