

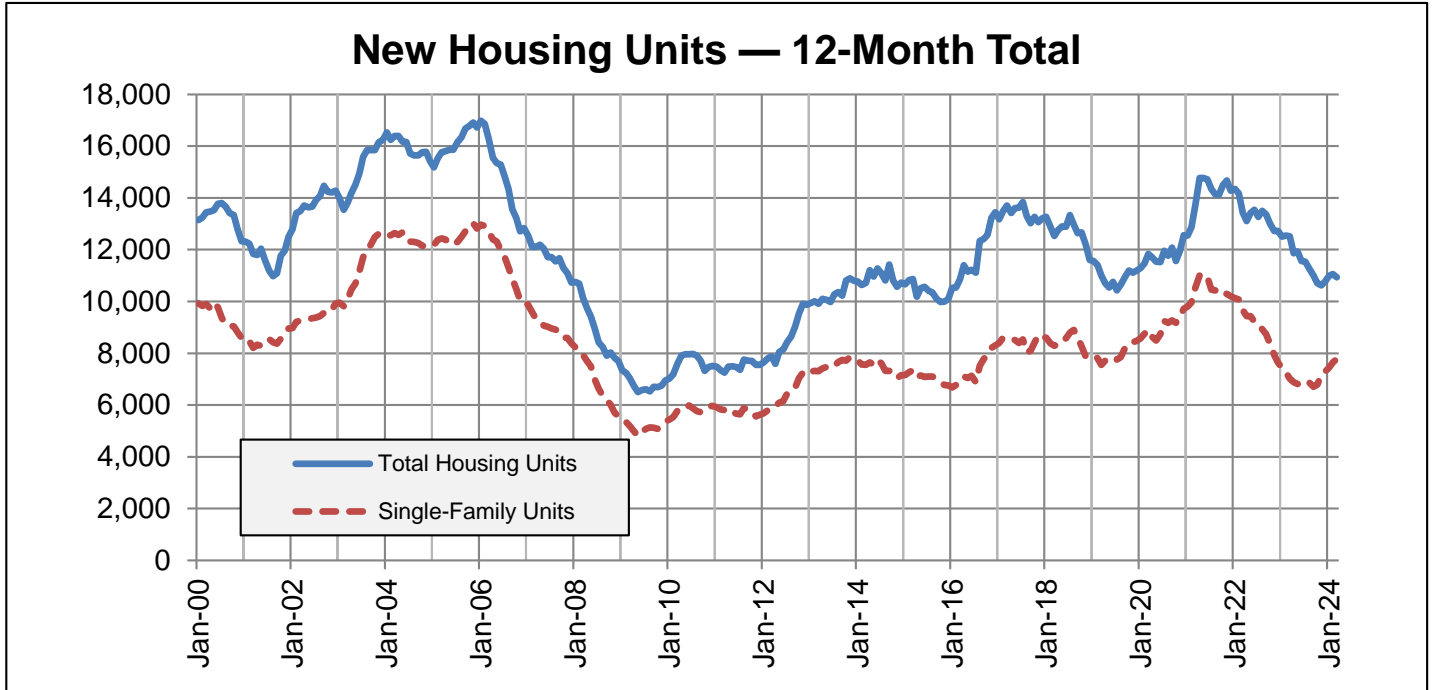
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU IOWA HOUSING PERMITS

Overview. The purpose of the Building Permits Survey is to provide national, state, and local statistics on new privately owned residential construction. Survey coverage includes places issuing building permits for privately owned residential structures. More than 98.0% of all privately owned residential buildings constructed are in permit-issuing places. The data set collected includes number of buildings, number of housing units, and permit valuation by size of structure. Monthly estimates represent all permit-issuing places nationwide.

Historical Trend. The 12-month total of Iowa housing units authorized (blue line in graph below) peaked in January 2006 at 16,973 units before steadily decreasing as a result of the 2007 recession. After reaching a low point of 6,506 units in May 2009, the annual number of housing units increased to 11,428 by September 2014 before drifting lower to 9,997 in November 2015. The housing unit annual total increased, reaching 13,837 in July 2017 before decreasing to 10,437 units in July 2019. Throughout the COVID-19 economic downturn and recovery in calendar year (CY) 2020 and CY 2021, the housing unit annual total increased, reaching a relative peak of 14,341 in July 2021 before decreasing to 10,624 in November 2023.

The 12-month total of Iowa single-family housing units (red line in graph below) generally follows the same trend as total housing units. Single-family units peaked in November 2005 at 13,017 units, decreased until reaching a low of 4,813 in May 2009, and rebounded to a relative peak of 11,071 units in May 2021 before decreasing to 6,710 in September 2023.

Current Status. The most recent 12-month total of Iowa housing units authorized is 10,929, a decrease of 12.7% compared to the previous year and a decrease of 35.6% compared to the January 2006 peak. The most recent 12-month total of single-family housing units authorized is 7,783, an increase of 10.8% compared to the previous year and a decrease of 40.2% compared to the November 2005 peak. Both indicators have increased slightly after reaching a relative trough near the end of CY 2023 due to increased interest rates and the cost of building materials and labor.



More Data. Additional information can be found on the Legislative Services Agency's [Economic Trends webpage](#), which includes links to source sites and the underlying data for each Economic Trends indicator.