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MAY 2006 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,206.2 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during May 2006 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,206.2 billion, 0.4 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$)* below the revised April estimate of \$1,210.5 billion. The May figure is 6.0 percent ($\pm 2.2\%$) above the May 2005 estimate of \$1,137.5 billion.

During the first 5 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$457.4 billion, 8.6 percent ($\pm 1.9\%$) above the \$421.1 billion for the same period in 2005.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$939.4 billion, 0.6 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$)* below the revised April estimate of \$945.4 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$651.2 billion in May, 0.8 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* below the revised April estimate of \$656.5 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$288.2 billion in May, 0.3 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$)* below the revised April estimate of \$289.0 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In May, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$266.8 billion, 0.7 percent ($\pm 2.2\%$)* above the revised April estimate of \$265.1 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$69.1 billion, 0.5 percent ($\pm 3.2\%$)* above the revised April estimate of \$68.8 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$74.7 billion, 0.1 percent ($\pm 6.1\%$)* above the revised April estimate of \$74.6 billion.

June 2006 data will be released on August 1, 2006 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, 0.5 percent; private construction, 0.7 percent; and public construction, 1.1 percent.

In this May 2006 press release, normal revisions to the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data were made back to January 2003.

* 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 2006 ^p	Apr 2006 ^r	Mar 2006 ^r	Feb 2006 ^r	Jan 2006 ^r	May 2005 ^r	Percent change May 2006 from -	
							Apr 2006	May 2005
Total Construction	1,206,209	1,210,512	1,212,385	1,199,873	1,194,546	1,137,457	-0.4	6.0
Residential	660,122	665,698	673,641	671,588	670,064	644,240	-0.8	2.5
Nonresidential	546,087	544,814	538,745	528,285	524,482	493,217	0.2	10.7
Lodging	18,545	18,373	17,071	15,659	14,246	12,271	0.9	51.1
Office	51,204	51,197	49,625	50,025	49,130	47,499	0.0	7.8
Commercial	77,629	78,518	78,325	76,855	78,859	74,260	-1.1	4.5
Health care	41,183	40,467	39,856	39,698	38,693	36,368	1.8	13.2
Educational	82,349	82,249	82,988	82,647	82,339	79,977	0.1	3.0
Religious	8,371	8,201	8,457	8,161	7,711	7,677	2.1	9.0
Public safety	11,384	11,111	11,322	11,248	10,820	9,445	2.5	20.5
Amusement and recreation	21,201	21,073	21,020	20,605	20,325	18,464	0.6	14.8
Transportation	29,515	29,242	29,244	28,163	27,473	25,960	0.9	13.7
Communication	14,717	14,977	15,323	15,590	15,690	13,709	-1.7	7.4
Power	38,680	38,920	39,880	37,972	38,852	40,653	-0.6	-4.9
Highway and street	75,020	74,916	72,711	71,405	69,132	64,558	0.1	16.2
Sewage and waste disposal	18,630	18,237	18,858	19,103	18,650	16,628	2.2	12.0
Water supply	12,786	12,062	12,700	11,905	11,993	11,749	6.0	8.8
Conservation and development	6,079	5,794	5,684	5,449	5,598	4,930	4.9	23.3
Manufacturing	38,794	39,475	35,679	33,800	34,973	29,069	-1.7	33.5
Total Private Construction ¹	939,386	945,427	948,697	940,334	939,316	891,880	-0.6	5.3
Residential	651,159	656,465	664,234	662,557	661,423	636,039	-0.8	2.4
Nonresidential	288,226	288,962	284,464	277,777	277,893	255,841	-0.3	12.7
Lodging	18,331	18,192	16,879	15,504	14,086	12,132	0.8	51.1
Office	40,397	40,298	39,332	39,508	38,392	37,133	0.2	8.8
Commercial	73,416	74,037	73,853	72,753	74,427	69,680	-0.8	5.4
Health care	31,669	31,336	30,811	30,711	29,951	26,768	1.1	18.3
Educational	13,217	13,445	13,972	13,403	13,308	12,702	-1.7	4.1
Religious	8,339	8,189	8,450	8,154	7,705	7,646	1.8	9.1
Amusement and recreation	8,755	8,683	8,486	8,580	8,148	7,329	0.8	19.5
Transportation	9,238	9,093	9,124	8,957	8,583	7,399	1.6	24.9
Communication	14,712	14,977	15,323	15,572	15,664	13,706	-1.8	7.3
Power	30,159	30,105	31,228	29,820	31,516	31,018	0.2	-2.8
Manufacturing	38,507	39,174	35,340	33,430	34,621	28,919	-1.7	33.2
Total Public Construction ²	266,823	265,085	263,688	259,539	255,231	245,577	0.7	8.7
Residential	8,963	9,233	9,407	9,031	8,641	8,201	-2.9	9.3
Nonresidential	257,860	255,852	254,281	250,508	246,589	237,376	0.8	8.6
Office	10,808	10,899	10,294	10,517	10,737	10,366	-0.8	4.3
Commercial	4,213	4,481	4,472	4,102	4,431	4,579	-6.0	-8.0
Health care	9,514	9,131	9,046	8,987	8,742	9,600	4.2	-0.9
Educational	69,132	68,804	69,016	69,244	69,031	67,275	0.5	2.8
Public safety	11,014	10,700	10,887	10,834	10,360	9,095	2.9	21.1
Amusement and recreation	12,446	12,391	12,534	12,025	12,177	11,135	0.4	11.8
Transportation	20,277	20,149	20,121	19,206	18,891	18,561	0.6	9.2
Power	8,521	8,815	8,652	8,152	7,336	9,635	-3.3	-11.6
Highway and street	74,665	74,614	72,266	71,123	68,828	64,191	0.1	16.3
Sewage and waste disposal	18,342	17,958	18,571	18,879	18,392	16,334	2.1	12.3
Water supply	12,407	11,702	12,289	11,525	11,593	11,507	6.0	7.8
Conservation and development	5,988	5,714	5,595	5,364	5,528	4,774	4.8	25.4

