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APRIL 2012 CONSTRUCTION AT \$820.7 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during April 2012 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$820.7 billion, 0.3 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised March estimate of \$818.1 billion. The April figure is 6.8 percent ($\pm 1.9\%$) above the April 2011 estimate of \$768.2 billion.

During the first 4 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$238.5 billion, 7.3 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$) above the \$222.2 billion for the same period in 2011.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$549.7 billion, 1.2 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* above the revised March estimate of \$543.4 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$256.1 billion in April, 2.8 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) above the revised March estimate of \$249.1 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$293.6 billion in April, 0.2 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$294.3 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In April, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$271.0 billion, 1.4 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$274.7 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$68.3 billion, 0.9 percent ($\pm 5.0\%$)* below the revised March estimate of \$68.9 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$77.3 billion, 0.4 percent ($\pm 5.4\%$)* above the revised March estimate of \$77.0 billion.

May 2012 data will be released on July 2, 2012 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, 1.3 percent; private construction, 1.7 percent; and public construction, 0.8 percent.

In the May 2012 press release, normal revisions to the unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data will revise back to January 2010.

* 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	Apr 2012 ^P	Mar 2012 ^F	Feb 2012 ^F	Jan 2012	Dec 2011	Apr 2011	Percent change Apr 2012 from -	
							Mar 2012	Apr 2011
Total Construction	820,662	818,104	815,489	818,604	824,768	768,226	0.3	6.8
Residential	262,328	255,788	254,863	255,080	253,679	247,042	2.6	6.2
Nonresidential	558,334	562,316	560,626	563,524	571,089	521,184	-0.7	7.1
Lodging	9,304	9,821	9,054	8,639	8,512	8,203	-5.3	13.4
Office	36,249	36,072	34,336	34,907	34,603	33,428	0.5	8.4
Commercial	45,476	45,011	45,576	45,551	44,325	41,419	1.0	9.8
Health care	42,441	41,366	42,193	41,059	41,191	39,361	2.6	7.8
Educational	85,329	85,933	85,213	85,844	85,456	83,312	-0.7	2.4
Religious	3,749	3,924	4,068	3,972	3,903	4,206	-4.5	-10.9
Public safety	9,914	10,361	10,886	10,666	10,689	9,829	-4.3	0.9
Amusement and recreation	14,983	15,401	15,591	16,150	15,723	14,408	-2.7	4.0
Transportation	36,218	35,484	34,993	35,341	34,883	36,258	2.1	-0.1
Communication	17,294	17,490	17,327	17,597	18,005	18,142	-1.1	-4.7
Power	96,370	97,656	97,690	98,674	102,161	81,210	-1.3	18.7
Highway and street	77,458	77,168	76,244	77,184	82,428	74,817	0.4	3.5
Sewage and waste disposal	22,843	23,678	24,551	24,473	24,428	22,804	-3.5	0.2
Water supply	13,369	13,106	13,639	14,052	13,441	13,562	2.0	-1.4
Conservation and development	5,543	5,828	5,797	5,956	5,970	7,294	-4.9	-24.0
Manufacturing	41,795	44,018	43,469	43,459	45,372	32,932	-5.1	26.9
Total Private Construction¹	549,670	543,356	538,853	538,517	538,545	488,398	1.2	12.5
Residential	256,085	249,088	248,020	247,854	246,534	238,289	2.8	7.5
New single family	119,424	117,358	112,615	114,115	110,764	105,598	1.8	13.1
New multi-family	18,004	17,302	17,551	16,527	16,429	13,704	4.1	31.4
Nonresidential	293,584	294,268	290,833	290,663	292,011	250,110	-0.2	17.4
Lodging	8,843	9,148	8,484	8,146	7,813	7,718	-3.3	14.6
Office	25,341	24,936	23,179	23,099	22,764	21,416	1.6	18.3
Commercial	42,270	41,815	42,469	42,329	40,736	37,956	1.1	11.4
Health care	31,773	30,960	31,662	30,711	30,553	28,700	2.6	10.7
Educational	16,995	17,012	16,234	15,256	14,795	13,333	-0.1	27.5
Religious	3,726	3,892	4,045	3,948	3,862	4,166	-4.3	-10.6
Amusement and recreation	6,266	6,212	6,324	6,581	6,682	5,569	0.9	12.5
Transportation	12,041	11,175	10,472	11,341	11,318	10,172	7.7	18.4
Communication	17,079	17,178	17,130	17,363	17,787	18,112	-0.6	-5.7
Power	86,703	87,591	86,990	87,534	90,003	69,058	-1.0	25.6
Manufacturing	40,993	42,960	42,478	42,661	44,344	32,332	-4.6	26.8
Total Public Construction²	270,993	274,748	276,636	280,086	286,222	279,828	-1.4	-3.2
Residential	6,243	6,700	6,843	7,225	7,145	8,753	-6.8	-28.7
Nonresidential	264,750	268,048	269,793	272,861	279,078	271,074	-1.2	-2.3
Office	10,908	11,135	11,156	11,809	11,839	12,011	-2.0	-9.2
Commercial	3,206	3,196	3,108	3,222	3,589	3,463	0.3	-7.4
Health care	10,669	10,406	10,530	10,348	10,638	10,661	2.5	0.1
Educational	68,334	68,921	68,978	70,588	70,661	69,979	-0.9	-2.4
Public safety	9,830	10,273	10,772	10,492	10,497	9,644	-4.3	1.9
Amusement and recreation	8,716	9,189	9,267	9,569	9,041	8,839	-5.1	-1.4
Transportation	24,177	24,310	24,520	24,000	23,565	26,086	-0.5	-7.3
Power	9,667	10,065	10,700	11,140	12,158	12,151	-4.0	-20.4
Highway and street	77,329	77,026	76,191	77,039	82,390	74,799	0.4	3.4
Sewage and waste disposal	22,088	22,993	23,928	23,760	23,961	22,049	-3.9	0.2
Water supply	12,838	12,707	13,156	13,496	12,880	12,987	1.0	-1.1
Conservation and development	5,488	5,753	5,707	5,849	5,873	7,249	-4.6	-24.3

