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## MARCH 2005 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,051.8 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during March 2005 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,051.8 billion, 0.5 percent ( $\pm 1.6\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$1,046.9 billion. The March figure is 8.0 percent ( $\pm 2.2\%$ ) above the March 2004 estimate of \$973.9 billion.

During the first 3 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$222.4 billion, 9.3 percent ( $\pm 2.1\%$ ) above the \$203.5 billion for the same period in 2004.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$815.5 billion, 0.5 percent ( $\pm 2.2\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$811.3 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$585.3 billion in March, 0.3 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$583.6 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$230.3 billion in March, 1.1 percent ( $\pm 2.2\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$227.7 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In March, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$236.3 billion, 0.3 percent ( $\pm 2.1\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$235.6 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$63.9 billion, 0.4 percent ( $\pm 3.5\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$63.7 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$69.0 billion, 0.4 percent ( $\pm 5.9\%$ )\* below the revised February estimate of \$69.3 billion.

*April 2005 data will be released on June 1, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. EDT.*

*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 ( $\pm 3.1$ ) 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, 0.8 percent; private construction, 0.7 percent; and public construction, 1.4 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	Mar 2005 <sup>p</sup>	Feb 2005 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2005 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2004	Nov 2004	Mar 2004	Percent change Mar 2005 from -	
							Feb 2005	Mar 2004
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,051,792</b>	<b>1,046,857</b>	<b>1,041,810</b>	<b>1,037,286</b>	<b>1,027,571</b>	<b>973,868</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Residential	592,821	591,175	584,856	580,566	571,201	528,965	0.3	12.1
Nonresidential	458,971	455,682	456,955	456,720	456,370	444,903	0.7	3.2
Lodging	11,682	11,760	11,803	12,736	13,409	12,312	-0.7	-5.1
Office	45,412	45,399	44,299	44,779	44,436	44,229	0.0	2.7
Commercial	67,054	65,665	67,232	66,534	67,783	60,541	2.1	10.8
Health care	31,795	31,842	32,879	32,763	33,350	31,692	-0.1	0.3
Educational	76,772	76,355	75,597	76,772	76,496	74,958	0.5	2.4
Religious	8,028	7,640	8,046	8,110	7,916	8,049	5.1	-0.3
Public safety	8,092	8,214	8,169	8,477	8,451	8,156	-1.5	-0.8
Amusement and recreation	18,803	18,872	18,685	19,128	19,203	19,121	-0.4	-1.7
Transportation	24,378	23,985	25,138	25,185	25,882	27,122	1.6	-10.1
Communication	14,983	15,504	15,766	14,447	13,765	12,621	-3.4	18.7
Power	33,236	33,739	34,841	33,085	32,453	34,584	-1.5	-3.9
Highway and street	69,471	69,800	68,364	67,643	67,073	68,012	-0.5	2.1
Sewage and waste disposal	14,747	14,865	14,441	14,779	14,818	14,489	-0.8	1.8
Water supply	10,817	10,570	10,218	9,836	9,668	10,602	2.3	2.0
Conservation and development	4,442	4,168	3,770	4,116	4,528	4,374	6.6	1.6
Manufacturing	19,262	17,305	17,706	18,332	17,139	14,042	11.3	37.2
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>815,532</b>	<b>811,278</b>	<b>807,830</b>	<b>801,690</b>	<b>791,373</b>	<b>738,714</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>10.4</b>
Residential	585,258	583,578	576,963	573,169	563,450	522,178	0.3	12.1
Nonresidential	230,274	227,699	230,867	228,521	227,923	216,536	1.1	6.3
Lodging	11,424	11,495	11,646	12,494	12,907	11,060	-0.6	3.3
Office	34,063	33,198	32,203	32,339	32,093	32,249	2.6	5.6
Commercial	62,263	61,020	62,888	62,276	63,308	56,400	2.0	10.4
Health care	24,982	25,225	26,280	25,727	26,456	25,167	-1.0	-0.7
Educational	12,806	12,621	12,746	12,815	13,087	12,676	1.5	1.0
Religious	8,024	7,611	8,027	8,101	7,891	8,048	5.4	-0.3
Amusement and recreation	8,930	9,112	8,852	8,743	8,708	7,767	-2.0	15.0
Transportation	6,268	6,446	6,674	6,553	6,439	7,074	-2.8	-11.4
Communication	14,918	15,415	15,656	14,367	13,653	12,455	-3.2	19.8
Power	25,770	26,524	26,950	25,598	25,186	27,978	-2.8	-7.9
Manufacturing	19,132	17,195	17,626	18,185	16,963	13,854	11.3	38.1
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>236,260</b>	<b>235,579</b>	<b>233,981</b>	<b>235,596</b>	<b>236,198</b>	<b>235,154</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Residential	7,563	7,596	7,893	7,396	7,751	6,787	-0.4	11.4
Nonresidential	228,697	227,983	226,088	228,199	228,447	228,368	0.3	0.1
Office	11,349	12,201	12,096	12,440	12,343	11,980	-7.0	-5.3
Commercial	4,791	4,645	4,345	4,259	4,475	4,140	3.1	15.7
Health care	6,813	6,617	6,599	7,037	6,894	6,525	3.0	4.4
Educational	63,965	63,734	62,851	63,957	63,409	62,283	0.4	2.7
Public safety	7,825	7,962	7,924	8,236	8,183	7,908	-1.7	-1.0
Amusement and recreation	9,874	9,760	9,834	10,385	10,496	11,354	1.2	-13.0
Transportation	18,111	17,539	18,464	18,632	19,443	20,048	3.3	-9.7
Power	7,466	7,215	7,891	7,487	7,267	6,606	3.5	13.0
Highway and street	69,003	69,301	67,992	67,235	66,722	67,585	-0.4	2.1
Sewage and waste disposal	14,559	14,540	14,108	14,540	14,593	14,025	0.1	3.8
Water supply	10,372	10,020	9,941	9,572	9,365	10,326	3.5	0.4
Conservation and development	4,115	3,957	3,676	3,943	4,442	3,980	4.0	3.4

