

# Housing Permits in New Hampshire

One-family residential housing permits authorized grew 14.8 percent in New Hampshire during the first six months of 1999, compared to the same time in 1998. During the same six months in 1999, the total number of housing permits authorized statewide increased 10.1 percent to a total of 2,952. These gains reflected the further strengthening and recovery of the construction and real estate industries in the Granite State following the recession of the early 1990s. In New England a similar pattern was found for the same time frame. Single-family permits jumped 5.1 percent to a total of 20,380, and the total number of permits authorized gained 2.9 percent to a total of 23,245.

There appears to be an on-going trend in New Hampshire of reduced construction of multi-family housing. During the first six months of 1999 the number of permits authorized for multi-unit housing showed a 28.7 percent decrease to a total of 204, compared to the same time in 1998. In 1998 just 461 permits were issued for multi-family housing units. As further illustration, from 1980 through 1989 multi-housing permits averaged more than 30 percent of the state's total permits issued each year. From 1990 through 1998 the similar average was down to 10.8 percent

of the state's annual housing permits. In fact, for 1998 the annual percentage of multi-family housing permits issued fell to 8.8 percent. Overall in New England a loss of 10.4 percent was sustained in the number of multi-family housing permits authorized during the first half of 1999.

Nationally single-family home permits totaled 638,405 units for the first six months of 1999, surpassing by 8.8 percent the total of 586,549 set during the same time period in 1998. One-family housing permits authorized had established a new annual high in 1998 of 1,187,602, bettering the prior high mark for this measure of 1,077,590 set in 1986. All but six of the 50 United States showed gains in the number of one-family housing permits authorized during the first six months of 1999.

For the United States total permits authorized inched up to 832,833 for the first six months of 1999, eclipsing the total of 776,465 registered during the first six months of 1998. During 1998 the total number of housing permits authorized expanded to 1,612,260 from a recession low of 948,794 registered in 1991. Since 1980 a yearly high of 1,769,443 total housing permits was achieved in 1986.

*Rosanne Marney-Hay*

## United States Housing Permits Authorized - first six months 1998 versus first six

	June 1998 - year to date			June 1999 - year to date			Percent Change 1998 to 1999		
	Total units	Single units	Multi units	Total units	Single units	Multi units	Total units	Single units	Multi units
<b>United States</b>	776,465	586,549	189,916	832,833	638,405	194,428	7.3%	8.8%	2.4%
<b>Northeast</b>	72,540	58,817	13,723	80,514	62,884	17,630	11.0%	6.9%	28.5%
<i>New England</i>	22,595	19,399	3,196	23,245	20,380	2,865	2.9%	5.1%	-10.4%
Connecticut	6,301	4,664	1,637	5,760	4,956	804	-8.6%	6.3%	-50.9%
Maine	2,379	2,234	145	2,667	2,508	159	12.1%	12.3%	9.7%
Massachusetts	8,833	7,976	857	9,110	7,707	1,403	3.1%	-3.4%	63.7%
<b>New Hampshire</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>2,394</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>2,952</b>	<b>2,748</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>-28.7%</b>
Rhode Island	1,279	1,196	83	1,370	1,314	56	7.1%	9.9%	-32.5%
Vermont	1,123	935	188	1,386	1,147	239	23.4%	22.7%	27.1%
<i>Middle Atlantic</i>	49,945	39,418	10,527	57,269	42,504	14,765	14.7%	7.8%	40.3%
<b>Midwest</b>	152,086	118,380	33,706	163,558	127,917	35,641	7.5%	8.1%	5.7%
<i>East North Central</i>	105,917	83,185	22,732	114,285	89,445	24,840	7.9%	7.5%	9.3%
<i>West North Central</i>	46,169	35,195	10,974	49,273	38,472	10,801	6.7%	9.3%	-1.6%
<b>South</b>	356,280	262,757	93,523	384,836	288,205	96,631	8.0%	9.7%	3.3%
<i>South Atlantic</i>	210,953	160,185	50,768	241,725	178,846	62,879	14.6%	11.6%	23.9%
<i>East South Central</i>	45,455	35,696	9,759	46,123	38,848	7,275	1.5%	8.8%	-25.5%
<i>West South Central</i>	99,872	66,876	32,996	96,988	70,511	26,477	-2.9%	5.4%	-19.8%
<b>West</b>	195,559	146,595	48,964	203,925	159,399	44,526	4.3%	8.7%	-9.1%
<i>Mountain</i>	98,427	74,311	24,116	98,719	80,276	18,443	0.3%	8.0%	-23.5%
<i>Pacific</i>	97,132	72,284	24,848	105,206	79,123	26,083	8.3%	9.5%	5.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; <<http://www.census.gov/const/www/c40/table2.htm>> .