



ECONOMICS
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APRIL 2004 CONSTRUCTION AT \$970.4 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

Construction put in place spending during April 2004 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$970.4 billion, 1.3 (± 1.4) percent above the revised March estimate of \$957.6 billion, according to the U.S. Commerce Department's Census Bureau. The April figure is 11.3 (± 2.1) percent above the April 2003 estimate of \$871.9 billion.

During the first 4 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$277.5 billion, 8.4 (± 1.8) percent above the \$256.1 billion for the same period in 2003.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$739.9 billion, 1.2 (± 1.9) percent above the revised March estimate of \$731.1 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$520.7 billion in April, 1.2 (± 1.9) percent above the revised March estimate of \$514.7 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In April, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$230.5 billion, 1.7 (± 2.1) percent above the revised March estimate of \$226.6 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$59.4 billion, 1.0 (± 3.4) percent above the revised March estimate of \$58.8 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$70.7 billion, 3.1 (± 6.6) percent above the revised March estimate of \$68.6 billion.

May 2004 data will be released on July 1, 2004 at 10:00 AM EDT.

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 errors 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. If the range contains zero, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease; that is, the change was not statistically significant. For any comparison cited without a confidence interval, the change is statistically significant. 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, 0.7 percent; private construction, 0.6 percent; and public construction, 2.0 percent.

More detailed data and a discussion of methodologies appear at our website: <http://www.census.gov/constructionspending>

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 2004 ^P	Mar 2004 ^F	Feb 2004 ^F	Jan 2004	Dec 2003	Apr 2003	Percent change Apr 2004 from -	
							Mar 2004	Apr 2003
Total Construction	970,385	957,633	934,803	926,422	930,012	871,871	1.3	11.3
Residential	526,463	520,323	513,170	509,606	507,081	449,565	1.2	17.1
Lodging	12,074	11,398	10,681	9,095	9,592	11,558	5.9	4.5
Office	42,962	43,640	42,178	39,815	41,916	39,670	-1.6	8.3
Commercial	60,312	59,170	59,260	59,512	61,076	58,871	1.9	2.4
Health care	32,267	30,728	29,668	28,476	29,360	29,949	5.0	7.7
Educational	72,750	71,572	69,250	68,310	70,535	70,423	1.6	3.3
Religious	7,475	7,514	7,573	7,426	7,787	8,270	-0.5	-9.6
Public safety	7,997	7,633	7,901	7,868	8,197	8,108	4.8	-1.4
Amusement and recreation	18,916	18,441	18,323	17,877	18,815	18,878	2.6	0.2
Transportation	25,932	25,074	23,203	23,316	22,860	24,902	3.4	4.1
Communication	16,548	15,875	16,527	16,004	14,728	15,768	4.2	4.9
Power	35,392	35,912	34,958	36,356	36,622	38,531	-1.4	-8.1
Highway and street	71,051	68,988	61,200	62,605	62,238	58,116	3.0	22.3
Sewage and waste disposal	13,534	13,472	13,162	13,171	13,046	12,293	0.5	10.1
Water supply	9,858	9,916	9,421	9,525	9,061	9,238	-0.6	6.7
Conservation and development	3,952	4,321	4,034	3,751	3,610	3,695	-8.5	7.0
Manufacturing	12,903	13,659	14,293	13,709	13,489	14,035	-5.5	-8.1
Total Private Construction ¹	739,919	731,053	723,117	716,532	718,647	662,769	1.2	11.6
Residential	520,727	514,709	508,177	503,842	501,366	443,880	1.2	17.3
Lodging	11,015	10,351	9,798	8,263	8,899	10,400	6.4	5.9
Office	31,545	31,847	31,313	29,818	32,021	29,299	-0.9	7.7
Commercial	55,897	54,956	55,201	55,190	56,598	54,726	1.7	2.1
Health care	25,977	24,641	23,759	22,680	23,333	24,121	5.4	7.7
Educational	13,348	12,761	12,477	12,947	13,453	13,188	4.6	1.2
Religious	7,473	7,513	7,570	7,424	7,783	8,209	-0.5	-9.0
Amusement and recreation	7,843	7,480	7,278	7,366	7,761	6,808	4.9	15.2
Transportation	6,528	6,484	6,466	6,254	6,214	7,055	0.7	-7.5
Communication	16,420	15,700	16,428	15,860	14,636	15,665	4.6	4.8
Power	28,902	29,095	28,697	31,721	31,609	34,516	-0.7	-16.3
Manufacturing	12,684	13,503	14,012	13,579	13,412	13,892	-6.1	-8.7
Total Public Construction ²	230,466	226,580	211,686	209,891	211,365	209,102	1.7	10.2
Residential	5,736	5,614	4,994	5,765	5,716	5,686	2.2	0.9
Office	11,417	11,793	10,865	9,998	9,895	10,371	-3.2	10.1
Commercial	4,415	4,213	4,059	4,322	4,477	4,146	4.8	6.5
Health care	6,290	6,087	5,909	5,796	6,028	5,828	3.3	7.9
Educational	59,402	58,810	56,773	55,363	57,082	57,235	1.0	3.8
Public safety	7,690	7,357	7,617	7,624	7,944	8,017	4.5	-4.1
Amusement and recreation	11,074	10,961	11,045	10,511	11,054	12,070	1.0	-8.3
Transportation	19,405	18,590	16,736	17,062	16,646	17,847	4.4	8.7
Power	6,490	6,818	6,261	4,635	5,013	4,015	-4.8	61.6
Highway and street	70,736	68,610	60,620	62,271	62,044	57,957	3.1	22.0
Sewage and waste disposal	13,047	12,798	12,627	12,637	12,650	12,073	1.9	8.1
Water supply	9,432	9,585	9,110	9,253	8,746	8,728	-1.6	8.1
Conservation and development	3,925	3,968	3,805	3,547	3,206	3,665	-1.1	7.1

