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MARCH 2006 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,199.1 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during March 2006 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,199.1 billion, 0.9 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$)* above the revised February estimate of \$1,188.7 billion. The March figure is 8.4 percent ($\pm 2.2\%$) above the March 2005 estimate of \$1,106.4 billion.

During the first 3 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$253.5 billion, 9.2 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) above the \$232.1 billion for the same period in 2005.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$940.8 billion, 1.1 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$)* above the revised February estimate of \$930.9 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$672.9 billion in March, 1.6 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) above the revised February estimate of \$662.6 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$267.9 billion in March, 0.1 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$)* below the revised February estimate of \$268.3 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In March, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$258.2 billion, 0.2 percent ($\pm 2.2\%$)* above the revised February estimate of \$257.8 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$68.6 billion, 0.8 percent ($\pm 4.5\%$)* below the revised February estimate of \$69.2 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$69.4 billion, 0.4 percent ($\pm 5.6\%$)* below the revised February estimate of \$69.7 billion.

April 2006 data will be released on June 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.

* 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	Mar 2006 ^P	Feb 2006 ^F	Jan 2006 ^F	Dec 2005	Nov 2005	Mar 2005	Percent change Mar 2006 from -	
							Feb 2006	Mar 2005
Total Construction	1,199,054	1,188,747	1,176,760	1,171,025	1,149,601	1,106,400	0.9	8.4
Residential	679,955	669,551	661,023	663,218	650,621	626,689	1.6	8.5
Nonresidential	519,099	519,196	515,737	507,806	498,981	479,711	0.0	8.2
Lodging	14,147	13,722	12,876	12,721	12,300	12,211	3.1	15.9
Office	49,560	50,002	49,731	48,952	46,975	46,518	-0.9	6.5
Commercial	75,274	74,543	77,038	75,983	75,504	69,655	1.0	8.1
Health care	38,948	39,171	38,041	37,684	37,302	35,325	-0.6	10.3
Educational	82,581	82,894	82,091	80,437	78,624	74,689	-0.4	10.6
Religious	7,968	7,806	7,289	7,387	7,236	8,016	2.1	-0.6
Public safety	10,891	10,462	10,367	10,128	10,688	8,708	4.1	25.1
Amusement and recreation	20,699	21,206	20,520	19,900	19,590	19,178	-2.4	7.9
Transportation	28,120	27,724	27,555	28,491	27,868	25,989	1.4	8.2
Communication	16,146	15,712	15,293	14,965	14,664	14,331	2.8	12.7
Power	34,000	35,119	33,582	33,626	31,732	37,077	-3.2	-8.3
Highway and street	69,746	69,942	68,836	68,061	69,093	66,566	-0.3	4.8
Sewage and waste disposal	19,839	19,950	19,886	20,181	19,282	15,436	-0.6	28.5
Water supply	12,482	12,485	12,592	12,211	12,517	11,767	0.0	6.1
Conservation and development	5,686	5,714	6,388	5,699	5,347	5,062	-0.5	12.3
Manufacturing	33,014	32,745	33,652	31,381	30,260	29,184	0.8	13.1
Total Private Construction ¹	940,806	930,920	919,549	916,757	897,083	864,062	1.1	8.9
Residential	672,919	662,637	654,297	656,658	643,987	619,742	1.6	8.6
Nonresidential	267,887	268,283	265,253	260,099	253,096	244,320	-0.1	9.6
Lodging	14,042	13,601	12,750	12,535	12,070	11,951	3.2	17.5
Office	38,576	39,228	38,626	38,223	36,475	34,680	-1.7	11.2
Commercial	70,123	69,693	72,046	71,141	70,581	64,535	0.6	8.7
Health care	30,313	30,807	29,832	29,494	28,925	26,902	-1.6	12.7
Educational	13,946	13,679	13,195	12,837	12,561	12,786	2.0	9.1
Religious	7,963	7,800	7,280	7,378	7,232	8,012	2.1	-0.6
Amusement and recreation	8,995	9,100	8,233	8,078	8,313	8,520	-1.2	5.6
Transportation	8,329	8,169	7,905	7,679	7,153	6,174	2.0	34.9
Communication	16,144	15,694	15,266	14,868	14,602	14,211	2.9	13.6
Power	25,333	26,891	25,398	25,485	23,927	26,204	-5.8	-3.3
Manufacturing	32,647	32,344	33,290	31,112	29,893	29,007	0.9	12.5
Total Public Construction ²	258,248	257,827	257,211	254,268	252,519	242,338	0.2	6.6
Residential	7,036	6,914	6,727	6,561	6,634	6,947	1.8	1.3
Nonresidential	251,213	250,913	250,485	247,707	245,885	235,391	0.1	6.7
Office	10,984	10,774	11,106	10,729	10,500	11,838	1.9	-7.2
Commercial	5,152	4,850	4,992	4,842	4,923	5,121	6.2	0.6
Health care	8,635	8,364	8,209	8,190	8,377	8,423	3.2	2.5
Educational	68,636	69,215	68,897	67,600	66,063	61,903	-0.8	10.9
Public safety	10,484	10,100	10,003	9,768	10,262	8,469	3.8	23.8
Amusement and recreation	11,704	12,107	12,287	11,822	11,277	10,659	-3.3	9.8
Transportation	19,791	19,554	19,650	20,813	20,715	19,814	1.2	-0.1
Power	8,667	8,228	8,184	8,142	7,805	10,872	5.3	-20.3
Highway and street	69,446	69,741	68,525	67,795	68,784	66,206	-0.4	4.9
Sewage and waste disposal	19,640	19,747	19,638	19,858	19,014	15,229	-0.5	29.0
Water supply	12,003	12,066	12,157	11,991	12,249	11,469	-0.5	4.7
Conservation and development	5,594	5,622	6,313	5,596	5,253	4,826	-0.5	15.9

