

U.S. Census Bureau News

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, D.C. 20233

For Release at 10:00 A.M. EDT, Monday, April 30, 2007

Michael Davis, Joe Huesman or Linnet Holland
(301) 763-1605

CB07-61

MARCH 2007 CONSTRUCTION AT \$1,187.8 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during March 2007 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,187.8 billion, 0.2 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised February estimate of \$1,185.0 billion. The March figure is 2.0 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$)* below the March 2006 estimate of \$1,212.4 billion.

During the first 3 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$250.3 billion, 2.4 percent ($\pm 1.9\%$) below the \$256.5 billion for the same period in 2006.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$900.3 billion, 0.2 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$)* above the revised February estimate of \$898.6 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$568.8 billion in March, 1.0 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* below the revised February estimate of \$574.7 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$331.5 billion in March, 2.4 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$) above the revised February estimate of \$323.9 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In March, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$287.5 billion, 0.4 percent ($\pm 1.9\%$)* above the revised February estimate of \$286.4 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$75.2 billion, 2.1 percent ($\pm 3.2\%$)* above the revised February estimate of \$73.7 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$79.9 billion, 0.9 percent ($\pm 5.6\%$)* above the revised February estimate of \$79.2 billion.

April 2007 data will be released on May 31, 2007 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.

In the May 2007 press release, Total, Public, and State & local construction categories will revise back to January 1993 due to a change in methodology. All other categories revise back to January 2005.

* 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 2007 ^P	Feb 2007 ^F	Jan 2007 ^F	Dec 2006	Nov 2006	Mar 2006	Percent change Mar 2007 from -	
							Feb 2007	Mar 2006
Total Construction	1,187,791	1,184,963	1,167,129	1,173,917	1,181,645	1,212,385	0.2	-2.0
Residential	577,845	583,642	573,670	586,945	601,312	673,641	-1.0	-14.2
Nonresidential	609,945	601,321	593,459	586,972	580,333	538,745	1.4	13.2
Lodging	28,061	24,918	23,424	22,674	23,491	17,071	12.6	64.4
Office	63,077	62,957	62,719	61,305	59,991	49,625	0.2	27.1
Commercial	86,583	85,695	83,734	83,628	83,304	78,325	1.0	10.5
Health care	46,244	45,878	45,643	45,067	44,278	39,856	0.8	16.0
Educational	90,773	89,148	89,198	91,419	88,900	82,988	1.8	9.4
Religious	8,177	8,149	8,121	8,245	8,140	8,457	0.3	-3.3
Public safety	12,878	12,463	12,362	11,938	11,586	11,322	3.3	13.7
Amusement and recreation	22,947	21,869	22,310	23,157	23,310	21,020	4.9	9.2
Transportation	31,059	31,840	31,332	30,483	29,153	29,244	-2.5	6.2
Communication	18,560	18,159	17,215	16,362	15,903	15,323	2.2	21.1
Power	41,304	39,668	38,561	42,483	41,792	39,880	4.1	3.6
Highway and street	80,311	79,602	79,899	72,727	74,527	72,711	0.9	10.5
Sewage and waste disposal	19,002	20,174	20,292	20,428	19,753	18,858	-5.8	0.8
Water supply	12,692	13,136	12,695	12,629	12,682	12,700	-3.4	-0.1
Conservation and development	6,301	6,674	7,174	6,381	5,988	5,684	-5.6	10.9
Manufacturing	41,977	40,992	38,780	38,046	37,535	35,679	2.4	17.7
Total Private Construction ¹	900,281	898,601	879,035	893,186	904,032	948,697	0.2	-5.1
Residential	568,768	574,707	564,563	577,607	592,076	664,234	-1.0	-14.4
Nonresidential	331,513	323,894	314,472	315,579	311,956	284,464	2.4	16.5
Lodging	26,759	23,630	22,405	21,624	22,355	16,879	13.2	58.5
Office	51,700	51,422	51,142	49,751	48,287	39,332	0.5	31.4
Commercial	81,709	80,656	78,508	78,607	77,998	73,853	1.3	10.6
Health care	35,244	35,211	35,023	34,793	33,787	30,811	0.1	14.4
Educational	15,586	15,478	14,853	15,299	14,723	13,972	0.7	11.6
Religious	8,169	8,133	8,114	8,242	8,097	8,450	0.4	-3.3
Amusement and recreation	8,995	8,220	8,656	9,226	9,619	8,486	9.4	6.0
Transportation	9,242	9,110	8,866	8,054	7,652	9,124	1.4	1.3
Communication	18,461	18,084	17,103	16,272	15,842	15,323	2.1	20.5
Power	32,759	31,666	29,802	34,211	34,531	31,228	3.5	4.9
Manufacturing	41,485	40,716	38,534	37,833	37,279	35,340	1.9	17.4
Total Public Construction ²	287,510	286,362	288,094	280,731	277,612	263,688	0.4	9.0
Residential	9,078	8,935	9,107	9,338	9,236	9,407	1.6	-3.5
Nonresidential	278,432	277,427	278,987	271,393	268,377	254,281	0.4	9.5
Office	11,377	11,535	11,577	11,553	11,704	10,294	-1.4	10.5
Commercial	4,874	5,039	5,227	5,021	5,307	4,472	-3.3	9.0
Health care	11,000	10,667	10,620	10,274	10,492	9,046	3.1	21.6
Educational	75,187	73,671	74,346	76,121	74,177	69,016	2.1	8.9
Public safety	12,471	11,995	11,926	11,468	11,081	10,887	4.0	14.5
Amusement and recreation	13,952	13,648	13,654	13,931	13,691	12,534	2.2	11.3
Transportation	21,817	22,730	22,466	22,429	21,501	20,121	-4.0	8.4
Power	8,544	8,001	8,760	8,272	7,261	8,652	6.8	-1.2
Highway and street	79,927	79,235	79,587	72,310	74,095	72,266	0.9	10.6
Sewage and waste disposal	18,781	19,904	20,016	20,088	19,382	18,571	-5.6	1.1
Water supply	12,393	12,797	12,366	12,269	12,277	12,289	-3.2	0.8
Conservation and development	6,208	6,551	7,060	6,300	5,912	5,595	-5.2	11.0

