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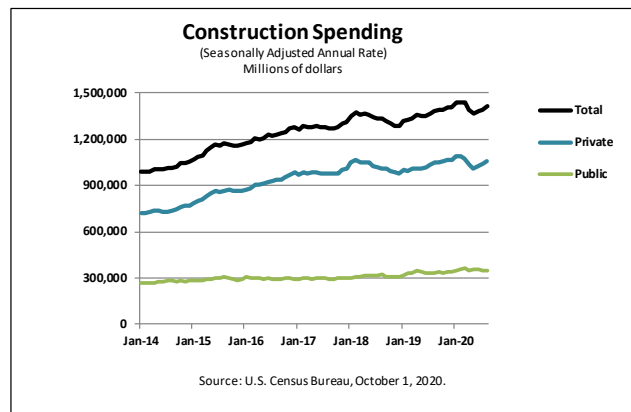
## MONTHLY CONSTRUCTION SPENDING, AUGUST 2020

Release Number: CB20-152

**Statement Regarding COVID-19 Impact:** Estimates in this release continue to meet publication standards. Operations to collect and publish this release have normalized and/or been adapted. Additional COVID-19 specific information will be provided again with this release in the event that quality or collection is determined to be impacted.

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

CONSTRUCTION SPENDING	
AUGUST 2020	\$1,412.8 billion
JULY 2020 (revised)	\$1,392.7 billion
Next release: November 2, 2020	
Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate Source: U.S. Census Bureau, October 1, 2020	



### Total Construction

Construction spending during August 2020 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,412.8 billion, 1.4 percent ( $\pm 1.0$  percent) above the revised July estimate of \$1,392.7 billion. The August figure is 2.5 percent ( $\pm 1.5$  percent) above the August 2019 estimate of \$1,379.0 billion. During the first eight months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$927.7 billion, 4.2 percent ( $\pm 1.2$  percent) above the \$889.9 billion for the same period in 2019.

### Private Construction

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,061.4 billion, 1.9 percent ( $\pm 0.7$  percent) above the revised July estimate of \$1,041.7 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$589.4 billion in August, 3.7 percent ( $\pm 1.3$  percent) above the revised July estimate of \$568.3 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$472.0 billion in August, 0.3 percent ( $\pm 0.7$  percent)\* below the revised July estimate of \$473.4 billion.

### Public Construction

In August, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$351.4 billion, 0.1 percent ( $\pm 1.8$  percent)\* above the revised July estimate of \$350.9 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$82.6 billion, 0.6 percent ( $\pm 1.8$  percent)\* above the revised July estimate of \$82.2 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$100.6 billion, 1.9 percent ( $\pm 4.6$  percent)\* above the revised July estimate of \$98.7 billion.

#### Data Inquiries

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301-763-1605  
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#### Media Inquiries

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U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

The September 2020 Monthly Construction Spending Report is scheduled for release on November 2, 2020. View the full schedule in the Economic Briefing Room: <[www.census.gov/economic-indicators/](http://www.census.gov/economic-indicators/)>. The full text and tables for this release can be found at <[www.census.gov/constructionspending/](http://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 ( $\pm$ 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/](http://www.census.gov/construction/c30/meth.html/)>.

## RESOURCES

### 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/](http://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.

