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Michael Davis, Joe Huesman or Linnet Holland
(301) 763-1605

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DECEMBER 2005 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,160.6 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during December 2005 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,160.6 billion, 1.0 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised November estimate of \$1,149.3 billion. The December figure is 8.1 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) above the December 2004 estimate of \$1,073.5 billion.

The value of construction spending in 2005 was \$1,119.7 billion, 8.9 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$) above the \$1,027.7 billion spent in 2004.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$904.3 billion, 1.1 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$)* above the revised November estimate of \$894.8 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$648.9 billion in December, 1.0 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised November estimate of \$642.6 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$255.4 billion in December, 1.3 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$)* above the revised November estimate of \$252.2 billion.

The value of private construction in 2005 was \$872.7 billion, 9.3 percent ($\pm 2.2\%$) above the \$798.5 billion in 2004. Residential construction in 2005 was \$626.1 billion, 11.1 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) above the 2004 figure of \$563.4 billion and nonresidential construction was \$246.6 billion, 4.9 percent ($\pm 2.2\%$) above the \$235.1 billion in 2004.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In December, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$256.3 billion, 0.7 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$)* above the revised November estimate of \$254.5 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$68.0 billion, 1.5 percent ($\pm 2.4\%$)* above the revised November estimate of \$67.0 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$68.9 billion, 0.6 percent ($\pm 4.2\%$)* below the revised November estimate of \$69.3 billion.

The value of public construction in 2005 was \$247.0 billion, 7.7 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) above \$229.3 billion in 2004. Educational construction in 2005 was \$64.3 billion, 7.9 percent ($\pm 3.8\%$) above the \$59.5 billion in 2004 and highway construction was \$66.8 billion, 11.1 percent ($\pm 5.3\%$) above the \$60.1 billion in 2004.

January 2006 data will be released on March 1, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. EST.

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.

