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APRIL 2008 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,120.9 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during April 2008 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,120.9 billion, 0.4 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$1,125.8 billion. The April figure is 3.9 percent ($\pm 1.9\%$) below the April 2007 estimate of \$1,166.2 billion.

During the first 4 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$331.6 billion, 2.8 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$) below the \$341.2 billion for the same period in 2007.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$823.8 billion, 0.5 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$827.7 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$435.8 billion in April, 2.3 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) below the revised March estimate of \$445.8 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$388.0 billion in April, 1.6 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) above the revised March estimate of \$381.8 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In April, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$297.1 billion, 0.3 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$298.1 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$84.6 billion, 0.3 percent ($\pm 2.7\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$84.9 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$80.1 billion, 0.1 percent ($\pm 7.7\%$)* above the revised March estimate of \$80.1 billion.

May 2008 data will be released on July 1, 2008 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, 0.6 percent; and public construction, 0.7 percent.

Effective with the May 2008 release on July 1, expenditures on private residential improvements to rental, vacant, and seasonal properties will not be included in the construction spending data. To allow comparable time series analysis, these expenditures will also be removed from our historic data back to January 1993. The construction spending estimate will continue to include expenditures on residential improvements to owner-occupied structures. In addition, seasonally adjusted federal construction will revise back to 1996.

* 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 2008 ^P	Mar 2008 ^r	Feb 2008 ^r	Jan 2008	Dec 2007	Apr 2007	Percent change Apr 2008 from -	
							Mar 2008	Apr 2007
Total Construction	1,120,885	1,125,773	1,132,312	1,132,368	1,136,603	1,166,171	-0.4	-3.9
Residential	442,568	452,289	466,430	472,686	477,076	558,467	-2.1	-20.8
Nonresidential	678,317	673,484	665,883	659,681	659,527	607,704	0.7	11.6
Lodging	38,458	36,140	34,472	32,780	32,690	27,124	6.4	41.8
Office	72,142	71,975	70,362	69,545	67,851	61,823	0.2	16.7
Commercial	85,532	83,996	85,708	84,329	83,547	85,678	1.8	-0.2
Health care	47,406	46,963	46,400	45,422	45,438	44,325	0.9	7.0
Educational	103,118	103,234	102,407	102,500	102,823	94,355	-0.1	9.3
Religious	7,046	6,886	6,939	6,974	7,010	7,614	2.3	-7.5
Public safety	11,795	11,722	11,312	11,227	10,872	9,261	0.6	27.4
Amusement and recreation	21,557	21,948	21,535	21,564	21,649	19,473	-1.8	10.7
Transportation	34,252	33,857	33,352	33,314	32,773	28,338	1.2	20.9
Communication	27,393	29,124	27,170	27,460	28,998	24,507	-5.9	11.8
Power	57,542	56,826	56,170	55,876	57,245	46,991	1.3	22.5
Highway and street	80,304	80,302	79,494	78,219	78,294	76,685	0.0	4.7
Sewage and waste disposal	25,251	25,417	25,056	25,205	25,153	23,802	-0.7	6.1
Water supply	14,845	14,860	14,806	13,992	13,791	16,006	-0.1	-7.3
Conservation and development	5,490	5,704	5,482	5,641	5,921	4,974	-3.8	10.4
Manufacturing	46,186	44,532	45,219	45,634	45,472	36,748	3.7	25.7
Total Private Construction ¹	823,798	827,669	837,244	839,115	844,027	888,025	-0.5	-7.2
Residential	435,790	445,842	459,778	465,873	470,246	551,730	-2.3	-21.0
Nonresidential	388,009	381,828	377,466	373,242	373,781	336,295	1.6	15.4
Lodging	38,101	35,395	33,659	31,826	31,778	26,203	7.6	45.4
Office	60,748	60,460	58,890	58,712	57,540	52,813	0.5	15.0
Commercial	82,555	81,007	82,505	81,317	80,321	82,311	1.9	0.3
Health care	38,717	38,489	38,075	37,079	37,158	36,473	0.6	6.2
Educational	18,477	18,298	18,049	18,164	17,856	15,479	1.0	19.4
Religious	7,037	6,871	6,934	6,918	7,010	7,614	2.4	-7.6
Amusement and recreation	10,467	10,795	10,815	10,657	10,901	8,507	-3.0	23.0
Transportation	9,580	9,407	9,302	9,168	8,937	8,234	1.8	16.3
Communication	27,153	28,854	27,067	27,384	28,899	24,462	-5.9	11.0
Power	47,480	46,164	45,300	44,696	46,283	35,679	2.9	33.1
Manufacturing	45,697	44,114	44,722	45,152	45,100	36,491	3.6	25.2
Total Public Construction ²	297,087	298,104	295,068	293,252	292,576	278,146	-0.3	6.8
Residential	6,779	6,447	6,652	6,813	6,830	6,737	5.1	0.6
Nonresidential	290,308	291,656	288,416	286,439	285,746	271,408	-0.5	7.0
Office	11,394	11,514	11,472	10,834	10,311	9,011	-1.0	26.4
Commercial	2,977	2,988	3,204	3,012	3,227	3,367	-0.4	-11.6
Health care	8,689	8,475	8,325	8,343	8,280	7,852	2.5	10.7
Educational	84,641	84,936	84,358	84,336	84,967	78,876	-0.3	7.3
Public safety	11,226	11,129	10,679	10,614	10,329	8,792	0.9	27.7
Amusement and recreation	11,090	11,153	10,719	10,907	10,748	10,966	-0.6	1.1
Transportation	24,672	24,451	24,050	24,145	23,835	20,104	0.9	22.7
Power	10,062	10,662	10,870	11,179	10,962	11,311	-5.6	-11.0
Highway and street	80,139	80,088	79,128	77,700	77,793	76,185	0.1	5.2
Sewage and waste disposal	24,735	25,039	24,728	24,945	24,775	23,335	-1.2	6.0
Water supply	14,148	14,131	14,062	13,286	13,265	15,557	0.1	-9.1
Conservation and development	5,440	5,644	5,404	5,569	5,870	4,830	-3.6	12.6

