

Building Permits Survey

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/construction/bps/>

About the Data

The Building Permits Survey provides data at a variety of geographic scales on the planned construction of privately owned residential units and developments.

Geographic Availability	Most Recent Data	Update Frequency	Download Formats
Place, County, MSA, State, Region, Nation	2015	Monthly	CSV, PDF, TXT, XLS

Methodology and Data Sources

The data are collected from local building permit offices and are reported on a voluntary basis. Data from all permit-issuing places are collected annually. To complement annual data collection, a survey is administered monthly to 9,000 permit-issuing places, or just under half of the 20,000 places included in annual data collection efforts.

Select Variables

- Number of Buildings
- Number of Units
- Valuation of Permitted Units

Additional Resources

For more information, please refer to the following online resources:

- Building Permits Definitions
<http://www.census.gov/construction/bps/definitions/>
- How the Data Are Collected
http://www.census.gov/construction/bps/how_the_data_are_collected/



Accessing This Data Set

The screenshot shows the 'Building Permits Survey' portal. It features a navigation bar with tabs for 'Main', 'About the Surveys', 'Get Forms', 'Historical Data', 'How the Data are Collected', 'Definitions', and 'FAQs'. A 'Related Links' sidebar on the left lists categories like Business and Industry, Manufacturing Sector, Economic Census, and Construction. The main content area includes an 'Overview' section, a 'Building Permits' section with links for various geographic levels (United States, State, Metropolitan Area, County), and a 'Related Information' section with links to press releases, footnotes, and historical data.

Above: The Building Permits Survey portal allows users to query data by geographic level; the portal contains additional resources and publications about residential construction.

Below: The image depicts sample data output. The tool lets users find data by month and by year. Moreover, the data can be directly downloaded in a variety of formats.

The screenshot displays a data table titled '2014 Building Permits' for 'Monthly New Privately-Owned Residential Building Permits' in Kent County, Delaware. The table is filtered for the month of June 2014. It is organized into columns for 'Current Month' and 'Cumulative Year to Date', each with sub-columns for 'Estimates with Imputation' and 'Reported only'. The data is broken down by building type: Single Family, Two Family, Three and Four Family, Five or More Family, and Total. Each row includes columns for Buildings, Units, and Construction cost. Below the table are options to download the data as a text file, CSV file, or to return to the selection screen.

Item	Current Month						Cumulative Year to Date					
	Estimates with Imputation			Reported only			Estimates with Imputation			Reported only		
	Buildings	Units	Construction cost	Buildings	Units	Construction cost	Buildings	Units	Construction cost	Buildings	Units	Construction cost
Browse Single Family	89	89	11,906,845	87	87	11,743,178	436	436	61,468,859	434	434	61,305,192
Browse Two Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	235,790	1	2	235,790
Browse Three and Four Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	317,352	1	4	317,352
Browse Five or More Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Browse Total	89	89	11,906,845	87	87	11,743,178	438	442	62,022,001	436	440	61,858,334

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Source	U.S. Census Bureau