^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 2004 ^p	Mar 2004 ^r	Feb 2004 ^r	Jan 2004	Dec 2003	Apr 2003	Year-to-date		
							Apr 2004	Apr 2003	Percent change
Total Construction	78,341	72,110	62,548	64,543	70,448	70,568	277,542	256,127	8.4
Residential	42,956	39,754	33,471	35,732	37,537	36,820	151,912	132,063	15.0
Lodging	1,006	950	890	758	799	963	3,604	3,566	1.1
Office	3,595	3,522	3,203	3,049	3,382	3,278	13,369	12,627	5.9
Commercial	4,903	4,567	4,391	4,335	4,819	4,801	18,196	18,200	0.0
Health care	2,746	2,532	2,338	2,231	2,424	2,518	9,847	9,549	3.1
Educational	5,678	5,229	4,843	4,857	5,205	5,493	20,607	20,578	0.1
Religious	600	577	560	553	610	668	2,290	2,575	-11.1
Public safety	639	587	577	593	685	652	2,395	2,534	-5.5
Amusement and recreation	1,605	1,460	1,369	1,299	1,468	1,601	5,734	5,901	-2.8
Transportation	2,067	1,816	1,565	1,588	1,779	2,015	7,035	7,213	-2.5
Communication	1,393	1,316	1,141	1,096	1,437	1,288	4,945	4,610	7.3
Power	2,977	2,885	2,362	2,534	3,101	3,208	10,757	11,536	-6.8
Highway and street	4,952	3,781	2,923	3,027	4,074	4,087	14,682	13,333	10.1
Sewage and waste disposal	1,085	1,004	888	921	969	995	3,898	3,550	9.8
Water supply	806	743	684	679	727	753	2,911	2,908	0.1
Conservation and development	307	326	298	277	304	290	1,208	1,076	12.3
Manufacturing	1,027	1,062	1,046	1,017	1,128	1,138	4,152	4,309	-3.6
Total Private Construction ¹	60,649	56,629	48,962	50,976	54,902	54,404	217,216	197,921	9.7
Residential	42,496	39,320	33,107	35,298	37,050	36,360	150,221	130,243	15.3
Lodging	918	863	817	689	742	867	3,286	3,253	1.0
Office	2,621	2,610	2,404	2,285	2,601	2,404	9,919	9,488	4.5
Commercial	4,551	4,264	4,096	4,027	4,464	4,455	16,938	16,988	-0.3
Health care	2,227	2,044	1,874	1,779	1,918	2,039	7,924	7,735	2.4
Educational	1,080	969	898	940	1,026	1,079	3,887	3,927	-1.0
Religious	600	577	560	553	610	663	2,290	2,561	-10.6
Amusement and recreation	657	617	575	571	627	580	2,420	2,139	13.1
Transportation	536	452	391	409	491	584	1,788	2,041	-12.4
Communication	1,381	1,301	1,132	1,083	1,429	1,279	4,897	4,576	7.0
Power	2,455	2,414	1,948	2,218	2,691	2,891	9,035	10,419	-13.3
Manufacturing	1,009	1,049	1,023	1,006	1,122	1,126	4,087	4,280	-4.5
Total Public Construction ²	17,692	15,482	13,586	13,567	15,546	16,163	60,326	58,206	3.6
Residential	459	434	364	434	487	461	1,692	1,820	-7.0
Office	974	912	800	764	781	874	3,450	3,140	9.9
Commercial	352	303	295	308	355	346	1,258	1,212	3.8
Health care	519	488	464	452	505	480	1,923	1,813	6.1
Educational	4,598	4,260	3,945	3,917	4,179	4,414	16,720	16,650	0.4
Public safety	614	564	553	573	664	644	2,303	2,502	-8.0
Amusement and recreation	948	844	794	728	841	1,021	3,314	3,761	-11.9
Transportation	1,531	1,365	1,173	1,179	1,288	1,431	5,248	5,172	1.5
Power	522	471	415	316	410	317	1,723	1,117	54.3
Highway and street	4,931	3,757	2,882	2,998	4,057	4,075	14,568	13,305	9.5
Sewage and waste disposal	1,052	953	851	884	936	980	3,740	3,495	7.0
Water supply	770	720	665	662	699	712	2,816	2,760	2.0
Conservation and development	305	297	279	260	270	287	1,140	1,067	6.8

