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DECEMBER 2006 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,177.7 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during December 2006 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,177.7 billion, 0.4 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* below the revised November estimate of \$1,182.9 billion. The December figure is 1.4 percent ($\pm 2.2\%$)* below the December 2005 estimate of \$1,194.5 billion.

The value of construction spending in 2006 was \$1,198.0 billion, 4.8 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$) above the \$1,143.7 billion spent in 2005.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$896.8 billion, 0.8 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$)* below the revised November estimate of \$903.8 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$582.3 billion in December, 1.6 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) below the revised November estimate of \$592.1 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$314.5 billion in December, 0.9 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$)* above the revised November estimate of \$311.8 billion.

The value of private construction in 2006 was \$928.7 billion, 3.3 percent ($\pm 2.4\%$) above the \$899.0 billion spent in 2005. Residential construction in 2006 was \$630.3 billion, 1.9 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$)* below the 2005 figure of \$642.3 billion and nonresidential construction was \$298.4 billion, 16.2 percent ($\pm 2.4\%$) above the \$256.7 billion in 2005.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In December, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$280.9 billion, 0.6 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$)* above the revised November estimate of \$279.1 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$75.6 billion, 1.8 percent ($\pm 3.8\%$)* above the revised November estimate of \$74.3 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$74.2 billion, 1.1 percent ($\pm 5.0\%$)* below the revised November estimate of \$75.1 billion.

The value of public construction in 2006 was \$269.3 billion, 10.1 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) above the \$244.7 billion spent in 2005. Educational construction in 2006 was \$70.1 billion, 6.4 percent ($\pm 3.5\%$) above the 2005 figure of \$65.8 billion and highway construction was \$75.1 billion, 14.8 percent ($\pm 5.1\%$) above the \$65.4 billion in 2005.

January 2007 data will be released on March 1, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. EST.

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	Dec 2006 ^P	Nov 2006 ^r	Oct 2006 ^r	Sep 2006	Aug 2006	Dec 2005	Percent change Dec 2006 from -	
							Nov 2006	Dec 2005
Total Construction	1,177,659	1,182,944	1,181,364	1,190,659	1,199,926	1,194,492	-0.4	-1.4
Residential	591,064	600,851	609,346	617,979	625,622	674,097	-1.6	-12.3
Nonresidential	586,595	582,093	572,018	572,679	574,305	520,395	0.8	12.7
Lodging	24,095	23,951	23,030	21,574	21,196	14,464	0.6	66.6
Office	58,944	58,454	57,629	59,164	58,931	49,780	0.8	18.4
Commercial	85,217	84,404	83,088	83,896	81,701	79,376	1.0	7.4
Health care	44,910	44,379	43,021	43,068	43,371	37,431	1.2	20.0
Educational	90,244	88,733	84,975	83,304	82,617	82,441	1.7	9.5
Religious	8,317	8,138	7,842	7,911	8,031	7,603	2.2	9.4
Public safety	11,865	11,434	11,456	11,271	10,479	10,400	3.8	14.1
Amusement and recreation	23,064	23,265	23,060	24,119	23,283	19,697	-0.9	17.1
Transportation	30,102	29,331	29,360	28,622	30,394	28,212	2.6	6.7
Communication	13,537	15,841	16,572	16,446	15,435	12,557	-14.5	7.8
Power	42,681	41,788	40,196	40,879	42,332	39,584	2.1	7.8
Highway and street	74,737	75,518	75,890	75,149	77,799	67,980	-1.0	9.9
Sewage and waste disposal	20,050	19,866	20,332	19,690	19,226	18,894	0.9	6.1
Water supply	12,938	13,056	12,640	12,566	12,856	11,466	-0.9	12.8
Conservation and development	5,986	5,956	5,538	6,270	5,899	5,384	0.5	11.2
Manufacturing	39,910	37,979	37,389	38,751	40,757	35,127	5.1	13.6
Total Private Construction ¹	896,774	903,847	908,252	920,101	929,571	940,237	-0.8	-4.6
Residential	582,290	592,057	600,751	609,648	617,457	665,615	-1.6	-12.5
Nonresidential	314,484	311,790	307,502	310,453	312,114	274,622	0.9	14.5
Lodging	22,843	22,792	22,162	20,617	20,494	14,221	0.2	60.6
Office	47,687	47,041	45,861	47,487	47,643	39,040	1.4	22.1
Commercial	80,212	79,031	78,468	79,567	77,314	74,789	1.5	7.3
Health care	34,312	33,599	33,036	33,366	33,733	28,717	2.1	19.5
Educational	14,676	14,476	14,383	13,856	13,501	13,153	1.4	11.6
Religious	8,312	8,091	7,833	7,906	8,014	7,594	2.7	9.5
Amusement and recreation	9,264	9,552	9,639	10,502	9,801	8,003	-3.0	15.8
Transportation	7,917	7,662	7,361	6,998	8,428	8,243	3.3	-4.0
Communication	13,413	15,736	16,489	16,417	15,355	12,465	-14.8	7.6
Power	34,256	34,252	33,505	33,531	35,555	32,188	0.0	6.4
Manufacturing	39,707	37,743	37,154	38,541	40,545	34,863	5.2	13.9
Total Public Construction ²	280,885	279,097	273,112	270,557	270,355	254,255	0.6	10.5
Residential	8,774	8,794	8,595	8,331	8,164	8,481	-0.2	3.5
Nonresidential	272,111	270,303	264,517	262,226	262,191	245,774	0.7	10.7
Office	11,257	11,412	11,768	11,677	11,288	10,740	-1.4	4.8
Commercial	5,005	5,373	4,620	4,329	4,388	4,587	-6.8	9.1
Health care	10,597	10,781	9,985	9,702	9,638	8,714	-1.7	21.6
Educational	75,568	74,258	70,593	69,449	69,116	69,288	1.8	9.1
Public safety	11,339	10,927	11,013	10,862	10,091	9,951	3.8	13.9
Amusement and recreation	13,800	13,713	13,421	13,617	13,482	11,695	0.6	18.0
Transportation	22,185	21,669	21,999	21,624	21,966	19,970	2.4	11.1
Power	8,424	7,536	6,691	7,349	6,778	7,396	11.8	13.9
Highway and street	74,243	75,071	75,460	74,792	77,276	67,739	-1.1	9.6
Sewage and waste disposal	19,681	19,488	20,051	19,411	18,961	18,557	1.0	6.1
Water supply	12,538	12,648	12,253	12,052	12,394	11,244	-0.9	11.5
Conservation and development	5,890	5,879	5,469	6,164	5,803	5,286	0.2	11.4