* 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	Dec 2005 ^P	Nov 2005 ^r	Oct 2005 ^r	Sep 2005	Aug 2005	Dec 2004	Percent change Dec 2005 from -	
							Nov 2005	Dec 2004
Total Construction	1,160,635	1,149,275	1,143,619	1,135,623	1,121,539	1,073,473	1.0	8.1
Residential	655,619	649,060	649,191	642,288	628,896	604,329	1.0	8.5
Nonresidential	505,016	500,215	494,428	493,335	492,643	469,145	1.0	7.6
Lodging	12,364	12,137	11,946	12,125	11,864	12,374	1.9	-0.1
Office	48,811	47,203	46,703	46,565	45,257	45,763	3.4	6.7
Commercial	77,418	75,318	73,889	72,338	73,390	69,239	2.8	11.8
Health care	37,619	37,299	37,440	38,965	38,068	34,514	0.9	9.0
Educational	81,035	79,879	79,038	77,309	77,394	73,332	1.4	10.5
Religious	7,318	7,331	7,351	7,457	7,233	8,177	-0.2	-10.5
Public safety	10,660	10,853	11,000	10,854	10,003	9,135	-1.8	16.7
Amusement and recreation	19,627	19,543	19,557	19,316	19,455	18,936	0.4	3.6
Transportation	28,094	28,204	28,146	28,028	27,800	27,347	-0.4	2.7
Communication	12,936	14,873	13,964	13,950	14,142	14,826	-13.0	-12.7
Power	32,674	30,927	31,825	31,925	33,664	32,834	5.6	-0.5
Highway and street	69,156	69,629	67,454	67,928	67,307	63,468	-0.7	9.0
Sewage and waste disposal	20,049	19,254	18,141	18,561	18,342	15,483	4.1	29.5
Water supply	12,402	12,507	12,655	12,692	13,312	10,404	-0.8	19.2
Conservation and development	5,287	5,640	5,673	5,929	5,895	4,906	-6.3	7.8
Manufacturing	29,566	29,618	29,647	29,395	29,518	28,406	-0.2	4.1
Total Private Construction ¹	904,314	894,750	892,023	886,676	871,264	839,795	1.1	7.7
Residential	648,895	642,555	642,501	636,174	622,400	597,756	1.0	8.6
Nonresidential	255,419	252,196	249,522	250,502	248,864	242,039	1.3	5.5
Lodging	12,116	11,886	11,671	11,896	11,539	12,176	1.9	-0.5
Office	37,382	36,485	35,668	36,071	34,561	32,833	2.5	13.9
Commercial	72,192	70,378	68,676	67,897	68,103	64,077	2.6	12.7
Health care	29,565	29,127	29,149	30,897	29,785	26,709	1.5	10.7
Educational	13,016	12,845	13,065	13,312	12,969	12,756	1.3	2.0
Religious	7,313	7,322	7,346	7,445	7,224	8,165	-0.1	-10.4
Amusement and recreation	8,267	8,418	8,142	8,623	7,937	8,872	-1.8	-6.8
Transportation	7,212	7,017	6,954	7,037	7,053	6,756	2.8	6.7
Communication	12,834	14,806	13,867	13,914	14,014	14,721	-13.3	-12.8
Power	24,984	23,295	23,907	23,144	25,140	25,457	7.3	-1.9
Manufacturing	29,254	29,156	29,351	28,975	29,231	28,248	0.3	3.6
Total Public Construction ²	256,321	254,525	251,596	248,947	250,274	233,678	0.7	9.7
Residential	6,724	6,506	6,690	6,114	6,496	6,572	3.4	2.3
Nonresidential	249,597	248,019	244,906	242,833	243,778	227,106	0.6	9.9
Office	11,429	10,718	11,034	10,494	10,696	12,930	6.6	-11.6
Commercial	5,226	4,939	5,213	4,441	5,287	5,162	5.8	1.2
Health care	8,054	8,172	8,292	8,068	8,283	7,805	-1.4	3.2
Educational	68,019	67,034	65,973	63,996	64,425	60,576	1.5	12.3
Public safety	10,295	10,379	10,546	10,511	9,671	8,913	-0.8	15.5
Amusement and recreation	11,360	11,125	11,415	10,693	11,518	10,064	2.1	12.9
Transportation	20,882	21,187	21,193	20,991	20,747	20,590	-1.4	1.4
Power	7,690	7,631	7,919	8,781	8,524	7,377	0.8	4.2
Highway and street	68,861	69,279	67,031	67,672	66,933	63,132	-0.6	9.1
Sewage and waste disposal	19,781	18,988	17,741	18,339	18,144	15,184	4.2	30.3
Water supply	12,153	12,230	12,292	12,370	13,048	10,130	-0.6	20.0
Conservation and development	5,180	5,547	5,585	5,781	5,757	4,770	-6.6	8.6

