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MARCH 2009 CONSTRUCTION AT \$969.7 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during March 2009 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$969.7 billion, 0.3 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised February estimate of \$967.1 billion. The March figure is 11.1 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$) below the March 2008 estimate of \$1,090.5 billion.

During the first 3 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$209.5 billion, 10.9 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$) below the \$235.2 billion for the same period in 2008.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$661.0 billion, 0.1 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$)* below the revised February estimate of \$661.6 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$258.4 billion in March, 4.2 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) below the revised February estimate of \$269.6 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$402.6 billion in March, 2.7 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$) above the revised February estimate of \$392.0 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In March, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$308.7 billion, 1.1 percent ($\pm 1.9\%$)* above the revised February estimate of \$305.4 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$89.2 billion, 1.6 percent ($\pm 3.0\%$)* above the revised February estimate of \$87.8 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$76.2 billion, 0.8 percent ($\pm 7.2\%$)* below the revised February estimate of \$76.8 billion.

April 2009 data will be released on June 1, 2009 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, 0.6 percent; and public construction, 0.7 percent.

In the May 2009 press release, normal revisions to the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data will revise back to January 2007.

* 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 2009 ^P	Feb 2009 ^F	Jan 2009 ^F	Dec 2008	Nov 2008	Mar 2008	Percent change Mar 2009 from -	
							Feb 2009	Mar 2008
Total Construction	969,722	967,060	977,249	1,012,017	1,044,551	1,090,471	0.3	-11.1
Residential	265,854	277,267	293,726	305,451	321,774	398,614	-4.1	-33.3
Nonresidential	703,867	689,793	683,523	706,566	722,777	691,856	2.0	1.7
Lodging	32,699	31,078	30,612	33,751	37,132	34,458	5.2	-5.1
Office	66,959	66,982	65,137	68,059	72,062	71,259	0.0	-6.0
Commercial	71,768	70,463	71,296	74,813	77,703	90,222	1.9	-20.5
Health care	47,350	46,809	45,695	48,283	48,433	45,583	1.2	3.9
Educational	107,942	106,272	104,498	102,990	105,973	102,456	1.6	5.4
Religious	6,179	6,788	6,915	7,246	7,406	6,951	-9.0	-11.1
Public safety	13,317	13,207	13,243	13,970	14,362	11,838	0.8	12.5
Amusement and recreation	21,221	21,283	20,071	21,245	21,529	23,226	-0.3	-8.6
Transportation	33,297	32,919	32,837	33,885	35,436	35,073	1.1	-5.1
Communication	18,668	18,355	20,063	22,347	21,413	28,093	1.7	-33.5
Power	76,592	70,308	71,688	77,855	77,127	66,503	8.9	15.2
Highway and street	76,263	76,868	79,060	79,429	84,168	78,136	-0.8	-2.4
Sewage and waste disposal	25,620	24,841	24,663	26,183	26,416	25,504	3.1	0.5
Water supply	16,024	15,915	16,253	17,546	17,438	15,905	0.7	0.7
Conservation and development	5,522	5,641	4,828	5,954	5,410	5,134	-2.1	7.6
Manufacturing	84,447	82,065	76,666	73,012	70,771	51,518	2.9	63.9
Total Private Construction ¹	660,997	661,636	675,741	705,303	727,986	789,629	-0.1	-16.3
Residential	258,396	269,637	286,397	298,356	314,127	391,643	-4.2	-34.0
Nonresidential	402,601	391,999	389,344	406,947	413,859	397,986	2.7	1.2
Lodging	32,626	30,985	30,504	33,485	36,931	33,720	5.3	-3.2
Office	50,600	50,396	49,113	52,021	56,297	57,316	0.4	-11.7
Commercial	67,991	66,970	68,152	71,558	74,545	86,942	1.5	-21.8
Health care	37,979	37,663	36,947	39,278	39,755	36,585	0.8	3.8
Educational	18,750	18,503	18,626	18,575	19,019	18,829	1.3	-0.4
Religious	6,179	6,781	6,909	7,246	7,382	6,932	-8.9	-10.9
Amusement and recreation	9,741	9,715	9,060	9,434	9,775	11,370	0.3	-14.3
Transportation	9,860	9,877	9,720	9,817	10,275	10,130	-0.2	-2.7
Communication	18,637	18,322	19,994	22,253	21,304	27,824	1.7	-33.0
Power	64,782	59,647	62,491	69,041	66,357	54,812	8.6	18.2
Manufacturing	83,938	81,563	76,187	72,565	70,359	51,051	2.9	64.4
Total Public Construction ²	308,725	305,424	301,508	306,715	316,565	300,842	1.1	2.6
Residential	7,458	7,631	7,329	7,096	7,647	6,972	-2.3	7.0
Nonresidential	301,267	297,794	294,179	299,619	308,917	293,870	1.2	2.5
Office	16,360	16,586	16,024	16,038	15,765	13,943	-1.4	17.3
Commercial	3,778	3,493	3,143	3,255	3,158	3,280	8.2	15.2
Health care	9,372	9,146	8,748	9,005	8,678	8,997	2.5	4.2
Educational	89,192	87,769	85,872	84,415	86,953	83,627	1.6	6.7
Public safety	12,925	12,746	12,732	13,509	13,864	11,019	1.4	17.3
Amusement and recreation	11,480	11,567	11,011	11,811	11,755	11,856	-0.8	-3.2
Transportation	23,436	23,043	23,116	24,068	25,162	24,943	1.7	-6.0
Power	11,811	10,661	9,197	8,814	10,771	11,691	10.8	1.0
Highway and street	76,164	76,767	78,938	79,290	83,962	77,906	-0.8	-2.2
Sewage and waste disposal	25,207	24,387	24,231	25,822	25,863	24,975	3.4	0.9
Water supply	15,517	15,370	15,699	16,877	16,866	15,068	1.0	3.0
Conservation and development	5,414	5,623	4,807	5,910	5,376	5,074	-3.7	6.7

