

Survey: Stimulus spending creating jobs

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- U.S. stimulus funds approved as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act appear to be hitting their mark in the early going, a survey indicates.

A survey performed by USA Today showed most of the early spending from the \$787 billion bill has, as promised by U.S. President Barack Obama, gone to "shovel-ready" projects, creating jobs which otherwise wouldn't have happened this year, the newspaper reported Wednesday.

The investigation indicated that hiring on those projects -- which included a new bridge across a Louisiana bayou and the widening of a Colorado mountain road -- has already begun or will occur within the next three months, officials in charge of the contracts told USA Today.

The newspaper looked at more than 500 stimulus projects listed on federal and state Web sites the selected 16 infrastructure projects in 11 states at random for a closer scrutiny. It found that all of them will start this spring or summer, and that 14 of them would not have been done this year without stimulus money.

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