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## MARCH 2010 CONSTRUCTION AT \$847.3 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during March 2010 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$847.3 billion, 0.2 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$845.5 billion. The March figure is 12.3 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ ) below the March 2009 estimate of \$966.7 billion.

During the first 3 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$179.9 billion, 14.0 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ ) below the \$209.2 billion for the same period in 2009.

### PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$550.8 billion, 0.9 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ )\* below the revised February estimate of \$555.7 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$251.8 billion in March, 1.1 percent ( $\pm 1.3\%$ )\* below the revised February estimate of \$254.6 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$299.0 billion in March, 0.7 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ )\* below the revised February estimate of \$301.1 billion.

### PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In March, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$296.5 billion, 2.3 percent ( $\pm 1.9\%$ ) above the revised February estimate of \$289.9 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$75.9 billion, 2.2 percent ( $\pm 3.0\%$ )\* below the revised February estimate of \$77.6 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$78.1 billion, 1.5 percent ( $\pm 7.4\%$ )\* above the revised February estimate of \$77.0 billion.

*April 2010 data will be released on June 1, 2010 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 ( $\pm 3.1$ ) 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, 1.2 percent; private construction, 1.9 percent; and public construction, 1.2 percent.

In the May 2010 press release, revisions to unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data will revise back to January 2004 to incorporate and benchmark to the 2008 detailed structures data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Capital Expenditures Survey.

\* 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 2010 <sup>P</sup>	Feb 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2009	Nov 2009	Mar 2009	Percent change Mar 2010 from -	
							Feb 2010	Mar 2009
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>847,318</b>	<b>845,531</b>	<b>863,540</b>	<b>869,855</b>	<b>900,755</b>	<b>966,699</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-12.3</b>
Residential	260,498	263,082	271,398	262,200	273,222	256,479	-1.0	1.6
Nonresidential	586,820	582,450	592,142	607,656	627,532	710,220	0.8	-17.4
Lodging	12,640	13,232	14,476	17,300	18,781	31,339	-4.5	-59.7
Office	41,478	42,009	43,529	45,909	47,412	62,905	-1.3	-34.1
Commercial	43,649	44,478	45,731	48,065	47,873	69,087	-1.9	-36.8
Health care	41,573	40,199	41,198	42,241	42,564	47,827	3.4	-13.1
Educational	91,470	92,731	92,179	92,358	94,729	109,166	-1.4	-16.2
Religious	5,986	5,788	5,540	5,593	5,769	6,997	3.4	-14.4
Public safety	13,032	12,791	12,982	13,436	13,867	14,068	1.9	-7.4
Amusement and recreation	15,071	15,086	15,527	15,690	16,584	20,096	-0.1	-25.0
Transportation	38,746	35,361	35,582	34,989	35,960	31,720	9.6	22.2
Communication	17,283	19,637	18,966	20,102	19,639	19,959	-12.0	-13.4
Power	84,224	84,990	86,946	86,513	87,633	85,743	-0.9	-1.8
Highway and street	78,249	77,123	80,060	81,787	84,636	79,380	1.5	-1.4
Sewage and waste disposal	24,415	23,722	24,887	24,945	25,402	27,003	2.9	-9.6
Water supply	14,276	13,459	13,374	15,392	16,140	16,217	6.1	-12.0
Conservation and development	5,557	5,541	5,847	6,076	6,215	6,196	0.3	-10.3
Manufacturing	59,171	56,303	55,319	57,262	64,331	82,516	5.1	-28.3
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>550,805</b>	<b>555,664</b>	<b>569,051</b>	<b>569,617</b>	<b>590,631</b>	<b>650,396</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-15.3</b>
Residential	251,807	254,602	263,504	253,764	265,026	248,859	-1.1	1.2
Nonresidential	298,998	301,062	305,546	315,853	325,605	401,537	-0.7	-25.5
Lodging	12,359	12,954	14,269	17,093	18,545	31,243	-4.6	-60.4
Office	27,857	28,660	29,688	31,543	32,067	48,084	-2.8	-42.1
Commercial	40,810	41,344	42,630	44,520	43,964	64,954	-1.3	-37.2
Health care	32,144	31,206	32,529	32,722	32,980	38,401	3.0	-16.3
Educational	15,558	15,083	14,889	14,483	14,884	17,792	3.1	-12.6
Religious	5,945	5,746	5,506	5,555	5,725	6,997	3.5	-15.0
Amusement and recreation	5,382	4,931	5,041	5,589	5,908	9,312	9.1	-42.2
Transportation	8,339	8,316	8,355	8,522	8,639	8,664	0.3	-3.8
Communication	17,232	19,602	18,939	20,053	19,595	19,929	-12.1	-13.5
Power	73,103	76,004	77,407	77,435	77,897	72,677	-3.8	0.6
Manufacturing	58,699	55,803	54,859	56,821	63,879	81,963	5.2	-28.4
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>296,512</b>	<b>289,867</b>	<b>294,489</b>	<b>300,239</b>	<b>310,124</b>	<b>316,303</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>-6.3</b>
Residential	8,691	8,479	7,893	8,436	8,197	7,621	2.5	14.0
Nonresidential	287,821	281,388	286,596	291,803	301,927	308,682	2.3	-6.8
Office	13,621	13,349	13,842	14,366	15,345	14,822	2.0	-8.1
Commercial	2,840	3,133	3,101	3,545	3,908	4,133	-9.4	-31.3
Health care	9,430	8,993	8,669	9,518	9,584	9,426	4.9	0.0
Educational	75,912	77,648	77,290	77,875	79,845	91,374	-2.2	-16.9
Public safety	12,448	12,253	12,535	12,846	13,300	13,720	1.6	-9.3
Amusement and recreation	9,689	10,155	10,486	10,101	10,676	10,784	-4.6	-10.2
Transportation	30,406	27,045	27,227	26,467	27,321	23,056	12.4	31.9
Power	11,120	8,986	9,540	9,078	9,736	13,066	23.7	-14.9
Highway and street	78,118	76,993	79,951	81,686	84,477	79,235	1.5	-1.4
Sewage and waste disposal	23,848	23,226	24,432	24,500	25,014	26,635	2.7	-10.5
Water supply	13,996	13,219	12,967	15,039	15,776	15,664	5.9	-10.6
Conservation and development	5,549	5,532	5,830	6,045	6,172	6,088	0.3	-8.9

