

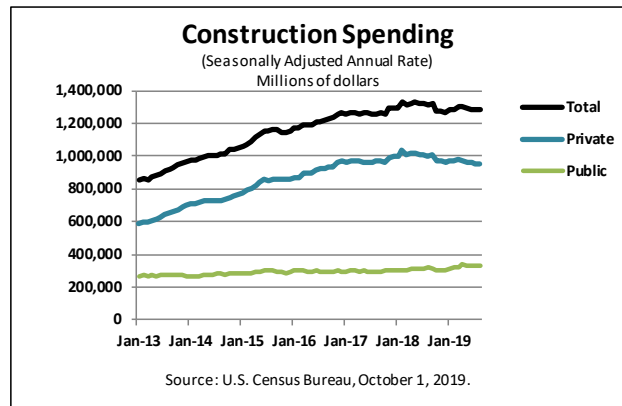
FOR RELEASE AT 10:00 AM EDT, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019

## MONTHLY CONSTRUCTION SPENDING, AUGUST 2019

Release Number: CB19-153

**October 1, 2019** — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following value put in place construction statistics for August 2019:

CONSTRUCTION SPENDING	
<b>AUGUST 2019</b>	<b>\$1,287.3 billion</b>
<b>JULY 2019 (revised)</b>	<b>\$1,285.6 billion</b>
<b>Next release: November 1, 2019</b>	
Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate Source: U.S. Census Bureau, October 1, 2019	



### Total Construction

Construction spending during August 2019 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,287.3 billion, 0.1 percent ( $\pm 1.2$  percent)\* above the revised July estimate of \$1,285.6 billion. The August figure is 1.9 percent ( $\pm 1.8$  percent) below the August 2018 estimate of \$1,312.2 billion. During the first eight months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$851.3 billion, 2.3 percent ( $\pm 1.2$  percent) below the \$871.3 billion for the same period in 2018.

### Private Construction

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$955.0 billion, nearly the same as ( $\pm 0.8$  percent)\* the revised July estimate of \$954.8 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$507.2 billion in August, 0.9 percent ( $\pm 1.3$  percent)\* above the revised July estimate of \$502.5 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$447.9 billion in August, 1.0 percent ( $\pm 0.8$  percent) below the revised July estimate of \$452.3 billion.

### Public Construction

In August, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$332.3 billion, 0.4 percent ( $\pm 2.0$  percent)\* above the revised July estimate of \$330.8 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$77.0 billion, 1.4 percent ( $\pm 2.6$  percent)\* above the revised July estimate of \$75.9 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$98.9 billion, 0.6 percent ( $\pm 4.8$  percent)\* above the revised July estimate of \$98.3 billion.

#### Data Inquiries

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#### Media Inquiries

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U.S. Department of Commerce  
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[census.gov](http://census.gov)

## Notice

Geographic data for Private Nonresidential and State and Local Construction through 2018 can be found at [www.census.gov/construction/c30/historical\\_data.html](http://www.census.gov/construction/c30/historical_data.html).

