

Construction Spending

Measuring the U.S. Economy

The U.S. Census Bureau measures the nation's people, places, and economy.

Visit the Construction Spending website for access to the latest data, full-release reports, historical data, information on methodology, and to create your own customizable time series at www.census.gov/constructionspending/.

The site also has links to the Building Permits Survey, Survey of Construction, and Characteristics of New Housing websites.

For more information on the monthly construction spending data, call 301-763-1605 or e-mail eid.ceb.customer.service@census.gov.

For more information on the Economic Indicators, visit www.census.gov/economic-indicators/.



Receive the latest updates on the nation's key economic indicators by downloading the FRED App for both Apple and Android devices. FRED, the signature database of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, now incorporates the U.S. Census Bureau's 13 economic indicators <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/>.

A Vital Resource for Construction Spending Data

What data does the Construction Spending indicator provide?

Construction Spending (sometimes called Value of Construction Put in Place or VIP) provides monthly estimates of the total dollar value of construction work done in the United States.

The estimates cover construction work done each month on new structures and improvements to existing structures for the private and public sectors, and for residential and nonresidential projects.

Data are collected via four Construction Progress Reporting Surveys and are also compiled from other sources.

What value does Construction Spending data provide?

- The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses these data to estimate the nation's gross domestic product.
- Trade and professional organizations use these data to analyze industry trends and benchmark their own statistical programs, develop forecasts, and evaluate regulatory requirements.
- The media use these data for news reports and background information.
- Private businesses use these data to measure market share, analyze business potential, and plan investments.

What level of detail is available for Construction Spending data?

Construction Spending data are shown by type of construction in seasonally adjusted annual rates and unadjusted dollars.

What geographic levels are provided?

Statistics are available at the U.S. level monthly, and by state level annually for selected categories.

How frequently is Construction Spending conducted and released?

Construction Spending data collection and estimation activities begin on the first day after the reference month and continue for about 3 weeks. Reported data and estimates are for activity taking place during the previous calendar month. Data are released on the first working day of each month, 2 months after the reference month.

Is respondent information kept confidential?

Title 13, United States Code, Section 9, requires the Census Bureau to keep respondent information confidential and to use responses only to produce statistics.

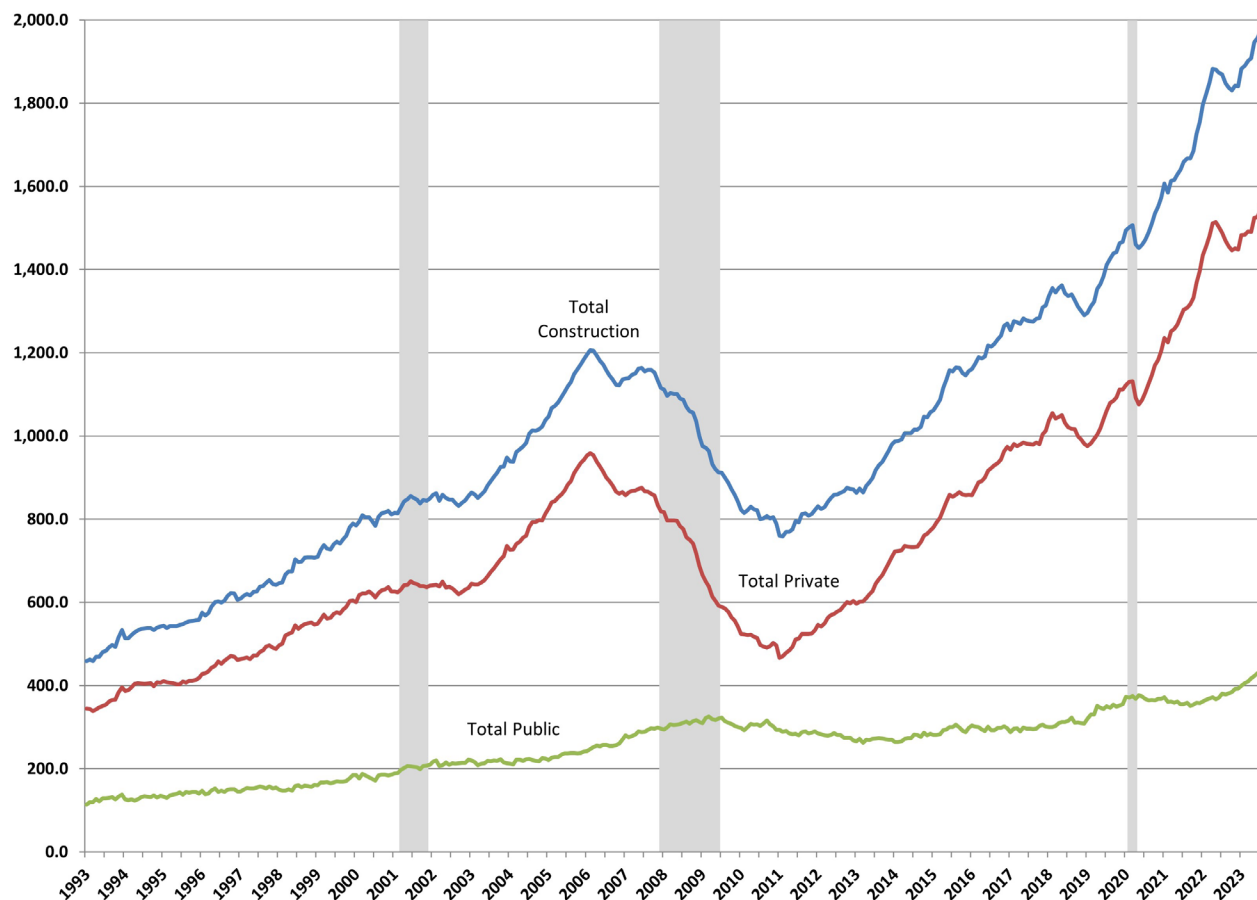
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Construction Spending Total, Private, and Public

Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate: August 2023

Billions of Dollars



Noteworthy trends

- Private construction spending generally exceeds public construction spending.
- Private and public construction spending moved in opposite directions in the 2 years prior to the Great Recession. Since then, private spending has returned to its prerecession level, while public spending has remained relatively stable.

Are there other programs that provide similar data?

Monthly data are available from the New Residential Construction <www.census.gov/starts>, New Residential Sales <www.census.gov/newhomesales>, and Building Permits Survey <www.census.gov/construction/bps>. Construction-related annual data are available, including Characteristics of New Housing <www.census.gov/construction/chars> and County Business Patterns <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html>. Detailed statistics from the 5-year Economic Census <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census.html> are also available.