

## Big Drop in Building Permits, But Construction Pace is Still Fairly Steady

The Census Bureau's latest Residential Construction report showed a mixed picture for August, highlighted by a sharp drop in building permits. Total housing starts (the groundbreaking phase of construction) fell 2.3% to a 1.398 million annual rate, led by a 3.4% decline in single-family starts to 906k. Multifamily activity eased 1.5% to 464k but continues to trend higher over the past several months, signaling sustained demand for apartments and other multi-unit projects.



The standout shift came on the permitting side. Total permits dropped 6.8% to a 1.264 million annual pace—one of the steepest monthly declines in years. Single-family permits slid 5.1% to 827k and multifamily permits fell 9.3% to 437k.



**Ryan Kelly**

Sales Team Lead, Union Home Mortgage Corp

<https://www.uhm.com/ryankelly/>

M: (770) 634-3883

[ryankelly@uhm.com](mailto:ryankelly@uhm.com)

3150 Main St  
Duluth GA 30096  
294780





Importantly, though, permits had been running well above starts for much of the year. This latest pullback brings the two measures into closer alignment, suggesting a more balanced pipeline. Note the broadly flat pace of housing starts. This suggests a fairly steady pace of construction for now.

