

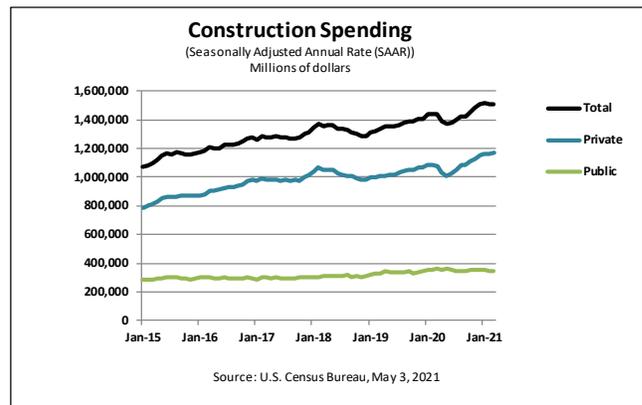
FOR RELEASE AT 10:00 AM EDT, MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021

MONTHLY CONSTRUCTION SPENDING, MARCH 2021

Release Number: CB21-68

May 3, 2021 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following value put in place construction statistics for March 2021:

CONSTRUCTION SPENDING	
MARCH 2021	\$1,513.1 billion
FEBRUARY 2021 (revised)	\$1,509.9 billion
Next release: June 1, 2021	
Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate (SAAR)	
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, May 3, 2021	



Total Construction

Construction spending during March 2021 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,513.1 billion, 0.2 percent (± 0.8 percent)* above the revised February estimate of \$1,509.9 billion. The March figure is 5.3 percent (± 1.0 percent) above the March 2020 estimate of \$1,436.7 billion. During the first three months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$328.3 billion, 4.5 percent (± 1.0 percent) above the \$314.1 billion for the same period in 2020.

Private Construction

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,169.2 billion, 0.7 percent (± 0.7 percent)* above the revised February estimate of \$1,160.9 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$725.2 billion in March, 1.7 percent (± 1.3 percent) above the revised February estimate of \$713.1 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$444.0 billion in March, 0.9 percent (± 0.7 percent) below the revised February estimate of \$447.8 billion.

Public Construction

In March, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$343.9 billion, 1.5 percent (± 1.3 percent) below the revised February estimate of \$349.0 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$85.3 billion, 2.0 percent (± 2.5 percent)* below the revised February estimate of \$87.1 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$98.8 billion, 2.2 percent (± 4.4 percent)* below the revised February estimate of \$101.1 billion.

Data Inquiries

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U.S. Department of Commerce
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Notice

With the May 2021 release, unadjusted data will be revised back to January 2019 and seasonally adjusted data will be revised back to January 2014. 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 2021 Monthly Construction Spending Report is scheduled for release on June 1, 2021. 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, 0.94 percent; private construction, 1.14 percent; and public construction, 0.70 percent. Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our website at <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/>