<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	Mar 2005 <sup>p</sup>	Feb 2005 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2005 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2004	Nov 2004	Mar 2004	Year-to-date		
							Mar 2005	Mar 2004	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>79,408</b>	<b>70,387</b>	<b>72,642</b>	<b>78,229</b>	<b>88,233</b>	<b>73,627</b>	<b>222,437</b>	<b>203,486</b>	<b>9.3</b>
Residential	45,029	38,593	40,767	42,828	49,575	40,359	124,388	110,011	13.1
Nonresidential	34,379	31,795	31,875	35,401	38,657	33,268	98,049	93,474	4.9
Lodging	974	980	984	1,061	1,117	1,026	2,937	2,747	6.9
Office	3,683	3,430	3,325	3,579	3,804	3,608	10,438	9,994	4.4
Commercial	5,130	4,780	4,826	5,157	5,802	4,657	14,736	13,559	8.7
Health care	2,619	2,500	2,551	2,659	2,842	2,622	7,671	7,346	4.4
Educational	5,606	5,267	5,289	5,698	6,068	5,513	16,162	15,681	3.1
Religious	619	569	605	643	689	617	1,793	1,778	0.8
Public safety	630	616	629	700	748	640	1,874	1,898	-1.3
Amusement and recreation	1,467	1,394	1,353	1,523	1,640	1,531	4,214	4,446	-5.2
Transportation	1,771	1,627	1,734	1,981	2,264	1,966	5,132	5,401	-5.0
Communication	1,252	1,103	1,066	1,374	1,255	1,047	3,421	2,720	25.8
Power	2,744	2,653	2,783	2,842	2,756	2,854	8,180	8,464	-3.4
Highway and street	4,060	3,474	3,360	4,395	5,687	3,845	10,894	9,943	9.6
Sewage and waste disposal	1,112	1,005	1,004	1,102	1,294	1,086	3,121	3,045	2.5
Water supply	820	763	732	773	831	799	2,315	2,288	1.2
Conservation and development	333	309	289	338	383	330	931	908	2.5
Manufacturing	1,561	1,324	1,346	1,576	1,478	1,127	4,230	3,256	29.9
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>62,914</b>	<b>55,246</b>	<b>57,500</b>	<b>60,885</b>	<b>68,451</b>	<b>57,212</b>	<b>175,660</b>	<b>158,026</b>	<b>11.2</b>
Residential	44,454	38,048	40,186	42,218	48,924	39,835	122,688	108,537	13.0
Nonresidential	18,460	17,198	17,314	18,666	19,527	17,377	52,972	49,489	7.0
Lodging	952	958	971	1,041	1,076	922	2,880	2,489	15.7
Office	2,763	2,517	2,415	2,585	2,789	2,627	7,695	7,306	5.3
Commercial	4,784	4,450	4,521	4,814	5,424	4,359	13,756	12,638	8.8
Health care	2,058	1,981	2,034	2,078	2,251	2,084	6,072	5,812	4.5
Educational	999	916	927	987	1,055	979	2,842	2,802	1.4
Religious	618	567	604	642	687	616	1,789	1,778	0.6
Amusement and recreation	723	708	680	713	736	641	2,111	1,858	13.6
Transportation	437	401	464	542	569	504	1,303	1,443	-9.7
Communication	1,246	1,096	1,057	1,368	1,246	1,034	3,399	2,687	26.5
Power	2,204	2,157	2,208	2,231	2,124	2,367	6,568	7,092	-7.4
Manufacturing	1,550	1,315	1,339	1,564	1,464	1,111	4,204	3,207	31.1
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>16,494</b>	<b>15,141</b>	<b>15,142</b>	<b>17,345</b>	<b>19,781</b>	<b>16,415</b>	<b>46,778</b>	<b>45,460</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Residential	575	545	581	610	651	524	1,701	1,474	15.4
Nonresidential	15,919	14,597	14,561	16,735	19,130	15,891	45,077	43,986	2.5
Office	920	913	910	994	1,015	981	2,743	2,687	2.1
Commercial	346	330	305	343	378	298	981	920	6.6
Health care	562	520	518	581	590	538	1,599	1,535	4.2
Educational	4,607	4,351	4,363	4,711	5,012	4,534	13,320	12,879	3.4
Public safety	607	595	608	680	725	619	1,810	1,837	-1.5
Amusement and recreation	744	687	672	810	904	890	2,103	2,588	-18.7
Transportation	1,333	1,226	1,270	1,439	1,695	1,463	3,829	3,958	-3.3
Power	540	497	576	611	632	487	1,612	1,373	17.4
Highway and street	4,031	3,435	3,333	4,367	5,655	3,821	10,798	9,843	9.7
Sewage and waste disposal	1,098	981	979	1,083	1,274	1,051	3,058	2,950	3.7
Water supply	788	731	717	752	805	779	2,235	2,237	-0.1
Conservation and development	306	292	281	324	376	297	879	839	4.8

