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Form Number: C-404 OMB No.: 0607-0094 Approval Expires: 03/31/2016



## Building Permits Survey



Help Telephone: 1-800-845-8244  
(8:30am-4:30pm ET/M-F)

### Welcome to the Report of Building or Zoning Permits Issued for New Privately-Owned Housing Units

Title 13, United States Code, Sections 131 and 182, authorizes the Census Bureau to conduct this collection and to request your voluntary assistance. These data are subject to provisions of Title 13, United States Code, Section 9(b) exempting data that are customarily provided in public records from rules of confidentiality. This collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The eight-digit OMB approval number is 0607-0094 and appears at the upper right of this screen. Without this approval, we could not conduct this survey.

- Log in by entering the appropriate information and click the "Login" button.
- Username and Password are case sensitive and appear on the most recent C-404 Form you received.
- If you have questions or comments regarding this report, please call 1-800-845-8244.

Username:

Password:

Username:  Password:

*information on your office's coverage, see www.census.gov/per*

**Please note: sessions will expire (requiring you to log back in) after 15 minutes of inactivity. No data will be lost.**

**\*\* WARNING \*\***

You have accessed a UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT computer. Use of this computer without authorization or for purposes for which authorization has not been extended is a violation of Federal law and can be punished with fines or imprisonment (PUBLIC LAW 99-474). System usage may be monitored, recorded, and subject to audit. Any information you enter into this system may be used by the Census Bureau for statistical purposes, including but not limited to improving the efficiency of our data collection programs. For information regarding the use of this system, and how your privacy is protected, visit our online privacy webpage at <http://www.census.gov/privacy/>. Use of this system indicates consent to the collection, monitoring, recording, and use of information provided inside this system.

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### Burden Statement

We estimate this survey will take an average of 8 minutes per response for those that report monthly and 23 minutes for those that report annually to complete, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

ECON Survey Comments 0607-0094  
U.S. Census Bureau  
4600 Silver Hill Road  
Room EMD-6K064, Washington, DC 20233

You may e-mail comments to [ECON.Survey.Comments@census.gov](mailto:ECON.Survey.Comments@census.gov). Be sure to use ECON Survey Comments 0607-0094 as the subject.

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# Building Permits Survey (BPS) About the Survey



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## Building Permits Survey (BPS) Business Help Site

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### DUE DATE:

Monthly - 4th day of the following month  
Annual - January 23, 2015

### TOOLS

[Survey Log in](https://respond.census.gov/bps)  
(<https://respond.census.gov/bps>)

### DATA PRODUCTS

[Publications and Data](https://www.census.gov/construction/bps/)  
(<https://www.census.gov/construction/bps/>)

[Using Economic Data](https://www.census.gov/econ/census/)  
(<https://www.census.gov/econ/census/>)

### ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Is this Survey Legitimate?](http://bhs/pages/legitimate.html)  
([bhs/pages/legitimate.html](http://bhs/pages/legitimate.html))

[Data Protection & Privacy](https://www.census.gov/privacy/)  
(<https://www.census.gov/privacy/>)

[Legal/Confidentiality](http://bhs/pages/legal.html)  
([bhs/pages/legal.html](http://bhs/pages/legal.html))

[Quotes from Title 13](http://bhs/bps/title13.pdf)  
([bhs/bps/title13.pdf](http://bhs/bps/title13.pdf))

[econhelp.census.gov/bps](http://econhelp.census.gov/bps)

## About the Survey

### 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 (<http://www.census.gov/sdc/network.html>) 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 ([http://www.census.gov/construction/bps/faqs/faqs\\_seas.html](http://www.census.gov/construction/bps/faqs/faqs_seas.html)) 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](http://www.census.gov/permits). (<http://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.

### RELATED SITES

[North American Industry Classification System \(NAICS\)](http://www.census.gov/eos/www/)  
(<http://www.census.gov/eos/www/>)

[Census Bureau Economic Programs](http://www.census.gov/econ/index.html)  
(<http://www.census.gov/econ/index.html>)