^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 2009 ^P	Feb 2009 ^r	Jan 2009 ^r	Dec 2008	Nov 2008	Mar 2008	Year-to-date		Percent change
							Mar 2009	Mar 2008	
Total Construction	74,142	67,321	67,996	78,083	86,771	83,204	209,459	235,210	-10.9
Residential	20,542	18,349	19,297	22,442	26,296	30,654	58,189	85,088	-31.6
Nonresidential	53,600	48,972	48,699	55,641	60,475	52,550	151,270	150,121	0.8
Lodging	2,725	2,590	2,551	2,813	3,094	2,872	7,866	8,362	-5.9
Office	5,391	5,085	4,898	5,371	6,006	5,735	15,374	16,791	-8.4
Commercial	5,519	5,100	5,093	5,810	6,550	6,978	15,712	20,261	-22.5
Health care	3,800	3,582	3,580	3,977	4,191	3,677	10,962	10,648	2.9
Educational	7,865	7,253	7,272	7,641	8,445	7,472	22,390	21,377	4.7
Religious	480	510	521	582	655	545	1,511	1,619	-6.7
Public safety	1,017	960	1,002	1,169	1,226	905	2,978	2,662	11.9
Amusement and recreation	1,674	1,546	1,439	1,686	1,790	1,817	4,660	5,245	-11.2
Transportation	2,460	2,307	2,313	2,718	3,113	2,576	7,079	7,332	-3.5
Communication	1,559	1,317	1,380	2,206	1,739	2,251	4,255	6,310	-32.6
Power	6,266	5,389	5,576	6,446	6,432	5,428	17,231	15,471	11.4
Highway and street	4,389	3,767	3,836	5,053	6,921	4,608	11,992	12,370	-3.1
Sewage and waste disposal	1,878	1,713	1,727	2,049	2,327	1,883	5,318	5,419	-1.9
Water supply	1,253	1,169	1,158	1,341	1,468	1,260	3,580	3,425	4.5
Conservation and development	422	395	374	527	463	396	1,190	1,218	-2.3
Manufacturing	6,904	6,291	5,979	6,254	6,056	4,148	19,174	11,612	65.1
Total Private Construction ¹	52,374	47,548	48,470	55,458	60,613	62,036	148,391	175,560	-15.5
Residential	19,968	17,791	18,774	21,863	25,681	30,122	56,532	83,514	-32.3
Nonresidential	32,406	29,757	29,696	33,595	34,932	31,914	91,859	92,045	-0.2
Lodging	2,719	2,582	2,542	2,790	3,078	2,810	7,843	8,150	-3.8
Office	4,092	3,868	3,721	4,110	4,733	4,641	11,680	13,736	-15.0
Commercial	5,226	4,848	4,862	5,540	6,285	6,718	14,936	19,498	-23.4
Health care	3,014	2,864	2,899	3,230	3,453	2,945	8,777	8,543	2.7
Educational	1,440	1,338	1,368	1,420	1,530	1,457	4,146	4,205	-1.4
Religious	480	509	521	582	653	543	1,509	1,612	-6.4
Amusement and recreation	801	759	700	766	802	941	2,259	2,780	-18.7
Transportation	737	696	729	805	899	763	2,163	2,213	-2.3
Communication	1,556	1,315	1,374	2,199	1,730	2,229	4,244	6,273	-32.3
Power	5,365	4,619	4,925	5,810	5,595	4,567	14,909	12,953	15.1
Manufacturing	6,862	6,249	5,939	6,217	6,021	4,109	19,050	11,482	65.9
Total Public Construction ²	21,769	19,773	19,526	22,625	26,158	21,168	61,068	59,650	2.4
Residential	575	558	524	579	616	532	1,657	1,574	5.3
Nonresidential	21,194	19,215	19,003	22,046	25,542	20,636	59,412	58,076	2.3
Office	1,299	1,217	1,178	1,260	1,273	1,095	3,694	3,056	20.9
Commercial	293	252	231	269	265	260	775	763	1.6
Health care	786	718	681	747	739	732	2,185	2,106	3.8
Educational	6,425	5,915	5,904	6,221	6,916	6,015	18,245	17,172	6.2
Public safety	987	927	966	1,136	1,185	841	2,880	2,456	17.3
Amusement and recreation	874	788	739	920	988	876	2,400	2,466	-2.7
Transportation	1,722	1,611	1,584	1,913	2,214	1,813	4,917	5,118	-3.9
Power	902	769	651	637	837	860	2,322	2,518	-7.8
Highway and street	4,383	3,760	3,827	5,043	6,901	4,594	11,970	12,289	-2.6
Sewage and waste disposal	1,848	1,682	1,696	2,019	2,278	1,843	5,225	5,313	-1.7
Water supply	1,212	1,129	1,120	1,291	1,425	1,192	3,461	3,232	7.1
Conservation and development	413	393	372	523	460	391	1,178	1,200	-1.8

