

FOR RELEASE AT 10:00 AM EDT, WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020

MONTHLY CONSTRUCTION SPENDING, MAY 2020

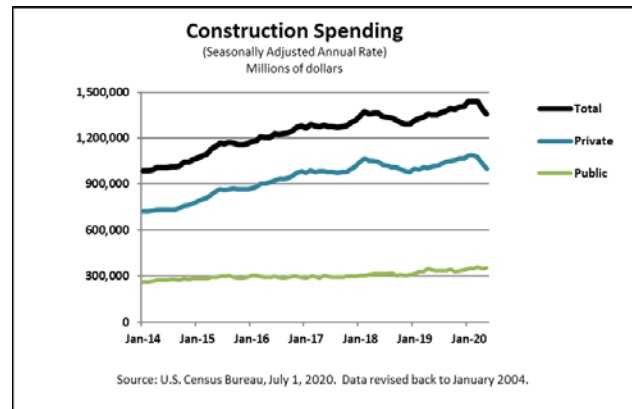
Release Number: CB20-100

Notice of Revision: With this release, unadjusted data will be revised back to January 2018 and seasonally adjusted data will be revised back to January 2013. In addition, unadjusted monthly and annual estimates for private multifamily residential, private residential, total private, total residential and total construction spending for January 2009 through May 2020 will be revised to reflect changes made to the imputation methodology for the total construction cost of private multifamily residential projects. The changes include the implementation of a more flexible methodology that will accurately reflect changes in the construction cost per unit. For these series, seasonally adjusted data will be revised back to January 2004. For more information on this methodology change, see <[Revision to Multifamily Imputation](#)>.

Statement Regarding COVID-19 Impact: Due to recent events surrounding COVID-19, many governments and businesses are operating on a limited capacity or have ceased operations completely. The Census Bureau has monitored response and data quality and determined estimates in this release meet publication standards. For more information on the compilation of this month's report, see <[COVID-19 FAQs](#)>.

July 1, 2020 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following value put in place construction statistics for May 2020:

CONSTRUCTION SPENDING	
MAY 2020	\$1,356.4 billion
APRIL 2020 (revised)	\$1,386.1 billion
Next release: August 3, 2020	
Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate	
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2020	



Total Construction

Construction spending during May 2020 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,356.4 billion, 2.1 percent (± 1.0 percent) below the revised April estimate of \$1,386.1 billion. The May figure is 0.3 percent (± 1.5 percent)* above the May 2019 estimate of \$1,352.9 billion. During the first five months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$543.2 billion, 5.7 percent (± 1.2 percent) above the \$513.7 billion for the same period in 2019.

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Private Construction

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,001.2 billion, 3.3 percent (± 0.7 percent) below the revised April estimate of \$1,035.2 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$535.9 billion in May, 4.0 percent (± 1.3 percent) below the revised April estimate of \$558.3 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$465.3 billion in May, 2.4 percent (± 0.7 percent) below the revised April estimate of \$476.9 billion.

Public Construction

In May, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$355.2 billion, 1.2 percent (± 2.0 percent)* above the revised April estimate of \$350.9 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$87.3 billion, 0.1 percent (± 2.0 percent)* above the revised April estimate of \$87.2 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$106.6 billion, 2.8 percent (± 6.7 percent)* above the revised April estimate of \$103.7 billion.

Notice

The June 2020 Monthly Construction Spending Report is scheduled for release on August 3, 2020. View the full schedule in the Economic Briefing Room: <www.census.gov/economic-indicators/>. The full text and tables for this release can be found at <www.census.gov/constructionspending/>.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

In interpreting changes in the statistics in this release, note that month-to-month changes in seasonally adjusted statistics often show movements which may be irregular. It may take 2 months to establish an underlying trend for total construction and as long as 8 months for specific categories of construction. The statistics in this release are estimated from several sources and surveys and are subject to sampling variability as well as nonsampling error including bias and variance from response, nonreporting, and undercoverage. Estimates of the standard errors are provided in Table 3. Whenever a statement such as "2.3 (± 3.1) percent above" appears in the text, this indicates the range (-0.8 to +5.4 percent) in which the actual percentage change is likely to have occurred. All ranges given are 90 percent confidence intervals and account only for sampling variability. If a range does not contain zero, the change is statistically significant. If it does contain zero, the change is not statistically significant; that is, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. Statistics for the current month are preliminary estimates subject to revision in following months as additional data become available. The average absolute percent changes from preliminary estimate to first revision for the major seasonally adjusted components are as follows: total construction, 1.00 percent; private construction, 1.33 percent; and public construction, 0.87 percent. Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our website at <www.census.gov/construction/c30/meth.html/>.

