

## ***News Release***

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### **PCA Issues Analysis of November Construction Activity Reports**

*Single-family housing and public works lead growth*

SKOKIE, Ill. – Ed Sullivan, chief economist for the Portland Cement Association, has reported that the Commerce Department’s November report on U.S. Construction activity supports PCA’s general outlook for 2003. The 2003 forecast calls for a year of modest decline in construction activity and cement consumption.

Construction activity grew 0.1 percent in November from October levels, but decreased year-to-date by 1 percent.

PCA expects the nonresidential sector to act as a significant drag on 2003 construction levels. “Consistent with our forecast, nonresidential construction will continue to languish without improvements in industrial, office building and retail store construction,” said Sullivan.

Residential construction, primarily single-family homes, remains strong despite an inevitable slowdown. November public construction activity grew favorably year-to-date and compared to October activity; however, multiple state fiscal difficulties support a modest decline.

A copy of the report is available at: <http://www.portcement.org/jan03flashreport.pdf>

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