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APRIL 2006 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,195.9 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during April 2006 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,195.9 billion, 0.1 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$1,197.3 billion. The April figure is 8.5 percent ($\pm 2.4\%$) above the April 2005 estimate of \$1,102.1 billion.

During the first 4 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$349.3 billion, 8.9 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) above the \$320.6 billion for the same period in 2005.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$933.3 billion, 0.1 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$934.2 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$657.1 billion in April, 1.1 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$664.6 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$276.2 billion in April, 2.5 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$) above the revised March estimate of \$269.5 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In April, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$262.6 billion, 0.2 percent ($\pm 2.6\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$263.1 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$67.5 billion, 1.2 percent ($\pm 3.5\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$68.3 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$72.9 billion, 0.4 percent ($\pm 7.7\%$)* above the revised March estimate of \$72.6 billion.

May 2006 data will be released on July 3, 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 the May 2006 press release, normal revisions to the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data will revise 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	Apr 2006 ^P	Mar 2006 ^F	Feb 2006 ^F	Jan 2006	Dec 2005	Apr 2005	Percent change Apr 2006 from -	
							Mar 2006	Apr 2005
Total Construction	1,195,861	1,197,272	1,186,786	1,176,760	1,171,025	1,102,094	-0.1	8.5
Residential	664,560	671,816	665,145	661,023	663,218	619,940	-1.1	7.2
Nonresidential	531,301	525,455	521,641	515,737	507,806	482,154	1.1	10.2
Lodging	15,883	14,490	13,979	12,876	12,721	12,956	9.6	22.6
Office	50,945	49,559	49,868	49,731	48,952	46,852	2.8	8.7
Commercial	75,942	74,720	73,667	77,038	75,983	71,826	1.6	5.7
Health care	39,248	39,164	39,460	38,041	37,684	35,068	0.2	11.9
Educational	81,380	82,316	81,888	82,091	80,437	77,588	-1.1	4.9
Religious	8,314	8,174	8,006	7,289	7,387	7,798	1.7	6.6
Public safety	10,885	11,040	10,772	10,367	10,128	9,226	-1.4	18.0
Amusement and recreation	21,011	20,835	21,004	20,520	19,900	18,716	0.8	12.3
Transportation	29,514	28,946	28,314	27,555	28,491	25,789	2.0	14.4
Communication	16,050	16,166	15,663	15,293	14,965	14,446	-0.7	11.1
Power	34,508	34,678	35,709	33,582	33,626	32,787	-0.5	5.2
Highway and street	73,090	72,870	72,222	68,836	68,061	66,353	0.3	10.2
Sewage and waste disposal	19,435	20,025	20,122	19,886	20,181	17,027	-2.9	14.1
Water supply	12,797	12,888	12,501	12,592	12,211	12,276	-0.7	4.2
Conservation and development	5,629	5,591	5,595	6,388	5,699	4,891	0.7	15.1
Manufacturing	36,669	33,994	32,873	33,652	31,381	28,555	7.9	28.4
Total Private Construction ¹	933,308	934,175	925,811	919,549	916,757	859,421	-0.1	8.6
Residential	657,136	664,647	657,968	654,297	656,658	613,293	-1.1	7.1
Nonresidential	276,172	269,528	267,843	265,253	260,099	246,128	2.5	12.2
Lodging	15,749	14,339	13,858	12,750	12,535	12,768	9.8	23.3
Office	39,841	38,670	38,956	38,626	38,223	35,006	3.0	13.8
Commercial	71,058	69,772	69,170	72,046	71,141	66,698	1.8	6.5
Health care	30,712	30,579	30,924	29,832	29,494	26,956	0.4	13.9
Educational	13,874	13,999	13,367	13,195	12,837	13,015	-0.9	6.6
Religious	8,310	8,170	8,000	7,280	7,378	7,788	1.7	6.7
Amusement and recreation	9,335	8,869	8,997	8,233	8,078	8,240	5.3	13.3
Transportation	8,480	8,341	8,166	7,905	7,679	6,362	1.7	33.3
Communication	16,050	16,166	15,644	15,266	14,868	14,406	-0.7	11.4
Power	25,059	25,541	27,026	25,398	25,485	25,067	-1.9	0.0
Manufacturing	36,321	33,640	32,483	33,290	31,112	28,426	8.0	27.8
Total Public Construction ²	262,553	263,097	260,975	257,211	254,268	242,673	-0.2	8.2
Residential	7,424	7,169	7,177	6,727	6,561	6,647	3.6	11.7
Nonresidential	255,129	255,928	253,798	250,485	247,707	236,026	-0.3	8.1
Office	11,104	10,889	10,912	11,106	10,729	11,846	2.0	-6.3
Commercial	4,883	4,948	4,497	4,992	4,842	5,129	-1.3	-4.8
Health care	8,536	8,585	8,536	8,209	8,190	8,112	-0.6	5.2
Educational	67,506	68,317	68,521	68,897	67,600	64,574	-1.2	4.5
Public safety	10,456	10,620	10,408	10,003	9,768	8,948	-1.5	16.9
Amusement and recreation	11,676	11,966	12,007	12,287	11,822	10,475	-2.4	11.5
Transportation	21,034	20,605	20,148	19,650	20,813	19,427	2.1	8.3
Power	9,449	9,138	8,682	8,184	8,142	7,720	3.4	22.4
Highway and street	72,872	72,604	72,021	68,525	67,795	65,816	0.4	10.7
Sewage and waste disposal	19,181	19,761	19,898	19,638	19,858	16,789	-2.9	14.2
Water supply	12,401	12,487	12,128	12,157	11,991	12,047	-0.7	2.9
Conservation and development	5,544	5,499	5,504	6,313	5,596	4,776	0.8	16.1

