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February 28, 2020

City of Houston building permits totaled $7.3 billion for the 12 months ending January ’20, up 15.3 percent from $6.3 billion for the same period in ’19, according to the latest data released by the city’s Public Works Department. Commercial permits rose 35.9 percent to $4.6 billion while residential permits decreased 8.2 percent to $2.7 billion.

![CITY OF HOUSTON BUILDING PERMIT VALUE](chart)

City building permits totaled $675.1 million in January ’20, up 8.7 percent from $621.4 million in January ’19. Commercial permit values totaled $422.8 million, up 45.6 percent from $290.4 million in ’19. Residential permits were $252.3 million, a decrease of 23.8 percent from $330.9 million in ’19.

April was the most prolific month of ’19 with building permits totaling $1.0 billion. The biggest project permitted that month was the Hines’ 47-story, 1 million-square-foot office tower dubbed Texas Tower. The permit for Texas Tower, located on the 800 block of Texas Avenue, was valued at $290.0 million. Texas tower construction began in July and is expected to be completed in late ’21.

Projects of note that were permitted in January:

- **Ion Houston** ($110.0 million permit value) was provided a building permit for two additional stories to the existing building. The Ion is a public-private initiative that aims to be the innovation hub for the Houston region. The project was first announced in ’18 and is expected to be complete in ’21.
• **KIPP Texas Public Schools** ($17.0 million combined permit value) obtained two building permits to build a new high school (78,886 square feet) and a gymnasium (12,000 square feet) in the East End. The school will employ approximately 90 staff members and serve about 550 students. The expected completion date for the project is summer ‘20.

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