RESOURCES

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API

The Census Bureau's application programming interface lets developers create custom apps to reach new users and makes key demographic, socio-economic and housing statistics more accessible than ever before. <www.census.gov/developers/>

FRED Mobile App



Receive the latest updates on the nation's key economic indicators by downloading the FRED App <<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/fred-mobile/>> for both Apple and Android devices. FRED, the signature database of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, now incorporates the Census Bureau's 13 economic indicators.

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* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. There is insufficient evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

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Table 1. Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States, Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate
(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	May 2020 ^p	Apr 2020 ^r	Mar 2020 ^r	Feb 2020 ^r	Jan 2020 ^r	May 2019 ^r	Percent change May 2020 from -	
							Apr 2020	May 2019
Total Construction	1,356,409	1,386,129	1,436,727	1,441,145	1,437,719	1,352,895	-2.1	0.3
Residential	543,900	566,035	595,963	600,581	596,728	538,074	-3.9	1.1
Nonresidential	812,509	820,094	840,764	840,564	840,990	814,822	-0.9	-0.3
Lodging	28,132	29,086	30,096	31,356	32,133	32,953	-3.3	-14.6
Office	80,771	81,341	82,619	83,305	83,280	84,487	-0.7	-4.4
Commercial	81,763	82,861	84,857	84,527	85,166	79,563	-1.3	2.8
Health care	43,854	46,298	48,004	47,982	47,497	44,397	-5.3	-1.2
Educational	104,156	104,550	107,492	107,890	108,392	105,418	-0.4	-1.2
Religious	2,897	2,939	3,262	3,390	3,555	3,667	-1.4	-21.0
Public safety	14,029	13,690	13,758	13,403	12,928	9,943	2.5	41.1
Amusement and recreation	28,410	27,944	28,123	28,729	28,809	28,433	1.7	-0.1
Transportation	57,255	56,179	56,896	57,500	57,275	56,753	1.9	0.9
Communication	23,033	22,979	23,001	22,806	22,700	22,084	0.2	4.3
Power	117,805	120,985	123,855	126,506	126,449	111,141	-2.6	6.0
Highway and street	106,873	103,986	111,181	103,853	101,784	105,233	2.8	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	25,890	26,266	25,890	25,627	26,317	26,697	-1.4	-3.0
Water supply	18,079	17,989	18,005	17,687	17,714	15,157	0.5	19.3
Conservation and development	8,194	8,571	8,447	9,091	9,791	8,816	-4.4	-7.1
Manufacturing	71,367	74,431	75,278	76,913	77,204	80,082	-4.1	-10.9
Total Private Construction¹	1,001,209	1,035,244	1,076,286	1,088,780	1,086,424	1,013,579	-3.3	-1.2
Residential	535,933	558,342	588,060	592,960	589,103	532,148	-4.0	0.7
New single family	261,754	286,133	307,696	311,537	302,789	273,721	-8.5	-4.4
New multifamily	77,336	75,632	81,575	81,292	79,277	81,923	2.3	-5.6
Nonresidential	465,275	476,902	488,226	495,820	497,321	481,432	-2.4	-3.4
Lodging	27,171	28,172	29,232	30,402	31,029	31,845	-3.6	-14.7
Office	69,680	70,432	71,322	72,050	71,926	74,166	-1.1	-6.0
Commercial	77,902	78,860	80,836	80,597	81,441	75,679	-1.2	2.9
Health care	35,039	37,546	39,010	39,304	38,698	35,205	-6.7	-0.5
Educational	16,835	17,352	18,644	18,934	19,334	21,205	-3.0	-20.6
Religious	2,897	2,939	3,262	3,390	3,555	3,667	-1.4	-21.0
Amusement and recreation	14,104	13,947	14,218	14,158	14,478	15,065	1.1	-6.4
Transportation	15,937	15,345	15,827	16,425	16,152	16,775	3.9	-5.0
Communication	22,924	22,901	22,922	22,687	22,612	21,900	0.1	4.7
Power	110,712	114,204	116,733	119,658	119,564	104,524	-3.1	5.9
Manufacturing	71,044	74,077	74,987	76,644	76,879	79,690	-4.1	-10.8
Total Public Construction²	355,200	350,885	360,441	352,364	351,295	339,316	1.2	4.7
Residential	7,967	7,693	7,904	7,621	7,625	5,926	3.6	34.4
Nonresidential	347,233	343,192	352,537	344,744	343,670	333,390	1.2	4.2
Office	11,091	10,908	11,297	11,255	11,354	10,322	1.7	7.5
Commercial	3,861	4,001	4,021	3,929	3,725	3,883	-3.5	-0.6
Health care	8,815	8,752	8,994	8,677	8,799	9,192	0.7	-4.1
Educational	87,321	87,198	88,848	88,955	89,058	84,214	0.1	3.7
Public safety	13,953	13,604	13,635	13,265	12,779	9,677	2.6	44.2
Amusement and recreation	14,306	13,996	13,905	14,570	14,331	13,368	2.2	7.0
Transportation	41,318	40,835	41,069	41,076	41,123	39,979	1.2	3.3
Power	7,092	6,782	7,122	6,848	6,885	6,617	4.6	7.2
Highway and street	106,551	103,669	110,864	103,382	101,244	104,789	2.8	1.7
Sewage and waste disposal	25,599	25,890	25,520	25,230	25,791	26,067	-1.1	-1.8
Water supply	17,781	17,683	17,641	17,199	17,352	14,813	0.6	20.0
Conservation and development	8,151	8,529	8,386	9,016	9,712	8,786	-4.4	-7.2