The September 2019 Monthly Construction Spending Report is scheduled for release on November 1, 2019. 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, 1.06 percent; private construction, 1.39 percent; and public construction, 1.18 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 2019 <sup>p</sup>	Jul 2019 <sup>f</sup>	Jun 2019 <sup>f</sup>	May 2019	Apr 2019	Aug 2018	Percent change Aug 2019 from -	
							Jul 2019	Aug 2018
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>1,287,306</b>	<b>1,285,572</b>	<b>1,285,299</b>	<b>1,297,464</b>	<b>1,307,136</b>	<b>1,312,171</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
Residential	513,457	508,707	505,833	509,632	512,113	540,580	0.9	-5.0
Nonresidential	773,849	776,865	779,466	787,831	795,023	771,591	-0.4	0.3
Lodging	33,689	33,940	35,343	34,359	34,169	32,450	-0.7	3.8
Office	79,493	79,346	78,537	78,479	78,906	75,649	0.2	5.1
Commercial	80,247	82,721	85,440	83,528	84,294	90,737	-3.0	-11.6
Health care	43,102	43,742	43,761	43,972	44,491	42,073	-1.5	2.4
Educational	94,923	94,008	91,819	97,651	99,026	98,508	1.0	-3.6
Religious	2,525	2,690	2,733	2,839	2,877	3,166	-6.1	-20.2
Public safety	10,870	10,896	10,246	10,063	9,944	9,577	-0.2	13.5
Amusement and recreation	28,031	27,927	28,397	28,144	29,094	28,057	0.4	-0.1
Transportation	55,716	55,906	56,992	56,420	52,898	52,743	-0.3	5.6
Communication	23,754	23,407	23,306	23,507	23,453	24,132	1.5	-1.6
Power	95,406	96,890	98,695	101,338	99,904	98,832	-1.5	-3.5
Highway and street	99,207	98,590	100,694	105,451	112,609	95,368	0.6	4.0
Sewage and waste disposal	28,080	28,355	27,138	27,186	25,228	23,647	-1.0	18.7
Water supply	17,397	17,370	16,503	16,035	16,385	16,323	0.2	6.6
Conservation and development	9,604	9,610	9,097	8,644	8,860	9,298	-0.1	3.3
Manufacturing	71,805	71,466	70,765	70,216	72,884	71,031	0.5	1.1
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>955,045</b>	<b>954,772</b>	<b>959,160</b>	<b>962,688</b>	<b>967,690</b>	<b>994,526</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-4.0</b>
Residential	507,151	502,522	499,610	503,578	505,672	533,844	0.9	-5.0
New single family	271,928	268,177	264,179	265,324	268,753	291,022	1.4	-6.6
New multifamily	62,028	62,574	62,872	63,650	62,850	57,757	-0.9	7.4
Nonresidential	447,894	452,250	459,550	459,111	462,019	460,683	-1.0	-2.8
Lodging	32,660	32,912	34,441	33,179	33,084	31,081	-0.8	5.1
Office	68,839	68,852	68,140	68,381	68,343	64,791	0.0	6.2
Commercial	75,830	77,984	81,217	79,313	80,133	87,165	-2.8	-13.0
Health care	34,102	34,807	34,848	34,864	35,289	32,606	-2.0	4.6
Educational	17,931	18,102	17,984	18,766	19,656	20,584	-0.9	-12.9
Religious	2,525	2,690	2,733	2,839	2,877	3,166	-6.1	-20.2
Amusement and recreation	13,737	13,693	14,342	14,516	15,304	15,641	0.3	-12.2
Transportation	16,394	16,388	17,179	17,197	15,447	16,638	0.0	-1.5
Communication	23,648	23,295	23,192	23,313	23,284	23,826	1.5	-0.7
Power	89,335	90,835	93,434	95,359	94,324	93,360	-1.7	-4.3
Manufacturing	71,538	71,160	70,474	69,967	72,687	70,398	0.5	1.6
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>332,261</b>	<b>330,800</b>	<b>326,139</b>	<b>334,775</b>	<b>339,446</b>	<b>317,645</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Residential	6,306	6,185	6,223	6,055	6,442	6,737	2.0	-6.4
Nonresidential	325,955	324,615	319,916	328,721	333,004	310,908	0.4	4.8
Office	10,654	10,495	10,397	10,098	10,563	10,858	1.5	-1.9
Commercial	4,416	4,736	4,224	4,215	4,161	3,572	-6.8	23.6
Health care	9,001	8,935	8,913	9,108	9,203	9,467	0.7	-4.9
Educational	76,992	75,906	73,835	78,885	79,370	77,924	1.4	-1.2
Public safety	10,667	10,673	10,030	9,848	9,721	9,410	-0.1	13.4
Amusement and recreation	14,294	14,234	14,055	13,628	13,791	12,417	0.4	15.1
Transportation	39,322	39,518	39,813	39,223	37,451	36,104	-0.5	8.9
Power	6,071	6,056	5,261	5,980	5,581	5,472	0.2	10.9
Highway and street	98,934	98,303	100,384	105,169	112,261	95,046	0.6	4.1
Sewage and waste disposal	27,515	27,701	26,437	26,546	24,516	23,056	-0.7	19.3
Water supply	17,121	17,052	16,217	15,785	16,105	15,997	0.4	7.0
Conservation and development	9,567	9,559	9,045	8,616	8,831	9,276	0.1	3.1

