

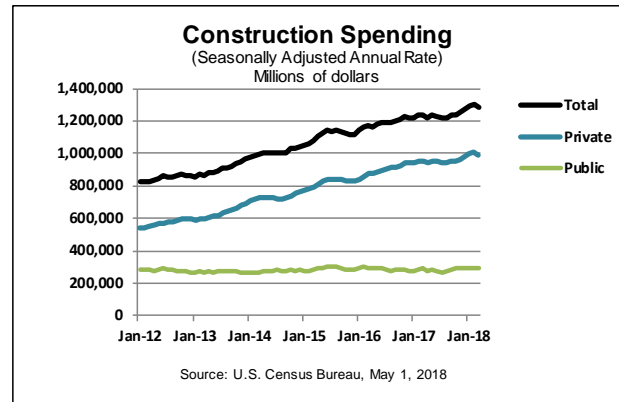
FOR RELEASE AT 10:00 AM EDT, TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018

MONTHLY CONSTRUCTION SPENDING, MARCH 2018

Release Number: CB18-64

May 1, 2018 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following value put in place construction statistics for March 2018:

CONSTRUCTION SPENDING	
MARCH 2018	\$1,284.7 billion
FEBRUARY 2018 (revised)	\$1,306.4 billion
Next release: June 1, 2018	
Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate Source: U.S. Census Bureau, May 1, 2018	



Total Construction

Construction spending during March 2018 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,284.7 billion, 1.7 percent (± 0.8 percent) below the revised February estimate of \$1,306.4 billion. The March figure is 3.6 percent (± 1.3 percent) above the March 2017 estimate of \$1,239.6 billion. During the first three months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$279.0 billion, 5.5 percent (± 1.2 percent) above the \$264.5 billion for the same period in 2017.

Private Construction

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$987.5 billion, 2.1 percent (± 0.8 percent) below the revised February estimate of \$1,009.1 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$536.8 billion in March, 3.5 percent (± 1.3 percent) below the revised February estimate of \$556.5 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$450.7 billion in March, 0.4 percent (± 0.8 percent)* below the revised February estimate of \$452.5 billion.

Public Construction

In March, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$297.2 billion, nearly the same as (± 1.6 percent)* the revised February estimate of \$297.3 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$73.1 billion, 0.1 percent (± 2.5 percent)* below the revised February estimate of \$73.2 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$91.0 billion, 1.2 percent (± 5.4 percent)* above the revised February estimate of \$89.9 billion.

Data Inquiries

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U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
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census.gov

Notice

With the May 2018 release, unadjusted data will be revised back to January 2016 and seasonally adjusted data will be revised back to January 2011. With each May release, seasonally adjusted data will now be revised for an additional five years beyond the revision period for unadjusted data. Research has shown that this revision span should produce more reliable seasonally adjusted time series.

The April 2018 Monthly Construction Spending Report is scheduled for release on June 1, 2018. 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 (\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, 0.79 percent; private construction, 0.75 percent; and public construction, 1.73 percent.

Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our website at <www.census.gov/construction/c30/methodology.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/>

