

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS SURVEY DOCUMENTATION - ADDITIONS, ALTERATIONS AND RENOVATIONS PLACE LEVEL FILES

Introduction

The Census Bureau stopped collecting residential building permits data for additions, alterations, and renovations effective April 2006. Permits data for March 2006 will be released on April 26, 2006 and will be the last monthly report that provides information on residential permits for additions, alterations, and renovations. Annual information for 2005, scheduled for release on May 1, 2006, will be the last annual report that provides this information.

The Census Bureau has terminated the collection of these data because of low response rates, significant data quality problems, resource constraints, and a very limited number of users.

Between January 2002 and March 2006, the Census Bureau collected data on permits authorized for additions, alterations and renovations on residential properties. These data covered permits issued for additions, remodeling, restructuring, improvements, replacements, and disaster rebuilding. This included work done to the primary residential structure and on the residential property; such as sheds, pools, and driveways. The only permits excluded were for incidental maintenance and repairs that keep a property in its ordinary working condition.

Note to Data Users:

Data users should be aware that local laws regulate what types of projects require permits and these vary greatly around the country. Many jurisdictions only require permits for projects above a certain dollar amount or above a certain square foot size. It should also be noted that our survey is intended to only collect data on building or zoning permits issued, not plumbing and electrical permits. Since some plumbing and electrical work is included on building permits, there will be partial coverage of these data.

The U.S. Census Bureau does not plan to release any aggregate estimates by state or metropolitan area. A minimal amount of editing is performed to provide some reasonableness. However, most of the data on this file is the raw data as reported to the U.S. Census Bureau. Many permit offices do not require valuations to be listed on a permit application, so in those cases there will be no value reported on our file.

The building permit survey sends a questionnaire to about 9,000 permit offices each month. The file of data will only include those places that reported to us.

Any use of this data should include a citation that the source data is from the U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished data. Any aggregate data should not be cited to the U.S. Census Bureau.

File Formats

Monthly Data - The monthly file is cumulative over a calendar year and is available from January 2002 to March 2006. It contains data records for each month from the beginning of the year through the desired survey month, including late reports and corrected data for prior months. For example, the January file includes data for places that reported to us for that month. The February file includes data for places that reported in February and any data we have received so far for January. The revised January data in the February file has more places than the original file due to late reports received and some of the original places from the January file may have revised data. Since the size of this file will grow rapidly, the second half of the year will be created as two files, January through June and July through the desired survey month.

File name format:

Jan - Jun: ADDS<yymm>.TXT, where "yymm" is the survey date; i.e. January 2005 file is named: ADDS0501.TXT.

Jul - Dec: ADDS<yymm>P1.TXT and ADDS<yymm>P2.TXT, where "yymm" is the

survey date; i.e. Dec 2004 files are named: ADDS0412P1.TXT (Jan - Jun) and ADDS0412P2.TXT (July-Dec).

Annual Data - The annual files are available from 2002 through 2005. These files follow the same structure as the monthly files. They contain monthly reports from all 12 months of the year and annual reports for those places that report annually. About 10,000 permit offices are in the annual survey and we also send annual survey forms to monthly reporters that are delinquent most of the year. For this reason, some places will be listed on both the monthly and annual files.

File name format:

ADDS<yyyy>P1.TXT, ADDS<yyyy>P2.TXT, and ADDS<yyyy>P3.TXT where "yyyy" is the survey year; i.e. 2002 files are named: ADDS2002P1.TXT (Jan - Jun), ADDS2002P2.TXT (Jul - Dec), and ADDS2002P3.TXT (Annual)

Record Layout

<u>Field</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Survey date (Format: YYYYMM). Annual files show a date of "YYYY99".
2	Two-digit FIPS state code.
3	Six-digit Building Permit Survey ID code (to sort places alphabetically in a state).
4	Three-digit FIPS county code.
5	Four-digit Census Place code.
6	Three-digit CSA code or "999", if not in a CSA.
7	Five-digit CBSA code or "99999", if not a CBSA.
8	Footnote Code: Blank Place has no explanatory footnote 2 Place has an explanatory footnote
9	Central City code: Blank Place is not a central city of a metropolitan area 1 Place is a central city of a metropolitan area

10 Zip Code where permit office/official is located.

11 Census Region code:

- 1 Northeast
- 2 Midwest
- 3 South
- 4 West

12 Census Division code:

- 1 New England
- 2 Middle Atlantic
- 3 East North Central
- 4 West North Central
- 5 South Atlantic
- 6 East South Central
- 7 West South Central
- 8 Mountain
- 9 Pacific

13 Source code:

- 1 Building Permits C-404 survey form.
- 2 Received data in electronic format.
- 3 Received data by telephone.

14 Blank field.

15 Place Name.

16 Total permits issued.

17 Total valuation of the permits.