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APRIL 2005 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,066.9 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during April 2005 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,066.9 billion, 0.5 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$)* above the revised March estimate of \$1,061.5 billion. The April figure is 8.2 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) above the April 2004 estimate of \$986.4 billion.

During the first 4 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$309.5 billion, 9.1 percent ($\pm 1.9\%$) above the \$283.6 billion for the same period in 2004.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$828.9 billion, 0.8 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$)* above the revised March estimate of \$822.6 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$595.6 billion in April, 0.6 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised March estimate of \$592.3 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$233.3 billion in April, 1.3 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$)* above the revised March estimate of \$230.3 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In April, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$238.0 billion, 0.4 percent ($\pm 2.2\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$238.9 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$66.9 billion, 2.9 percent ($\pm 2.6\%$) above the revised March estimate of \$65.0 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$66.4 billion, 3.2 percent ($\pm 6.7\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$68.5 billion.

May 2005 data will be released on July 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 (± 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.

In the May 2005 press release, revisions to unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data will revise back to January 1998 to incorporate and benchmark to the 2003 detailed structures data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Capital Expenditures Survey.

* 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	Apr 2005 ^p	Mar 2005 ^r	Feb 2005 ^r	Jan 2005	Dec 2004	Apr 2004	Percent change Apr 2005 from -	
							Mar 2005	Apr 2004
Total Construction	1,066,883	1,061,482	1,054,674	1,041,810	1,037,286	986,364	0.5	8.2
Residential	603,176	600,334	596,634	584,856	580,566	532,946	0.5	13.2
Nonresidential	463,707	461,147	458,040	456,955	456,720	453,418	0.6	2.3
Lodging	11,386	11,634	11,788	11,803	12,736	12,470	-2.1	-8.7
Office	45,713	45,344	44,983	44,299	44,779	44,899	0.8	1.8
Commercial	71,025	68,667	66,216	67,232	66,534	63,632	3.4	11.6
Health care	31,750	31,386	31,816	32,879	32,763	34,207	1.2	-7.2
Educational	80,166	78,172	76,815	75,597	76,772	76,551	2.6	4.7
Religious	7,841	7,949	7,713	8,046	8,110	8,199	-1.4	-4.4
Public safety	8,443	7,976	8,209	8,169	8,477	8,530	5.9	-1.0
Amusement and recreation	18,253	18,892	18,879	18,685	19,128	19,774	-3.4	-7.7
Transportation	24,291	24,395	24,006	25,138	25,185	26,873	-0.4	-9.6
Communication	15,170	15,001	15,486	15,766	14,447	12,773	1.1	18.8
Power	32,513	33,906	34,541	34,841	33,085	32,912	-4.1	-1.2
Highway and street	67,072	68,999	70,584	68,364	67,643	69,273	-2.8	-3.2
Sewage and waste disposal	15,839	14,562	14,980	14,441	14,779	14,777	8.8	7.2
Water supply	11,120	11,195	10,700	10,218	9,836	10,550	-0.7	5.4
Conservation and development	4,378	4,516	4,261	3,770	4,116	4,275	-3.1	2.4
Manufacturing	18,750	18,553	17,065	17,706	18,332	13,724	1.1	36.6
Total Private Construction ¹	828,901	822,631	816,773	807,830	801,690	747,475	0.8	10.9
Residential	595,645	592,295	588,791	576,963	573,169	525,895	0.6	13.3
Nonresidential	233,257	230,336	227,981	230,867	228,521	221,580	1.3	5.3
Lodging	11,200	11,372	11,520	11,646	12,494	11,374	-1.5	-1.5
Office	34,110	33,505	32,734	32,203	32,339	33,107	1.8	3.0
Commercial	66,290	63,864	61,716	62,888	62,276	58,906	3.8	12.5
Health care	24,789	24,507	25,118	26,280	25,727	26,973	1.2	-8.1
Educational	13,315	13,219	13,040	12,746	12,815	13,634	0.7	-2.3
Religious	7,832	7,944	7,684	8,027	8,101	8,198	-1.4	-4.5
Amusement and recreation	8,671	8,669	8,634	8,852	8,743	8,323	0.0	4.2
Transportation	6,416	6,314	6,454	6,674	6,553	6,640	1.6	-3.4
Communication	15,109	14,928	15,403	15,656	14,367	12,635	1.2	19.6
Power	25,175	26,100	26,885	26,950	25,598	26,588	-3.5	-5.3
Manufacturing	18,630	18,386	16,961	17,626	18,185	13,430	1.3	38.7
Total Public Construction ²	237,982	238,851	237,902	233,981	235,596	238,889	-0.4	-0.4
Residential	7,531	8,039	7,843	7,893	7,396	7,051	-6.3	6.8
Nonresidential	230,451	230,812	230,059	226,088	228,199	231,838	-0.2	-0.6
Office	11,602	11,839	12,249	12,096	12,440	11,793	-2.0	-1.6
Commercial	4,735	4,802	4,500	4,345	4,259	4,726	-1.4	0.2
Health care	6,960	6,880	6,698	6,599	7,037	7,234	1.2	-3.8
Educational	66,851	64,952	63,775	62,851	63,957	62,917	2.9	6.3
Public safety	8,137	7,740	7,955	7,924	8,236	8,192	5.1	-0.7
Amusement and recreation	9,582	10,223	10,245	9,834	10,385	11,451	-6.3	-16.3
Transportation	17,875	18,081	17,552	18,464	18,632	20,233	-1.1	-11.7
Power	7,338	7,806	7,656	7,891	7,487	6,324	-6.0	16.0
Highway and street	66,355	68,518	70,055	67,992	67,235	68,900	-3.2	-3.7
Sewage and waste disposal	15,592	14,367	14,655	14,108	14,540	14,324	8.5	8.9
Water supply	10,857	10,884	10,175	9,941	9,572	10,149	-0.2	7.0
Conservation and development	4,192	4,214	4,060	3,676	3,943	4,067	-0.5	3.1

