

● CHICAGO

# Chicago

## Building Permit Report

September 2025

Monthly analysis of permit volume, project types, community area activity, and construction trends sourced from City of Chicago public records.

Total Permits

New Construction

Reported Value

Demolitions

BCAR DATA · [bcardata.com](https://bcardata.com) · Permit intelligence for construction professionals

## Permit Volume Overview

Chicago issued **3,012 building permits** this month. Express permits — which cover routine electrical, mechanical, and minor alteration work — led volume at **2,014 (66.9%)**. Renovation and alteration permits accounted for **522 (17.3%)**, while ground-up new construction came in at **142 permits (4.7%)**. Demolition activity totaled **48 permits (1.6%)** this period.

Permit Type	Count	Share
Express Permit Program	2,014	66.9%
Renovation / Alteration	522	17.3%
New Construction	142	4.7%
Signs	147	4.9%
Elevator Equipment	92	3.1%
Demolition	48	1.6%

## Top Work Categories

Chicago's permit data includes detailed work type classifications that reveal where contractors and tradespeople are most active. The table below shows the six most common work categories issued this month.

Work Type	Count	Share
Electrical Work	571	19.0%
Masonry Work	222	7.4%
Small-Scale Solar PV System	204	6.8%
Administrative Change	157	5.2%
Reroofing	120	4.0%
Nonstructural Interior Work	105	3.5%

## Project Valuation

The combined reported cost of all permitted projects this month totaled **\$671.83 million**, with an average project cost of **\$254,578**. Chicago's construction market spans a wide range — from high-value commercial renovations in the Loop and Near North Side to residential infill and rehab work across the city's neighborhoods. These figures represent contractor-declared valuations at time of permit issuance.

**\$671.83M**

Total Reported Value

**\$254,578**

Avg. Project Cost

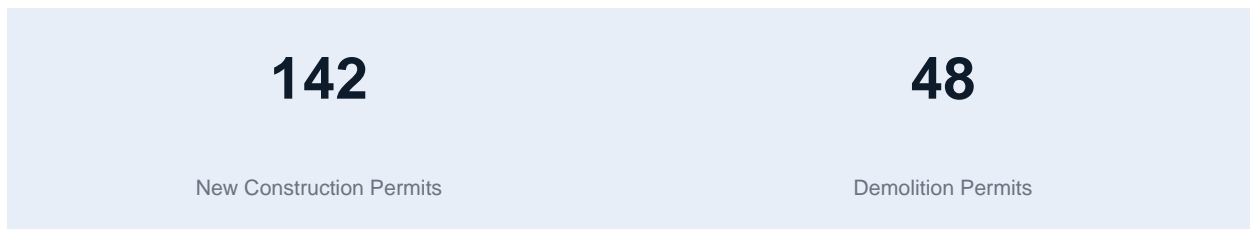
## Community Area Activity

Chicago's 77 community areas offer a clear picture of where construction activity is concentrated. **Loop** led all areas this month with **239 permits** (7.9% of city total). The table below highlights the six most active community areas — a useful guide for contractors targeting specific markets.

Community Area	Permits	Share
Loop	239	7.9%
Near North Side	233	7.7%
Near West Side	120	4.0%
West Town	119	4.0%
Lake View	108	3.6%
Lincoln Park	92	3.1%

## New Construction & Demolition

New construction and demolition permits signal where Chicago's built environment is changing most rapidly. This month, **142 new construction permits** were issued (4.7% of total), covering ground-up residential buildings, commercial developments, and mixed-use projects. Demolition activity — a leading indicator of upcoming new construction — accounted for **48 permits** (1.6%). Together these segments represent some of the highest-value work available to contractors in the market.



## Get the Full List

This report summarizes the permit landscape for Chicago in September 2025. BCAR DATA's monthly lead lists give you the actual permit records — property address, permit type, project description, and reported cost — delivered straight to your inbox every month.

Subscribe or purchase a single month at:

[bcardata.com](https://bcardata.com)

Coverage also available for Los Angeles, Dallas, Austin, Houston, and San Francisco.

About BCAR DATA — BCAR DATA compiles and delivers monthly building permit lead lists sourced directly from public government records. Data is available for Los Angeles, Dallas, Austin, Houston, San Francisco, and Chicago.