^PPreliminary ^FRevised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately:
public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

²Includes 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	Apr 2012 ^p	Mar 2012 ^f	Feb 2012 ^f	Jan 2012	Dec 2011	Apr 2011	Year-to-date		
							Apr 2012	Apr 2011	Percent change
Total Construction	65,709	60,680	55,936	56,158	63,344	61,817	238,482	222,238	7.3
Residential	21,589	18,739	16,465	17,025	18,296	20,532	73,818	69,820	5.7
Nonresidential	44,120	41,940	39,471	39,133	45,049	41,285	164,664	152,418	8.0
Lodging	775	818	755	720	709	684	3,068	2,834	8.3
Office	3,024	2,888	2,661	2,620	2,754	2,799	11,193	10,648	5.1
Commercial	3,737	3,519	3,363	3,304	3,415	3,401	13,923	12,381	12.5
Health care	3,538	3,327	3,276	3,200	3,358	3,270	13,341	12,356	8.0
Educational	6,711	6,396	5,933	5,926	6,185	6,621	24,966	24,081	3.7
Religious	302	313	323	306	314	339	1,243	1,392	-10.7
Public safety	809	827	823	807	877	800	3,265	3,030	7.8
Amusement and recreation	1,244	1,209	1,152	1,182	1,247	1,175	4,787	4,633	3.3
Transportation	2,933	2,646	2,494	2,529	2,775	2,923	10,602	10,900	-2.7
Communication	1,353	1,411	1,276	1,180	1,778	1,422	5,219	5,334	-2.2
Power	7,465	7,409	7,186	7,251	9,256	6,454	29,310	24,361	20.3
Highway and street	5,347	4,346	3,843	3,693	5,095	5,140	17,229	17,133	0.6
Sewage and waste disposal	1,793	1,807	1,731	1,713	1,907	1,812	7,044	6,895	2.2
Water supply	1,090	1,027	979	990	1,019	1,113	4,086	4,351	-6.1
Conservation and development	448	453	434	443	507	581	1,777	2,268	-21.6
Manufacturing	3,552	3,545	3,244	3,270	3,854	2,752	13,610	9,821	38.6
Total Private Construction¹	44,782	41,350	37,770	38,094	42,715	40,142	161,996	143,516	12.9
Residential	21,083	18,231	15,942	16,498	17,723	19,828	71,753	67,117	6.9
New single family	9,571	9,002	7,558	7,775	8,167	8,473	33,906	30,882	9.8
New multi-family	1,514	1,398	1,366	1,249	1,280	1,158	5,526	4,337	27.4
Nonresidential	23,699	23,119	21,828	21,597	24,992	20,313	90,243	76,398	18.1
Lodging	737	762	707	679	651	643	2,885	2,674	7.9
Office	2,115	2,003	1,832	1,742	1,802	1,797	7,691	6,897	11.5
Commercial	3,490	3,265	3,122	3,058	3,116	3,133	12,935	11,388	13.6
Health care	2,631	2,472	2,429	2,374	2,495	2,376	9,906	8,928	11.0
Educational	1,430	1,362	1,205	1,088	1,128	1,119	5,086	3,909	30.1
Religious	300	310	321	304	310	336	1,235	1,383	-10.7
Amusement and recreation	521	516	504	521	553	467	2,062	1,826	12.9
Transportation	966	821	758	858	939	828	3,403	3,199	6.4
Communication	1,335	1,385	1,259	1,160	1,760	1,419	5,139	5,326	-3.5
Power	6,564	6,659	6,438	6,489	8,360	5,368	26,150	20,821	25.6
Manufacturing	3,485	3,456	3,161	3,204	3,769	2,702	13,306	9,622	38.3
Total Public Construction²	20,927	19,330	18,167	18,063	20,629	21,675	76,487	78,723	-2.8
Residential	506	508	523	527	573	704	2,065	2,703	-23.6
Nonresidential	20,421	18,821	17,643	17,536	20,057	20,972	74,421	76,020	-2.1
Office	910	885	829	878	953	1,002	3,502	3,751	-6.6
Commercial	248	253	241	246	299	268	988	993	-0.5
Health care	907	856	847	825	863	893	3,436	3,428	0.2
Educational	5,281	5,034	4,728	4,838	5,057	5,502	19,881	20,173	-1.4
Public safety	802	819	814	794	862	784	3,229	2,978	8.4
Amusement and recreation	723	693	648	661	694	709	2,725	2,808	-3.0
Transportation	1,967	1,825	1,736	1,671	1,836	2,095	7,199	7,701	-6.5
Power	901	750	748	761	896	1,086	3,160	3,540	-10.7
Highway and street	5,337	4,337	3,840	3,682	5,092	5,138	17,196	17,119	0.4
Sewage and waste disposal	1,729	1,752	1,687	1,665	1,871	1,752	6,833	6,712	1.8
Water supply	1,050	998	950	951	970	1,068	3,948	4,188	-5.7
Conservation and development	443	446	427	434	499	578	1,750	2,253	-22.3

