

## Markets End May Mostly Up and Construction Spending Climbs Higher

### Global Equity Markets Mostly Up in May

Global equity markets were mostly positive for the month of May, as the larger-caps outperformed the smaller-caps, value stocks outperformed growth stocks, and the blue-chips outpaced the technology-names. And May also saw Wall Street struggling between the competing forces of positive economic news and much-better-than-expected corporate earnings on the one hand and inflation and tax worries on the other.

For the month of May:

- The DJIA was up 1.9%;
- The S&P 500 was up 0.5%;
- NASDAQ was down 1.5%; and
- The Russell 2000 was up 0.1%.

In addition, all 35 developed markets tracked by MSCI were positive for the month of May, with the MSCI Europe ex EMU Index leading the way with a monthly gain of over 4%. And of the 40 developing markets tracked by MSCI, 34 of those were positive in May too.

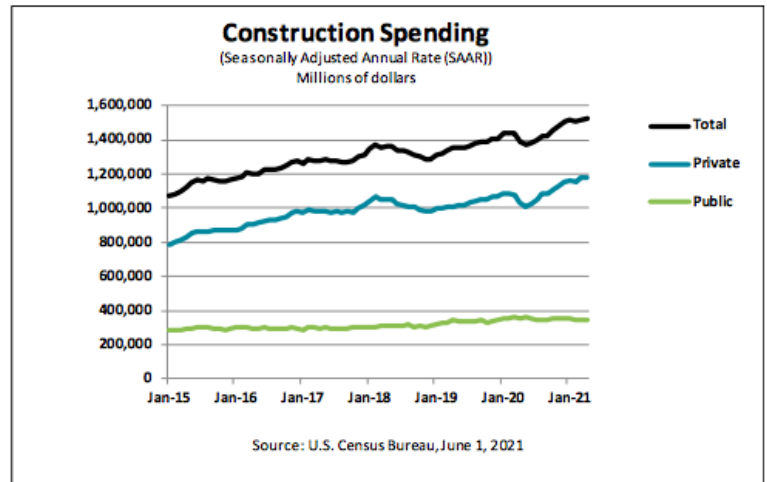
### Construction Spending Up Almost Everywhere

Construction spending is viewed as a good indicator of the economy's momentum because individuals, businesses and our governments generally only put money into construction when they are confident enough to justify the building expenses.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the U.S. Department of Commerce reported:

#### Total Construction

- Construction spending during April 2021 was \$1,524.2 billion, 0.2% above the revised March estimate of \$1,521.0 billion.
- The April figure is 9.8% above the April 2020 estimate of \$1,387.9 billion.
- During the first four months of this year, construction spending amounted to \$452.3 billion, 5.8% above the \$427.3 billion for the same period in 2020.



#### Private Construction

- Spending on private construction was \$1,180.7 billion, 0.4% above the revised March estimate of \$1,175.4 billion.
- Residential construction was \$729.2 billion in April, 1.0% above the revised March estimate of \$721.8 billion.
- Nonresidential construction was \$451.4 billion in April, 0.5% below the revised March estimate of \$453.7 billion.

#### Public Construction

- In April, the estimated rate of public construction spending was \$343.5 billion, 0.6% below the revised March estimate of \$345.6 billion.
- Educational construction was \$84.8 billion, 0.5% below the revised March estimate of \$85.2 billion.
- Highway construction was \$99.8 billion, 0.6% above the revised March estimate of \$99.2 billion.

#### More Data Later in the Week

More economic data will be released later this week, including Productivity and Costs data on Thursday and Factory Orders on Friday.

Sources: [census.gov](https://www.census.gov)