

● CHICAGO

Chicago

Building Permit Report

October 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 · Permit intelligence for construction professionals

Permit Volume Overview

Chicago issued **3,190 building permits** this month. Express permits — which cover routine electrical, mechanical, and minor alteration work — led volume at **2,142 (67.1%)**. Renovation and alteration permits accounted for **505 (15.8%)**, while ground-up new construction came in at **133 permits (4.2%)**. Demolition activity totaled **81 permits (2.5%)** this period.

Permit Type	Count	Share
Express Permit Program	2,142	67.1%
Renovation / Alteration	505	15.8%
New Construction	133	4.2%
Signs	196	6.1%
Elevator Equipment	98	3.1%
Demolition	81	2.5%

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	602	18.9%
Masonry Work	226	7.1%
Small-Scale Solar PV System	193	6.1%
Administrative Change	172	5.4%
Reroofing	139	4.4%
Nonstructural Interior Work	135	4.2%

Project Valuation

The combined reported cost of all permitted projects this month totaled **\$1073.38 million**, with an average project cost of **\$388,064**. 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.

\$1073.38M

Total Reported Value

\$388,064

Avg. Project Cost

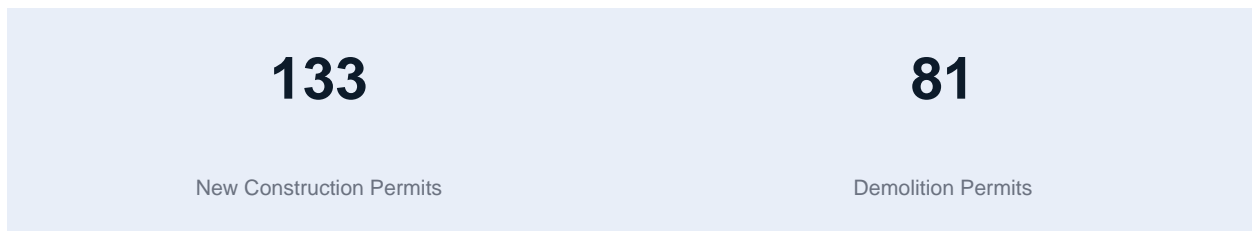
Community Area Activity

Chicago's 77 community areas offer a clear picture of where construction activity is concentrated. **Loop** led all areas this month with **258 permits** (8.1% 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	258	8.1%
Near North Side	224	7.0%
Near West Side	130	4.1%
West Town	123	3.9%
Lincoln Park	118	3.7%
Lake View	114	3.6%

New Construction & Demolition

New construction and demolition permits signal where Chicago's built environment is changing most rapidly. This month, **133 new construction permits** were issued (4.2% of total), covering ground-up residential buildings, commercial developments, and mixed-use projects. Demolition activity — a leading indicator of upcoming new construction — accounted for **81 permits** (2.5%). 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 October 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

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.