### Data Inquiries

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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	Aug 2020 <sup>p</sup>	Jul 2020 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2020 <sup>f</sup>	May 2020	Apr 2020	Aug 2019	Percent change Aug 2020 from -	
							Jul 2020	Aug 2019
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,412,823</b>	<b>1,392,653</b>	<b>1,383,647</b>	<b>1,369,363</b>	<b>1,387,936</b>	<b>1,378,956</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Residential	598,556	577,468	562,612	547,787	569,892	559,162	3.7	7.0
Nonresidential	814,267	815,184	821,034	821,576	818,044	819,794	-0.1	-0.7
Lodging	29,039	29,153	29,320	29,094	29,352	33,031	-0.4	-12.1
Office	80,469	81,245	81,816	81,097	81,204	88,278	-1.0	-8.8
Commercial	81,478	82,441	83,629	84,191	83,850	80,557	-1.2	1.1
Health care	46,894	47,325	48,109	46,734	46,769	44,666	-0.9	5.0
Educational	99,588	99,224	101,486	104,480	104,552	103,332	0.4	-3.6
Religious	2,722	2,713	2,857	3,022	2,960	3,535	0.3	-23.0
Public safety	15,329	15,642	15,345	15,981	13,670	10,968	-2.0	39.8
Amusement and recreation	26,741	26,746	26,802	27,243	27,352	28,455	0.0	-6.0
Transportation	57,454	57,752	57,502	57,068	56,145	58,868	-0.5	-2.4
Communication	23,061	23,033	22,764	22,982	22,921	22,824	0.1	1.0
Power	118,015	119,323	118,545	118,001	121,872	118,857	-1.1	-0.7
Highway and street	100,941	98,996	102,330	105,181	102,879	94,273	2.0	7.1
Sewage and waste disposal	27,199	27,668	27,507	26,108	26,185	26,527	-1.7	2.5
Water supply	19,568	19,164	19,315	18,620	17,874	15,326	2.1	27.7
Conservation and development	8,795	9,478	8,971	8,603	8,531	9,667	-7.2	-9.0
Manufacturing	76,974	75,282	74,736	73,172	71,930	80,631	2.2	-4.5
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,061,431</b>	<b>1,041,710</b>	<b>1,028,280</b>	<b>1,010,666</b>	<b>1,036,617</b>	<b>1,045,776</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Residential	589,437	568,285	553,721	539,555	562,339	552,508	3.7	6.7
New single family	287,884	272,870	262,230	266,436	283,910	279,716	5.5	2.9
New multifamily	85,407	85,489	81,410	79,047	77,443	78,412	-0.1	8.9
Nonresidential	471,994	473,425	474,559	471,110	474,278	493,268	-0.3	-4.3
Lodging	27,946	28,009	28,181	28,045	28,267	32,030	-0.2	-12.8
Office	69,242	69,441	70,057	69,771	70,273	76,732	-0.3	-9.8
Commercial	77,591	78,455	79,796	80,023	79,659	76,766	-1.1	1.1
Health care	37,274	37,510	38,445	37,308	37,916	35,172	-0.6	6.0
Educational	16,951	17,055	16,991	16,140	16,220	21,084	-0.6	-19.6
Religious	2,722	2,713	2,857	3,022	2,960	3,535	0.3	-23.0
Amusement and recreation	12,091	12,107	12,254	13,194	13,581	14,688	-0.1	-17.7
Transportation	15,960	16,387	15,755	15,549	14,953	17,101	-2.6	-6.7
Communication	22,918	22,895	22,622	22,898	22,856	22,704	0.1	0.9
Power	111,190	112,420	111,697	110,893	114,744	111,270	-1.1	-0.1
Manufacturing	76,589	74,950	74,333	72,784	71,607	80,301	2.2	-4.6
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>351,392</b>	<b>350,943</b>	<b>355,366</b>	<b>358,697</b>	<b>351,318</b>	<b>333,180</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Residential	9,119	9,184	8,892	8,231	7,553	6,654	-0.7	37.0
Nonresidential	342,273	341,759	346,475	350,466	343,765	326,526	0.2	4.8
Office	11,228	11,804	11,759	11,326	10,931	11,546	-4.9	-2.8
Commercial	3,887	3,986	3,833	4,169	4,191	3,791	-2.5	2.5
Health care	9,620	9,816	9,664	9,426	8,853	9,494	-2.0	1.3
Educational	82,637	82,169	84,496	88,341	88,332	82,248	0.6	0.5
Public safety	15,210	15,522	15,248	15,879	13,562	10,762	-2.0	41.3
Amusement and recreation	14,650	14,639	14,548	14,049	13,771	13,768	0.1	6.4
Transportation	41,494	41,365	41,747	41,519	41,192	41,767	0.3	-0.7
Power	6,825	6,904	6,848	7,108	7,128	7,587	-1.1	-10.0
Highway and street	100,584	98,679	101,929	104,816	102,539	93,845	1.9	7.2
Sewage and waste disposal	26,841	27,249	27,071	25,798	25,814	25,875	-1.5	3.7
Water supply	18,940	18,597	18,772	17,999	17,495	14,968	1.8	26.5
Conservation and development	8,736	9,418	8,876	8,517	8,486	9,425	-7.2	-7.3

