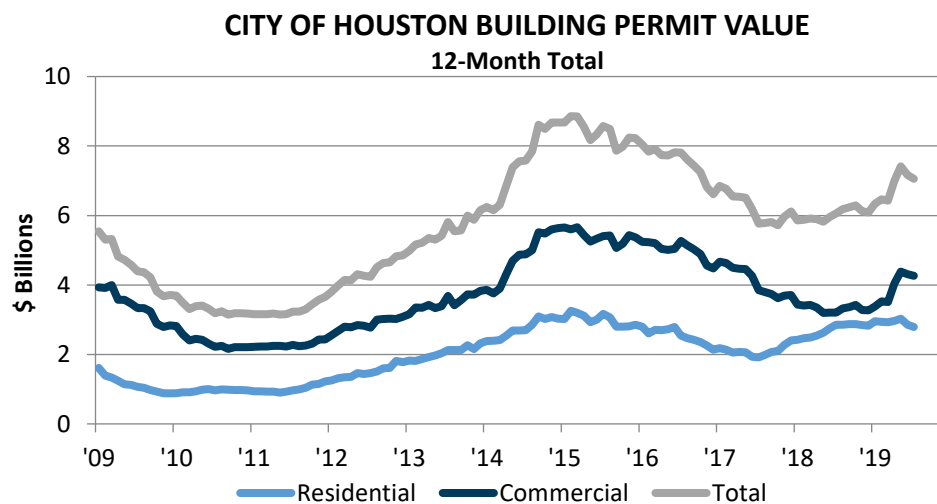


The Partnership sends updates for the most important economic indicators each month. If you would like to opt-in to receive these updates, please click [here](#).

For the latest data, click [here](#).

August 27, 2019

City of Houston building permits totaled \$7.1 billion in the 12 months ending July '19, up 16.4 percent from \$6.1 billion in the preceding 12 months, according to the latest data released by the city's Public Works Department. Commercial permit values rose 33.1 percent to \$4.3 billion. Residential permit values fell 2.4 percent to \$2.8 billion.



Source: City of Houston

The value of building permits in July decreased 17.2 percent from \$638.9 million in '18 to \$528.8 million this year. Commercial permit values fell 10.9 percent to \$351.5 million while residential permit values sank 27.5 percent to \$177.3 million. However, year-to-date building permits for Houston are up 27.4 percent from the same period last year. Year-to-date commercial permits have risen 54.2 percent since July '18, but year-to-date residential permits have ticked down 2.2 percent.

Three projects of note that were permitted in July:

- **The Ion Renovation** (\$5 million permit value) received two permits in July for partial building demolition. The project (\$100 million overall) broke ground on July 19th, commencing work to convert the 80-year-old Midtown Sears into a high-end innovation hub. Rice Management Co. is financing and managing the project, which is part of a broader initiative for a Midtown innovation district.
- **Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church Expansion** (\$28 million permit value) obtained a permit in July to build 128,780 sq. ft. of the outer shell of its future church. The church, located in Houston's Third Ward, is building a new sanctuary and educational complex.

- **Data Foundry Build-Out** (\$4 million permit value) was provided a permit to expand their Greenspoint office by 27,029 sq. ft. Data Foundry, a private data center company based in Austin, has two Houston locations: Greenspoint and Uptown. Its Greenspoint location is an 18-acre campus with a master-planned data center.

Prepared by Greater Houston Partnership Research Division

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