

● CHICAGO

Chicago

Building Permit Report

February 2026

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 **1,998 building permits** this month. Express permits — which cover routine electrical, mechanical, and minor alteration work — led volume at **1,243 (62.2%)**. Renovation and alteration permits accounted for **373 (18.7%)**, while ground-up new construction came in at **82 permits (4.1%)**. Demolition activity totaled **55 permits (2.8%)** this period.

Permit Type	Count	Share
Express Permit Program	1,243	62.2%
Renovation / Alteration	373	18.7%
New Construction	82	4.1%
Signs	108	5.4%
Elevator Equipment	99	5.0%
Demolition	55	2.8%

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	374	18.7%
Administrative Change	108	5.4%
Small-Scale Solar PV System	108	5.4%
Fire Alarm System	87	4.4%
Masonry Work	82	4.1%
Monthly Maintenance Permit	77	3.9%

Project Valuation

The combined reported cost of all permitted projects this month totaled **\$1064.05 million**, with an average project cost of **\$628,871**. 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.

\$1064.05M

Total Reported Value

\$628,871

Avg. Project Cost

Community Area Activity

Chicago's 77 community areas offer a clear picture of where construction activity is concentrated. **Near North Side** led all areas this month with **180 permits** (9.0% 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
Near North Side	180	9.0%
Loop	162	8.1%
Near West Side	134	6.7%
West Town	100	5.0%
Lake View	73	3.7%
Lincoln Park	72	3.6%

New Construction & Demolition

New construction and demolition permits signal where Chicago's built environment is changing most rapidly. This month, **82 new construction permits** were issued (4.1% of total), covering ground-up residential buildings, commercial developments, and mixed-use projects. Demolition activity — a leading indicator of upcoming new construction — accounted for **55 permits** (2.8%). Together these segments represent some of the highest-value work available to contractors in the market.

82

New Construction Permits

55

Demolition Permits

Get the Full List

This report summarizes the permit landscape for Chicago in February 2026. 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.