^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	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.0
Residential	3.0	2.9	5.3	2.7	5.8
Nonresidential	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.0
Lodging	1.8	1.7	2.1	1.6	2.3
Office	2.5	2.4	2.9	1.9	3.2
Commercial	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.4
Health care	1.9	1.7	2.3	1.2	2.6
Educational	2.1	1.9	2.6	1.6	2.5
Religious	5.0	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.5
Public safety	3.2	2.5	3.8	2.3	3.8
Amusement and recreation	3.3	3.8	4.2	2.6	4.9
Transportation	2.5	2.1	3.1	2.2	2.5
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.2	1.1	1.5	0.9	1.7
Highway and street	3.5	2.5	3.4	4.5	4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.7	3.9	3.6	4.4
Water supply	3.8	3.2	4.2	4.4	5.4
Conservation and development	4.1	2.2	6.0	3.2	8.5
Manufacturing	1.4	1.0	1.9	0.5	2.2
Total Private Construction	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.2
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.2
Lodging	1.8	1.7	2.1	1.6	2.4
Office	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.5	3.3
Commercial	3.1	2.8	2.3	2.5	2.5
Health care	2.3	2.1	2.7	1.4	3.0
Educational	3.6	3.5	4.1	2.1	4.2
Religious	4.9	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.6
Amusement and recreation	4.5	6.7	6.1	3.8	7.5
Transportation	7.9	10.9	7.8	12.7	5.9
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.7
Manufacturing	1.4	1.0	1.9	0.5	2.2
Total Public Construction	1.3	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.6
Residential	3.0	2.9	5.3	2.7	5.8
Nonresidential	1.3	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.7
Office	2.9	1.8	7.7	2.0	7.5
Commercial	6.1	5.3	6.6	8.3	9.7
Health care	2.9	2.4	4.0	1.9	4.4
Educational	2.4	2.1	3.0	1.9	2.9
Public safety	3.3	2.5	4.1	2.3	4.2
Amusement and recreation	4.6	4.1	5.9	3.6	6.2
Transportation	2.7	2.1	3.4	2.0	2.7
Power	7.0	5.7	13.2	5.6	19.3
Highway and street	3.5	2.5	3.4	4.5	4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	2.7	3.9	3.7	4.5
Water supply	4.0	3.3	4.4	4.5	5.7
Conservation and development	4.1	2.1	6.0	2.8	8.4

NA Not applicable