^pPreliminary ^fRevised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

²Includes 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	1.0	0.8	1.2
Residential	4.0	3.6	2.1	3.1	1.9
Nonresidential	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.3
Lodging	3.7	2.4	6.0	1.9	6.5
Office	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0	4.3
Commercial	3.9	4.6	5.1	2.5	4.8
Health care	1.8	1.8	2.3	1.3	3.1
Educational	2.3	1.8	2.7	2.5	3.1
Religious	7.1	7.1	7.8	3.7	8.9
Public safety	3.6	2.8	3.7	3.2	3.7
Amusement and recreation	3.6	3.1	3.9	2.3	4.0
Transportation	2.1	1.3	2.6	1.5	4.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.6	0.6	1.2	0.3	1.3
Highway and street	3.4	2.3	3.4	3.4	4.7
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	3.3	3.9	2.9	4.5
Water supply	4.1	3.6	4.3	3.7	4.8
Conservation and development	3.3	2.6	1.8	2.9	2.1
Manufacturing	1.8	1.2	2.1	1.1	2.3
Total Private Construction	1.1	1.2	1.6	0.8	1.8
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
New single family	5.0	4.0	6.8	6.0	6.0
New multi-family	9.7	8.5	11.4	5.3	11.8
Nonresidential	1.1	1.2	1.6	0.8	1.8
Lodging	3.8	2.5	6.3	1.9	6.8
Office	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.4	6.9
Commercial	4.3	5.0	5.8	2.7	5.4
Health care	2.4	2.5	3.1	1.5	3.6
Educational	3.4	3.0	5.8	2.0	6.0
Religious	7.2	7.2	7.9	3.7	9.0
Amusement and recreation	4.3	4.2	4.7	2.9	4.9
Transportation	4.4	3.3	14.3	2.4	9.1
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.3	0.6	1.2	0.1	1.2
Manufacturing	1.9	1.3	2.2	1.1	2.4
Total Public Construction	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.6
Residential	4.0	3.6	2.1	3.1	1.9
Nonresidential	1.4	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.6
Office	2.5	1.9	2.2	2.7	3.2
Commercial	6.9	4.7	5.3	2.1	5.7
Health care	2.5	2.4	3.1	2.5	5.6
Educational	2.6	2.0	3.0	3.1	3.5
Public safety	3.7	2.8	3.7	3.2	3.7
Amusement and recreation	5.0	4.3	5.7	3.0	5.9
Transportation	2.3	1.4	2.6	1.7	4.1
Power	4.9	4.5	3.8	3.7	4.4
Highway and street	3.4	2.3	3.4	3.4	4.7
Sewage and waste disposal	3.7	3.4	4.0	2.9	4.6
Water supply	4.3	3.7	4.5	3.8	5.0
Conservation and development	3.3	2.6	1.8	3.0	2.1

NA Not applicable