



Image from: [Public Works Administration construction site in... in *Poverty and the Government in America: A Historical Encyclopedia*](#)

Summary Article: **Public Works Administration**
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U.S. government agency (1933–39). It was established as part of the New Deal to reduce unemployment through the construction of highways and public buildings. Authorized by the National Industrial Recovery Act (1933) and administered by Harold Ickes, it spent about \$4 billion to build schools, courthouses, city halls, public-health facilities, and roads, bridges, dams, and subways. It was gradually dismantled as the country moved to a military-industrial economy during World War II.

Event: Public Works Administration

Start Date: 1933

End Date: 1939

Definition: government agency

Significance: building construction, United States, civil engineering works (technology), government support

Related Event: New Deal

Related Place: United States

Keywords: building construction, New Deal, civil engineering works, United States, government agency, Public Works Administration, government support

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Public works administration. (2017). In Encyclopaedia Britannica, *Britannica concise encyclopedia*. Chicago, IL: Britannica Digital Learning. Retrieved from https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/public_works_administration



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