^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	Apr 2008 ^P	Mar 2008 ^r	Feb 2008 ^r	Jan 2008	Dec 2007	Apr 2007	Year-to-date		Percent change
							Apr 2008	Apr 2007	
Total Construction	90,137	84,716	78,059	78,680	86,723	93,773	331,592	341,166	-2.8
Residential	35,432	33,850	30,086	31,410	35,556	44,979	130,778	163,361	-19.9
Nonresidential	54,705	50,866	47,973	47,270	51,166	48,794	200,815	177,806	12.9
Lodging	3,205	3,012	2,873	2,732	2,724	2,260	11,821	8,091	46.1
Office	6,181	5,771	5,617	5,285	5,294	5,307	22,854	20,052	14.0
Commercial	6,960	6,564	6,420	6,231	6,459	7,041	26,174	25,835	1.3
Health care	3,977	3,841	3,635	3,585	3,654	3,687	15,038	14,063	6.9
Educational	8,054	7,538	7,029	7,240	7,664	7,396	29,862	26,844	11.2
Religious	566	534	517	519	556	612	2,137	2,371	-9.9
Public safety	961	907	838	858	895	756	3,564	2,774	28.5
Amusement and recreation	1,772	1,696	1,600	1,588	1,719	1,632	6,656	5,905	12.7
Transportation	2,755	2,470	2,288	2,335	2,627	2,292	9,848	8,293	18.8
Communication	2,216	2,307	2,057	2,002	2,594	1,933	8,583	7,476	14.8
Power	4,852	4,473	4,444	4,372	4,615	3,833	18,141	14,069	28.9
Highway and street	5,818	4,725	4,011	3,881	4,902	5,542	18,436	17,666	4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	1,992	1,867	1,740	1,759	1,925	1,852	7,358	6,969	5.6
Water supply	1,226	1,152	1,099	1,019	1,067	1,322	4,495	4,802	-6.4
Conservation and development	416	435	406	449	491	381	1,705	1,610	5.9
Manufacturing	3,755	3,574	3,399	3,416	3,980	2,949	14,144	10,988	28.7
Total Private Construction ¹	67,021	63,800	58,850	59,401	65,355	72,082	249,072	264,629	-5.9
Residential	34,878	33,346	29,585	30,911	35,010	44,414	128,720	161,321	-20.2
Nonresidential	32,143	30,454	29,265	28,491	30,345	27,668	120,352	103,308	16.5
Lodging	3,175	2,950	2,805	2,652	2,648	2,184	11,582	7,824	48.0
Office	5,233	4,868	4,740	4,459	4,484	4,555	19,300	17,193	12.3
Commercial	6,720	6,325	6,182	6,005	6,195	6,753	25,232	24,671	2.3
Health care	3,231	3,146	2,975	2,921	2,986	3,016	12,273	11,621	5.6
Educational	1,540	1,416	1,316	1,337	1,358	1,282	5,609	4,693	19.5
Religious	566	533	517	515	556	612	2,130	2,369	-10.1
Amusement and recreation	874	881	858	831	879	724	3,444	2,819	22.2
Transportation	789	702	654	683	737	689	2,828	2,502	13.0
Communication	2,196	2,285	2,049	1,996	2,586	1,929	8,525	7,455	14.4
Power	3,948	3,666	3,663	3,563	3,815	2,839	14,841	10,760	37.9
Manufacturing	3,714	3,539	3,358	3,376	3,949	2,928	13,987	10,911	28.2
Total Public Construction ²	23,117	20,916	19,209	19,279	21,367	21,691	82,520	76,537	7.8
Residential	554	504	500	499	547	565	2,058	2,040	0.9
Nonresidential	22,562	20,412	18,709	18,780	20,821	21,126	80,463	74,497	8.0
Office	948	903	878	826	810	752	3,554	2,860	24.3
Commercial	240	239	238	226	264	288	943	1,164	-19.0
Health care	746	695	660	664	668	671	2,765	2,442	13.2
Educational	6,515	6,122	5,713	5,904	6,306	6,114	24,253	22,151	9.5
Public safety	913	861	793	813	852	716	3,380	2,644	27.8
Amusement and recreation	898	815	742	756	840	908	3,212	3,086	4.1
Transportation	1,966	1,768	1,634	1,652	1,890	1,603	7,020	5,791	21.2
Power	904	807	781	809	800	994	3,301	3,308	-0.2
Highway and street	5,806	4,713	3,986	3,842	4,866	5,504	18,347	17,540	4.6
Sewage and waste disposal	1,952	1,841	1,717	1,740	1,891	1,817	7,250	6,872	5.5
Water supply	1,171	1,099	1,049	974	1,031	1,287	4,294	4,702	-8.7
Conservation and development	411	430	400	443	487	369	1,684	1,571	7.2