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 2021 ^P	Feb 2021 ^r	Jan 2021 ^r	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Mar 2020	Percent change Mar 2021 from -	
							Feb 2021	Mar 2020
Total Construction	1,513,085	1,509,896	1,518,707	1,510,387	1,479,555	1,436,727	0.2	5.3
Residential	734,568	722,522	721,815	713,219	679,699	595,963	1.7	23.3
Nonresidential	778,517	787,374	796,892	797,169	799,856	840,764	-1.1	-7.4
Lodging	23,075	23,649	24,303	24,548	26,846	30,096	-2.4	-23.3
Office	79,600	79,804	79,907	79,669	79,502	82,619	-0.3	-3.7
Commercial	77,007	77,310	78,818	80,371	82,137	84,857	-0.4	-9.3
Health care	45,527	45,339	47,133	45,948	46,816	48,004	0.4	-5.2
Educational	100,590	102,694	104,800	106,049	106,344	107,492	-2.0	-6.4
Religious	3,182	3,218	3,368	3,148	3,230	3,262	-1.1	-2.5
Public safety	14,270	15,997	16,122	16,073	15,741	13,758	-10.8	3.7
Amusement and recreation	24,230	24,692	25,248	25,014	25,112	28,123	-1.9	-13.8
Transportation	55,733	55,753	56,281	56,858	56,439	56,896	0.0	-2.0
Communication	22,254	22,097	22,369	22,099	22,000	23,001	0.7	-3.2
Power	113,829	114,235	115,144	116,575	114,095	123,855	-0.4	-8.1
Highway and street	99,105	101,359	102,284	101,904	101,784	111,181	-2.2	-10.9
Sewage and waste disposal	26,177	26,077	26,577	27,561	26,870	25,890	0.4	1.1
Water supply	17,173	17,637	17,798	18,484	18,327	18,005	-2.6	-4.6
Conservation and development	7,386	7,195	7,563	7,386	7,737	8,447	2.7	-12.6
Manufacturing	69,379	70,321	69,176	65,483	66,876	75,278	-1.3	-7.8
Total Private Construction¹	1,169,199	1,160,868	1,164,093	1,154,369	1,124,279	1,076,286	0.7	8.6
Residential ²	725,245	713,056	712,427	704,079	670,427	588,060	1.7	23.3
New single family	389,922	382,202	378,897	365,180	344,342	307,696	2.0	26.7
New multifamily	93,453	93,721	94,538	93,324	91,907	81,575	-0.3	14.6
Nonresidential	443,954	447,812	451,666	450,291	453,852	488,226	-0.9	-9.1
Lodging	22,229	22,716	23,399	23,606	25,815	29,232	-2.1	-24.0
Office	68,351	68,606	68,894	68,911	68,957	71,322	-0.4	-4.2
Commercial	73,717	74,100	75,119	76,536	78,123	80,836	-0.5	-8.8
Health care	35,841	35,802	37,547	36,486	37,212	39,010	0.1	-8.1
Educational	15,277	15,609	15,517	16,115	16,563	18,644	-2.1	-18.1
Religious	3,167	3,215	3,366	3,140	3,222	3,262	-1.5	-2.9
Amusement and recreation	10,676	11,015	11,255	11,163	11,511	14,218	-3.1	-24.9
Transportation	15,022	15,768	15,648	15,652	15,194	15,827	-4.7	-5.1
Communication	22,204	22,048	22,208	21,944	21,876	22,922	0.7	-3.1
Power	107,002	107,423	108,321	109,972	107,460	116,733	-0.4	-8.3
Manufacturing	69,157	70,099	68,969	65,161	66,596	74,987	-1.3	-7.8
Total Public Construction³	343,886	349,028	354,615	356,018	355,276	360,441	-1.5	-4.6
Residential	9,323	9,466	9,388	9,140	9,272	7,904	-1.5	18.0
Nonresidential	334,563	339,562	345,226	346,878	346,004	352,537	-1.5	-5.1
Office	11,250	11,198	11,013	10,758	10,545	11,297	0.5	-0.4
Commercial	3,290	3,210	3,699	3,835	4,015	4,021	2.5	-18.2
Health care	9,686	9,537	9,587	9,462	9,604	8,994	1.6	7.7
Educational	85,314	87,086	89,283	89,933	89,780	88,848	-2.0	-4.0
Public safety	14,172	15,865	15,989	15,947	15,640	13,635	-10.7	3.9
Amusement and recreation	13,554	13,677	13,993	13,850	13,601	13,905	-0.9	-2.5
Transportation	40,711	39,985	40,633	41,205	41,245	41,069	1.8	-0.9
Power	6,828	6,812	6,823	6,604	6,634	7,122	0.2	-4.1
Highway and street	98,821	101,084	102,019	101,645	101,529	110,864	-2.2	-10.9
Sewage and waste disposal	25,798	25,673	26,184	27,235	26,538	25,520	0.5	1.1
Water supply	16,630	17,049	17,196	17,727	17,748	17,641	-2.5	-5.7
Conservation and development	7,379	7,181	7,534	7,249	7,679	8,386	2.8	-12.0

^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 private residential improvements.

