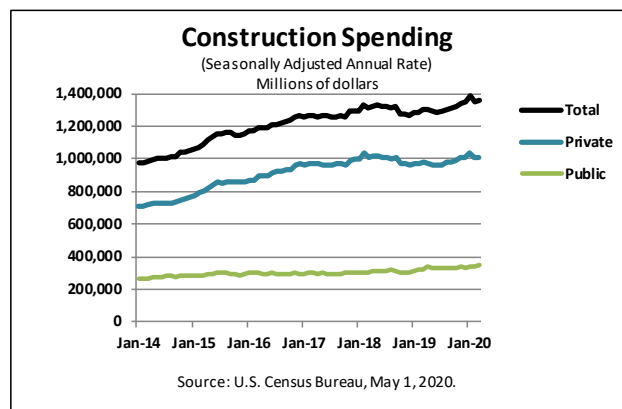


MONTHLY CONSTRUCTION SPENDING, MARCH 2020

Release Number: CB20-68

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>](#).

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



Total Construction

Construction spending during March 2020 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,360.5 billion, 0.9 percent (± 0.8 percent) above the revised February estimate of \$1,348.4 billion. The March figure is 4.7 percent (± 1.3 percent) above the March 2019 estimate of \$1,299.1 billion. During the first three months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$297.0 billion, 6.7 percent (± 1.2 percent) above the \$278.5 billion for the same period in 2019.

Private Construction

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,012.5 billion, 0.7 percent (± 0.7 percent)* above the revised February estimate of \$1,005.8 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$550.3 billion in March, 2.3 percent (± 1.3 percent) above the revised February estimate of \$537.7 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$462.3 billion in March, 1.3 percent (± 0.7 percent) below the revised February estimate of \$468.2 billion.

Public Construction

In March, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$348.0 billion, 1.6 percent (± 1.3 percent) above the revised February estimate of \$342.6 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$80.9 billion, 0.3 percent (± 1.5 percent)* below the revised February estimate of \$81.1 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$108.3 billion, 4.6 percent (± 4.8 percent)* above the revised February estimate of \$103.5 billion.

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Notice

With the May 2020 release, unadjusted data will be revised back to January 2018 and seasonally adjusted data will be revised back to January 2013. 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.

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.

The April 2020 Monthly Construction Spending Report is scheduled for release on June 1, 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 (\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/.

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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 2020 ^p	Feb 2020 ^r	Jan 2020 ^r	Dec 2019	Nov 2019	Mar 2019	Percent change Mar 2020 from -	
							Feb 2020	Mar 2019
Total Construction	1,360,512	1,348,386	1,382,963	1,347,333	1,342,490	1,299,118	0.9	4.7
Residential	557,895	545,237	572,162	553,837	542,838	512,055	2.3	9.0
Nonresidential	802,618	803,148	810,801	793,497	799,653	787,063	-0.1	2.0
Lodging	29,742	30,405	31,389	31,992	32,390	34,231	-2.2	-13.1
Office	79,264	79,558	79,959	80,021	80,318	78,982	-0.4	0.4
Commercial	88,522	89,411	91,709	88,235	87,935	86,293	-1.0	2.6
Health care	45,651	45,022	45,884	44,345	44,322	45,095	1.4	1.2
Educational	97,682	98,152	98,724	98,062	99,886	97,485	-0.5	0.2
Religious	2,858	2,973	3,042	2,973	3,136	2,941	-3.9	-2.8
Public safety	13,275	12,598	12,250	10,815	10,809	9,141	5.4	45.2
Amusement and recreation	26,541	27,001	27,173	27,634	27,908	28,209	-1.7	-5.9
Transportation	55,463	55,882	55,504	54,713	55,087	52,492	-0.7	5.7
Communication	23,470	23,397	23,613	23,738	23,489	23,961	0.3	-2.0
Power	104,654	106,482	107,714	103,549	102,781	100,734	-1.7	3.9
Highway and street	108,567	103,928	104,249	97,150	95,578	103,079	4.5	5.3
Sewage and waste disposal	25,710	25,837	26,212	26,214	26,525	24,829	-0.5	3.5
Water supply	18,539	18,598	18,222	17,969	18,253	15,051	-0.3	23.2
Conservation and development	8,705	9,563	10,312	10,059	9,795	8,984	-9.0	-3.1
Manufacturing	73,975	74,343	74,845	76,029	81,441	75,556	-0.5	-2.1
Total Private Construction¹	1,012,543	1,005,829	1,038,284	1,012,968	1,006,752	976,630	0.7	3.7
Residential	550,266	537,665	564,575	546,532	535,764	505,931	2.3	8.8
New single family	301,073	307,169	297,275	290,868	281,739	268,532	-2.0	12.1
New multifamily	60,204	59,016	58,345	57,517	58,659	62,992	2.0	-4.4
Nonresidential	462,276	468,164	473,709	466,436	470,988	470,699	-1.3	-1.8
Lodging	28,940	29,583	30,368	30,788	31,025	33,229	-2.2	-12.9
Office	67,981	68,281	68,591	68,614	68,626	68,597	-0.4	-0.9
Commercial	84,050	85,240	87,551	84,154	84,101	81,998	-1.4	2.5
Health care	36,312	36,381	37,141	35,717	35,257	36,254	-0.2	0.2
Educational	16,768	17,035	17,254	17,604	18,176	20,361	-1.6	-17.6
Religious	2,858	2,973	3,042	2,973	3,136	2,941	-3.9	-2.8
Amusement and recreation	13,019	13,265	13,149	13,391	13,763	15,282	-1.9	-14.8
Transportation	16,301	16,553	16,378	16,097	16,151	15,581	-1.5	4.6
Communication	23,380	23,307	23,525	23,617	23,378	23,764	0.3	-1.6
Power	98,022	100,100	100,801	96,223	94,826	95,594	-2.1	2.5
Manufacturing	73,557	74,060	74,545	75,802	81,076	75,360	-0.7	-2.4
Total Public Construction²	347,969	342,556	344,679	334,366	335,738	322,488	1.6	7.9
Residential	7,628	7,572	7,587	7,305	7,074	6,123	0.7	24.6
Nonresidential	340,341	334,984	337,092	327,061	328,665	316,365	1.6	7.6
Office	11,284	11,277	11,369	11,407	11,692	10,386	0.1	8.6
Commercial	4,472	4,171	4,158	4,081	3,834	4,295	7.2	4.1
Health care	9,339	8,642	8,743	8,628	9,064	8,841	8.1	5.6
Educational	80,913	81,117	81,470	80,458	81,710	77,124	-0.3	4.9
Public safety	13,164	12,474	12,118	10,668	10,670	8,949	5.5	47.1
Amusement and recreation	13,522	13,736	14,025	14,243	14,145	12,927	-1.6	4.6
Transportation	39,162	39,329	39,126	38,617	38,937	36,911	-0.4	6.1
Power	6,632	6,382	6,913	7,327	7,955	5,140	3.9	29.0
Highway and street	108,300	103,502	103,887	96,786	95,277	102,646	4.6	5.5
Sewage and waste disposal	25,406	25,504	25,735	25,669	25,963	24,068	-0.4	5.6
Water supply	18,183	18,154	17,891	17,655	17,885	14,716	0.2	23.6
Conservation and development	8,655	9,502	10,250	9,972	9,695	8,966	-8.9	-3.5