^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	Dec 2006 ^p	Nov 2006 ^r	Oct 2006 ^r	Sep 2006	Aug 2006	Dec 2005	Year-to-date		
							Dec 2006	Dec 2005	Percent change
Total Construction	88,641	100,332	105,805	109,019	114,180	90,305	1,197,980	1,143,655	4.8
Residential	43,448	50,992	55,092	56,316	60,265	50,128	639,139	650,517	-1.7
Nonresidential	45,193	49,340	50,713	52,702	53,915	40,177	558,841	493,138	13.3
Lodging	2,008	1,996	1,919	1,798	1,766	1,205	20,040	13,069	53.3
Office	4,700	4,930	4,899	5,139	5,075	3,958	54,602	47,736	14.4
Commercial	6,591	7,133	7,336	7,543	7,387	6,173	80,970	73,744	9.8
Health care	3,600	3,744	3,657	3,648	3,674	3,000	41,744	36,583	14.1
Educational	6,641	7,080	7,174	7,593	8,296	6,012	83,808	78,633	6.6
Religious	657	707	700	707	734	599	8,107	7,787	4.1
Public safety	978	1,028	1,034	1,044	925	845	11,100	10,040	10.6
Amusement and recreation	1,789	1,974	2,025	2,152	2,066	1,557	22,346	18,542	20.5
Transportation	2,362	2,615	2,759	2,735	2,879	2,232	29,530	26,869	9.9
Communication	1,185	1,453	1,510	1,353	1,397	1,160	15,359	13,414	14.5
Power	3,511	3,523	3,418	3,789	3,836	3,281	40,756	37,003	10.1
Highway and street	4,700	6,506	7,579	8,140	8,868	4,352	75,483	65,720	14.9
Sewage and waste disposal	1,512	1,720	1,836	1,869	1,829	1,416	19,285	16,473	17.1
Water supply	1,016	1,107	1,162	1,136	1,179	887	12,647	11,407	10.9
Conservation and development	460	515	450	687	546	425	5,816	5,021	15.8
Manufacturing	3,483	3,309	3,256	3,370	3,458	3,076	37,249	31,096	19.8
Total Private Construction ¹	68,205	76,790	81,016	82,604	87,030	71,817	928,658	898,970	3.3
Residential	42,745	50,261	54,366	55,531	59,544	49,445	630,298	642,276	-1.9
Nonresidential	25,461	26,529	26,650	27,073	27,487	22,371	298,360	256,694	16.2
Lodging	1,904	1,899	1,847	1,718	1,708	1,185	19,478	12,809	52.1
Office	3,813	3,992	3,935	4,064	4,093	3,103	43,571	36,823	18.3
Commercial	6,202	6,666	6,964	7,089	6,991	5,813	76,604	69,143	10.8
Health care	2,723	2,827	2,820	2,821	2,878	2,283	32,162	27,723	16.0
Educational	1,117	1,172	1,189	1,171	1,271	1,016	13,751	12,787	7.5
Religious	656	703	699	707	732	598	8,093	7,772	4.1
Amusement and recreation	735	801	832	900	842	644	9,193	7,693	19.5
Transportation	648	683	673	632	773	687	8,364	7,347	13.8
Communication	1,175	1,444	1,504	1,350	1,390	1,152	15,298	13,346	14.6
Power	2,878	2,898	2,803	3,106	3,189	2,733	33,199	28,958	14.6
Manufacturing	3,467	3,290	3,236	3,352	3,440	3,054	36,995	30,914	19.7
Total Public Construction ²	20,435	23,542	24,789	26,415	27,150	18,489	269,322	244,686	10.1
Residential	703	731	726	786	722	683	8,842	8,242	7.3
Nonresidential	19,732	22,811	24,063	25,629	26,429	17,806	260,480	236,444	10.2
Office	887	938	964	1,075	982	855	11,032	10,914	1.1
Commercial	389	467	371	454	396	360	4,366	4,601	-5.1
Health care	877	918	837	827	796	718	9,582	8,860	8.1
Educational	5,525	5,908	5,985	6,422	7,025	4,996	70,057	65,846	6.4
Public safety	939	986	994	1,006	888	814	10,660	9,660	10.4
Amusement and recreation	1,054	1,174	1,194	1,252	1,224	913	13,153	10,849	21.2
Transportation	1,714	1,931	2,086	2,103	2,106	1,545	21,166	19,523	8.4
Power	633	625	614	683	647	548	7,557	8,046	-6.1
Highway and street	4,665	6,466	7,541	8,106	8,814	4,335	75,070	65,382	14.8
Sewage and waste disposal	1,478	1,687	1,811	1,845	1,803	1,386	18,996	16,202	17.2
Water supply	987	1,075	1,122	1,077	1,124	871	12,223	11,146	9.7
Conservation and development	452	508	444	679	538	416	5,728	4,890	17.1