<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>1.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	
Residential	6.8	4.5	5.6	3.2	5.3	
Nonresidential	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.0	1.5	
Lodging	3.9	3.0	4.6	1.9	4.3	
Office	3.6	4.0	5.0	3.3	5.6	
Commercial	3.0	2.4	2.8	2.4	3.2	
Health care	2.8	2.5	3.7	2.4	3.9	
Educational	2.3	1.8	3.0	2.0	3.4	
Religious	4.3	3.6	4.5	3.6	5.2	
Public safety	3.4	2.9	4.2	2.4	4.6	
Amusement and recreation	4.0	3.6	4.6	2.9	5.0	
Transportation	2.5	4.7	4.7	5.6	6.1	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.5	
Highway and street	3.6	2.8	4.0	4.0	4.6	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	3.1	4.8	3.2	5.6	
Water supply	4.2	3.6	5.0	4.3	6.0	
Conservation and development	6.2	6.4	7.8	3.8	8.1	
Manufacturing	5.0	6.6	7.3	4.5	8.3	
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4	
Nonresidential	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.3	2.1	
Lodging	4.0	3.1	4.8	1.9	4.5	
Office	4.7	5.2	6.1	4.2	6.9	
Commercial	3.1	2.6	2.9	2.6	3.3	
Health care	3.3	2.9	4.3	2.8	4.6	
Educational	4.2	4.0	4.6	3.6	5.0	
Religious	4.3	3.6	4.5	3.6	5.2	
Amusement and recreation	5.7	5.4	7.6	4.0	8.1	
Transportation	8.8	5.2	5.8	6.7	7.8	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	1.3	1.5	1.0	0.9	1.3	
Manufacturing	5.0	6.7	7.4	4.6	8.4	
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>	
Residential	6.8	4.5	5.6	3.2	5.3	
Nonresidential	1.4	1.1	1.7	1.4	2.0	
Office	3.3	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.5	
Commercial	7.2	4.1	7.5	2.7	7.7	
Health care	3.7	3.5	4.3	3.1	5.0	
Educational	2.6	2.0	3.5	2.3	4.0	
Public safety	3.5	3.0	4.2	2.4	4.7	
Amusement and recreation	5.5	4.2	5.0	4.1	5.7	
Transportation	4.3	5.1	5.2	6.2	6.8	
Power	4.5	3.9	5.7	3.6	6.5	
Highway and street	3.6	2.8	4.0	4.1	4.7	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	3.1	4.8	3.2	5.6	
Water supply	4.3	3.5	4.9	4.5	5.8	
Conservation and development	6.5	6.8	8.5	4.0	9.2	

NA Not applicable