^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	May 2006 ^p	Apr 2006 ^r	Mar 2006 ^r	Feb 2006 ^r	Jan 2006 ^r	May 2005 ^r	Year-to-date		Percent change
							May 2006	May 2005	
Total Construction	104,159	96,701	92,787	80,983	82,775	97,669	457,405	421,055	8.6
Residential	57,447	53,257	51,848	43,829	45,891	56,043	252,273	237,483	6.2
Nonresidential	46,711	43,444	40,939	37,154	36,883	41,625	205,132	183,572	11.7
Lodging	1,545	1,531	1,423	1,305	1,187	1,023	6,991	5,375	30.1
Office	4,473	4,317	4,115	3,840	3,751	4,120	20,496	19,640	4.4
Commercial	6,649	6,413	6,196	5,688	5,692	6,294	30,637	28,101	9.0
Health care	3,541	3,410	3,256	3,100	3,030	3,101	16,336	14,390	13.5
Educational	6,953	6,396	6,154	5,722	5,734	6,659	30,958	28,836	7.4
Religious	694	659	654	607	571	636	3,185	3,098	2.8
Public safety	931	893	860	830	822	767	4,335	3,585	20.9
Amusement and recreation	1,851	1,741	1,674	1,537	1,472	1,580	8,275	7,306	13.3
Transportation	2,525	2,341	2,087	1,899	1,870	2,206	10,721	9,735	10.1
Communication	1,259	1,141	1,291	1,104	1,109	1,108	5,904	5,294	11.5
Power	3,212	3,139	3,301	2,901	2,944	3,241	15,497	14,497	6.9
Highway and street	6,663	5,379	4,221	3,517	3,475	5,685	23,255	20,273	14.7
Sewage and waste disposal	1,628	1,434	1,407	1,274	1,277	1,436	7,020	5,792	21.2
Water supply	1,078	993	964	863	870	988	4,767	4,298	10.9
Conservation and development	486	446	470	402	426	383	2,230	1,791	24.5
Manufacturing	3,224	3,213	2,865	2,566	2,655	2,399	14,524	11,561	25.6
Total Private Construction ¹	81,250	76,233	74,191	64,205	66,077	76,806	361,955	334,402	8.2
Residential	56,678	52,517	51,125	43,167	45,256	55,342	248,743	234,334	6.1
Nonresidential	24,572	23,716	23,066	21,038	20,821	21,464	113,213	100,068	13.1
Lodging	1,528	1,516	1,407	1,292	1,174	1,011	6,916	5,309	30.3
Office	3,536	3,401	3,260	3,055	2,919	3,224	16,170	15,018	7.7
Commercial	6,288	6,042	5,846	5,391	5,381	5,908	28,948	26,287	10.1
Health care	2,735	2,638	2,532	2,391	2,334	2,297	12,630	10,851	16.4
Educational	1,159	1,126	1,104	986	965	1,101	5,339	5,006	6.7
Religious	691	658	654	606	570	633	3,180	3,088	3.0
Amusement and recreation	743	727	694	683	627	624	3,474	3,209	8.3
Transportation	832	755	644	574	595	662	3,399	2,618	29.8
Communication	1,259	1,141	1,291	1,102	1,107	1,108	5,900	5,286	11.6
Power	2,484	2,413	2,679	2,330	2,422	2,396	12,327	11,363	8.5
Manufacturing	3,200	3,187	2,837	2,535	2,626	2,387	14,386	11,513	25.0
Total Public Construction ²	22,909	20,469	18,596	16,778	16,698	20,863	95,449	86,653	10.2
Residential	770	740	723	661	636	701	3,530	3,149	12.1
Nonresidential	22,139	19,729	17,873	16,116	16,062	20,162	91,919	83,504	10.1
Office	937	916	856	785	832	897	4,326	4,622	-6.4
Commercial	361	370	350	297	311	386	1,690	1,814	-6.8
Health care	806	773	724	709	696	804	3,707	3,539	4.7
Educational	5,794	5,270	5,050	4,736	4,769	5,558	25,619	23,830	7.5
Public safety	899	856	827	802	790	736	4,174	3,471	20.3
Amusement and recreation	1,108	1,014	980	854	845	956	4,801	4,097	17.2
Transportation	1,693	1,587	1,443	1,325	1,275	1,544	7,322	7,117	2.9
Power	728	726	623	571	523	844	3,170	3,134	1.1
Highway and street	6,635	5,357	4,194	3,498	3,453	5,657	23,137	20,135	14.9
Sewage and waste disposal	1,605	1,414	1,386	1,258	1,258	1,413	6,921	5,689	21.7
Water supply	1,050	967	933	841	846	970	4,636	4,196	10.5
Conservation and development	478	439	463	395	420	370	2,195	1,730	26.9

