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FEBRUARY 2006 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,185.4 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during February 2006 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,185.4 billion, 0.8 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised January estimate of \$1,176.0 billion. The February figure is 7.4 percent ($\pm 2.4\%$) above the February 2005 estimate of \$1,103.6 billion.

During the first 2 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$161.5 billion, 8.5 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) above the \$149.0 billion for the same period in 2005.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$931.0 billion, 1.2 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$)* above the revised January estimate of \$920.3 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$665.7 billion in February, 1.3 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised January estimate of \$657.0 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$265.3 billion in February, 0.8 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$)* above the revised January estimate of \$263.3 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In February, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$254.4 billion, 0.5 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$)* below the revised January estimate of \$255.7 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$67.7 billion, nearly the same ($\pm 2.7\%$)* as the revised January estimate of \$67.7 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$69.3 billion, 0.7 percent ($\pm 4.2\%$)* above the revised January estimate of \$68.9 billion.

March 2006 data will be released on May 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, 0.8 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	Feb 2006 ^P	Jan 2006 ^r	Dec 2005 ^r	Nov 2005	Oct 2005	Feb 2005	Percent change Feb 2006 from -	
							Jan 2006	Feb 2005
Total Construction	1,185,433	1,175,991	1,171,025	1,149,601	1,143,619	1,103,618	0.8	7.4
Residential	672,407	663,705	663,218	650,621	649,191	628,141	1.3	7.0
Nonresidential	513,026	512,285	507,806	498,981	494,428	475,477	0.1	7.9
Lodging	12,961	12,181	12,721	12,300	11,946	11,803	6.4	9.8
Office	50,130	49,988	48,952	46,975	46,703	46,405	0.3	8.0
Commercial	74,794	76,467	75,983	75,504	73,889	67,964	-2.2	10.0
Health care	39,107	38,096	37,684	37,302	37,440	35,237	2.7	11.0
Educational	81,142	80,778	80,437	78,624	79,038	73,159	0.5	10.9
Religious	7,553	7,254	7,387	7,236	7,351	7,867	4.1	-4.0
Public safety	10,289	10,249	10,128	10,688	11,000	8,933	0.4	15.2
Amusement and recreation	20,450	20,180	19,900	19,590	19,557	19,002	1.3	7.6
Transportation	27,414	27,839	28,491	27,868	28,146	26,364	-1.5	4.0
Communication	15,056	15,225	14,965	14,664	13,964	14,863	-1.1	1.3
Power	34,339	33,136	33,626	31,732	31,825	37,411	3.6	-8.2
Highway and street	69,568	69,193	68,061	69,093	67,454	67,183	0.5	3.6
Sewage and waste disposal	20,093	20,121	20,181	19,282	18,141	15,724	-0.1	27.8
