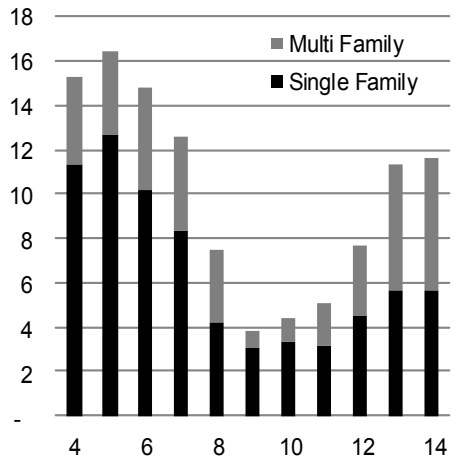
Portland Construction Indicators

July 2014

State of Oregon Employment Department
QUALITYINFO.ORG

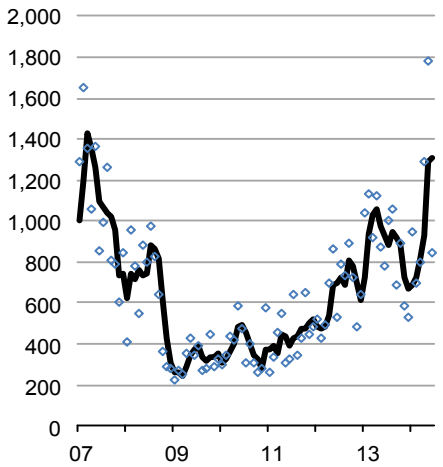
Residential Building Permits

Portland Metro - 2004 to Current - Thousands
(2014 data is annualized based on first half of the year)



Residential Building Permits

Portland Metro - 3 month moving average



Regional Building Permits

With the year half over, residential construction building permit data suggests construction activity is leveling off somewhat in the Portland region in 2014. Single family home building remains only partially recovered as multi family apartment projects are at historically high levels.

Building permit numbers jump around every month. A surge in permit activity in May and June helped balance out relatively weak numbers in late 2013 and early 2014. The increased volatility in the permit data makes it difficult to see a clear trend for the near future.

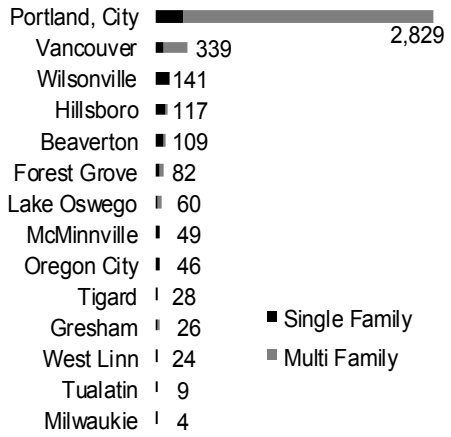
Building Permits by City

Looking more closely at the building permit data, reveals interesting trends. The city of Portland represents a stunning 80 percent of all multi family building permits in the Metro region. Another 8 percent are in the city of Vancouver, with only a handful of other cities in the region planning on building a handful of projects.

The City of Portland is the largest city on the region, adjusting for population size helps put the current construction recovery in context. The small towns of Wilsonville and Forest Grove are set to see a lot of construction activity in the near future. At the same time, many communities in the region remain at building levels associated with an economic recession.

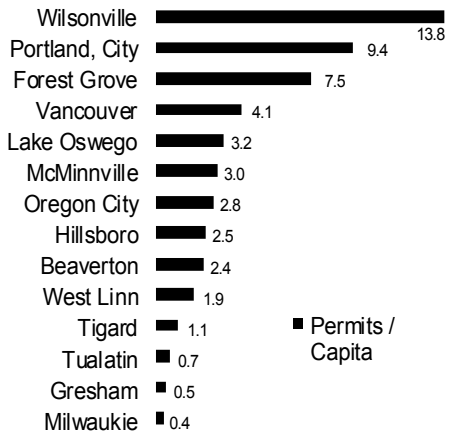
Residential Building Permits

Portland Metro Region - 1st Half of 2014



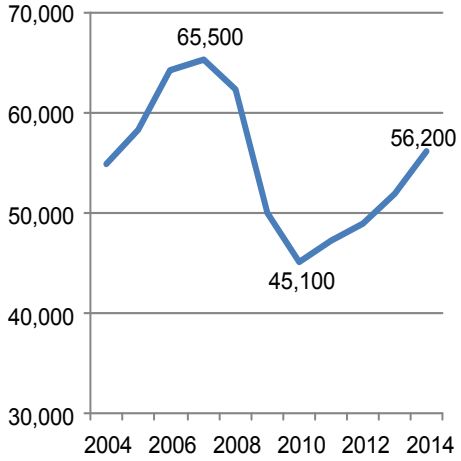
Residential Building Permits by City

Permits per 1,000 people - 1st Half of 2014
Annualized



Construction Employment

Portland Metro - June 2004 to Current



Construction Occupations

Portland Metro - May 2013

Occupation	Employment	Median Wage
Carpenters	6,050	$20.25
Electricians	5,380	$36.98
Construction Laborers	5,130	$18.29
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	3,150	$34.54
Sheet Metal Workers	2,090	$24.32
Painters, Construction and Maintenance	1,910	$17.60
Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	1,120	$23.39
Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers	1,060	$22.54
Roofers	960	$17.24

Employment Trends

Over the past 12 months, one in eight new jobs created in the Portland region has been in the Construction industry. The industry lost about 20,000 jobs in the recession and has now added back about 11,000 jobs over the past 4 years.

The Construction industry is an important source of middle class jobs in the Portland region. The most common occupations in construction - listed here - pay between $17 and $37 an hour on average. For more information on these, or any other, occupations :
www.qualityinfo.org/olmisj/OIC

Want to join the distribution list?
Have questions? E-mail me!

Christian Kaylor
Christian.R.Kaylor@oregon.gov