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary <sup>f</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, 2019. 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 2019 <sup>p</sup>	Jul 2019 <sup>r</sup>	Jun 2019 <sup>r</sup>	May 2019	Apr 2019	Aug 2018	Year-to-date		
							Aug 2019	Aug 2018	Percent change
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>119,130</b>	<b>118,314</b>	<b>115,887</b>	<b>112,691</b>	<b>106,786</b>	<b>121,385</b>	<b>851,263</b>	<b>871,273</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
Residential	47,374	47,421	46,002	44,863	42,908	49,760	338,719	370,528	-8.6
Nonresidential	71,756	70,893	69,885	67,828	63,878	71,625	512,544	500,745	2.4
Lodging	2,869	2,908	3,004	2,961	2,881	2,783	22,630	20,624	9.7
Office	6,854	6,787	6,765	6,705	6,528	6,539	51,814	48,430	7.0
Commercial	7,125	7,219	7,454	7,127	7,006	8,140	54,860	63,432	-13.5
Health care	3,715	3,705	3,730	3,774	3,640	3,656	29,039	28,157	3.1
Educational	9,759	9,715	9,127	8,359	7,863	10,054	65,462	66,650	-1.8
Religious	230	234	234	241	243	295	1,855	2,183	-15.0
Public safety	969	909	879	853	815	853	6,458	6,064	6.5
Amusement and recreation	2,478	2,444	2,478	2,501	2,417	2,513	18,508	18,230	1.5
Transportation	5,028	4,971	5,046	4,906	4,334	4,790	35,494	33,125	7.2
Communication	2,016	1,914	1,872	1,943	1,922	2,034	15,070	15,961	-5.6
Power	7,898	8,018	8,394	8,613	8,327	8,132	65,290	61,556	6.1
Highway and street	11,587	11,101	10,150	9,409	7,986	11,169	65,246	58,861	10.8
Sewage and waste disposal	2,642	2,567	2,449	2,358	2,023	2,203	17,110	15,857	7.9
Water supply	1,608	1,570	1,494	1,409	1,346	1,488	10,497	10,472	0.2
Conservation and development	877	810	736	712	683	853	5,797	5,227	10.9
Manufacturing	6,104	6,021	6,074	5,959	5,865	6,123	47,417	45,919	3.3
<b>Total Private Construction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>85,206</b>	<b>85,366</b>	<b>84,886</b>	<b>83,633</b>	<b>80,577</b>	<b>88,911</b>	<b>636,940</b>	<b>668,594</b>	<b>-4.7</b>
Residential	46,800	46,863	45,438	44,324	42,365	49,149	334,669	366,077	-8.6
New single family	25,416	24,729	23,542	22,589	21,826	27,167	175,605	191,697	-8.4
New multifamily	5,379	5,218	5,423	5,477	5,412	5,030	41,744	39,181	6.5
Nonresidential	38,405	38,503	39,448	39,309	38,212	39,763	302,271	302,516	-0.1
Lodging	2,784	2,822	2,929	2,863	2,791	2,669	21,945	19,985	9.8
Office	5,908	5,893	5,855	5,826	5,645	5,577	45,069	41,855	7.7
Commercial	6,739	6,824	7,078	6,772	6,672	7,825	52,105	61,201	-14.9
Health care	2,933	2,944	2,973	3,001	2,883	2,823	23,163	21,874	5.9
Educational	1,633	1,672	1,685	1,712	1,680	1,876	13,080	14,726	-11.2
Religious	230	234	234	241	243	295	1,855	2,183	-15.0
Amusement and recreation	1,183	1,185	1,224	1,286	1,272	1,387	9,634	10,238	-5.9
Transportation	1,439	1,412	1,529	1,546	1,278	1,463	10,627	10,382	2.4
Communication	2,007	1,905	1,862	1,927	1,908	2,008	14,974	15,868	-5.6
Power	7,350	7,484	7,888	8,072	7,863	7,641	61,535	57,919	6.2
Manufacturing	6,081	5,996	6,050	5,938	5,848	6,070	47,263	45,561	3.7
<b>Total Public Construction<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>33,924</b>	<b>32,948</b>	<b>31,002</b>	<b>29,058</b>	<b>26,209</b>	<b>32,474</b>	<b>214,323</b>	<b>202,680</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Residential	573	558	565	539	543	612	4,050	4,451	-9.0
Nonresidential	33,351	32,390	30,437	28,519	25,665	31,862	210,273	198,229	6.1
Office	947	895	910	879	883	962	6,745	6,576	2.6
Commercial	386	395	375	355	334	315	2,755	2,231	23.5
Health care	782	760	757	773	757	834	5,876	6,282	-6.5
Educational	8,126	8,043	7,442	6,647	6,183	8,178	52,381	51,924	0.9
Public safety	953	891	860	832	795	840	6,319	5,952	6.2
Amusement and recreation	1,295	1,259	1,254	1,215	1,145	1,127	8,875	7,991	11.1
Transportation	3,589	3,559	3,517	3,360	3,056	3,327	24,867	22,743	9.3
Power	548	535	507	542	465	491	3,755	3,637	3.2
Highway and street	11,562	11,073	10,120	9,384	7,958	11,139	65,027	58,684	10.8
Sewage and waste disposal	2,592	2,513	2,388	2,299	1,964	2,150	16,651	15,616	6.6
Water supply	1,582	1,542	1,469	1,388	1,324	1,456	10,311	10,296	0.1
Conservation and development	874	805	731	710	681	851	5,776	5,207	10.9