Water supply	12,052	12,275	12,211	12,517	12,655	11,174	-1.8	7.9
Conservation and development	6,026	6,258	5,699	5,347	5,673	4,875	-3.7	23.6
Manufacturing	32,051	33,045	31,381	30,260	29,647	27,512	-3.0	16.5
Total Private Construction ¹	930,999	920,318	916,757	897,083	892,023	863,501	1.2	7.8
Residential	665,733	657,042	656,658	643,987	642,501	621,373	1.3	7.1
Nonresidential	265,266	263,276	260,099	253,096	249,522	242,128	0.8	9.6
Lodging	12,835	12,054	12,535	12,070	11,671	11,569	6.5	10.9
Office	39,582	39,013	38,223	36,475	35,668	34,105	1.5	16.1
Commercial	70,023	71,536	71,141	70,581	68,676	62,987	-2.1	11.2
Health care	30,968	30,028	29,494	28,925	29,149	27,277	3.1	13.5
Educational	13,460	13,088	12,837	12,561	13,065	12,741	2.8	5.6
Religious	7,547	7,245	7,378	7,232	7,346	7,834	4.2	-3.7
Amusement and recreation	8,726	8,236	8,078	8,313	8,142	8,538	5.9	2.2
Transportation	8,049	7,857	7,679	7,153	6,954	6,207	2.4	29.7
Communication	15,036	15,199	14,868	14,602	13,867	14,770	-1.1	1.8
Power	26,208	24,938	25,485	23,927	23,907	27,029	5.1	-3.0
Manufacturing	31,616	32,679	31,112	29,893	29,351	27,394	-3.3	15.4
Total Public Construction ²	254,434	255,672	254,268	252,519	251,596	240,116	-0.5	6.0
Residential	6,674	6,663	6,561	6,634	6,690	6,768	0.2	-1.4
Nonresidential	247,760	249,009	247,707	245,885	244,906	233,348	-0.5	6.2
Office	10,549	10,974	10,729	10,500	11,034	12,300	-3.9	-14.2
Commercial	4,771	4,931	4,842	4,923	5,213	4,977	-3.2	-4.1
Health care	8,139	8,068	8,190	8,377	8,292	7,960	0.9	2.2
Educational	67,682	67,690	67,600	66,063	65,973	60,418	0.0	12.0
Public safety	9,999	9,918	9,768	10,262	10,546	8,684	0.8	15.1
Amusement and recreation	11,724	11,944	11,822	11,277	11,415	10,464	-1.8	12.0
Transportation	19,364	19,982	20,813	20,715	21,193	20,157	-3.1	-3.9
Power	8,132	8,198	8,142	7,805	7,919	10,382	-0.8	-21.7
Highway and street	69,341	68,882	67,795	68,784	67,031	66,775	0.7	3.8
Sewage and waste disposal	19,904	19,875	19,858	19,014	17,741	15,413	0.1	29.1
Water supply	11,642	11,837	11,991	12,249	12,292	10,623	-1.6	9.6
Conservation and development	5,927	6,182	5,596	5,253	5,585	4,718	-4.1	25.6

^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	Feb 2006 ^p	Jan 2006 ^r	Dec 2005 ^r	Nov 2005	Oct 2005	Feb 2005	Year-to-date		Percent change
							Feb 2006	Feb 2005	
Total Construction	79,657	81,888	88,779	98,419	103,061	73,728	161,544	148,950	8.5
Residential	43,596	45,788	49,566	56,194	59,092	40,525	89,385	82,962	7.7
Nonresidential	36,061	36,099	39,212	42,224	43,968	33,203	72,160	65,989	9.4
Lodging	1,080	1,015	1,060	1,025	996	984	2,095	1,965	6.6
Office	3,824	3,808	3,908	4,027	3,967	3,508	7,632	6,930	10.1
Commercial	5,513	5,555	5,943	6,389	6,557	4,968	11,068	9,900	11.8
Health care	3,028	2,968	3,016	3,177	3,177	2,746	5,996	5,521	8.6
Educational	5,595	5,636	5,867	6,236	6,702	5,037	11,231	10,080	11.4
Religious	560	540	589	639	655	584	1,100	1,200	-8.3
Public safety	767	790	820	954	975	663	1,557	1,376	13.2
Amusement and recreation	1,551	1,482	1,558	1,667	1,718	1,430	3,034	2,803	8.2
Transportation	1,860	1,899	2,245	2,461	2,607	1,774	3,759	3,605	4.3
