

New Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits

Overview

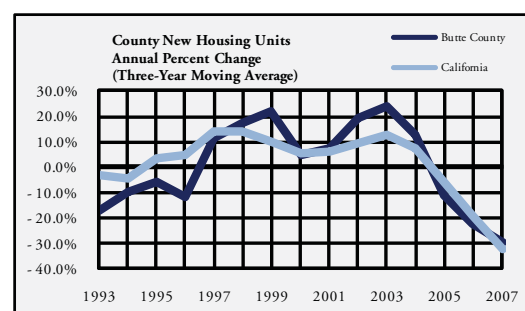
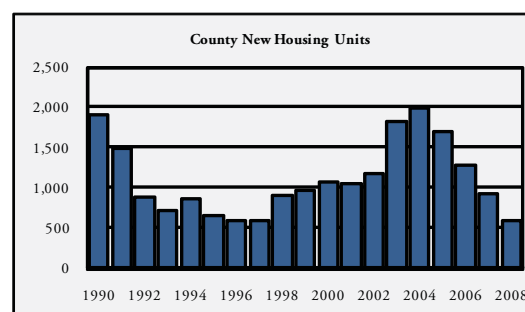
A building permit is required for all new construction. A permit may allow one or more homes in a subdivision. The number of housing units authorized by building permits is the primary factor used to calculate the changes in total housing units. The data is collected by every city and county, then reported to and disseminated by the California Construction Industry Research Board.

The number of building permits typically indicates building activity in the near future, either during the year the permit was issued or the next. An increase in the number of building permits issued indicates expansion in construction sector activity. That expansion may be a response to any number of factors including falling mortgage interest rates, economic growth, or the expectation of rising housing prices due to housing shortages or speculative activity.

New Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits

Year	New single-family units	New multiple-family units	Total new housing units	Annual percent change
1990	1,152	759	1,911	n/a
1991	972	526	1,498	-21.6 %
1992	843	51	894	-40.3 %
1993	609	98	707	-20.9 %
1994	623	232	855	20.9 %
1995	580	76	656	-23.3 %
1996	530	62	592	-9.8 %
1997	557	34	591	-0.2 %
1998	822	88	910	54.0 %
1999	947	13	960	5.5 %
2000	909	169	1,078	12.3 %
2001	978	66	1,044	-3.2 %
2002	1,136	49	1,185	13.5 %
2003	1,493	332	1,825	54.0 %
2004	1,498	495	1,993	9.2 %
2005	1,494	206	1,700	-14.7 %
2006	1,191	95	1,286	-24.4 %
2007	720	212	932	-27.5 %
2008	529	60	589	-36.8 %

Source: California Construction Industry Research Board



NOTE: Charts were not produced for cities with less than 10,000 people, or for cities in which data is not reported, because small changes in permit activity may produce overstated change when shown in a chart.

Butte County

An average of 1,227 new housing units has been authorized by building permits each year in Butte County between 1998 and 2008. During that same time, there was an average annual increase of 3.8 percent in new housing permits and a 0.9 percent increase in population. In comparison, California saw a 2.6 percent decrease in housing permits, and a 1.5 percent average annual increase in population during the same time.

Between 1998 and 2008, there was an average 420 new single-family and 135 multiple-family unit building permits each year in the city of Chico.