^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	1.2	0.9	1.4
Residential	5.0	6.5	7.8	2.6	9.6
Nonresidential	1.0	0.7	1.2	0.9	1.4
Lodging	3.5	2.7	3.7	1.3	5.6
Office	3.1	2.0	4.1	1.5	3.8
Commercial	2.2	1.7	2.5	1.4	2.7
Health care	2.8	2.3	3.1	1.5	3.8
Educational	2.2	1.7	2.5	1.8	2.9
Religious	4.5	4.3	5.1	3.0	6.5
Public safety	4.9	5.1	6.7	2.8	6.9
Amusement and recreation	4.6	4.5	4.9	3.6	5.6
Transportation	3.7	2.3	3.9	2.1	3.8
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.3	8.4	10.4	6.8	2.9
Highway and street	3.4	2.2	4.3	3.8	5.6
Sewage and waste disposal	3.4	2.7	4.4	3.9	5.6
Water supply	3.9	3.1	5.0	4.4	6.1
Conservation and development	5.9	3.8	8.8	5.8	8.9
Manufacturing	3.6	2.9	6.2	2.8	4.8
Total Private Construction	1.3	1.1	1.8	0.9	1.7
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.3	1.1	1.8	0.9	1.7
Lodging	3.5	2.7	3.8	1.4	5.6
Office	3.9	2.3	4.9	1.6	4.4
Commercial	2.4	1.7	2.6	1.5	2.8
Health care	3.3	2.7	3.8	1.7	4.6
Educational	4.3	3.6	5.1	2.1	5.5
Religious	4.5	4.3	5.1	3.0	6.5
Amusement and recreation	7.6	7.7	7.5	6.7	9.1
Transportation	11.3	12.2	13.0	3.6	11.6
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.8	10.7	13.8	9.3	2.6
Manufacturing	3.6	2.8	6.1	2.8	4.8
Total Public Construction	1.4	1.0	1.6	1.4	2.1
Residential	5.0	6.5	7.8	2.6	9.6
Nonresidential	1.4	1.0	1.6	1.4	2.1
Office	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.5	4.8
Commercial	4.9	4.0	4.1	2.5	5.4
Health care	4.1	3.6	4.2	2.3	4.3
Educational	2.4	2.0	2.8	2.0	3.3
Public safety	5.0	5.3	6.9	2.9	7.2
Amusement and recreation	5.3	4.9	6.3	3.0	6.9
Transportation	3.8	2.2	4.1	2.3	4.0
Power	4.0	4.2	5.5	4.6	7.1
Highway and street	3.4	2.3	4.4	3.8	5.7
Sewage and waste disposal	3.4	2.7	4.4	4.0	5.7
Water supply	3.9	3.2	5.0	4.5	6.1
Conservation and development	6.1	3.9	9.4	6.0	9.4