^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	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.3
Residential	3.6	2.9	3.5	2.5	4.1
Lodging	3.9	4.4	5.1	2.2	6.1
Office	3.4	3.4	3.4	2.9	3.4
Commercial	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.3	3.0
Health care	3.0	3.1	4.1	1.9	5.0
Educational	2.3	2.1	3.0	1.8	3.3
Religious	4.5	4.0	4.5	3.2	4.8
Public safety	3.6	2.9	3.5	2.6	4.2
Amusement and recreation	3.8	3.6	4.1	3.2	4.6
Transportation	2.7	2.4	3.2	2.8	4.4
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.3
Highway and street	3.5	2.6	4.3	4.1	5.2
Sewage and waste disposal	3.9	3.3	4.7	4.0	5.2
Water supply	4.2	3.3	4.9	4.4	6.0
Conservation and development	4.7	6.8	7.5	5.2	7.4
Manufacturing	3.7	3.1	3.3	1.7	3.9
Total Private Construction	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.6
Residential	5.0	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.6
Lodging	4.0	4.5	5.3	2.3	6.4
Office	4.5	4.4	4.2	3.6	4.1
Commercial	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.4	3.1
Health care	3.6	3.6	4.8	2.2	5.8
Educational	4.0	3.4	4.3	2.4	4.3
Religious	4.5	4.0	4.5	3.2	4.8
Amusement and recreation	5.6	5.2	6.4	4.3	7.6
Transportation	10.4	9.2	8.7	4.0	14.9
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.6
Manufacturing	3.7	3.1	3.2	1.7	3.8
Total Public Construction	1.4	1.1	1.7	1.3	2.0
Residential	3.6	3.0	3.4	2.6	4.1
Office	3.6	3.1	4.2	2.7	4.4
Commercial	10.0	7.4	9.9	5.7	15.7
Health care	3.9	3.2	5.2	2.1	5.9
Educational	2.6	2.4	3.6	2.1	3.9
Public safety	3.6	2.8	3.4	2.6	4.1
Amusement and recreation	5.0	5.0	5.3	4.7	5.7
Transportation	2.8	2.5	3.4	3.2	4.5
Power	6.5	4.2	6.2	4.4	9.3
Highway and street	3.4	2.6	4.3	4.1	5.3
Sewage and waste disposal	3.9	3.2	4.6	3.9	5.2
Water supply	4.3	3.4	5.1	4.5	6.4
Conservation and development	4.8	7.1	7.8	6.3	7.9

NA Not applicable