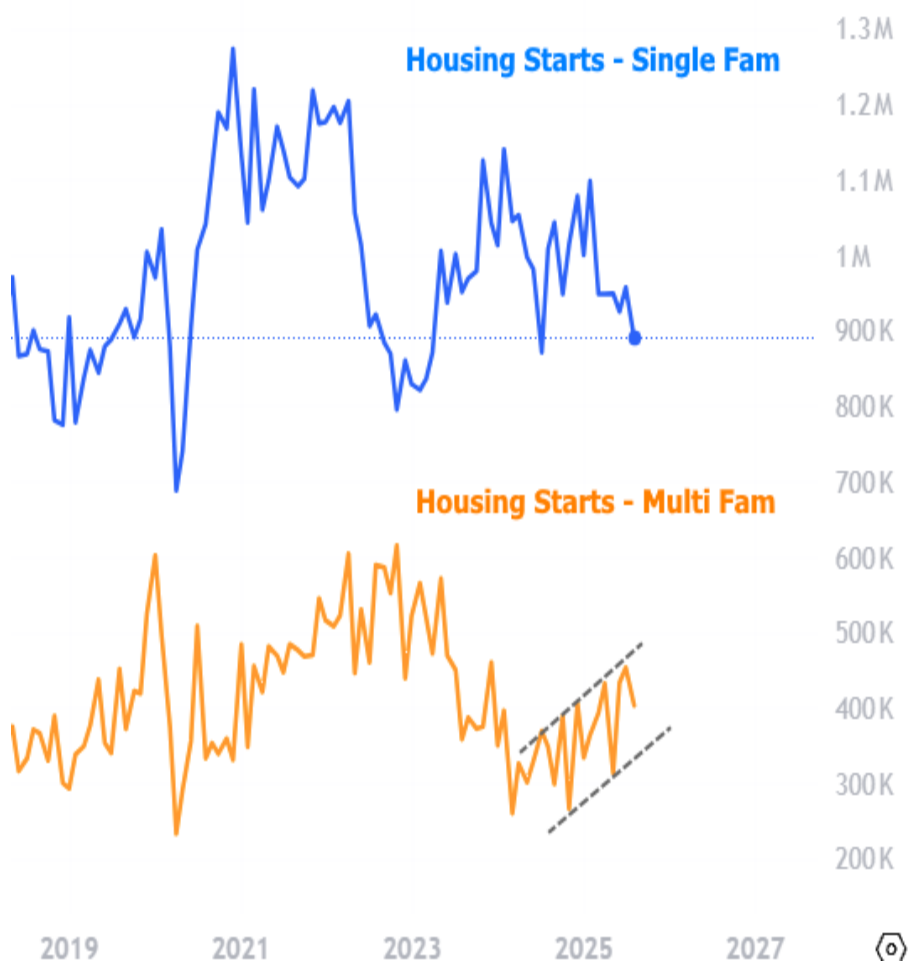




Big Drop in Building Permits, But Construction Pace is Still Fairly Steady

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.



Mike Mihelcic

Associate, Re/Max Alliance

www.remax.com/.../102293806

P: (618) 656-2111

M: (618) 339-5752

remaxmike2012@gmail.com

1121 University Drive
Edwardsville IL 62025



Drew Stiegemeier

Mortgage Banker, Frontier Mortgage

frontierhomemortgage.com/drew

P: (636) 898-0888

M: (618) 779-7507

1406168





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.