^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 2007 ^P	Feb 2007 ^r	Jan 2007 ^r	Dec 2006	Nov 2006	Mar 2006	Year-to-date		
							Mar 2007	Mar 2006	Percent change
Total Construction	89,859	79,291	81,162	88,475	99,964	92,787	250,311	256,545	-2.4
Residential	43,620	36,911	38,911	43,296	50,934	51,848	119,442	141,569	-15.6
Nonresidential	46,239	42,380	42,250	45,179	49,030	40,939	130,869	114,976	13.8
Lodging	2,338	2,077	1,952	1,890	1,958	1,423	6,367	3,915	62.6
Office	5,107	4,849	4,842	4,868	5,021	4,115	14,799	11,706	26.4
Commercial	6,871	6,305	6,042	6,383	6,991	6,196	19,218	17,576	9.3
Health care	3,781	3,594	3,616	3,633	3,741	3,256	10,991	9,385	17.1
Educational	6,672	6,117	6,321	6,778	7,085	6,154	19,110	17,610	8.5
Religious	640	608	598	651	706	654	1,846	1,832	0.8
Public safety	977	921	952	984	1,039	860	2,849	2,512	13.4
Amusement and recreation	1,794	1,604	1,652	1,818	1,980	1,674	5,050	4,684	7.8
Transportation	2,204	2,157	2,151	2,413	2,581	2,087	6,512	5,855	11.2
Communication	1,499	1,303	1,281	1,440	1,449	1,291	4,082	3,503	16.5
Power	3,384	2,984	2,966	3,498	3,504	3,301	9,335	9,146	2.1
Highway and street	4,680	3,987	4,036	4,528	6,409	4,221	12,703	11,213	13.3
Sewage and waste disposal	1,390	1,364	1,435	1,546	1,707	1,407	4,189	3,958	5.8
Water supply	979	969	933	982	1,083	964	2,882	2,697	6.9
Conservation and development	498	503	570	494	517	470	1,570	1,298	21.0
Manufacturing	3,425	3,038	2,903	3,274	3,260	2,865	9,366	8,087	15.8
Total Private Construction ¹	69,704	60,738	62,015	67,990	76,601	74,191	192,458	204,473	-5.9
Residential	42,902	36,252	38,239	42,548	50,173	51,125	117,393	139,548	-15.9
Nonresidential	26,802	24,486	23,776	25,442	26,429	23,066	75,064	64,925	15.6
Lodging	2,230	1,969	1,867	1,802	1,863	1,407	6,066	3,872	56.7
Office	4,196	3,996	3,934	3,953	4,055	3,260	12,126	9,233	31.3
Commercial	6,481	5,937	5,660	5,998	6,528	5,846	18,077	16,617	8.8
Health care	2,899	2,762	2,763	2,793	2,852	2,532	8,424	7,257	16.1
Educational	1,237	1,135	1,087	1,165	1,190	1,104	3,460	3,055	13.3
Religious	639	607	597	650	702	654	1,844	1,831	0.7
Amusement and recreation	731	650	664	734	815	694	2,045	2,004	2.0
Transportation	649	586	619	654	680	644	1,855	1,813	2.3
Communication	1,491	1,297	1,271	1,433	1,444	1,291	4,059	3,500	16.0
Power	2,765	2,426	2,330	2,878	2,909	2,679	7,520	7,430	1.2
Manufacturing	3,384	3,015	2,882	3,256	3,239	2,837	9,282	7,999	16.0
Total Public Construction ²	20,155	18,553	19,146	20,485	23,363	18,596	57,853	52,072	11.1
Residential	717	659	672	748	762	723	2,048	2,021	1.3
Nonresidential	19,437	17,894	18,474	19,737	22,602	17,873	55,805	50,051	11.5
Office	912	853	908	916	966	856	2,673	2,473	8.1
Commercial	390	368	383	385	463	350	1,141	958	19.1
Health care	882	832	853	840	889	724	2,567	2,128	20.6
Educational	5,435	4,982	5,234	5,614	5,895	5,050	15,651	14,555	7.5
Public safety	947	888	921	950	998	827	2,755	2,419	13.9
Amusement and recreation	1,063	954	988	1,084	1,165	980	3,004	2,679	12.1
Transportation	1,554	1,571	1,532	1,758	1,901	1,443	4,657	4,042	15.2
Power	620	559	637	621	595	623	1,815	1,716	5.8
Highway and street	4,657	3,963	4,015	4,499	6,369	4,194	12,634	11,145	13.4
Sewage and waste disposal	1,374	1,344	1,414	1,515	1,674	1,386	4,132	3,902	5.9
Water supply	958	950	914	957	1,051	933	2,822	2,619	7.8
Conservation and development	490	493	560	487	511	463	1,543	1,278	20.7