^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	Dec 2005 ^P	Nov 2005 ^r	Oct 2005 ^r	Sep 2005	Aug 2005	Dec 2004	Year-to-date		
							Dec 2005	Dec 2004	Percent change
Total Construction	87,912	98,346	103,061	104,965	106,646	81,400	1,119,709	1,027,738	8.9
Residential	48,973	56,042	59,092	58,824	60,061	44,986	632,649	569,983	11.0
Nonresidential	38,938	42,304	43,968	46,141	46,585	36,414	487,060	457,755	6.4
Lodging	1,030	1,011	996	1,010	989	1,031	11,990	12,017	-0.2
Office	3,914	4,018	3,967	4,140	3,914	3,698	46,417	45,082	3.0
Commercial	6,028	6,348	6,557	6,659	6,681	5,327	71,907	66,586	8.0
Health care	3,041	3,182	3,177	3,314	3,206	2,823	36,681	34,122	7.5
Educational	5,943	6,351	6,702	7,120	7,895	5,399	77,135	72,267	6.7
Religious	583	642	655	672	660	652	7,595	8,087	-6.1
Public safety	876	968	975	1,025	885	763	9,930	9,083	9.3
Amusement and recreation	1,533	1,664	1,718	1,691	1,707	1,506	18,992	19,860	-4.4
Transportation	2,194	2,501	2,607	2,672	2,670	2,165	27,213	26,863	1.3
Communication	1,194	1,349	1,210	1,194	1,278	1,418	14,175	13,530	4.8
Power	2,658	2,529	2,719	2,870	3,004	2,703	33,803	34,607	-2.3
Highway and street	4,525	5,959	6,813	7,659	7,674	4,080	67,202	60,475	11.1
Sewage and waste disposal	1,492	1,654	1,658	1,798	1,761	1,171	17,831	15,660	13.9
Water supply	969	1,062	1,161	1,152	1,211	819	12,222	10,949	11.6
Conservation and development	403	488	474	637	540	395	5,358	4,899	9.4
Manufacturing	2,557	2,578	2,579	2,526	2,511	2,463	28,609	23,671	20.9
Total Private Construction ¹	69,178	76,979	80,185	80,160	81,434	64,211	872,697	798,489	9.3
Residential	48,426	55,495	58,529	58,215	59,485	44,447	626,062	563,378	11.1
Nonresidential	20,752	21,484	21,657	21,945	21,949	19,764	246,634	235,110	4.9
Lodging	1,010	991	973	991	962	1,015	11,740	11,542	1.7
Office	2,983	3,131	3,078	3,134	2,983	2,664	35,183	33,112	6.3
Commercial	5,614	5,958	6,144	6,200	6,212	4,923	67,017	61,582	8.8
Health care	2,375	2,483	2,494	2,605	2,506	2,175	28,539	26,706	6.9
Educational	1,019	1,041	1,097	1,139	1,231	994	12,876	12,722	1.2
Religious	583	641	655	671	659	651	7,580	8,080	-6.2
Amusement and recreation	672	707	702	721	667	713	8,060	8,553	-5.8
Transportation	587	621	630	638	667	549	6,774	6,642	2.0
Communication	1,185	1,344	1,202	1,191	1,268	1,410	14,072	13,382	5.2
Power	2,093	1,902	1,972	2,044	2,186	2,123	25,022	27,735	-9.8
Manufacturing	2,531	2,540	2,555	2,491	2,487	2,450	28,376	23,517	20.7
Total Public Construction ²	18,734	21,367	22,876	24,805	25,212	17,189	247,012	229,250	7.7
Residential	547	547	564	609	576	539	6,587	6,605	-0.3
Nonresidential	18,187	20,821	22,312	24,196	24,636	16,650	240,425	222,645	8.0
Office	931	887	889	1,007	931	1,034	11,235	11,970	-6.1
Commercial	414	390	413	459	469	404	4,891	5,004	-2.3
Health care	666	698	683	709	701	648	8,142	7,415	9.8
Educational	4,924	5,310	5,605	5,981	6,664	4,405	64,259	59,545	7.9
Public safety	845	928	937	997	857	744	9,573	8,794	8.9
Amusement and recreation	861	957	1,016	971	1,040	794	10,932	11,307	-3.3
Transportation	1,608	1,881	1,977	2,034	2,004	1,616	20,439	20,221	1.1
Power	565	627	747	827	818	581	8,781	6,872	27.8
Highway and street	4,504	5,927	6,775	7,634	7,639	4,057	66,839	60,145	11.1
Sewage and waste disposal	1,469	1,631	1,623	1,780	1,741	1,146	17,572	15,318	14.7
Water supply	950	1,039	1,123	1,117	1,182	798	11,938	10,543	13.2
Conservation and development	394	480	467	624	528	383	5,225	4,727	10.5