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary    <sup>r</sup> Revised

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 2010 <sup>P</sup>	Feb 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Jan 2010 <sup>r</sup>	Dec 2009	Nov 2009	Mar 2009	Year-to-date		
							Mar 2010	Mar 2009	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>63,628</b>	<b>57,759</b>	<b>58,507</b>	<b>66,041</b>	<b>74,449</b>	<b>73,472</b>	<b>179,894</b>	<b>209,164</b>	<b>-14.0</b>
Residential	19,432	16,955	17,505	18,754	21,805	19,439	53,893	55,932	-3.6
Nonresidential	44,196	40,804	41,001	47,287	52,644	54,033	126,001	153,232	-17.8
Lodging	1,053	1,103	1,206	1,442	1,565	2,612	3,362	7,491	-55.1
Office	3,330	3,155	3,242	3,608	3,936	5,068	9,727	14,672	-33.7
Commercial	3,440	3,266	3,259	3,766	4,021	5,381	9,964	15,544	-35.9
Health care	3,372	3,111	3,179	3,421	3,600	3,911	9,661	11,255	-14.2
Educational	6,771	6,326	6,355	6,755	7,586	7,970	19,451	22,355	-13.0
Religious	473	440	414	452	515	547	1,327	1,629	-18.5
Public safety	1,017	929	963	1,125	1,185	1,088	2,909	3,217	-9.6
Amusement and recreation	1,177	1,072	1,101	1,230	1,392	1,584	3,350	4,463	-24.9
Transportation	2,739	2,415	2,469	2,779	3,203	2,335	7,622	6,800	12.1
Communication	1,487	1,416	1,239	1,992	1,658	1,669	4,141	4,572	-9.4
Power	6,759	6,504	6,550	6,998	7,137	6,953	19,813	19,575	1.2
Highway and street	4,520	3,780	3,670	5,102	7,120	4,665	11,970	12,521	-4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	1,848	1,661	1,736	1,926	2,244	2,029	5,245	5,428	-3.4
Water supply	1,130	990	950	1,200	1,372	1,285	3,070	3,596	-14.6
Conservation and development	447	409	443	533	523	487	1,299	1,312	-1.0
Manufacturing	4,634	4,230	4,228	4,959	5,587	6,450	13,091	18,802	-30.4
<b>Total Private Construction <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>42,679</b>	<b>39,063</b>	<b>39,794</b>	<b>44,218</b>	<b>48,575</b>	<b>50,991</b>	<b>121,537</b>	<b>147,144</b>	<b>-17.4</b>
Residential	18,762	16,318	16,937	18,073	21,135	18,851	52,016	54,197	-4.0
Nonresidential	23,917	22,745	22,858	26,145	27,441	32,140	69,520	92,947	-25.2
Lodging	1,030	1,080	1,189	1,424	1,545	2,604	3,299	7,466	-55.8
Office	2,264	2,184	2,215	2,472	2,707	3,893	6,664	11,294	-41.0
Commercial	3,218	3,035	3,042	3,482	3,678	5,058	9,294	14,726	-36.9
Health care	2,578	2,402	2,523	2,632	2,791	3,107	7,502	9,041	-17.0
Educational	1,205	1,086	1,065	1,108	1,193	1,350	3,356	3,972	-15.5
Religious	470	436	411	448	511	547	1,317	1,628	-19.1
Amusement and recreation	448	389	387	456	490	772	1,223	2,221	-44.9
Transportation	610	564	612	728	782	663	1,786	1,947	-8.3
Communication	1,483	1,413	1,236	1,988	1,654	1,667	4,132	4,562	-9.4
Power	5,902	5,868	5,884	6,364	6,408	5,961	17,654	17,071	3.4
Manufacturing	4,594	4,188	4,189	4,922	5,550	6,403	12,972	18,670	-30.5
<b>Total Public Construction <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>20,949</b>	<b>18,696</b>	<b>18,712</b>	<b>21,823</b>	<b>25,874</b>	<b>22,481</b>	<b>58,357</b>	<b>62,020</b>	<b>-5.9</b>
Residential	670	637	569	682	670	588	1,876	1,735	8.1
Nonresidential	20,279	18,059	18,144	21,142	25,204	21,894	56,481	60,286	-6.3
Office	1,066	971	1,027	1,136	1,229	1,175	3,063	3,377	-9.3
Commercial	222	231	218	284	343	323	671	819	-18.1
Health care	794	709	656	790	810	804	2,159	2,214	-2.5
Educational	5,565	5,239	5,290	5,647	6,394	6,619	16,095	18,383	-12.4
Public safety	972	890	929	1,080	1,137	1,061	2,790	3,115	-10.4
Amusement and recreation	730	683	715	774	902	813	2,127	2,242	-5.1
Transportation	2,129	1,851	1,857	2,052	2,422	1,672	5,836	4,853	20.3
Power	857	637	666	634	728	992	2,159	2,504	-13.8
Highway and street	4,512	3,771	3,662	5,095	7,104	4,656	11,945	12,497	-4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	1,810	1,627	1,706	1,889	2,209	2,003	5,143	5,341	-3.7
Water supply	1,107	972	918	1,171	1,343	1,241	2,996	3,471	-13.7
Conservation and development	446	409	441	531	520	478	1,296	1,300	-0.3