^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	Mar 2006 ^p	Feb 2006 ^r	Jan 2006 ^r	Dec 2005	Nov 2005	Mar 2005	Year-to-date		Percent change
							Mar 2006	Mar 2005	
Total Construction	91,207	80,235	82,104	88,779	98,419	83,184	253,546	232,134	9.2
Residential	51,972	43,734	45,742	49,566	56,194	47,189	141,448	130,150	8.7
Nonresidential	39,235	36,501	36,362	39,212	42,224	35,995	112,098	101,984	9.9
Lodging	1,179	1,144	1,073	1,060	1,025	1,018	3,395	2,983	13.8
Office	4,093	3,814	3,785	3,908	4,027	3,811	11,691	10,741	8.8
Commercial	5,873	5,456	5,627	5,943	6,389	5,383	16,957	15,284	10.9
Health care	3,180	3,041	2,949	3,016	3,177	2,903	9,171	8,424	8.9
Educational	6,084	5,713	5,727	5,867	6,236	5,485	17,524	15,565	12.6
Religious	624	581	542	589	639	620	1,747	1,820	-4.0
Public safety	847	793	800	820	954	675	2,440	2,051	19.0
Amusement and recreation	1,659	1,606	1,504	1,558	1,667	1,528	4,770	4,331	10.1
Transportation	1,994	1,868	1,885	2,245	2,461	1,870	5,748	5,475	5.0
Communication	1,373	1,130	1,095	1,390	1,344	1,199	3,598	3,261	10.3
Power	2,817	2,729	2,608	2,747	2,588	3,047	8,154	8,646	-5.7
Highway and street	4,007	3,417	3,443	4,433	5,900	3,724	10,867	10,109	7.5
Sewage and waste disposal	1,447	1,327	1,351	1,507	1,651	1,139	4,125	3,251	26.9
Water supply	949	906	915	947	1,063	890	2,771	2,482	11.6
Conservation and development	452	430	468	447	450	388	1,351	1,080	25.1
Manufacturing	2,655	2,547	2,590	2,736	2,654	2,316	7,791	6,483	20.2
Total Private Construction ¹	73,033	63,564	65,312	70,267	77,270	66,296	201,909	184,680	9.3
Residential	51,416	43,229	45,244	49,036	55,637	46,653	139,889	128,627	8.8
Nonresidential	21,617	20,335	20,068	21,231	21,633	19,642	62,020	56,053	10.6
Lodging	1,170	1,133	1,063	1,045	1,006	996	3,366	2,928	15.0
Office	3,194	2,994	2,932	3,052	3,157	2,843	9,120	7,918	15.2
Commercial	5,463	5,108	5,267	5,563	5,997	4,997	15,837	14,191	11.6
Health care	2,476	2,386	2,296	2,340	2,460	2,214	7,158	6,509	10.0
Educational	1,091	1,007	964	997	1,018	1,006	3,061	2,874	6.5
Religious	624	580	541	588	638	620	1,745	1,815	-3.9
Amusement and recreation	751	739	650	653	697	698	2,140	2,028	5.5
Transportation	586	524	562	638	630	439	1,672	1,299	28.7
Communication	1,373	1,128	1,093	1,382	1,339	1,189	3,594	3,233	11.2
Power	2,156	2,130	2,038	2,156	1,953	2,243	6,323	6,503	-2.8
Manufacturing	2,624	2,514	2,559	2,713	2,623	2,301	7,697	6,451	19.3
Total Public Construction ²	18,174	16,671	16,792	18,512	21,149	16,888	51,637	47,454	8.8
Residential	556	505	498	530	557	535	1,559	1,523	2.4
Nonresidential	17,618	16,167	16,294	17,982	20,591	16,353	50,078	45,930	9.0
Office	900	820	852	856	870	968	2,571	2,823	-8.9
Commercial	411	348	360	380	393	386	1,119	1,092	2.5
Health care	704	656	653	677	718	689	2,013	1,915	5.1
Educational	4,994	4,707	4,763	4,870	5,217	4,479	14,463	12,691	14.0
Public safety	813	763	770	790	918	655	2,345	1,991	17.8
Amusement and recreation	908	867	854	905	970	830	2,630	2,303	14.2
Transportation	1,409	1,344	1,324	1,606	1,831	1,432	4,076	4,176	-2.4
Power	661	599	571	591	636	804	1,832	2,143	-14.5
Highway and street	3,990	3,404	3,421	4,415	5,872	3,703	10,814	10,038	7.7
Sewage and waste disposal	1,434	1,311	1,331	1,477	1,627	1,123	4,076	3,186	27.9
Water supply	912	880	890	930	1,042	868	2,682	2,412	11.2
Conservation and development	445	423	462	439	443	369	1,329	1,041	27.7