^p Preliminary ^r Revised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately:
public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

²Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately:
lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.

Data are at an annual rate, adjusted for seasonality but not price changes. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, July 1, 2020. Table 3 provides estimated measures of sampling variability. Additional information on the survey methodology may be found at <www.census.gov/construction/c30/meth.html>

Table 2. Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States, Not Seasonally Adjusted
(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	May 2020 ^p	Apr 2020 ^r	Mar 2020 ^r	Feb 2020 ^r	Jan 2020 ^r	May 2019 ^r	Year-to-date		
							May 2020	May 2019	Percent change
Total Construction	116,215	112,912	110,839	102,094	101,121	116,885	543,181	513,705	5.7
Residential	47,437	47,099	47,656	41,655	41,395	47,100	225,241	206,663	9.0
Nonresidential	68,778	65,813	63,182	60,439	59,727	69,785	317,940	307,042	3.5
Lodging	2,376	2,482	2,525	2,558	2,520	2,841	12,461	13,529	-7.9
Office	6,873	6,711	6,574	6,314	6,265	7,181	32,737	33,140	-1.2
Commercial	6,940	6,835	6,707	6,391	6,276	6,788	33,150	31,127	6.5
Health care	3,695	3,825	3,890	3,776	3,671	3,812	18,857	17,870	5.5
Educational	8,770	8,169	7,863	7,489	7,399	8,960	39,690	39,339	0.9
Religious	241	244	253	245	263	305	1,245	1,406	-11.5
Public safety	1,145	1,135	1,086	1,004	977	829	5,347	3,754	42.4
Amusement and recreation	2,454	2,324	2,200	2,121	2,107	2,482	11,206	11,365	-1.4
Transportation	4,904	4,569	4,232	4,018	4,018	4,874	21,715	21,634	0.4
Communication	1,833	1,885	1,899	1,756	1,685	1,829	9,058	8,836	2.5
Power	9,932	10,000	9,908	9,946	10,043	9,345	49,828	41,996	18.6
Highway and street	9,230	7,343	6,021	5,150	4,823	9,363	32,567	32,415	0.5
Sewage and waste disposal	2,262	2,107	1,927	1,735	1,806	2,329	9,836	9,515	3.4
Water supply	1,581	1,488	1,376	1,284	1,270	1,341	6,998	5,798	20.7
Conservation and development	659	653	665	721	712	729	3,410	3,508	-2.8
Manufacturing	5,883	6,044	6,058	5,932	5,920	6,780	29,837	31,810	-6.2
Total Private Construction¹	85,932	85,865	86,191	79,398	78,986	87,536	416,373	394,480	5.5
Residential	46,750	46,449	47,054	41,098	40,863	46,580	222,215	204,331	8.8
New single family	22,351	23,269	24,078	20,731	20,958	23,350	111,387	104,628	6.5
New multifamily	6,589	6,460	6,749	6,604	6,184	7,091	32,586	33,712	-3.3
Nonresidential	39,182	39,416	39,137	38,300	38,123	40,956	194,158	190,149	2.1
Lodging	2,296	2,406	2,453	2,478	2,428	2,749	12,061	13,103	-8.0
Office	5,912	5,817	5,683	5,488	5,441	6,287	28,340	29,023	-2.4
Commercial	6,619	6,515	6,395	6,094	6,010	6,457	31,633	29,505	7.2
Health care	2,958	3,101	3,148	3,088	2,999	3,025	15,295	14,136	8.2
Educational	1,499	1,471	1,492	1,451	1,448	1,911	7,361	8,846	-16.8
Religious	241	244	253	245	263	305	1,245	1,406	-11.5
Amusement and recreation	1,190	1,171	1,142	1,091	1,116	1,298	5,708	6,229	-8.4
Transportation	1,385	1,270	1,162	1,154	1,192	1,457	6,162	6,994	-11.9
Communication	1,824	1,878	1,892	1,746	1,678	1,813	9,019	8,771	2.8
Power	9,312	9,439	9,391	9,447	9,543	8,749	47,132	39,700	18.7
Manufacturing	5,856	6,015	6,034	5,909	5,893	6,747	29,707	31,689	-6.3
Total Public Construction²	30,283	27,047	24,647	22,696	22,136	29,349	126,808	119,226	6.4
Residential	687	650	602	557	532	520	3,026	2,332	29.8
Nonresidential	29,596	26,397	24,045	22,139	21,604	28,829	123,782	116,893	5.9
Office	961	894	892	826	823	894	4,396	4,117	6.8
Commercial	321	320	312	298	267	331	1,517	1,623	-6.5
Health care	737	725	742	688	672	788	3,562	3,734	-4.6
Educational	7,271	6,698	6,371	6,037	5,951	7,049	32,329	30,493	6.0
Public safety	1,138	1,128	1,076	994	964	804	5,300	3,638	45.7
Amusement and recreation	1,264	1,153	1,058	1,031	992	1,183	5,497	5,135	7.0
Transportation	3,519	3,299	3,070	2,864	2,800	3,416	15,553	14,640	6.2
Power	619	561	517	499	500	596	2,696	2,296	17.4
Highway and street	9,203	7,318	5,999	5,120	4,789	9,323	32,428	32,226	0.6
Sewage and waste disposal	2,235	2,077	1,900	1,706	1,706	2,267	9,688	9,219	5.1
Water supply	1,556	1,463	1,349	1,251	1,243	1,311	6,861	5,666	21.1
Conservation and development	656	649	660	715	705	726	3,385	3,495	-3.1