<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, 2019.

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>0.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Residential	3.1	2.9	3.9	2.9	4.8
Nonresidential	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.1
Lodging	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.6
Office	1.7	1.4	1.7	0.9	2.0
Commercial	1.8	1.2	1.8	1.3	1.5
Health care	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.2	2.1
Educational	1.5	1.1	2.0	1.4	3.5
Religious	6.4	5.0	5.1	4.7	5.4
Public safety	3.2	2.6	3.7	2.2	6.4
Amusement and recreation	2.1	1.6	2.1	1.4	2.6
Transportation	1.2	0.9	1.5	0.7	1.6
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.5
Highway and street	3.2	1.8	3.3	2.9	4.9
Sewage and waste disposal	3.5	2.5	3.4	2.6	5.0
Water supply	4.0	2.7	4.5	3.1	7.9
Conservation and development	2.0	1.6	2.4	1.9	3.2
Manufacturing	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.4	1.0
<b>Total Private Construction</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7</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	6.0	6.0	3.7	1.9	4.4
Nonresidential	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.7
Lodging	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.6
Office	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.0	2.2
Commercial	1.8	1.2	1.8	1.3	1.5
Health care	2.2	2.1	2.4	1.4	2.6
Educational	2.4	2.3	2.7	1.6	2.5
Religious	6.3	5.0	5.1	4.7	5.4
Amusement and recreation	2.2	1.5	1.9	1.5	2.2
Transportation	1.4	1.4	1.7	0.7	1.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.4
Manufacturing	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.4	1.0
<b>Total Public Construction</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Residential	3.1	2.9	4.0	2.9	4.9
Nonresidential	1.2	0.7	1.3	1.2	2.2
Office	3.0	2.2	4.8	1.7	4.9
Commercial	4.7	3.4	6.5	2.0	6.9
Health care	2.6	2.2	2.3	1.5	3.2
Educational	1.8	1.3	2.6	1.6	4.3
Public safety	3.2	2.6	3.7	2.3	6.5
Amusement and recreation	3.6	2.8	4.4	2.2	5.5
Transportation	1.5	1.0	1.8	0.8	2.0
Power	5.7	5.1	6.7	5.5	11.5
Highway and street	3.2	1.8	3.3	2.9	4.9
Sewage and waste disposal	3.6	2.6	3.4	2.6	5.1
Water supply	4.0	2.7	4.6	3.1	8.0
Conservation and development	2.0	1.5	2.4	1.9	3.2

NA Not applicable

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, October 1, 2019. 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)>