^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, May 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	Mar 2020 ^p	Feb 2020 ^r	Jan 2020 ^r	Dec 2019	Nov 2019	Mar 2019	Year-to-date		
							Mar 2020	Mar 2019	Percent change
Total Construction	105,193	95,905	95,924	102,703	112,942	99,683	297,021	278,455	6.7
Residential	44,891	38,311	38,485	41,004	46,074	40,567	121,687	110,151	10.5
Nonresidential	60,302	57,593	57,438	61,699	66,869	59,116	175,334	168,304	4.2
Lodging	2,458	2,444	2,437	2,595	2,690	2,814	7,339	8,007	-8.3
Office	6,345	6,083	6,056	6,443	6,828	6,307	18,484	18,174	1.7
Commercial	6,917	6,755	6,739	7,039	7,445	6,710	20,411	18,930	7.8
Health care	3,674	3,513	3,531	3,652	3,719	3,590	10,717	10,475	2.3
Educational	7,105	6,762	6,729	6,966	7,613	7,133	20,596	20,640	-0.2
Religious	221	218	225	240	262	227	664	673	-1.3
Public safety	1,034	930	926	873	922	688	2,890	2,034	42.1
Amusement and recreation	2,060	1,976	1,979	2,168	2,299	2,186	6,015	6,191	-2.8
Transportation	4,070	3,872	3,854	4,326	4,760	3,880	11,797	11,209	5.2
Communication	1,948	1,791	1,743	2,276	2,112	1,940	5,481	5,403	1.4
Power	8,419	8,472	8,709	8,749	8,899	8,116	25,600	24,039	6.5
Highway and street	6,042	5,187	4,925	5,491	7,845	5,717	16,155	15,015	7.6
Sewage and waste disposal	1,922	1,739	1,787	1,988	2,267	1,842	5,448	5,072	7.4
Water supply	1,417	1,344	1,294	1,349	1,532	1,130	4,054	3,069	32.1
Conservation and development	682	751	738	849	813	708	2,171	1,980	9.6
Manufacturing	5,988	5,757	5,768	6,697	6,865	6,129	17,513	17,395	0.7
Total Private Construction¹	81,292	73,940	74,339	79,344	85,559	77,678	229,571	217,273	5.7
Residential	44,321	37,758	37,959	40,435	45,477	40,115	120,038	108,879	10.2
New single family	23,734	20,529	20,652	21,449	24,604	20,990	64,915	57,503	12.9
New multifamily	4,958	4,740	4,443	4,452	4,908	5,163	14,141	14,836	-4.7
Nonresidential	36,971	36,182	36,380	38,909	40,082	37,563	109,533	108,394	1.1
Lodging	2,391	2,376	2,352	2,495	2,576	2,731	7,119	7,757	-8.2
Office	5,450	5,259	5,231	5,523	5,846	5,495	15,939	15,943	0.0
Commercial	6,574	6,441	6,447	6,699	7,112	6,387	19,461	18,020	8.0
Health care	2,899	2,833	2,857	2,946	2,979	2,880	8,588	8,429	1.9
Educational	1,336	1,291	1,289	1,315	1,416	1,626	3,916	4,699	-16.7
Religious	221	218	225	240	262	227	664	673	-1.3
Amusement and recreation	1,037	1,017	1,019	1,073	1,125	1,212	3,073	3,483	-11.8
Transportation	1,137	1,113	1,166	1,383	1,468	1,094	3,416	3,422	-0.2
Communication	1,941	1,783	1,735	2,266	2,103	1,923	5,459	5,365	1.8
Power	7,951	8,022	8,219	8,181	8,235	7,745	24,192	22,880	5.7
Manufacturing	5,953	5,734	5,743	6,678	6,835	6,112	17,430	17,350	0.5
Total Public Construction²	23,901	21,965	21,585	23,360	27,383	22,005	67,450	61,182	10.2
Residential	570	553	526	570	597	452	1,649	1,272	29.6
Nonresidential	23,331	21,411	21,058	22,790	26,786	21,552	65,801	59,911	9.8
Office	895	824	825	920	982	812	2,544	2,232	14.0
Commercial	343	315	292	340	332	324	950	910	4.4
Health care	775	681	674	706	739	711	2,130	2,046	4.1
Educational	5,769	5,471	5,440	5,651	6,197	5,507	16,680	15,941	4.6
Public safety	1,025	921	916	862	910	673	2,862	1,987	44.0
Amusement and recreation	1,023	959	960	1,095	1,174	975	2,942	2,707	8.7
Transportation	2,933	2,760	2,688	2,943	3,292	2,786	8,381	7,787	7.6
Power	468	450	490	567	664	370	1,408	1,159	21.5
Highway and street	6,023	5,159	4,901	5,467	7,818	5,685	16,083	14,932	7.7
Sewage and waste disposal	1,899	1,714	1,754	1,944	2,220	1,783	5,366	4,896	9.6
Water supply	1,391	1,313	1,269	1,324	1,500	1,106	3,973	3,006	32.2
Conservation and development	678	746	732	842	805	706	2,157	1,975	9.2