^p Preliminary ^r Revised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

²Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately: lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, July 1, 2020.

Table 3 provides estimated measures of sampling variability. Additional information on the survey methodology may be found at <www.census.gov/construction/c30/meth.html>

Table 3. Coefficients of Variation and Standard Errors by Type of Construction
(Percent)

Type of Construction	Coefficient of variation		Standard error		
	Monthly estimate	Year-to-date estimate	Year-to-date change	Month-to-month change	Month-to-month change from prev. year
Total Construction	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9
Residential	4.2	3.0	4.5	2.1	5.6
Nonresidential	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9
Lodging	1.4	1.3	2.1	0.7	1.8
Office	1.5	1.3	1.5	0.9	1.4
Commercial	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.1	1.8
Health care	1.8	1.5	1.9	0.9	2.1
Educational	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.8
Religious	6.3	4.8	5.9	2.2	5.5
Public safety	3.5	3.0	5.0	1.3	5.0
Amusement and recreation	1.9	1.6	1.9	1.6	2.0
Transportation	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.7
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.4
Highway and street	2.7	2.4	3.2	4.1	4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	2.3	3.6	2.4	4.5
Water supply	3.9	3.1	5.5	3.2	5.6
Conservation and development	2.1	1.4	2.2	1.2	2.7
Manufacturing	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.5	1.3
Total Private Construction	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
New single family	5.0	4.0	6.8	6.0	6.0
New multifamily	5.9	5.2	3.3	1.4	3.7
Nonresidential	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6
Lodging	1.4	1.3	2.1	0.7	1.8
Office	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.0	1.4
Commercial	1.8	1.3	1.8	1.1	1.8
Health care	2.2	1.8	2.3	1.0	2.4
Educational	2.8	2.2	2.0	1.2	2.2
Religious	6.3	4.8	5.9	2.2	5.5
Amusement and recreation	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.5	2.0
Transportation	1.1	0.7	1.8	1.5	1.8
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2
Manufacturing	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.5	1.3
Total Public Construction	1.1	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.7
Residential	4.2	3.0	4.5	2.1	5.6
Nonresidential	1.1	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.7
Office	2.4	2.5	3.8	1.3	4.1
Commercial	6.9	9.4	10.3	7.6	8.5
Health care	2.6	1.5	2.2	1.3	2.8
Educational	1.9	1.6	2.2	1.2	2.3
Public safety	3.5	3.0	5.2	1.4	5.2
Amusement and recreation	3.1	2.3	3.8	2.8	3.9
Transportation	1.6	1.1	1.3	0.9	2.1
Power	7.1	5.9	10.4	8.5	15.3
Highway and street	2.7	2.4	3.3	4.1	4.4
Sewage and waste disposal	3.2	2.4	3.7	2.5	4.7
Water supply	4.0	3.1	5.6	3.2	5.8
Conservation and development	2.1	1.4	2.2	1.2	2.7