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary    <sup>r</sup> Revised

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Residential	4.3	3.8	4.7	7.2	5.4
Nonresidential	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9
Lodging	2.8	4.8	2.1	1.8	2.1
Office	2.2	1.9	1.7	2.5	1.8
Commercial	3.6	3.2	1.7	2.7	2.0
Health care	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.3	2.2
Educational	2.1	1.9	2.1	1.7	2.4
Religious	5.7	6.2	6.3	4.7	6.6
Public safety	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.2	2.9
Amusement and recreation	3.7	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.5
Transportation	2.7	1.9	2.4	1.8	2.7
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.6
Highway and street	3.4	3.0	3.8	4.6	4.8
Sewage and waste disposal	3.0	2.3	3.2	3.2	3.9
Water supply	3.5	3.1	3.5	6.0	3.9
Conservation and development	2.5	2.0	3.5	3.0	3.5
Manufacturing	1.6	2.5	1.7	1.1	1.8
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8
Lodging	2.8	4.8	2.1	1.9	2.1
Office	3.2	2.8	1.8	3.9	2.0
Commercial	3.9	3.4	1.7	2.9	2.1
Health care	2.4	2.1	2.1	1.5	2.5
Educational	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.6	4.1
Religious	5.7	6.2	6.3	4.8	6.6
Amusement and recreation	5.2	4.5	3.9	4.5	4.8
Transportation	11.8	17.5	14.4	7.1	17.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3
Manufacturing	1.7	2.6	1.7	1.1	1.8
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Residential	4.3	3.8	4.7	7.2	5.4
Nonresidential	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.5
Office	2.1	2.0	3.4	1.3	3.2
Commercial	8.3	9.5	9.2	6.7	9.7
Health care	2.6	2.1	3.0	2.3	3.3
Educational	2.4	2.2	2.5	1.9	2.7
Public safety	2.8	2.9	2.8	3.3	3.0
Amusement and recreation	5.0	3.6	4.3	3.5	4.7
Transportation	2.8	1.8	2.4	1.9	2.7
Power	5.1	7.1	6.6	8.1	5.3
Highway and street	3.4	3.0	3.8	4.6	4.8
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	2.3	3.2	3.2	4.0
Water supply	3.6	3.2	3.5	6.1	4.0
Conservation and development	2.6	2.0	3.5	3.0	3.4

NA Not applicable