Communication	1,079	1,097	1,390	1,344	1,210	1,057	2,175	2,062	5.5
Power	2,662	2,571	2,747	2,588	2,719	2,866	5,233	5,598	-6.5
Highway and street	3,406	3,485	4,433	5,900	6,813	3,277	6,891	6,385	7.9
Sewage and waste disposal	1,321	1,362	1,507	1,651	1,658	1,047	2,683	2,112	27.0
Water supply	871	891	947	1,063	1,161	807	1,762	1,593	10.6
Conservation and development	460	454	447	450	474	359	914	692	32.1
Manufacturing	2,484	2,548	2,736	2,654	2,579	2,096	5,031	4,167	20.7
Total Private Construction ¹	63,198	65,199	70,267	77,270	80,185	58,237	128,397	118,384	8.5
Residential	43,108	45,291	49,036	55,637	58,529	40,034	88,399	81,974	7.8
Nonresidential	20,091	19,907	21,231	21,633	21,657	18,202	39,998	36,411	9.9
Lodging	1,070	1,005	1,045	1,006	973	964	2,074	1,932	7.3
Office	3,021	2,962	3,052	3,157	3,078	2,572	5,983	5,074	17.9
Commercial	5,158	5,192	5,563	5,997	6,144	4,599	10,350	9,194	12.6
Health care	2,390	2,325	2,340	2,460	2,494	2,120	4,715	4,296	9.8
Educational	987	956	997	1,018	1,097	931	1,944	1,868	4.1
Religious	560	539	588	638	655	582	1,099	1,195	-8.0
Amusement and recreation	708	656	653	697	702	680	1,364	1,329	2.6
Transportation	520	564	638	630	630	400	1,084	861	25.9
Communication	1,077	1,094	1,382	1,339	1,202	1,049	2,172	2,045	6.2
Power	2,065	1,993	2,156	1,953	1,972	2,101	4,058	4,260	-4.7
Manufacturing	2,447	2,517	2,713	2,623	2,555	2,086	4,965	4,150	19.6
Total Public Construction ²	16,459	16,689	18,512	21,149	22,876	15,491	33,148	30,566	8.4
Residential	489	497	530	557	564	490	986	988	-0.2
Nonresidential	15,970	16,192	17,982	20,591	22,312	15,001	32,162	29,578	8.7
Office	803	846	856	870	889	937	1,649	1,855	-11.1
Commercial	355	363	380	393	413	369	718	706	1.7
Health care	638	643	677	718	683	626	1,282	1,225	4.7
Educational	4,608	4,679	4,870	5,217	5,605	4,106	9,287	8,212	13.1
Public safety	743	762	790	918	937	642	1,505	1,336	12.6
Amusement and recreation	843	826	905	970	1,016	751	1,669	1,474	13.2
Transportation	1,340	1,336	1,606	1,831	1,977	1,375	2,676	2,744	-2.5
Power	597	578	591	636	747	765	1,175	1,338	-12.2
Highway and street	3,390	3,462	4,415	5,872	6,775	3,248	6,852	6,335	8.2
Sewage and waste disposal	1,307	1,342	1,477	1,627	1,623	1,023	2,649	2,063	28.4
Water supply	844	864	930	1,042	1,123	774	1,709	1,545	10.6
Conservation and development	452	448	439	443	467	346	899	673	33.6

^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 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	0.8	1.3	0.8	1.5
Residential	4.0	4.6	6.9	3.6	7.5
Nonresidential	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.8	1.5
Lodging	3.4	3.9	4.1	2.7	4.1
Office	3.8	2.9	4.3	2.4	5.1
Commercial	2.4	1.9	2.8	1.8	2.9
Health care	2.9	2.5	2.9	1.3	3.2
Educational	2.2	2.0	2.7	1.5	3.2
Religious	4.3	3.5	4.2	3.5	4.7
Public safety	4.3	4.7	6.4	2.7	7.1
Amusement and recreation	4.4	4.5	5.0	3.1	5.4
Transportation	4.1	2.5	4.3	1.7	4.6
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.3	1.0	1.8	1.1	2.4
Highway and street	3.4	3.1	5.0	2.6	5.7
Sewage and waste disposal	3.4	3.1	5.4	4.4	6.8
Water supply	3.9	3.2	5.6	4.7	6.7
Conservation and development	6.2	8.7	14.6	13.7	18.3
Manufacturing	4.3	4.7	7.4	3.2	6.8