^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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, May 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	0.5	0.8
Residential	4.0	3.9	8.6	1.6	6.0
Nonresidential	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.8
Lodging	1.4	1.4	2.1	1.2	2.3
Office	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.0	1.6
Commercial	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.3	1.9
Health care	1.9	1.7	3.1	1.2	2.3
Educational	1.6	1.5	1.8	0.8	2.0
Religious	6.4	6.0	6.6	3.3	6.8
Public safety	3.4	3.7	5.4	1.7	6.0
Amusement and recreation	1.9	1.6	2.0	1.1	2.2
Transportation	1.3	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.1
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.7
Highway and street	2.8	2.2	3.8	2.9	5.0
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	2.6	3.8	2.8	4.4
Water supply	4.0	3.5	6.6	3.3	6.9
Conservation and development	2.1	1.7	2.4	1.4	2.4
Manufacturing	1.0	1.3	1.1	0.8	1.2
Total Private Construction	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.7
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	6.0	5.6	4.0	1.9	4.9
Nonresidential	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.7
Lodging	1.4	1.4	2.1	1.2	2.4
Office	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.8
Commercial	1.9	1.6	1.9	1.3	1.9
Health care	2.3	2.1	3.8	1.4	2.8
Educational	2.7	2.4	2.0	1.5	2.0
Religious	6.4	6.0	6.6	3.3	6.8
Amusement and recreation	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.5	2.1
Transportation	1.2	0.8	1.5	0.4	1.3
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.2	0.6
Manufacturing	1.0	1.3	1.1	0.8	1.2
Total Public Construction	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.8	1.6
Residential	4.0	3.9	8.6	1.6	6.0
Nonresidential	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.9	1.6
Office	2.4	2.4	3.9	1.5	3.7
Commercial	5.6	10.8	10.9	2.7	10.6
Health care	2.7	1.9	2.8	1.4	3.0
Educational	1.8	1.8	2.3	0.9	2.6
Public safety	3.4	3.7	5.5	1.7	6.2
Amusement and recreation	3.2	2.6	3.9	1.6	4.3
Transportation	1.5	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.3
Power	7.0	8.0	10.5	4.5	10.7
Highway and street	2.8	2.2	3.8	2.9	5.1
Sewage and waste disposal	3.2	2.6	3.9	2.8	4.6
Water supply	4.1	3.6	6.7	3.4	7.0
Conservation and development	2.1	1.7	2.4	1.4	2.4

NA Not applicable

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