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	Mar 2018 ^p	Feb 2018 ^r	Jan 2018 ^r	Dec 2017	Nov 2017	Mar 2017	Percent change Mar 2018 from -	
							Feb 2018	Mar 2017
Total Construction	1,284,740	1,306,360	1,294,027	1,272,648	1,252,144	1,239,564	-1.7	3.6
Residential	543,812	563,559	556,500	539,507	531,483	516,631	-3.5	5.3
Nonresidential	740,928	742,801	737,527	733,141	720,660	722,933	-0.3	2.5
Lodging	31,482	31,545	30,389	30,016	29,182	28,161	-0.2	11.8
Office	74,494	73,955	71,290	71,416	68,963	70,972	0.7	5.0
Commercial	91,077	93,227	90,750	91,130	88,836	84,282	-2.3	8.1
Health care	41,329	42,176	43,226	42,128	41,510	39,591	-2.0	4.4
Educational	94,987	94,884	95,441	95,348	93,873	92,209	0.1	3.0
Religious	2,977	2,877	2,974	2,894	2,940	3,231	3.5	-7.9
Public safety	9,141	9,541	9,429	9,201	8,524	8,179	-4.2	11.8
Amusement and recreation	24,637	24,214	24,154	24,411	23,738	23,996	1.7	2.7
Transportation	51,247	52,068	50,683	49,772	47,116	43,238	-1.6	18.5
Communication	24,062	23,682	24,414	23,746	23,516	22,623	1.6	6.4
Power	95,249	94,919	95,633	100,560	101,257	101,548	0.3	-6.2
Highway and street	91,218	90,082	89,178	86,675	88,234	94,519	1.3	-3.5
Sewage and waste disposal	20,991	21,095	21,302	20,555	20,697	19,829	-0.5	5.9
Water supply	11,890	12,447	11,619	11,548	11,515	11,109	-4.5	7.0
Conservation and development	9,071	8,376	8,770	7,863	7,407	7,284	8.3	24.5
Manufacturing	67,079	67,714	68,275	65,880	63,353	72,163	-0.9	-7.0
Total Private Construction¹	987,492	1,009,064	996,968	982,071	962,623	950,845	-2.1	3.9
Residential	536,788	556,531	549,792	532,542	524,395	509,933	-3.5	5.3
New single family	283,536	284,810	280,918	276,796	274,134	258,415	-0.4	9.7
New multi-family	58,932	60,553	60,753	64,129	61,168	64,179	-2.7	-8.2
Nonresidential	450,704	452,533	447,176	449,529	438,228	440,912	-0.4	2.2
Lodging	30,143	30,249	29,325	28,856	28,123	27,798	-0.4	8.4
Office	64,088	63,384	61,307	61,709	59,346	62,621	1.1	2.3
Commercial	87,027	88,964	86,485	87,830	85,800	81,126	-2.2	7.3
Health care	30,749	31,868	32,261	31,462	31,479	30,129	-3.5	2.1
Educational	21,853	21,661	21,648	21,672	20,858	20,504	0.9	6.6
Religious	2,977	2,877	2,974	2,894	2,940	3,231	3.5	-7.9
Amusement and recreation	14,261	13,650	13,492	13,906	13,157	12,285	4.5	16.1
Transportation	18,634	18,560	17,871	17,798	16,929	13,481	0.4	38.2
Communication	23,989	23,607	24,306	23,639	23,371	22,518	1.6	6.5
Power	90,001	90,011	89,313	93,896	92,746	95,078	0.0	-5.3
Manufacturing	66,376	67,139	67,733	65,272	62,852	71,310	-1.1	-6.9
Total Public Construction²	297,248	297,296	297,059	290,577	289,521	288,719	0.0	3.0
Residential	7,024	7,028	6,708	6,965	7,088	6,698	-0.1	4.9
Nonresidential	290,225	290,268	290,352	283,612	282,432	282,021	0.0	2.9
Office	10,406	10,571	9,983	9,707	9,617	8,350	-1.6	24.6
Commercial	4,050	4,263	4,266	3,300	3,037	3,156	-5.0	28.3
Health care	10,580	10,308	10,965	10,666	10,031	9,461	2.6	11.8
Educational	73,134	73,222	73,793	73,676	73,015	71,704	-0.1	2.0
Public safety	9,063	9,456	9,392	9,102	8,429	8,128	-4.2	11.5
Amusement and recreation	10,375	10,564	10,663	10,505	10,580	11,711	-1.8	-11.4
Transportation	32,613	33,508	32,812	31,974	30,187	29,756	-2.7	9.6
Power	5,248	4,908	6,320	6,664	8,511	6,470	6.9	-18.9
Highway and street	90,997	89,890	89,001	86,489	88,028	94,273	1.2	-3.5
Sewage and waste disposal	20,848	20,962	21,153	20,400	20,557	19,569	-0.5	6.5
Water supply	11,754	12,322	11,522	11,398	11,335	10,860	-4.6	8.2
Conservation and development	9,040	8,348	8,770	7,858	7,400	7,260	8.3	24.5

