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Dataset: U.S. Construction Spending, by value and category, 2002-16

The dataset I have selected concerns the monthly estimated spending on infrastructure throughout the United States. This dataset includes both the information for private and public sectors and was provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The dataset includes a list of the major construction categories, such as Education, Office, or Lodging. Each category has its own data recorded on the first of every month, starting from January of 2002 to September of 2016. For every month of every category, the millions of dollars spent for the Total Construction, Total Public Construction, and Total Private Construction are displayed, as well as the monthly change for each of those respective categories. Other information is provided, such as the country of origin, though that would be less useful because the entire data set only concerns the construction information for the United States. The monthly spending was also provided on the right, with the unit being millions of dollars.

I would say that the information provided within this dataset is reliable, if one trusts the United States Department of Commerce and its methods of gathering data. There are very few elements that could potentially convey bias or emotion. The independent variable in this dataset would be the dates and categories of construction that would be consistent throughout and would provide the corresponding information that is the dependent variable, this being the millions of dollars spent per month.