Total Private Construction	1.5	1.2	1.8	1.0	2.0
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.5	1.2	1.8	1.0	2.0
Lodging	3.5	3.9	4.1	2.7	4.1
Office	4.8	3.4	5.2	3.0	6.1
Commercial	2.6	2.0	3.0	1.8	3.1
Health care	3.4	2.9	3.5	1.7	3.9
Educational	4.5	4.1	5.5	2.2	5.6
Religious	4.3	3.5	4.2	3.5	4.7
Amusement and recreation	7.0	7.5	7.3	4.9	8.3
Transportation	9.8	13.6	13.1	2.2	14.3
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.9	0.7	1.7	0.3	1.9
Manufacturing	4.3	4.7	7.3	3.2	6.7
Total Public Construction	1.3	1.2	1.8	1.1	2.1
Residential	4.0	4.6	6.9	3.6	7.5
Nonresidential	1.4	1.2	1.8	1.1	2.1
Office	3.6	5.3	5.3	1.7	5.6
Commercial	4.7	4.7	3.8	3.4	4.3
Health care	4.0	3.8	4.3	2.4	4.8
Educational	2.4	2.2	3.0	1.7	3.6
Public safety	4.4	4.9	6.6	2.7	7.3
Amusement and recreation	5.2	4.9	6.5	3.7	6.4
Transportation	4.3	2.4	4.5	1.8	4.8
Power	3.6	3.6	4.4	3.5	6.4
Highway and street	3.4	3.1	5.0	2.6	5.8
Sewage and waste disposal	3.4	3.2	5.5	4.5	6.9
Water supply	3.9	3.2	5.7	4.7	7.0
Conservation and development	6.4	8.9	15.2	14.0	19.3

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	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
Total Construction	1,120,649	1,027,738	9.0	0.7
Residential	633,395	569,983	11.1	2.9
Nonresidential	487,253	457,755	6.4	0.7
Lodging	12,033	12,017	0.1	2.5
Office	46,420	45,082	3.0	3.1
Commercial	71,864	66,586	7.9	1.7
Health care	36,653	34,122	7.4	2.4
Educational	76,944	72,267	6.5	1.4
Religious	7,597	8,087	-6.1	3.2
Public safety	9,861	9,083	8.6	3.2
Amusement and recreation	19,020	19,860	-4.2	2.8
Transportation	27,223	26,863	1.3	2.6
Communication	14,366	13,530	6.2	NA
Power	33,952	34,607	-1.9	1.2
Highway and street	67,051	60,475	10.9	1.9
Sewage and waste disposal	17,842	15,660	13.9	2.1
Water supply	12,200	10,949	11.4	2.0
Conservation and development	5,364	4,899	9.5	3.9
Manufacturing	28,863	23,671	21.9	3.2
Total Private Construction ¹	874,077	798,489	9.5	1.1
Residential	626,815	563,378	11.3	1.1
Nonresidential	247,262	235,110	5.2	1.1
Lodging	11,790	11,542	2.1	2.5
Office	35,277	33,112	6.5	3.8
Commercial	67,004	61,582	8.8	1.7
Health care	28,481	26,706	6.6	2.8
Educational	12,832	12,722	0.9	3.4
Religious	7,583	8,080	-6.2	3.2
Public safety	353	289	22.1	13.5
Amusement and recreation	8,031	8,553	-6.1	4.8
Transportation	6,835	6,642	2.9	6.8
Communication	14,264	13,382	6.6	NA
Power	25,136	27,735	-9.4	1.0
Sewage and waste disposal	267	342	-21.9	20.0
Water supply	279	406	-31.3	16.1
Manufacturing	28,643	23,517	21.8	3.3
Total Public Construction ²	246,571	229,250	7.6	0.8
Residential	6,580	6,605	-0.4	2.9
Nonresidential	239,991	222,645	7.8	0.8
Office	11,143	11,970	-6.9	2.1
Commercial	4,860	5,004	-2.9	4.6
Health care	8,172	7,415	10.2	3.0
Educational	64,112	59,545	7.7	1.6
Public safety	9,507	8,794	8.1	3.3
Amusement and recreation	10,989	11,307	-2.8	3.1
Transportation	20,389	20,221	0.8	2.8
Power	8,815	6,872	28.3	3.0
Highway and street	66,694	60,145	10.9	1.9
Sewage and waste disposal	17,576	15,318	14.7	2.1
Water supply	11,921	10,543	13.1	2.1
Conservation and development	5,232	4,727	10.7	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.