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary <sup>r</sup> Revised

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

<sup>2</sup>Includes 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, October 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](http://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	Aug 2020 <sup>p</sup>	Jul 2020 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2020 <sup>r</sup>	May 2020	Apr 2020	Aug 2019	Year-to-date		
							Aug 2020	Aug 2019	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>130,183</b>	<b>127,287</b>	<b>126,016</b>	<b>116,902</b>	<b>113,264</b>	<b>128,092</b>	<b>927,705</b>	<b>889,948</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Residential	55,238	52,933	51,797	47,274	47,657	52,065	385,604	359,751	7.2
Nonresidential	74,945	74,353	74,219	69,628	65,607	76,027	542,101	530,197	2.2
Lodging	2,456	2,463	2,513	2,453	2,483	2,821	19,971	22,048	-9.4
Office	7,051	6,987	7,099	6,880	6,687	7,751	53,855	55,613	-3.2
Commercial	7,152	7,116	7,354	7,190	6,925	7,158	55,111	52,370	5.2
Health care	3,991	4,008	4,117	3,961	3,866	3,837	31,280	29,364	6.5
Educational	10,087	10,323	10,102	8,878	8,209	10,519	70,349	70,774	-0.6
Religious	248	234	244	253	247	328	1,985	2,381	-16.6
Public safety	1,313	1,289	1,332	1,306	1,125	959	9,431	6,457	46.1
Amusement and recreation	2,377	2,344	2,359	2,344	2,275	2,544	18,128	18,802	-3.6
Transportation	5,203	5,127	5,161	4,883	4,565	5,328	37,180	37,116	0.2
Communication	1,901	1,900	1,876	1,831	1,884	1,914	14,731	14,309	2.9
Power	9,933	10,007	10,125	9,919	10,059	10,075	79,939	71,301	12.1
Highway and street	11,552	11,222	10,548	9,068	7,252	11,021	65,637	64,554	1.7
Sewage and waste disposal	2,545	2,483	2,490	2,283	2,092	2,487	17,361	16,800	3.3
Water supply	1,770	1,710	1,765	1,636	1,477	1,400	12,287	10,035	22.4
Conservation and development	799	779	739	692	645	880	5,753	5,872	-2.0
Manufacturing	6,569	6,364	6,395	6,052	5,816	7,008	49,105	52,403	-6.3
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>94,925</b>	<b>92,423</b>	<b>91,845</b>	<b>86,281</b>	<b>86,199</b>	<b>94,239</b>	<b>696,248</b>	<b>671,743</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Residential	54,414	52,114	50,972	46,569	47,023	51,462	380,106	355,719	6.9
New single family	26,680	24,840	23,057	22,586	23,286	26,112	186,217	180,684	3.1
New multifamily	7,393	7,220	7,032	6,729	6,597	6,829	54,508	54,390	0.2
Nonresidential	40,511	40,309	40,873	39,712	39,176	42,777	316,142	316,024	0.0
Lodging	2,364	2,368	2,418	2,366	2,393	2,738	19,268	21,344	-9.7
Office	6,046	5,987	6,048	5,902	5,793	6,718	46,388	48,582	-4.5
Commercial	6,817	6,789	7,013	6,841	6,586	6,824	52,544	49,714	5.7
Health care	3,160	3,161	3,280	3,168	3,139	3,016	25,144	23,271	8.0
Educational	1,542	1,577	1,601	1,442	1,381	1,930	11,934	14,642	-18.5
Religious	248	234	244	253	247	328	1,985	2,381	-16.6
Amusement and recreation	1,043	1,044	1,055	1,109	1,146	1,287	8,744	9,982	-12.4
Transportation	1,390	1,399	1,385	1,350	1,247	1,487	10,277	11,328	-9.3
Communication	1,889	1,888	1,864	1,824	1,878	1,904	14,660	14,215	3.1
Power	9,338	9,397	9,462	9,308	9,477	9,400	75,363	67,158	12.2
Manufacturing	6,537	6,336	6,361	6,019	5,789	6,980	48,878	52,189	-6.3
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>35,258</b>	<b>34,864</b>	<b>34,171</b>	<b>30,621</b>	<b>27,065</b>	<b>33,854</b>	<b>231,457</b>	<b>218,205</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Residential	824	820	825	705	634	603	5,498	4,031	36.4
Nonresidential	34,434	34,045	33,346	29,916	26,431	33,250	225,959	214,174	5.5
Office	1,004	1,001	1,051	978	893	1,033	7,468	7,031	6.2
Commercial	335	328	341	349	339	334	2,568	2,656	-3.3
Health care	831	847	838	793	726	821	6,135	6,093	0.7
Educational	8,544	8,746	8,501	7,436	6,828	8,589	58,415	56,131	4.1
Public safety	1,303	1,279	1,324	1,296	1,116	942	9,352	6,284	48.8
Amusement and recreation	1,335	1,300	1,305	1,235	1,129	1,258	9,384	8,820	6.4
Transportation	3,813	3,728	3,776	3,533	3,318	3,841	26,903	25,788	4.3
Power	595	610	663	611	582	674	4,576	4,143	10.5
Highway and street	11,520	11,192	10,508	9,037	7,225	10,982	65,390	64,243	1.8
Sewage and waste disposal	2,512	2,447	2,452	2,255	2,063	2,428	17,104	16,333	4.7
Water supply	1,711	1,660	1,717	1,583	1,446	1,368	11,958	9,808	21.9
Conservation and development	794	774	732	685	641	860	5,706	5,831	-2.1

