

● SEATTLE

Seattle

Building Permit Report

September 2025

Monthly analysis of permit volume, project types, housing activity, and construction values sourced from City of Seattle public permit records.

Total Permits

New Construction

Est. Project Value

Housing Units Added

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Permit Volume Overview

Seattle issued **520 building permits** this month. Addition and alteration work led volume at **365 permits (70.2%)**, covering everything from residential remodels to commercial interior upgrades. New construction represented **76 permits (14.6%)**, while demolitions totaled **25 (4.8%)**. Residential projects made up **77.7%** of total activity, with non-residential at **22.3%**.

Permit Type	Count	Share
Addition / Alteration	365	70.2%
New Construction	76	14.6%
Demolition	25	4.8%
Tenant Improvement	18	3.5%

Project Class Breakdown

Single family and duplex projects dominated Seattle's permit activity this month, representing **352 permits (67.7%)**. Commercial work accounted for **100 (19.2%)**, while multifamily residential — a high-priority category for Seattle's housing goals — contributed **52 permits (10.0%)**.

Permit Class	Count	Share
Single Family / Duplex	352	67.7%
Commercial	100	19.2%
Multifamily	52	10.0%
Institutional	13	2.5%
Industrial	1	0.2%

Project Valuation

The combined estimated project cost of all permitted work this month totaled **\$279.1M**, with an average project cost of **\$540,856**. Seattle ranks among the most expensive construction markets in the Pacific Northwest, driven by strong tech-sector demand, dense urban infill, and significant multifamily and commercial development activity. These valuations are contractor-declared at time of permit application.

\$279.1M

Total Est. Project Value

\$540,856

Avg. Project Cost

Housing Activity

Seattle's permit data includes detailed housing categories that reveal where residential construction is focused. This month, permitted projects are set to add **1,166 housing units** to the city's supply. Middle housing — a category that includes duplexes, triplexes, townhomes, and cottage clusters — remains a key focus under Seattle's expanded zoning policies. The table below shows the top housing categories active this month.

Housing Category	Permits	Share
Single-Family Add/Alt	197	37.9%
Middle Housing	76	14.6%
Commercial Add/Alt	66	12.7%
Housing - Other	6	1.2%
Pre-Approved DADU Plans	6	1.2%

Top Zoning Designations

Seattle's zoning designations indicate the land use context of permitted projects. Neighborhood Residential (NR) zones cover most of the city's single-family and middle-housing activity, while Lowrise (LR) and Neighborhood Commercial (NC) zones are where multifamily and mixed-use construction is concentrated. The table below shows the six most active zoning designations this month.

Zoning	Permits	Share
NR3	192	36.9%
NR2	58	11.2%
LR3	25	4.8%
RSL	21	4.0%
LR1	18	3.5%
NC3	14	2.7%

Get the Full List

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

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