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	2005 ^f	2004 ^f	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
Total Construction	1,143,655	1,034,729	10.5	0.7
Residential	650,517	572,543	13.6	2.9
Nonresidential	493,138	462,186	6.7	0.7
Lodging	13,069	12,496	4.6	2.5
Office	47,736	44,611	7.0	3.1
Commercial	73,744	68,696	7.3	1.7
Health care	36,583	34,024	7.5	2.4
Educational	78,633	74,657	5.3	1.4
Religious	7,787	8,159	-4.6	3.2
Public safety	10,040	9,037	11.1	3.2
Amusement and recreation	18,542	19,544	-5.1	2.8
Transportation	26,869	26,260	2.3	2.6
Communication	13,414	12,529	7.1	NA
Power	37,003	37,443	-1.2	1.2
Highway and street	65,720	60,268	9.0	1.9
Sewage and waste disposal	16,473	15,279	7.8	2.1
Water supply	11,407	10,770	5.9	2.0
Conservation and development	5,021	4,589	9.4	3.9
Manufacturing	31,096	23,825	30.5	3.2
Total Private Construction ¹	898,970	804,235	11.8	1.1
Residential	642,276	564,827	13.7	1.1
Nonresidential	256,694	239,408	7.2	1.1
Lodging	12,809	11,982	6.9	2.5
Office	36,823	32,879	12.0	3.8
Commercial	69,143	64,110	7.9	1.7
Health care	27,723	26,272	5.5	2.8
Educational	12,787	12,701	0.7	3.4
Religious	7,772	8,153	-4.7	3.2
Public safety	380	289	31.5	13.5
Amusement and recreation	7,693	8,432	-8.8	4.8
Transportation	7,347	6,841	7.4	6.8
Communication	13,346	12,440	7.3	NA
Power	28,958	30,404	-4.8	1.0
Sewage and waste disposal	271	331	-18.1	20.0
Water supply	261	405	-35.6	16.1
Manufacturing	30,914	23,667	30.6	3.3
Total Public Construction ²	244,686	230,494	6.2	0.8
Residential	8,242	7,716	6.8	2.9
Nonresidential	236,444	222,778	6.1	0.8
Office	10,914	11,732	-7.0	2.1
Commercial	4,601	4,587	0.3	4.6
Health care	8,860	7,752	14.3	3.0
Educational	65,846	61,956	6.3	1.6
Public safety	9,660	8,748	10.4	3.3
Amusement and recreation	10,849	11,112	-2.4	3.1
Transportation	19,523	19,419	0.5	2.8
Power	8,046	7,038	14.3	3.0
Highway and street	65,382	59,940	9.1	1.9
Sewage and waste disposal	16,202	14,948	8.4	2.1
Water supply	11,146	10,365	7.5	2.1
Conservation and development	4,890	4,413	10.8	4.0

NA Not applicable ^f Revised

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.