



Construction Industry Round Table

Economic News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

5/02/2016 – March Construction Spending Stalls at \$1,137.5 Billion Annual Rate

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during March 2016 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,137.5 billion, 0.3 percent **above** the revised February estimate of \$1,133.6 billion. *However the large downward “revision” to the February numbers (some \$10.3 billion or nearly 1.0%) masks the magnitude of the slow-down in March . . . more than wiping out the reported 0.3% increase.* Fortunately for CIRT members the retreat in spending occurred in residential construction (off \$12.5 billion). The March figure is 8.0 percent **above** the March 2015 estimate of \$1,052.9 billion. During the first 3 months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$240.4 billion, 9.1 percent **above** the \$220.3 billion for the same period in 2015.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION: Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$842.3 billion, 1.1 percent **above** the revised February estimate of \$832.8 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$435.5 billion in March, 1.6 percent **above** the revised February estimate of \$428.8 billion (again, this figure was revised down a *massive* \$19.0 billion). Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$406.8 billion in March, 0.7 percent **above** the revised February estimate of \$404.0 billion.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION: In March, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$295.2 billion, 1.9 percent below the revised February estimate of \$300.8 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$69.6 billion, 0.4 percent **above** the revised February estimate of \$69.4 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$97.3 billion, 0.4 percent **above** the revised February estimate of \$96.9 billion.
BY THE NUMBERS:

TOTAL in millions:	March 2016 \$ 1,137,488
Private Sector:	\$ 842,333 (74.05% of total) Highest % of market share since Oct. '07
Residential	\$ 435,484 (38.28%)
Nonresidential	\$ 406,849 (35.77%)
Public Sector:	\$ 295,155 (25.95% of total)
State/Local	\$ 273,879 (24.08%)
Federal	\$ 21,276 (01.87%) Lowest % of market share since April '08

[Click here for the current 2016 month to month chart.](#)