



Figure 14: Value of New Construction Put in Place: Educational Facilities

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

There is an enormous backlog of capital projects in institutions of higher learning.

The need for governments to channel their funding to new schools, coupled with a decline in endowment support for higher education institutions (due to the recession and the enormous increase in equipment costs for scientific research), left these institutions with insufficient funds to even cover operating costs. As a result, there is an enormous backlog of capital maintenance and new building requirements facing most higher education institutions, particularly the smaller universities and liberal arts colleges which have traditionally been so important to the quality of the American higher education system.

Facility management is of growing importance.

This situation has led to a recognition of the importance of the facilities management function if colleges and universities are to retain their capacity to attract students and faculty, and to conduct research. As a result, in recent years there has been renewed emphasis on the built environment of higher education institutions. This can be expected to increase as the school population moves into these institutions and as the retraining needs of the work force accelerates due to technological advances.