^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	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.3
Residential	4.2	2.9	6.3	2.5	6.8
Nonresidential	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.3
Lodging	3.5	2.5	3.5	3.0	4.4
Office	3.8	3.1	3.4	2.3	4.2
Commercial	2.7	1.7	2.5	1.8	3.0
Health care	2.9	2.4	3.1	2.7	3.2
Educational	2.1	1.4	2.1	1.4	2.9
Religious	4.3	3.2	3.6	2.9	4.8
Public safety	4.0	3.2	3.6	3.2	7.0
Amusement and recreation	4.2	2.8	3.0	2.8	4.7
Transportation	4.3	2.6	2.9	3.8	6.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	2.4
Highway and street	3.4	1.9	3.3	2.6	5.2
Sewage and waste disposal	3.4	2.1	3.2	2.9	5.8
Water supply	4.0	2.0	3.1	3.3	6.8
Conservation and development	6.0	3.9	6.0	3.7	10.2
Manufacturing	4.9	3.2	3.2	2.5	5.7
Total Private Construction	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.8
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.8
Lodging	3.5	2.5	3.6	3.0	4.5
Office	4.9	3.8	4.3	2.9	5.2
Commercial	2.8	1.7	2.6	1.9	3.1
Health care	3.4	2.8	3.7	3.2	3.7
Educational	4.4	3.4	4.1	2.3	5.7
Religious	4.4	3.2	3.6	2.9	4.8
Amusement and recreation	6.5	4.8	4.7	4.9	6.9
Transportation	8.3	6.8	6.7	8.2	10.2
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.4
Manufacturing	4.9	3.3	3.2	2.5	5.7
Total Public Construction	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.9
Residential	4.2	2.9	6.3	2.5	6.8
Nonresidential	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.9
Office	3.3	2.1	2.5	1.9	4.3
Commercial	4.6	4.6	5.8	4.1	5.0
Health care	4.0	3.0	3.6	3.6	4.8
Educational	2.4	1.6	2.4	1.5	3.3
Public safety	4.1	3.3	3.6	3.2	7.2
Amusement and recreation	5.1	3.1	3.5	2.8	6.3
Transportation	4.6	2.8	3.2	4.1	6.6
Power	3.4	3.0	3.6	2.0	1.8
Highway and street	3.4	1.9	3.3	2.6	5.2
Sewage and waste disposal	3.4	2.1	3.3	2.9	5.9
Water supply	4.0	2.1	3.1	3.3	7.1
Conservation and development	6.3	4.0	6.4	3.8	10.6

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	2005 ^P	2004	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
Total Construction	1,119,709	1,027,738	8.9	0.7
Residential	632,649	569,983	11.0	2.9
Nonresidential	487,060	457,755	6.4	0.7
Lodging	11,990	12,017	-0.2	2.5
Office	46,417	45,082	3.0	3.1
Commercial	71,907	66,586	8.0	1.7
Health care	36,681	34,122	7.5	2.4
Educational	77,135	72,267	6.7	1.4
Religious	7,595	8,087	-6.1	3.2
Public safety	9,930	9,083	9.3	3.2
Amusement and recreation	18,992	19,860	-4.4	2.8
Transportation	27,213	26,863	1.3	2.6
Communication	14,175	13,530	4.8	NA
Power	33,803	34,607	-2.3	1.2
Highway and street	67,202	60,475	11.1	1.9
Sewage and waste disposal	17,831	15,660	13.9	2.1
Water supply	12,222	10,949	11.6	2.0
Conservation and development	5,358	4,899	9.4	3.9
Manufacturing	28,609	23,671	20.9	3.2
Total Private Construction ¹	872,697	798,489	9.3	1.1
Residential	626,062	563,378	11.1	1.1
Nonresidential	246,634	235,110	4.9	1.1
Lodging	11,740	11,542	1.7	2.5
Office	35,183	33,112	6.3	3.8
Commercial	67,017	61,582	8.8	1.7
Health care	28,539	26,706	6.9	2.8
Educational	12,876	12,722	1.2	3.4
Religious	7,580	8,080	-6.2	3.2
Public safety	358	289	23.9	13.5
Amusement and recreation	8,060	8,553	-5.8	4.8
Transportation	6,774	6,642	2.0	6.8
Communication	14,072	13,382	5.2	NA
Power	25,022	27,735	-9.8	1.0
Sewage and waste disposal	259	342	-24.3	20.0
Water supply	283	406	-30.3	16.1
Manufacturing	28,376	23,517	20.7	3.3
Total Public Construction ²	247,012	229,250	7.7	0.8
Residential	6,587	6,605	-0.3	2.9
Nonresidential	240,425	222,645	8.0	0.8
Office	11,235	11,970	-6.1	2.1
Commercial	4,891	5,004	-2.3	4.6
Health care	8,142	7,415	9.8	3.0
Educational	64,259	59,545	7.9	1.6
Public safety	9,573	8,794	8.9	3.3
Amusement and recreation	10,932	11,307	-3.3	3.1
Transportation	20,439	20,221	1.1	2.8
Power	8,781	6,872	27.8	3.0
Highway and street	66,839	60,145	11.1	1.9
Sewage and waste disposal	17,572	15,318	14.7	2.1
Water supply	11,938	10,543	13.2	2.1
Conservation and development	5,225	4,727	10.5	4.0

NA Not applicable ^P Preliminary

¹ Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately:
highway and street, and conservation and development.

² Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately:
lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.