^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	1.2	0.8	1.3
Residential	6.0	5.0	6.8	5.3	9.5
Nonresidential	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.3
Lodging	2.7	2.2	5.6	1.3	5.1
Office	2.4	2.5	3.6	1.9	3.9
Commercial	3.4	3.5	3.5	1.9	3.1
Health care	2.2	1.8	2.8	1.2	2.8
Educational	2.1	1.8	2.8	1.7	3.3
Religious	4.4	3.5	5.9	3.3	5.7
Public safety	4.7	4.1	6.4	2.6	7.8
Amusement and recreation	3.9	2.9	4.8	2.4	5.2
Transportation	2.6	2.0	3.4	2.3	3.1
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.5	0.8	1.8	1.4	2.5
Highway and street	3.5	2.7	4.3	3.5	4.9
Sewage and waste disposal	3.4	2.7	3.8	3.7	4.2
Water supply	4.7	4.4	5.4	4.4	6.6
Conservation and development	4.8	4.3	6.4	4.0	4.4
Manufacturing	2.4	2.4	3.2	2.0	3.1
Total Private Construction	1.4	1.3	1.7	0.9	1.6
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.4	1.3	1.7	0.9	1.6
Lodging	2.8	2.2	5.6	1.4	5.1
Office	2.9	3.0	4.1	2.2	4.3
Commercial	3.5	3.6	3.7	2.0	3.2
Health care	2.6	2.1	3.2	1.4	3.3
Educational	3.9	3.2	4.6	2.5	5.0
Religious	4.4	3.5	5.9	3.3	5.7
Amusement and recreation	5.7	3.5	5.9	3.1	6.9
Transportation	8.7	5.9	13.8	10.9	13.3
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.2	0.5	1.2	1.4	1.6
Manufacturing	2.4	2.3	3.2	1.9	3.0
Total Public Construction	1.4	1.0	1.6	1.2	1.9
Residential	6.0	5.0	6.8	5.3	9.5
Nonresidential	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.9
Office	4.0	3.6	5.9	3.1	5.9
Commercial	5.8	5.4	7.2	3.2	7.3
Health care	3.3	2.5	5.2	2.1	5.7
Educational	2.4	2.1	3.2	2.0	3.7
Public safety	4.9	4.3	6.8	2.7	8.4
Amusement and recreation	5.1	4.8	7.6	3.5	7.9
Transportation	2.7	2.2	3.4	2.3	3.1
Power	5.0	3.6	5.5	5.1	7.8
Highway and street	3.5	2.8	4.3	3.5	4.9
Sewage and waste disposal	3.4	2.7	3.8	3.7	4.3
Water supply	4.8	4.5	5.5	4.4	6.8
Conservation and development	4.9	4.4	6.5	4.1	4.5

NA Not applicable