³Includes 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 3, 2021.
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 2021 ^p	Feb 2021 ^r	Jan 2021 ^r	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Mar 2020	Year-to-date		
							Mar 2021	Mar 2020	Percent change
Total Construction	117,351	104,813	106,122	115,348	124,724	110,839	328,285	314,054	4.5
Residential	58,531	49,122	50,167	53,365	58,060	47,656	157,821	130,706	20.7
Nonresidential	58,819	55,691	55,955	61,983	66,664	63,182	170,465	183,348	-7.0
Lodging	1,927	1,866	1,877	2,012	2,224	2,525	5,669	7,603	-25.4
Office	6,326	6,049	6,008	6,350	6,748	6,574	18,383	19,152	-4.0
Commercial	6,076	5,716	5,789	6,430	6,863	6,707	17,580	19,374	-9.3
Health care	3,671	3,483	3,598	3,808	3,951	3,890	10,751	11,337	-5.2
Educational	7,320	7,018	7,104	7,581	8,156	7,863	21,442	22,751	-5.8
Religious	247	236	258	255	274	253	740	760	-2.6
Public safety	1,121	1,203	1,183	1,307	1,333	1,086	3,506	3,066	14.4
Amusement and recreation	1,875	1,802	1,813	1,987	2,098	2,200	5,490	6,428	-14.6
Transportation	4,150	3,901	3,952	4,502	4,871	4,232	12,002	12,242	-2.0
Communication	1,883	1,661	1,606	2,128	1,949	1,899	5,150	5,340	-1.6
Power	9,119	8,902	9,193	9,772	9,820	9,908	27,214	29,897	-9.0
Highway and street	5,606	4,904	4,721	6,061	8,332	6,021	15,231	15,994	-4.8
Sewage and waste disposal	1,942	1,758	1,842	2,097	2,294	1,927	5,542	5,467	1.4
Water supply	1,319	1,249	1,253	1,407	1,512	1,376	3,821	3,929	-2.7
Conservation and development	578	552	529	616	649	665	1,659	2,098	-20.9
Manufacturing	5,661	5,394	5,232	5,673	5,591	6,058	16,287	17,910	-9.1
Total Private Construction¹	93,462	82,622	83,992	90,065	95,708	86,191	260,076	244,575	6.3
Residential ²	57,819	48,453	49,527	52,649	57,284	47,054	155,799	129,016	20.8
New single family	30,891	25,862	26,718	27,436	30,242	24,078	83,472	65,767	26.9
New multifamily	7,701	7,367	7,311	7,390	7,741	6,749	22,379	19,537	14.5
Nonresidential	35,643	34,170	34,465	37,416	38,424	39,137	104,278	115,560	-9.8
Lodging	1,856	1,788	1,801	1,933	2,138	2,453	5,446	7,359	-26.0
Office	5,433	5,226	5,210	5,500	5,869	5,683	15,868	16,611	-4.5
Commercial	5,816	5,476	5,522	6,107	6,522	6,395	16,814	18,498	-9.1
Health care	2,882	2,750	2,881	3,033	3,151	3,148	8,513	9,236	-7.8
Educational	1,213	1,171	1,138	1,212	1,288	1,492	3,522	4,391	-19.8
Religious	246	235	257	254	273	253	738	760	-2.9
Amusement and recreation	863	848	846	911	961	1,142	2,557	3,348	-23.6
Transportation	1,105	1,130	1,190	1,335	1,334	1,162	3,425	3,508	-2.4
Communication	1,879	1,657	1,593	2,116	1,939	1,892	5,128	5,316	-3.5
Power	8,611	8,418	8,711	9,247	9,263	9,391	25,740	28,381	-9.3
Manufacturing	5,642	5,375	5,215	5,647	5,567	6,034	16,232	17,836	-9.0
Total Public Construction³	23,889	22,190	22,130	25,284	29,016	24,647	68,209	69,479	-1.8
Residential	713	670	640	716	776	602	2,022	1,690	19.6
Nonresidential	23,176	21,521	21,490	24,567	28,240	24,045	66,187	67,789	-2.4
Office	894	823	798	850	879	892	2,515	2,541	-1.0
Commercial	260	240	266	323	341	312	766	876	-12.6
Health care	789	733	717	775	800	742	2,238	2,101	6.5
Educational	6,107	5,847	5,966	6,369	6,868	6,371	17,920	18,360	-2.4
Public safety	1,113	1,192	1,171	1,297	1,324	1,076	3,476	3,034	14.6
Amusement and recreation	1,012	954	967	1,077	1,137	1,058	2,933	3,080	-4.8
Transportation	3,044	2,771	2,761	3,167	3,537	3,070	8,577	8,734	-1.8
Power	508	484	482	524	557	517	1,473	1,515	-2.8
Highway and street	5,584	4,886	4,705	6,043	8,309	5,999	15,175	15,908	-4.6
Sewage and waste disposal	1,914	1,729	1,814	2,070	2,266	1,900	5,458	5,376	1.5
Water supply	1,280	1,210	1,209	1,350	1,458	1,349	3,700	3,843	-3.7
Conservation and development	577	550	527	604	645	660	1,654	2,080	-20.5