^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	0.6	1.0	0.8	1.4
Residential	6.3	4.9	5.5	3.6	5.0
Nonresidential	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.8	1.4
Lodging	3.0	2.4	4.2	1.6	6.0
Office	2.5	2.0	3.7	1.3	3.7
Commercial	2.9	2.0	2.7	1.6	3.6
Health care	2.4	1.8	2.8	1.2	3.2
Educational	2.1	1.4	2.0	2.1	3.1
Religious	4.3	3.2	4.3	2.8	6.6
Public safety	5.1	3.9	4.5	2.7	6.8
Amusement and recreation	4.2	2.7	3.4	2.0	5.1
Transportation	2.7	2.0	3.2	1.9	6.4
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.6	1.1	1.6	1.2	2.2
Highway and street	3.5	2.0	3.1	3.0	5.5
Sewage and waste disposal	3.5	2.1	3.4	2.7	5.2
Water supply	4.3	2.4	3.2	4.4	6.3
Conservation and development	5.3	2.7	4.8	3.9	7.3
Manufacturing	2.7	2.1	4.2	1.9	2.7
Total Private Construction	1.3	0.9	1.5	0.7	1.7
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.3	0.9	1.5	0.7	1.7
Lodging	3.1	2.4	4.2	1.6	6.0
Office	2.9	2.3	4.5	1.5	4.1
Commercial	3.1	2.1	2.9	1.7	3.8
Health care	2.8	2.2	3.3	1.4	3.5
Educational	4.1	3.1	4.3	2.2	4.9
Religious	4.3	3.2	4.4	2.8	6.6
Amusement and recreation	6.7	4.0	5.2	1.9	6.1
Transportation	10.1	6.1	5.3	6.5	10.8
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.3	1.0	1.5	0.6	2.2
Manufacturing	2.7	2.1	4.3	1.9	2.7
Total Public Construction	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.3	2.0
Residential	6.3	4.9	5.5	3.6	5.0
Nonresidential	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.3	2.0
Office	4.3	2.9	3.0	2.5	6.1
Commercial	5.7	4.1	4.5	6.1	8.1
Health care	3.6	2.7	3.4	2.7	6.3
Educational	2.4	1.5	2.2	2.4	3.6
Public safety	5.3	4.1	4.8	2.8	7.1
Amusement and recreation	5.1	3.7	4.6	3.6	8.2
Transportation	2.7	2.2	3.4	2.0	7.2
Power	5.3	3.1	3.9	5.4	7.0
Highway and street	3.5	2.0	3.2	3.1	5.6
Sewage and waste disposal	3.6	2.1	3.4	2.7	5.3
Water supply	4.4	2.4	3.2	4.6	6.4
Conservation and development	5.4	2.7	5.1	4.0	7.5