^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	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.8	1.2
Residential	4.6	3.5	6.8	3.0	8.4
Nonresidential	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.8	1.2
Lodging	2.1	1.9	3.1	1.0	3.3
Office	2.4	2.7	3.7	1.3	4.0
Commercial	3.1	2.4	3.0	1.8	2.6
Health care	1.9	1.7	2.4	1.3	2.6
Educational	2.1	1.8	2.7	1.5	2.8
Religious	4.6	3.7	4.2	4.7	5.2
Public safety	3.2	2.8	5.2	2.7	5.4
Amusement and recreation	4.0	3.1	4.1	2.4	4.0
Transportation	2.6	2.2	3.4	2.1	4.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.1	2.6
Highway and street	3.4	2.9	4.0	4.8	5.2
Sewage and waste disposal	3.3	3.0	3.9	2.6	4.5
Water supply	4.1	3.3	4.8	4.1	5.8
Conservation and development	5.1	4.8	6.9	4.6	5.9
Manufacturing	2.0	1.8	2.7	1.5	2.7
Total Private Construction	1.2	1.0	1.5	0.7	1.4
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.2	1.0	1.5	0.7	1.4
Lodging	2.2	1.9	3.2	1.0	3.4
Office	2.8	3.1	3.9	1.5	4.3
Commercial	3.2	2.5	3.1	1.9	2.7
Health care	2.3	2.0	2.8	1.6	3.1
Educational	3.5	3.0	4.8	2.1	5.2
Religious	4.6	3.7	4.2	4.7	5.2
Amusement and recreation	4.6	4.4	5.8	2.7	5.2
Transportation	5.9	4.5	9.1	2.2	12.3
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.9	1.5	1.2	0.7	2.8
Manufacturing	1.8	1.8	2.7	1.5	2.7
Total Public Construction	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.9
Residential	4.6	3.5	6.9	3.0	8.4
Nonresidential	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.9
Office	4.4	5.8	7.7	2.6	7.8
Commercial	6.2	5.0	7.0	2.9	7.1
Health care	2.8	2.6	3.8	1.9	4.0
Educational	2.4	2.1	3.0	1.7	3.2
Public safety	3.4	2.9	5.4	2.8	5.7
Amusement and recreation	5.8	4.2	5.8	3.9	6.0
Transportation	2.8	2.3	3.6	2.3	4.2
Power	6.7	9.4	6.2	8.4	7.4
Highway and street	3.5	2.9	4.0	4.8	5.2
Sewage and waste disposal	3.3	3.0	3.9	2.5	4.5
Water supply	4.2	3.4	4.8	4.3	5.8
Conservation and development	5.0	4.8	7.0	4.7	6.0

NA Not applicable