^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	0.9	1.4
Residential	4.4	5.6	7.3	3.8	9.1
Nonresidential	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.9	1.4
Lodging	3.4	3.2	3.9	1.3	4.2
Office	3.6	2.4	4.2	2.4	4.3
Commercial	2.4	1.9	2.6	1.5	2.6
Health care	2.9	2.5	3.0	1.7	3.5
Educational	2.2	2.0	2.8	2.4	2.8
Religious	4.3	3.3	4.0	3.4	4.9
Public safety	4.6	5.0	6.9	3.5	8.6
Amusement and recreation	4.4	4.5	5.0	2.6	5.2
Transportation	4.0	2.5	4.7	2.1	6.2
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.3	1.2	1.7	1.8	2.3
Highway and street	3.4	2.9	5.1	3.5	6.2
Sewage and waste disposal	3.4	3.0	5.1	3.8	6.5
Water supply	3.9	3.3	5.9	3.8	6.8
Conservation and development	6.1	7.1	12.2	9.8	7.3
Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	7.0	2.2	5.7
Total Private Construction	1.4	1.1	1.8	0.9	1.8
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.4	1.1	1.8	0.9	1.8
Lodging	3.5	3.2	3.9	1.3	4.3
Office	4.5	2.7	5.1	2.9	5.0
Commercial	2.5	2.0	2.8	1.5	2.7
Health care	3.4	2.8	3.6	2.0	4.0
Educational	4.5	3.7	5.5	2.5	5.9
Religious	4.3	3.3	4.1	3.4	4.9
Amusement and recreation	7.2	7.3	7.2	3.2	7.5
Transportation	10.3	12.7	13.1	2.1	14.1
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.8	0.6	1.5	0.6	1.6
Manufacturing	4.1	4.0	6.9	2.2	5.6
Total Public Construction	1.3	1.1	1.8	1.4	2.1
Residential	4.4	5.6	7.3	3.8	9.1
Nonresidential	1.4	1.2	1.8	1.5	2.2
Office	3.6	4.5	4.6	3.7	4.0
Commercial	4.9	5.8	5.6	4.5	6.2
Health care	4.1	4.0	4.7	3.0	5.4
Educational	2.5	2.3	3.1	2.8	3.1
Public safety	4.7	5.2	7.1	3.7	8.8
Amusement and recreation	5.2	5.3	6.9	4.1	7.3
Transportation	4.2	2.3	5.0	2.3	6.7
Power	3.9	4.3	5.1	7.1	8.5
Highway and street	3.4	3.0	5.1	3.5	6.2
Sewage and waste disposal	3.5	3.0	5.2	3.8	6.6
Water supply	3.9	3.4	6.0	3.8	6.8
Conservation and development	6.3	7.3	13.1	9.9	8.1

NA Not applicable