

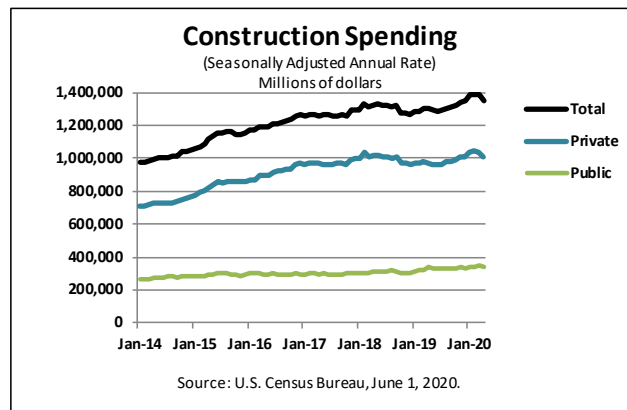
MONTHLY CONSTRUCTION SPENDING, APRIL 2020

Release Number: CB20-84

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](#).

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

CONSTRUCTION SPENDING	
APRIL 2020	\$1,346.2 billion
MARCH 2020 (revised)	\$1,386.6 billion
Next release: July 1, 2020	
Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate Source: U.S. Census Bureau, June 1, 2020	



Total Construction

Construction spending during April 2020 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,346.2 billion, 2.9 percent (± 0.8 percent) below the revised March estimate of \$1,386.6 billion. The April figure is 3.0 percent (± 1.5 percent) above the April 2019 estimate of \$1,307.1 billion. During the first four months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$412.5 billion, 7.1 percent (± 1.2 percent) above the \$385.2 billion for the same period in 2019.

Private Construction

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,004.1 billion, 3.0 percent (± 0.7 percent) below the revised March estimate of \$1,035.6 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$536.8 billion in April, 4.5 percent (± 1.3 percent) below the revised March estimate of \$561.9 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$467.3 billion in April, 1.3 percent (± 0.7 percent) below the revised March estimate of \$473.6 billion.

Public Construction

In April, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$342.1 billion, 2.5 percent (± 1.5 percent) below the revised March estimate of \$351.0 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$78.6 billion, 2.3 percent (± 1.5 percent) below the revised March estimate of \$80.4 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$106.1 billion, 5.2 percent (± 4.6 percent) below the revised March estimate of \$111.9 billion.

Data Inquiries

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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 May 2020 Monthly Construction Spending Report is scheduled for release on July 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



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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	Apr 2020 ^p	Mar 2020 ^f	Feb 2020 ^f	Jan 2020	Dec 2019	Apr 2019	Percent change Apr 2020 from -	
							Mar 2020	Apr 2019
Total Construction	1,346,166	1,386,579	1,386,266	1,382,963	1,347,333	1,307,136	-2.9	3.0
Residential	544,312	569,887	570,545	572,162	553,837	512,113	-4.5	6.3
Nonresidential	801,854	816,692	815,721	810,801	793,497	795,023	-1.8	0.9
Lodging	29,999	30,093	30,816	31,389	31,992	34,169	-0.3	-12.2
Office	78,762	79,314	79,301	79,959	80,021	78,906	-0.7	-0.2
Commercial	89,214	91,239	92,194	91,709	88,235	84,294	-2.2	5.8
Health care	45,561	45,801	45,400	45,884	44,345	44,491	-0.5	2.4
Educational	93,506	96,819	98,434	98,724	98,062	99,026	-3.4	-5.6
Religious	2,632	2,853	2,962	3,042	2,973	2,877	-7.7	-8.5
Public safety	13,455	13,654	12,872	12,250	10,815	9,944	-1.5	35.3
Amusement and recreation	25,890	26,160	26,524	27,173	27,634	29,094	-1.0	-11.0
Transportation	53,939	55,436	55,552	55,504	54,713	52,898	-2.7	2.0
Communication	23,370	23,490	23,455	23,613	23,738	23,453	-0.5	-0.4
Power	111,248	112,417	114,114	107,714	103,549	99,904	-1.0	11.4
Highway and street	106,350	112,152	104,516	104,249	97,150	112,609	-5.2	-5.6
Sewage and waste disposal	26,451	26,043	26,087	26,212	26,214	25,228	1.6	4.8
Water supply	18,506	18,648	18,738	18,222	17,969	16,385	-0.8	12.9
Conservation and development	8,584	8,440	9,471	10,312	10,059	8,860	1.7	-3.1
Manufacturing	74,388	74,132	75,286	74,845	76,029	72,884	0.3	2.1
Total Private Construction¹	1,004,058	1,035,571	1,042,738	1,038,284	1,012,968	967,690	-3.0	3.8
Residential	536,780	561,945	563,079	564,575	546,532	505,672	-4.5	6.2
New single family	280,951	300,866	305,371	297,275	290,868	268,753	-6.6	4.5
New multifamily	53,620	58,957	59,005	58,345	57,517	62,850	-9.1	-14.7
Nonresidential	467,278	473,626	479,659	473,709	466,436	462,019	-1.3	1.1
Lodging	29,193	29,292	29,941	30,368	30,788	33,084	-0.3	-11.8
Office	68,099	68,178	68,113	68,591	68,614	68,343	-0.1	-0.4
Commercial	84,974	86,967	87,957	87,551	84,154	80,133	-2.3	6.0
Health care	36,764	36,875	36,863	37,141	35,717	35,289	-0.3	4.2
Educational	14,913	16,387	17,080	17,254	17,604	19,656	-9.0	-24.1
Religious	2,632	2,853	2,962	3,042	2,973	2,877	-7.7	-8.5
Amusement and recreation	12,670	12,904	12,988	13,149	13,391	15,304	-1.8	-17.2
Transportation	15,310	16,274	16,393	16,378	16,097	15,447	-5.9	-0.9
Communication	23,294	23,411	23,335	23,525	23,617	23,284	-0.5	0.0
Power	104,546	105,688	107,704	100,801	96,223	94,324	-1.1	10.8
Manufacturing	73,860	73,730	75,007	74,545	75,802	72,687	0.2	1.6
Total Public Construction²	342,108	351,008	343,528	344,679	334,366	339,446	-2.5	0.8
Residential	7,532	7,942	7,466	7,587	7,305	6,442	-5.2	16.9
Nonresidential	334,576	343,065	336,062	337,092	327,061	333,004	-2.5	0.5
Office	10,663	11,137	11,188	11,369	11,407	10,563	-4.3	0.9
Commercial	4,240	4,272	4,237	4,158	4,081	4,161	-0.7	1.9
Health care	8,797	8,925	8,538	8,743	8,628	9,203	-1.4	-4.4
Educational	78,593	80,432	81,354	81,470	80,458	79,370	-2.3	-1.0
Public safety	13,375	13,533	12,735	12,118	10,668	9,721	-1.2	37.6
Amusement and recreation	13,220	13,256	13,536	14,025	14,243	13,791	-0.3	-4.1
Transportation	38,629	39,162	39,159	39,126	38,617	37,451	-1.4	3.1
Power	6,702	6,730	6,410	6,913	7,327	5,581	-0.4	20.1
Highway and street	106,094	111,924	104,174	103,887	96,786	112,261	-5.2	-5.5
Sewage and waste disposal	26,132	25,738	25,754	25,735	25,669	24,516	1.5	6.6
Water supply	18,173	18,292	18,295	17,891	17,655	16,105	-0.7	12.8
Conservation and development	8,548	8,384	9,408	10,250	9,972	8,831	2.0	-3.2

