



## 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.

### Ian Overcarsh

Mortgage Banker, First National Bank

[www.fnb-online.com/.../overcarshi](http://www.fnb-online.com/.../overcarshi)

M: (704) 650-1922

[overcarshi@fnb-corp.com](mailto:overcarshi@fnb-corp.com)

401 S. Graham Street

Charlotte NC 28202

1065792



First National Bank



### Lillian Isaac

NC/SC Broker, Realtor®,  
SRES License NC/SC  
General Contractor |  
Author, Lillian Isacc Realty

[LillianIsaacRealty.com](http://LillianIsaacRealty.com)

P: (704) 492-8706

[lillian@lillianisaacrealty.com](mailto:lillian@lillianisaacrealty.com)

6277 Carolina Commons Dr. #363

Indian Land SC 29707



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.