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	2006 ^P	2005	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
Total Construction	1,197,980	1,143,655	4.8	0.6
Residential	639,139	650,517	-1.7	4.9
Nonresidential	558,841	493,138	13.3	0.6
Lodging	20,040	13,069	53.3	2.4
Office	54,602	47,736	14.4	2.0
Commercial	80,970	73,744	9.8	2.0
Health care	41,744	36,583	14.1	1.8
Educational	83,808	78,633	6.6	1.4
Religious	8,107	7,787	4.1	3.2
Public safety	11,100	10,040	10.6	3.9
Amusement and recreation	22,346	18,542	20.5	2.7
Transportation	29,530	26,869	9.9	2.0
Communication	15,359	13,414	14.5	NA
Power	40,756	37,003	10.1	1.1
Highway and street	75,483	65,720	14.9	2.0
Sewage and waste disposal	19,285	16,473	17.1	2.1
Water supply	12,647	11,407	10.9	2.4
Conservation and development	5,816	5,021	15.8	2.7
Manufacturing	37,249	31,096	19.8	2.1
Total Private Construction ¹	928,658	898,970	3.3	0.9
Residential	630,298	642,276	-1.9	1.1
Nonresidential	298,360	256,694	16.2	0.9
Lodging	19,478	12,809	52.1	2.4
Office	43,571	36,823	18.3	2.3
Commercial	76,604	69,143	10.8	2.1
Health care	32,162	27,723	16.0	2.2
Educational	13,751	12,787	7.5	3.1
Religious	8,093	7,772	4.1	3.2
Public safety	439	380	15.5	10.5
Amusement and recreation	9,193	7,693	19.5	4.0
Transportation	8,364	7,347	13.8	6.1
Communication	15,298	13,346	14.6	NA
Power	33,199	28,958	14.6	1.0
Sewage and waste disposal	289	271	6.6	15.9
Water supply	424	261	62.5	16.3
Manufacturing	36,995	30,914	19.7	2.1
Total Public Construction ²	269,322	244,686	10.1	0.8
Residential	8,842	8,242	7.3	4.9
Nonresidential	260,480	236,444	10.2	0.8
Office	11,032	10,914	1.1	2.9
Commercial	4,366	4,601	-5.1	4.1
Health care	9,582	8,860	8.1	2.7
Educational	70,057	65,846	6.4	1.5
Public safety	10,660	9,660	10.4	4.1
Amusement and recreation	13,153	10,849	21.2	3.7
Transportation	21,166	19,523	8.4	2.2
Power	7,557	8,046	-6.1	3.1
Highway and street	75,070	65,382	14.8	2.0
Sewage and waste disposal	18,996	16,202	17.2	2.1
Water supply	12,223	11,146	9.7	2.4
Conservation and development	5,728	4,890	17.1	2.7

NA Not applicable ^P Preliminary

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.