^P Preliminary ^F 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 2006 ^P	Mar 2006 ^r	Feb 2006 ^r	Jan 2006	Dec 2005	Apr 2005	Year-to-date		Percent change
							Apr 2006	Apr 2005	
Total Construction	95,801	91,194	80,208	82,104	88,779	88,499	349,308	320,633	8.9
Residential	53,339	51,544	43,626	45,742	49,566	49,967	194,251	180,117	7.8
Nonresidential	42,463	39,651	36,582	36,362	39,212	38,533	155,057	140,516	10.3
Lodging	1,324	1,208	1,165	1,073	1,060	1,080	4,769	4,062	17.4
Office	4,265	4,081	3,787	3,785	3,908	3,950	15,917	14,691	8.3
Commercial	6,144	5,783	5,378	5,627	5,943	5,826	22,932	21,110	8.6
Health care	3,316	3,200	3,073	2,949	3,016	2,959	12,537	11,383	10.1
Educational	6,314	6,080	5,694	5,727	5,867	6,088	23,815	21,653	10.0
Religious	686	640	597	542	589	632	2,464	2,452	0.5
Public safety	881	858	803	800	820	746	3,342	2,797	19.5
Amusement and recreation	1,755	1,678	1,594	1,504	1,558	1,589	6,530	5,920	10.3
Transportation	2,350	2,059	1,893	1,885	2,245	2,041	8,188	7,516	8.9
Communication	1,232	1,372	1,123	1,095	1,390	1,145	4,822	4,406	9.4
Power	2,915	2,849	2,767	2,608	2,747	2,790	11,140	11,435	-2.6
Highway and street	5,254	4,209	3,529	3,443	4,433	4,613	16,436	14,722	11.6
Sewage and waste disposal	1,533	1,490	1,349	1,351	1,507	1,353	5,723	4,604	24.3
Water supply	1,061	983	909	915	947	1,017	3,869	3,500	10.5
Conservation and development	431	439	416	468	447	379	1,755	1,460	20.2
Manufacturing	3,005	2,722	2,504	2,590	2,736	2,323	10,821	8,806	22.9
Total Private Construction ¹	75,464	72,654	63,317	65,312	70,267	69,781	276,747	254,461	8.8
Residential	52,747	50,982	43,099	45,244	49,036	49,437	192,072	178,064	7.9
Nonresidential	22,717	21,672	20,218	20,068	21,231	20,343	84,675	76,397	10.8
Lodging	1,312	1,195	1,155	1,063	1,045	1,064	4,725	3,992	18.4
Office	3,327	3,191	2,953	2,932	3,052	2,951	12,403	10,869	14.1
Commercial	5,739	5,391	5,056	5,267	5,563	5,399	21,453	19,591	9.5
Health care	2,602	2,498	2,401	2,296	2,340	2,292	9,797	8,801	11.3
Educational	1,148	1,092	985	964	997	1,074	4,189	3,948	6.1
Religious	685	640	596	541	588	631	2,462	2,446	0.7
Amusement and recreation	785	741	734	650	653	690	2,910	2,718	7.1
Transportation	691	587	524	562	638	528	2,363	1,827	29.3
Communication	1,232	1,372	1,121	1,093	1,382	1,142	4,818	4,375	10.1
Power	2,112	2,161	2,132	2,038	2,156	2,148	8,443	8,651	-2.4
Manufacturing	2,976	2,693	2,472	2,559	2,713	2,313	10,699	8,763	22.1
Total Public Construction ²	20,337	18,541	16,891	16,792	18,512	18,719	72,561	66,173	9.7
Residential	592	562	527	498	530	529	2,179	2,053	6.1
Nonresidential	19,746	17,979	16,363	16,294	17,982	18,190	70,382	64,120	9.8
Office	938	890	834	852	856	999	3,514	3,822	-8.1
Commercial	404	392	323	360	380	427	1,479	1,519	-2.6
Health care	714	702	672	653	677	667	2,741	2,582	6.2
Educational	5,166	4,988	4,709	4,763	4,870	5,014	19,626	17,705	10.9
Public safety	845	823	773	770	790	723	3,211	2,714	18.3
Amusement and recreation	970	936	860	854	905	899	3,620	3,203	13.0
Transportation	1,660	1,472	1,370	1,324	1,606	1,513	5,824	5,689	2.4
Power	804	688	635	571	591	642	2,697	2,784	-3.1
Highway and street	5,238	4,193	3,516	3,421	4,415	4,571	16,367	14,609	12.0
Sewage and waste disposal	1,514	1,470	1,333	1,331	1,477	1,336	5,647	4,521	24.9
Water supply	1,029	952	887	890	930	999	3,759	3,412	10.2
Conservation and development	424	432	409	462	439	370	1,726	1,411	22.3

