

# Annual Capital Expenditures Survey

## WHAT IS THE ANNUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES SURVEY?

The Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (ACES) is the only source of data on capitalized investment in new and used structures and equipment by U.S. nonfarm businesses, both with employees and without employees. The ACES provides data by the investing industry and by the kind of investment. It provides a continuous series of data that are critical to evaluating productivity growth, to studying U.S. businesses ability to compete with foreign businesses, to measuring changes in industrial capacity, and to analyzing overall economic performance.

## WHAT DATA VARIABLES ARE INCLUDED?

The ACES provides data on capital expenditures, capital leases, and capitalized computer software. Basic data for each year include all expenditures during the year for both new and used structures and equipment chargeable to asset accounts for which depreciation or amortization accounts are ordinarily maintained. The data include capitalized leasehold improvements and capitalized interest charges on loans used to finance capital projects. Capital investment in structures and equipment are available for businesses with employees based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

In addition, detailed data by types of structures and types of equipment have been collected in 5 years intervals (for years ending in "2" and "7") from companies with employees.

## WHICH BUSINESS TYPES ARE COVERED?

The ACES covers employer and nonemployer businesses. Data for employer businesses are available in nearly every NAICS sector. ACES includes all domestic, private nonfarm businesses, including agricultural nonfarm operations (NAICS subsectors 113, 114, and 115). Major exclusions are foreign operations of U.S. businesses, businesses in U.S. territories, government operations (including the U.S. Postal Service), agricultural production companies, and private households.

## HOW FREQUENTLY IS IT CONDUCTED?

The ACES is conducted annually.

## WHAT INDUSTRY LEVELS ARE PUBLISHED?

The ACES provides data for employer businesses in nearly every NAICS sector, except crop and animal production, government, and private households. Data are available by 3-digit and selected 4-digit NAICS codes in all covered NAICS sectors.

## IS MY INFORMATION KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

Title 13, United States Code, Section 9, requires the U.S. Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and can use your responses only to produce statistics. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify your business, organization, or institution. Per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data.

## WHERE CAN I ACCESS THE DATA?

The ACES data can be found at the ACES Tables website at [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/aces/data/tables.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/aces/data/tables.html).

## WHAT CHANGES ARE COMING TO ACES?

The ACES will transition to the Annual Integrated Economic Survey (AIES) beginning with SY2023. The data formerly collected for the ACES will now be collected as part of the AIES, which will begin data collection in early 2024.

### What is AIES?

The AIES is a new survey designed to integrate and replace seven existing annual business surveys into one survey. The AIES will provide the only comprehensive national and subnational data on business revenues, expenses, and assets on an annual basis. The AIES is designed to combine U.S. Census Bureau collections to reduce respondent burden, increase data quality, and allow the Census Bureau to operate more efficiently to reduce costs.

For more information about the AIES, visit the AIES website.

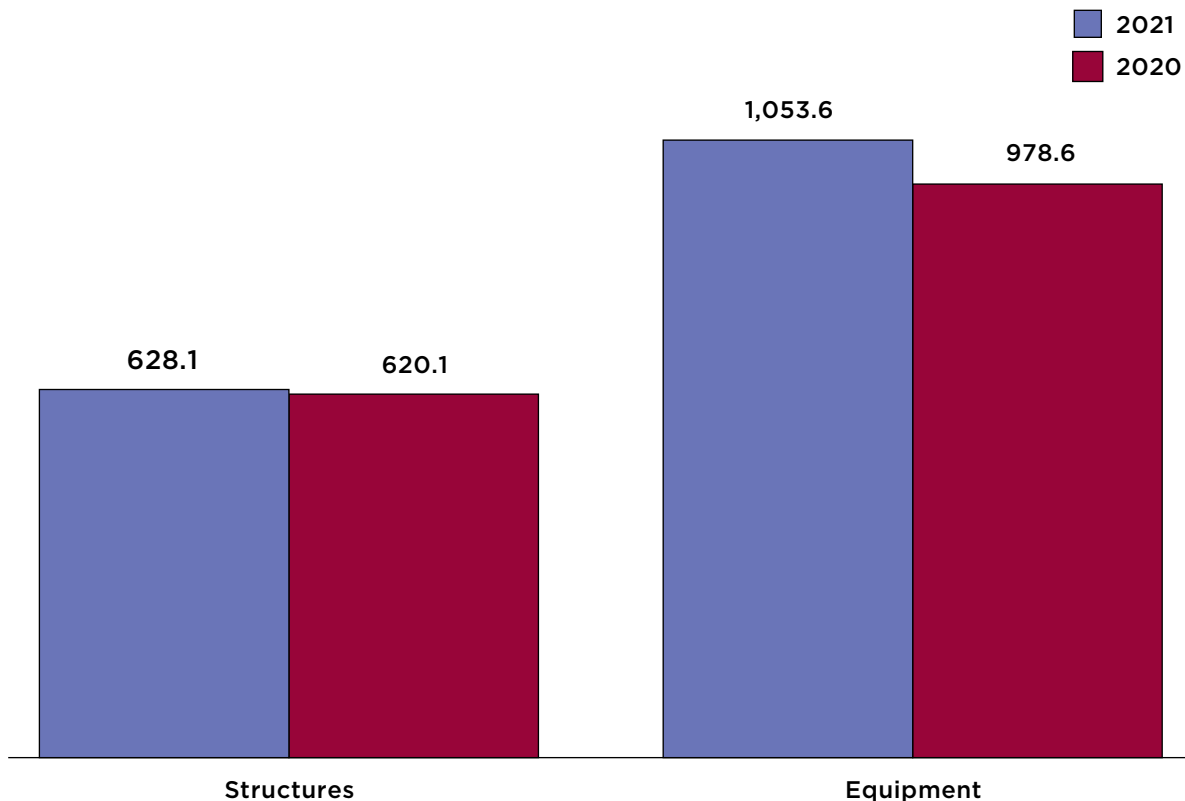


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# Annual Capital Expenditures Survey

**Figure 1. Expenditures for Structures and Equipment for Companies With Employees: 2021 and 2020 Revised**

(Billions of dollars)



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Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

See Technical Documentation Methodology Data Quality for information on sampling variability, confidence intervals and statistical significance.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 Annual Capital Expenditures Survey

## WHAT GEOGRAPHIC LEVELS ARE PUBLISHED?

Data are shown at the national level.

## ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE SIMILAR DATA?

Selected annual capital expenditures data are available on an establishment basis for manufacturing industries from the Annual Survey of Manufactures <[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/asm.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/asm.html)>.

## WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

For information about the ACES, e-mail us at <[ewd.aces@census.gov](mailto:ewd.aces@census.gov)>, call 301-763-3317, or go to <[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/aces.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/aces.html)>. For training opportunities, go to <[www.census.gov/data/training-workshops.html](http://www.census.gov/data/training-workshops.html)>.