^p Preliminary ^f 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, June 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	Apr 2020 ^p	Mar 2020 ^r	Feb 2020 ^r	Jan 2020	Dec 2019	Apr 2019	Year-to-date		
							Apr 2020	Apr 2019	Percent change
Total Construction	110,492	107,758	98,292	95,924	102,703	106,786	412,465	385,241	7.1
Residential	45,809	46,322	39,684	38,485	41,004	42,908	170,300	153,059	11.3
Nonresidential	64,684	61,436	58,607	57,438	61,699	63,878	242,165	232,182	4.3
Lodging	2,542	2,486	2,479	2,437	2,595	2,881	9,944	10,888	-8.7
Office	6,505	6,349	6,061	6,056	6,443	6,528	24,971	24,702	1.1
Commercial	7,346	7,166	6,993	6,739	7,039	7,006	28,244	25,936	8.9
Health care	3,738	3,677	3,551	3,531	3,652	3,640	14,496	14,115	2.7
Educational	7,316	7,056	6,810	6,729	6,966	7,863	27,911	28,502	-2.1
Religious	218	223	220	225	240	243	885	917	-3.5
Public safety	1,124	1,068	952	926	873	815	4,070	2,849	42.9
Amusement and recreation	2,154	2,036	1,945	1,979	2,168	2,417	8,114	8,607	-5.7
Transportation	4,368	4,084	3,857	3,854	4,326	4,334	16,163	15,543	4.0
Communication	1,900	1,948	1,793	1,743	2,276	1,922	7,383	7,325	0.8
Power	9,345	9,050	9,041	8,709	8,749	8,327	36,145	32,366	11.7
Highway and street	7,796	6,266	5,215	4,925	5,491	7,986	24,202	23,001	5.2
Sewage and waste disposal	2,111	1,944	1,755	1,787	1,988	2,023	7,598	7,094	7.1
Water supply	1,526	1,426	1,346	1,294	1,349	1,346	5,592	4,415	26.7
Conservation and development	654	657	749	738	849	683	2,797	2,663	5.0
Manufacturing	6,041	6,001	5,841	5,768	6,697	5,865	23,651	23,259	1.7
Total Private Construction¹	83,865	83,654	76,252	74,339	79,344	80,577	318,110	297,850	6.8
Residential	45,179	45,722	39,143	37,959	40,435	42,365	168,003	151,244	11.1
New single family	22,915	23,834	20,532	20,652	21,449	21,826	87,933	79,329	10.8
New multifamily	4,609	4,907	4,799	4,443	4,452	5,412	18,759	20,248	-7.4
Nonresidential	38,687	37,932	37,109	36,380	38,909	38,212	150,108	146,606	2.4
Lodging	2,474	2,419	2,407	2,352	2,495	2,791	9,652	10,548	-8.5
Office	5,634	5,462	5,240	5,231	5,523	5,645	21,566	21,588	-0.1
Commercial	7,009	6,840	6,672	6,447	6,699	6,672	26,967	24,692	9.2
Health care	3,013	2,941	2,874	2,857	2,946	2,883	11,685	11,312	3.3
Educational	1,264	1,312	1,307	1,289	1,315	1,680	5,171	6,379	-18.9
Religious	218	223	220	225	240	243	885	917	-3.5
Amusement and recreation	1,064	1,032	999	1,019	1,073	1,272	4,114	4,755	-13.5
Transportation	1,237	1,141	1,107	1,166	1,383	1,278	4,652	4,701	-1.0
Communication	1,894	1,941	1,783	1,735	2,266	1,908	7,353	7,272	1.1
Power	8,802	8,574	8,589	8,219	8,181	7,863	34,183	30,743	11.2
Manufacturing	5,997	5,967	5,818	5,743	6,678	5,848	23,525	23,198	1.4
Total Public Construction²	26,627	24,103	22,040	21,585	23,360	26,209	94,354	87,391	8.0
Residential	630	600	542	526	570	543	2,297	1,815	26.6
Nonresidential	25,997	23,504	21,498	21,058	22,790	25,665	92,057	85,576	7.6
Office	871	887	821	825	920	883	3,404	3,115	9.3
Commercial	338	326	320	292	340	334	1,277	1,244	2.7
Health care	725	736	677	674	706	757	2,812	2,803	0.3
Educational	6,053	5,744	5,503	5,440	5,651	6,183	22,739	22,123	2.8
Public safety	1,117	1,058	942	916	862	795	4,032	2,783	44.9
Amusement and recreation	1,090	1,004	946	960	1,095	1,145	4,000	3,852	3.8
Transportation	3,131	2,943	2,750	2,688	2,943	3,056	11,511	10,843	6.2
Power	543	477	452	490	567	465	1,961	1,624	20.8
Highway and street	7,776	6,249	5,193	4,901	5,467	7,958	24,120	22,890	5.4
Sewage and waste disposal	2,086	1,921	1,730	1,754	1,944	1,964	7,490	6,860	9.2
Water supply	1,499	1,400	1,316	1,269	1,324	1,324	5,484	4,330	26.7
Conservation and development	651	653	744	732	842	681	2,779	2,656	4.6

