**US Census Bureau**

Building Permit Survey

* <https://www.census.gov/construction/bps/>
* Provides data on the number of new housing units authorized by building permits.
* Data are available monthly, year- to- date, and annually at the national, state, selected metropolitan area, county and place levels.
  + Permits by United States and Regions
  + Permits by State – Monthly
  + Permits by State – Annual
  + Permits by Metropolitan Area – Monthly
  + Permits by Metropolitan Area – Annual
  + ASCII files by State, MSA, County or Place
* About the Surveys
  + PURPOSE
    - The purpose of the Building Permits Survey is to provide national, state, and local statistics on new privately-owned residential construction. The United States Code, Title 13, authorizes this survey, provides for voluntary responses, and provides an exception to confidentiality for public records.
  + COVERAGE
    - All places issuing building permits for privately-owned residential structures. Over 98 percent of all privately-owned residential buildings constructed are in permit-issuing places.
  + CONTENT
    - Data collected include number of buildings, number of housing units, and permit valuation by size of structure.
  + FREQUENCY
    - Data on permits issued for new construction are available monthly and annually since 1959; reported data are for permit issuing activity taking place during the applicable reference period. Prior to 1959, data were collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
  + METHODS
    - A monthly survey of 9,000 selected permit-issuing places; **and an annual census of an additional 11,000 permit places that are not in the monthly sample**. The monthly sample of permit-issuing places was selected using a stratified systematic sample procedure. All permit places located in selected large metropolitan areas were selected with certainty. The remaining places were stratified by state. Places that exceed a cutoff value, which varies by state, were selected with certainty. Remaining places were sampled at a rate of 1 in 10.
    - Monthly estimates represent all permit-issuing places nationwide. If a survey report is not received, **missing data on permits for new construction are imputed except for places that are also selected for the Survey of Construction (SOC). For these places, SOC permit data are used**. We request assistance from State Data Centers to encourage jurisdictions to respond.
    - Reported data on permits for new construction are seasonally adjusted by Census Region and type of structure. The Building Permits Survey Methodology document contains further information.
  + PRODUCTS
    - **New Residential Construction press releases contain the first available permit data and are released on the or about the 12th working day following the reference month.** The reports contain the first available preliminary monthly estimates of the number of new housing units authorized. Data are shown by type of structure, at the national level, and by Census Region. All data are placed on the Census website at: www.census.gov/permits.
    - **Revised monthly data are released on or about the 18th working day following the reference month.** At that time, monthly estimates are available at the Census Division, state, metropolitan area, county, and permit-issuing-place levels. Public-use computer data files are also available at that time. All data are placed on the website shown above. Estimates in the New Residential Construction press release are not updated on the 18th working day. Any revisions are shown in the next month’s release.
  + USERS
    - The Conference Board uses the data for developing its index of leading economic indicators. The Federal Reserve Board uses the data to analyze national and regional economic conditions. The Department of Housing and Urban Development uses the data to evaluate housing programs. **Financial institutions use these statistics to estimate mortgage demand**. Private businesses use them for market planning, material use, and investment analysis.
  + SPECIAL FEATURES
    - Provides a designated principal economic indicator and the only source of current and consistent small area data on new authorizations for residential construction. Data are from public records and not subject to confidentiality restrictions.