

**Frequently Asked Question (FAQs)**  
**Effects of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma on the August 2017**  
**Construction Spending Data**

**How much do the areas that had the biggest impact from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma typically represent of the nation's total construction spending?**

Data on *total* construction spending are only available at the national level.

Annual estimates of *private nonresidential* construction spending by state show that Florida and Texas together represented about 22% of U.S. private nonresidential construction spending in 2016.

Annual estimates of *state-and-locally-owned* construction spending by state show that Florida and Texas together represented about 15% of U.S. state-and-locally-owned construction spending.

**Does the Census Bureau produce monthly estimates of Construction Spending for the affected areas?**

No. Most data on Construction Spending are from sample surveys that are designed to estimate monthly spending at the national level only.

**How was the collection and estimation of data on Construction Spending affected by the hurricanes?**

Data on private nonresidential, private multifamily, state and local, and federal construction are obtained from the Construction Progress Reporting Surveys, which sample selected construction projects. Imputations are made for projects that have not reported at the time of the monthly tabulation, based on estimated total construction value and month of start of the project.

Response to the Construction Progress Reporting Surveys for August data from the jurisdictions affected by both hurricanes was not significantly lower than normal. Hurricane Harvey impacted construction activity in Texas only for the last week of the month and Hurricane Irma did not have an impact until September. The imputation was not adjusted to attempt to reduce the August estimates for nonreporting projects.

Data on private residential construction spending include estimates of spending on improvements to owner-occupied housing units. These are obtained from household interviews of a sample of owner-occupied units selected for the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE), which is conducted by the Census Bureau for the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Any sampled households located in the areas affected by the hurricanes that are not able to be contacted are considered ineligible for the survey. Data from sampled households in other parts of the country will be more heavily weighted to account for the smaller eligible samples households. We only capture spending on major replacements to damaged houses if paid by the homeowner.

**Will completely rebuilt projects, those that have been destroyed or razed, be included in the Construction Spending figures?**

Yes, however, the money spent on demolitions and related activities will be excluded from the figures. For projects where the demolition and rebuild are in the same contract, we attempt to exclude the demolition portion if the costs can be separated.

For single-family residential construction, 100% rebuilds will be counted if the permit is issued as new construction by the permit office. However, most damaged homes are not completely rebuilt, but are considered repairs, which are not included in these statistics.

**Will cleanup costs be included in estimates of Construction Spending?**

No. Cleanup is not defined as construction spending.

**Did the Census Bureau alter the procedures for developing seasonally adjusted estimates of Construction Spending?**

No.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau  
Economic Indicators Division

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