^pPreliminary ^rRevised

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, May 1, 2018. 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	Mar 2018 ^P	Feb 2018 ^F	Jan 2018 ^F	Dec 2017	Nov 2017	Mar 2017	Year-to-date		
							Mar 2018	Mar 2017	Percent change
Total Construction	99,333	90,405	89,239	97,357	105,773	95,617	278,978	264,534	5.5
Residential	43,351	37,707	37,034	39,821	44,531	41,359	118,092	109,529	7.8
Nonresidential	55,983	52,698	52,205	57,536	61,243	54,259	160,886	155,005	3.8
Lodging	2,613	2,472	2,326	2,477	2,467	2,302	7,411	6,552	13.1
Office	5,997	5,660	5,403	5,737	5,882	5,612	17,060	16,441	3.8
Commercial	7,043	6,859	6,572	7,236	7,591	6,559	20,474	18,705	9.5
Health care	3,344	3,277	3,280	3,451	3,511	3,198	9,901	9,077	9.1
Educational	6,974	6,534	6,516	6,798	7,250	6,706	20,024	19,420	3.1
Religious	233	203	212	228	244	255	648	715	-9.4
Public safety	718	697	726	761	733	649	2,141	1,802	18.8
Amusement and recreation	1,942	1,788	1,774	1,931	2,015	1,870	5,504	5,303	3.8
Transportation	3,808	3,592	3,523	3,918	4,074	3,223	10,923	9,001	21.4
Communication	1,888	1,704	1,747	2,213	2,196	1,764	5,338	5,126	4.1
Power	7,630	7,497	7,665	8,542	8,800	8,091	22,791	24,286	-6.2
Highway and street	5,184	4,335	4,236	5,257	7,671	5,352	13,754	13,918	-1.2
Sewage and waste disposal	1,561	1,451	1,469	1,579	1,772	1,471	4,481	4,162	7.7
Water supply	915	909	862	909	988	852	2,685	2,430	10.5
Conservation and development	752	664	648	699	639	585	2,063	1,641	25.7
Manufacturing	5,384	5,059	5,247	5,798	5,411	5,769	15,691	16,427	-4.5
Total Private Construction¹	78,598	71,373	70,419	76,593	81,618	75,741	220,390	209,615	5.1
Residential	42,820	37,193	36,562	39,262	43,926	40,857	116,575	108,121	7.8
New single family	22,197	18,963	19,524	20,609	24,019	20,170	60,685	54,937	10.5
New multi-family	4,828	4,721	4,711	4,938	5,130	5,315	14,260	15,031	-5.1
Nonresidential	35,779	34,180	33,857	37,331	37,692	34,884	103,815	101,494	2.3
Lodging	2,501	2,364	2,237	2,380	2,379	2,272	7,102	6,462	9.9
Office	5,165	4,871	4,646	4,949	5,070	4,948	14,681	14,558	0.8
Commercial	6,721	6,539	6,275	6,968	7,332	6,314	19,535	18,021	8.4
Health care	2,458	2,458	2,442	2,562	2,694	2,419	7,358	6,950	5.9
Educational	1,725	1,613	1,593	1,634	1,636	1,627	4,931	4,788	3.0
Religious	233	203	212	228	244	255	648	715	-9.4
Amusement and recreation	1,155	1,054	1,048	1,134	1,111	991	3,257	2,916	11.7
Transportation	1,322	1,208	1,237	1,457	1,496	942	3,767	2,725	38.2
Communication	1,881	1,698	1,738	2,204	2,183	1,755	5,317	5,100	4.3
Power	7,246	7,124	7,195	8,018	8,119	7,600	21,566	22,810	-5.5
Manufacturing	5,326	5,011	5,202	5,747	5,369	5,698	15,539	16,253	-4.4
Total Public Construction²	20,735	19,032	18,820	20,764	24,155	19,876	58,587	54,919	6.7
Residential	531	514	472	559	604	502	1,517	1,408	7.7
Nonresidential	20,204	18,518	18,348	20,205	23,551	19,375	57,071	53,511	6.7
Office	832	789	758	788	812	664	2,378	1,883	26.3
Commercial	322	320	297	268	259	245	939	684	37.3
Health care	886	819	838	890	816	780	2,543	2,127	19.6
Educational	5,249	4,921	4,924	5,164	5,614	5,080	15,093	14,632	3.2
Public safety	711	691	723	752	725	645	2,124	1,780	19.3
Amusement and recreation	787	734	726	798	904	879	2,248	2,388	-5.9
Transportation	2,486	2,385	2,285	2,461	2,579	2,281	7,156	6,276	14.0
Power	383	373	469	524	681	491	1,225	1,475	-16.9
Highway and street	5,168	4,323	4,225	5,242	7,650	5,334	13,716	13,865	-1.1
Sewage and waste disposal	1,550	1,441	1,459	1,567	1,760	1,452	4,450	4,109	8.3
Water supply	905	900	854	896	971	831	2,659	2,368	12.3
Conservation and development	749	661	648	699	638	583	2,058	1,633	26.0