NA Not applicable

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, July 1, 2020. Additional information on the survey methodology may be found at <www.census.gov/construction/c30/meth.html>

Table 4. Annual Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States
(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	2019 ^f	2018 ^f	Percent change	Coefficient of variation
Total Construction	1,365,137	1,333,183	2.4	0.4
Residential	550,942	563,877	-2.3	3.2
Nonresidential	814,195	769,306	5.8	0.5
Lodging	33,071	31,464	5.1	1.1
Office	84,862	76,662	10.7	1.2
Commercial	80,435	86,422	-6.9	1.0
Health care	45,560	43,450	4.9	1.5
Educational	105,374	101,210	4.1	1.2
Religious	3,544	3,499	1.3	4.5
Public safety	10,530	9,353	12.6	3.1
Amusement and recreation	28,803	28,068	2.6	4.3
Transportation	57,154	53,219	7.4	1.0
Communication	22,242	24,502	-9.2	NA
Power	113,885	99,569	14.4	0.3
Highway and street	97,559	91,745	6.3	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	26,089	23,931	9.0	2.4
Water supply	15,882	15,477	2.6	2.3
Conservation and development	9,126	8,229	10.9	1.5
Manufacturing	80,079	72,508	10.4	1.1
Total Private Construction¹	1,030,704	1,023,016	0.8	0.5
Residential	544,449	557,558	-2.4	1.1
New single family	279,962	289,582	-3.3	1.0
New multifamily	80,110	77,544	3.3	5.8
Nonresidential	486,255	465,457	4.5	0.5
Lodging	31,931	30,453	4.9	1.1
Office	73,945	66,835	10.6	1.4
Commercial	76,432	82,808	-7.7	1.0
Health care	36,287	33,962	6.8	1.7
Educational	21,087	22,346	-5.6	2.1
Religious	3,544	3,499	1.3	4.5
Public safety	227	204	11.3	18.4
Amusement and recreation	15,139	15,712	-3.6	1.5
Transportation	17,080	17,880	-4.5	1.6
Communication	22,112	24,320	-9.1	NA
Power	107,146	94,390	13.5	0.2
Sewage and waste disposal	681	408	66.9	13.0
Water supply	352	287	22.6	11.6
Manufacturing	79,757	72,005	10.8	1.1
Total Public Construction²	334,433	310,167	7.8	0.8
Residential	6,493	6,319	2.8	3.2
Nonresidential	327,940	303,849	7.9	0.8
Office	10,916	9,826	11.1	1.7
Commercial	4,003	3,614	10.8	3.5
Health care	9,274	9,488	-2.3	3.1
Educational	84,287	78,864	6.9	1.4
Public safety	10,303	9,149	12.6	3.1
Amusement and recreation	13,664	12,356	10.6	8.3
Transportation	40,074	35,338	13.4	1.1
Power	6,739	5,179	30.1	7.4
Highway and street	97,091	91,419	6.2	1.5
Sewage and waste disposal	25,408	23,523	8.0	2.4
Water supply	15,530	15,190	2.2	2.4
Conservation and development	9,059	8,206	10.4	1.5

NA Not applicable ^f Revised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: highway and street, and conservation and development.

²Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately: lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, July 1, 2020. Additional information on the survey methodology may be found at <www.census.gov/construction/c30/meth.html>