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary <sup>r</sup> Revised

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

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, October 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](http://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
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Residential	4.5	4.4	5.8	2.4	13.3
Nonresidential	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9
Lodging	1.4	1.2	1.8	0.8	1.2
Office	1.5	1.2	1.4	0.9	1.5
Commercial	1.7	1.2	1.7	0.9	1.5
Health care	1.8	1.5	1.9	0.9	2.0
Educational	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.0	2.3
Religious	6.5	6.2	6.8	2.7	6.5
Public safety	3.3	2.6	4.4	1.3	5.1
Amusement and recreation	2.1	1.7	2.0	1.5	2.3
Transportation	1.2	0.9	1.3	0.9	2.2
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3
Highway and street	2.8	2.0	3.0	2.8	4.5
Sewage and waste disposal	3.0	2.1	3.2	2.4	4.3
Water supply	3.9	2.7	4.7	3.2	6.1
Conservation and development	2.1	1.5	2.0	1.4	3.1
Manufacturing	1.2	1.4	1.4	0.8	0.9
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>
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	5.7	5.1	3.2	1.1	3.1
Nonresidential	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6
Lodging	1.4	1.2	1.8	0.8	1.2
Office	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.0	1.6
Commercial	1.8	1.2	1.7	1.0	1.5
Health care	2.1	1.8	2.3	1.1	2.3
Educational	2.7	2.0	2.2	1.2	2.6
Religious	6.5	6.2	6.8	2.7	6.5
Amusement and recreation	2.7	2.3	2.1	1.4	2.3
Transportation	1.1	1.0	1.9	1.0	1.9
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2
Manufacturing	1.2	1.4	1.4	0.8	0.9
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Residential	4.5	4.4	5.8	2.4	13.3
Nonresidential	1.1	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.8
Office	2.5	2.5	3.6	1.9	3.6
Commercial	7.3	6.9	7.9	3.6	7.1
Health care	2.4	1.7	2.2	1.4	3.1
Educational	1.9	1.6	2.2	1.1	2.7
Public safety	3.3	2.6	4.5	1.3	5.2
Amusement and recreation	3.0	2.4	3.6	2.5	4.2
Transportation	1.4	1.0	1.6	1.0	2.7
Power	6.9	4.0	9.6	4.7	8.9
Highway and street	2.8	2.0	3.0	2.8	4.5
Sewage and waste disposal	3.0	2.1	3.3	2.4	4.5
Water supply	4.0	2.7	4.7	3.2	6.0
Conservation and development	2.1	1.5	2.0	1.4	2.7

NA Not applicable

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