^p Preliminary ^r Revised

¹ 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.

² 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	Apr 2005 ^p	Mar 2005 ^r	Feb 2005 ^r	Jan 2005	Dec 2004	Apr 2004	Year-to-date		
							Apr 2005	Apr 2004	Percent change
Total Construction	85,656	80,184	70,971	72,642	78,229	80,161	309,453	283,647	9.1
Residential	48,563	45,657	38,978	40,767	42,828	43,865	173,964	153,876	13.1
Nonresidential	37,093	34,528	31,993	31,875	35,401	36,297	135,489	129,771	4.4
Lodging	949	970	982	984	1,061	1,039	3,884	3,786	2.6
Office	3,861	3,681	3,391	3,325	3,579	3,785	14,257	13,779	3.5
Commercial	5,761	5,239	4,822	4,826	5,157	5,183	20,649	18,742	10.2
Health care	2,704	2,581	2,503	2,551	2,659	2,907	10,338	10,254	0.8
Educational	6,254	5,728	5,296	5,289	5,698	5,987	22,568	21,668	4.2
Religious	634	612	576	605	643	661	2,427	2,439	-0.5
Public safety	689	614	611	629	700	697	2,542	2,595	-2.0
Amusement and recreation	1,544	1,483	1,406	1,353	1,523	1,684	5,785	6,130	-5.6
Transportation	1,957	1,764	1,623	1,734	1,981	2,160	7,078	7,560	-6.4
Communication	1,224	1,252	1,102	1,066	1,374	1,066	4,644	3,786	22.7
Power	2,746	2,814	2,730	2,783	2,842	2,773	11,073	11,237	-1.5
Highway and street	4,701	4,003	3,524	3,360	4,395	4,837	15,588	14,780	5.5
Sewage and waste disposal	1,273	1,078	994	1,004	1,102	1,184	4,349	4,229	2.8
Water supply	916	853	784	732	773	861	3,285	3,149	4.3
Conservation and development	339	349	324	289	338	343	1,300	1,252	3.8
Manufacturing	1,544	1,509	1,325	1,346	1,576	1,130	5,723	4,385	30.5
Total Private Construction ¹	67,316	63,468	55,648	57,500	60,885	61,741	243,931	219,766	11.0
Residential	47,969	45,034	38,413	40,186	42,218	43,294	171,600	151,831	13.0
Nonresidential	19,347	18,434	17,236	17,314	18,666	18,446	72,330	67,935	6.5
Lodging	933	948	960	971	1,041	948	3,812	3,436	10.9
Office	2,890	2,706	2,470	2,415	2,585	2,787	10,480	10,093	3.8
Commercial	5,368	4,890	4,501	4,521	4,814	4,786	19,280	17,424	10.7
Health care	2,134	2,015	1,978	2,034	2,078	2,319	8,161	8,131	0.4
Educational	1,095	1,032	944	927	987	1,121	3,998	3,923	1.9
Religious	633	612	574	604	642	660	2,422	2,438	-0.7
Amusement and recreation	714	703	674	680	713	707	2,771	2,565	8.0
Transportation	531	442	402	464	542	553	1,839	1,996	-7.9
Communication	1,219	1,246	1,096	1,057	1,368	1,054	4,617	3,741	23.4
Power	2,159	2,237	2,192	2,208	2,231	2,271	8,796	9,363	-6.1
Manufacturing	1,534	1,495	1,316	1,339	1,564	1,105	5,684	4,313	31.8
Total Public Construction ²	18,340	16,717	15,323	15,142	17,345	18,421	65,523	63,881	2.6
Residential	594	623	565	581	610	571	2,364	2,045	15.6
Nonresidential	17,746	16,094	14,758	14,561	16,735	17,850	63,159	61,836	2.1
Office	970	976	921	910	994	998	3,777	3,686	2.5
Commercial	393	349	321	305	343	398	1,369	1,318	3.9
Health care	569	565	526	518	581	588	2,178	2,123	2.6
Educational	5,159	4,696	4,352	4,363	4,711	4,866	18,570	17,745	4.6
Public safety	664	594	590	608	680	669	2,455	2,505	-2.0
Amusement and recreation	830	781	732	672	810	977	3,014	3,565	-15.5
Transportation	1,425	1,322	1,222	1,270	1,439	1,607	5,239	5,564	-5.8
Power	587	576	538	576	611	502	2,277	1,874	21.5
Highway and street	4,646	3,976	3,487	3,333	4,367	4,814	15,442	14,657	5.4
Sewage and waste disposal	1,254	1,063	970	979	1,083	1,151	4,265	4,102	4.0
Water supply	895	831	753	717	752	828	3,195	3,065	4.2
Conservation and development	323	324	307	281	324	326	1,235	1,165	6.0