^PPreliminary ^FRevised

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, May 1, 2018.

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	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.8
Residential	4.9	3.5	6.4	1.8	6.8
Nonresidential	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.8
Lodging	2.1	1.8	2.0	0.9	2.1
Office	2.1	1.5	1.8	1.2	2.0
Commercial	2.4	1.6	2.3	1.1	2.4
Health care	1.9	1.7	2.0	1.6	1.8
Educational	1.9	1.5	2.0	1.2	1.9
Religious	6.1	4.7	6.0	6.3	7.2
Public safety	3.6	2.7	3.5	2.0	3.8
Amusement and recreation	2.9	2.3	3.4	2.9	4.9
Transportation	1.5	1.3	2.1	1.5	2.3
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3
Highway and street	3.6	2.4	3.6	3.2	4.1
Sewage and waste disposal	4.1	3.9	5.0	4.3	6.1
Water supply	4.4	3.8	4.9	3.3	5.2
Conservation and development	3.0	2.7	4.5	2.3	3.4
Manufacturing	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.0
Total Private Construction	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.8
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 multi-family	5.4	5.6	4.7	1.4	4.7
Nonresidential	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.8
Lodging	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.0	1.8
Office	2.3	1.7	2.0	1.2	2.1
Commercial	2.5	1.6	2.4	1.1	2.5
Health care	2.3	2.1	2.5	1.8	2.1
Educational	2.8	2.3	3.0	1.6	3.4
Religious	6.1	4.7	6.0	6.3	7.2
Amusement and recreation	2.8	2.6	3.7	3.4	4.8
Transportation	1.9	1.3	6.9	1.1	7.2
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Manufacturing	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1
Total Public Construction	1.4	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.5
Residential	4.8	3.5	6.4	1.8	6.8
Nonresidential	1.5	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.5
Office	3.3	2.4	3.9	3.7	5.0
Commercial	6.7	7.2	10.0	4.2	8.9
Health care	2.8	2.2	3.0	2.2	3.4
Educational	2.3	1.8	2.5	1.5	2.3
Public safety	3.6	2.7	3.5	2.1	3.8
Amusement and recreation	5.4	4.0	5.9	5.0	8.6
Transportation	2.0	1.7	2.2	1.9	2.4
Power	4.9	4.1	5.5	4.7	7.3
Highway and street	3.6	2.4	3.6	3.3	4.1
Sewage and waste disposal	4.1	3.9	5.0	4.3	6.2
Water supply	4.4	3.8	5.0	3.3	5.3
Conservation and development	3.0	2.7	4.5	2.3	3.3

NA Not applicable

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, May 1, 2018. Additional information on the survey methodology may be found at www.census.gov/construction/c30/meth.html.