^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	1.0	1.5	
Residential	4.7	6.0	7.5	3.1	9.0	
Nonresidential	1.0	0.8	1.3	1.0	1.5	
Lodging	3.4	3.0	3.6	1.6	5.5	
Office	3.3	2.2	4.2	2.1	3.9	
Commercial	2.3	1.7	2.4	1.7	2.3	
Health care	2.9	2.4	3.0	1.4	3.5	
Educational	2.2	1.8	2.6	1.9	2.7	
Religious	4.4	4.9	5.5	3.3	7.0	
Public safety	4.8	5.2	7.0	3.0	8.0	
Amusement and recreation	4.5	4.5	4.9	2.8	5.0	
Transportation	3.7	2.3	4.3	2.3	4.0	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	1.3	1.1	1.7	1.5	1.8	
Highway and street	3.5	3.0	5.1	4.8	7.5	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.4	2.7	4.7	3.6	5.7	
Water supply	3.8	3.2	5.4	4.2	6.2	
Conservation and development	6.0	5.6	9.8	11.3	8.2	
Manufacturing	3.8	3.4	6.6	2.7	5.7	
Total Private Construction	1.4	1.0	1.7	0.9	1.7	
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4	
Nonresidential	1.4	1.0	1.7	0.9	1.7	
Lodging	3.5	3.0	3.7	1.6	5.6	
Office	4.1	2.5	5.1	2.5	4.6	
Commercial	2.4	1.8	2.6	1.8	2.4	
Health care	3.4	2.8	3.6	1.8	4.3	
Educational	4.4	3.7	5.4	2.4	5.7	
Religious	4.4	4.9	5.5	3.3	7.1	
Amusement and recreation	7.4	7.3	7.2	4.1	7.9	
Transportation	10.8	12.9	13.4	5.0	14.9	
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Power	0.7	0.6	1.3	0.6	0.9	
Manufacturing	3.8	3.3	6.5	2.8	5.8	
Total Public Construction	1.4	1.1	1.8	1.6	2.3	
Residential	4.7	6.0	7.5	3.1	9.0	
Nonresidential	1.4	1.1	1.8	1.6	2.4	
Office	3.6	4.1	4.2	3.0	3.9	
Commercial	4.8	5.0	4.8	5.2	4.2	
Health care	4.1	3.9	4.5	2.3	4.7	
Educational	2.5	2.1	2.9	2.2	3.1	
Public safety	5.0	5.4	7.2	3.1	8.3	
Amusement and recreation	5.2	5.1	6.4	3.8	6.0	
Transportation	3.8	2.2	4.5	2.5	4.1	
Power	3.8	3.9	5.4	6.1	7.0	
Highway and street	3.5	3.0	5.2	4.8	7.6	
Sewage and waste disposal	3.4	2.8	4.7	3.6	5.8	
Water supply	3.9	3.3	5.5	4.2	6.2	
Conservation and development	6.2	5.7	10.5	11.5	8.6	

NA Not applicable