^p Preliminary ^r Revised

¹ 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.

² 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	
Total Construction	1.0	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.3	
Residential	7.0	4.1	4.5	3.2	5.7	
Nonresidential	1.0	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.3	
Lodging	3.7	2.6	4.1	2.5	3.7	
Office	3.7	3.9	4.8	2.0	4.8	
Commercial	3.0	2.4	2.7	1.9	3.0	
Health care	2.7	2.3	3.5	1.8	3.7	
Educational	2.3	1.8	2.9	1.5	3.0	
Religious	4.2	2.9	4.2	3.7	4.9	
Public safety	3.6	3.0	4.1	5.3	5.9	
Amusement and recreation	4.0	3.6	4.5	2.8	4.7	
Transportation	2.6	4.0	4.2	5.5	3.5	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.2	
Highway and street	3.6	2.9	4.1	4.2	4.8	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	3.0	4.7	5.3	6.0	
Water supply	4.2	3.3	4.6	4.6	6.1	
Conservation and development	6.1	5.9	7.9	5.1	9.5	
Manufacturing	5.1	5.7	6.7	4.4	5.8	
Total Private Construction	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.0	1.8	
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4	
Nonresidential	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.0	1.8	
Lodging	3.7	2.6	4.3	2.5	3.8	
Office	4.8	5.0	6.0	2.4	5.8	
Commercial	3.1	2.5	2.9	1.9	3.1	
Health care	3.2	2.6	4.1	2.0	4.4	
Educational	4.3	4.2	4.8	4.1	5.3	
Religious	4.2	3.0	4.2	3.7	4.9	
Amusement and recreation	5.7	5.5	7.6	4.6	8.2	
Transportation	8.3	4.6	5.7	7.6	7.4	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.3	0.5	
Manufacturing	5.1	5.7	6.8	4.4	5.9	
Total Public Construction	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.9	
Residential	7.0	4.1	4.5	3.2	5.7	
Nonresidential	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.9	
Office	3.2	2.6	2.9	2.4	3.4	
Commercial	6.8	3.9	7.1	5.1	10.4	
Health care	3.7	3.5	4.1	2.9	4.5	
Educational	2.6	2.0	3.3	1.6	3.4	
Public safety	3.6	3.0	4.1	5.5	6.0	
Amusement and recreation	5.4	4.0	4.8	3.2	4.8	
Transportation	4.3	4.4	4.6	6.0	3.8	
Power	4.4	3.5	5.4	3.9	6.1	
Highway and street	3.6	2.9	4.1	4.2	4.8	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.8	3.0	4.7	5.3	6.0	
Water supply	4.3	3.3	4.7	4.6	6.3	
Conservation and development	6.4	6.2	8.5	5.6	9.5	

NA Not applicable