^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, June 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	0.9
Residential	4.2	3.2	6.3	1.4	5.0
Nonresidential	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.9
Lodging	1.4	1.3	2.1	0.8	2.2
Office	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.1	1.9
Commercial	1.8	1.5	1.9	0.9	2.1
Health care	1.9	1.6	2.6	1.0	2.3
Educational	1.6	1.4	1.7	0.7	1.8
Religious	6.3	5.0	6.0	2.6	4.9
Public safety	3.5	3.3	5.1	1.6	5.3
Amusement and recreation	1.9	1.7	2.2	1.6	2.5
Transportation	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.3
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.5
Highway and street	2.7	2.4	3.7	2.8	4.5
Sewage and waste disposal	3.1	2.5	3.7	2.5	4.5
Water supply	3.9	3.3	6.0	3.0	6.5
Conservation and development	2.1	1.7	2.1	1.5	2.2
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.4	1.4
Total Private Construction	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.4	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 multifamily	5.9	5.7	3.8	1.2	3.9
Nonresidential	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.8
Lodging	1.4	1.3	2.1	0.8	2.3
Office	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.1	2.2
Commercial	1.8	1.5	1.9	0.9	2.1
Health care	2.3	1.9	3.3	1.2	2.9
Educational	2.7	2.2	2.0	0.9	2.1
Religious	6.3	5.0	6.0	2.6	4.9
Amusement and recreation	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.7
Transportation	1.1	0.7	2.1	0.3	2.4
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.2
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.4	1.4
Total Public Construction	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.9	1.7
Residential	4.2	3.2	6.3	1.4	5.0
Nonresidential	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.9	1.7
Office	2.4	2.7	3.7	3.0	3.3
Commercial	6.5	11.4	11.1	3.1	12.5
Health care	2.7	1.8	2.4	1.2	2.3
Educational	1.9	1.7	2.2	0.9	2.3
Public safety	3.5	3.3	5.3	1.6	5.5
Amusement and recreation	3.1	2.6	4.1	2.3	4.1
Transportation	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.5
Power	7.2	7.5	10.4	6.8	13.7
Highway and street	2.7	2.4	3.7	2.8	4.5
Sewage and waste disposal	3.2	2.6	3.9	2.5	4.7
Water supply	4.0	3.4	6.1	3.1	6.6
Conservation and development	2.1	1.7	2.1	1.5	2.2

NA Not applicable

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