^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 private residential improvements.

³Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately: lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, May 3, 2021.

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	0.6	0.5	0.6
Residential	4.1	4.7	4.6	2.6	4.8
Nonresidential	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6
Lodging	2.1	3.4	2.4	1.9	2.6
Office	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.4
Commercial	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.4
Health care	1.7	1.6	2.0	0.7	2.0
Educational	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.3	1.9
Religious	5.9	4.3	5.4	3.9	5.6
Public safety	2.5	2.0	2.3	1.4	2.2
Amusement and recreation	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.4
Transportation	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3
Highway and street	2.7	1.8	2.6	2.7	2.7
Sewage and waste disposal	2.8	2.2	3.6	2.9	4.1
Water supply	3.8	3.3	4.4	3.1	4.4
Conservation and development	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.5	2.0
Manufacturing	1.3	1.4	0.9	0.5	1.0
Total Private Construction	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
New single family	6.9	7.5	2.6	0.5	2.7
New multifamily	5.5	5.3	3.0	1.0	2.8
Nonresidential	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6
Lodging	2.2	3.5	2.4	2.0	2.6
Office	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.1	1.5
Commercial	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.4
Health care	2.2	2.0	2.3	0.9	2.3
Educational	2.6	3.1	2.4	1.8	2.6
Religious	5.9	4.4	5.4	3.9	5.6
Amusement and recreation	3.5	3.2	2.6	4.2	2.5
Transportation	1.7	1.9	1.2	1.0	1.1
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	0.9	0.5	1.0
Total Public Construction	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.1
Residential	4.1	4.7	4.6	2.6	4.8
Nonresidential	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.1
Office	2.8	2.5	3.1	2.0	3.9
Commercial	6.2	5.8	8.6	2.5	8.7
Health care	2.0	1.9	2.4	1.2	2.6
Educational	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.5	2.3
Public safety	2.5	2.0	2.3	1.5	2.2
Amusement and recreation	3.8	4.3	4.1	3.0	4.2
Transportation	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.2
Power	6.2	7.0	7.3	4.2	7.7
Highway and street	2.7	1.9	2.6	2.7	2.7
Sewage and waste disposal	2.9	2.2	3.7	2.9	4.1
Water supply	3.9	3.4	4.5	3.1	4.3
Conservation and development	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.5	2.0

NA Not applicable

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, May 3, 2021. Additional information on the survey methodology may be found at <www.census.gov/construction/c30/meth.html>