

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 single-family housing permits (red line in graph below) peaked in January 2006 (12,962 units). After the recession low point (May 2009 = 4,813 units), the annual number of single-family permits increased to 7,802 by December 2013 before drifting lower for the following two years. The single-family unit annual total increased from January 2015 through February 2017. Since February 2017, the single-family annual total has been flat, and the latest 12-month total is 8,280, down 36.1% from the prerecession peak.

Total housing units (including single-family and multifamily permits) fell more sharply during the recession but had a stronger recovery, as multifamily unit permit numbers grew faster than single-family unit permits. Like single-family housing units, the number of total housing units permitted remains well below the prerecession high.

Current Status. The annual total of Iowa housing unit permits increased from October 2015 through July 2017. Since July 2017, annual housing unit totals have been declining. The most recent 12-month total is 12,671, down 25.3% from the prerecession peak.



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.