

Westside Builder

The Newsletter of the Westside Home Builders Association



June
2026

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Tuesday, June 9th from 11:30am to 1pm
At Gabe's Downton Villa Rica - 129 Main Street, Villa Rica, GA.**

April Starts Decline Amid Economic Uncertainty

Single-family housing starts declined in April as builders faced continued economic uncertainty and affordability challenges, including higher construction costs, ongoing labor shortages and elevated financing expenses.

Overall housing starts

decreased 2.8% in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.47 million units, according to a report from HUD and the U.S. Census Bureau.

The April reading of 1.47 million starts is the number of housing units builders would begin if development kept this pace for the next 12 months. Within this overall number, single-family starts decreased 9% to a 930,000 seasonally adjusted annual rate and are down 2.4% compared to April 2025. The multifamily sector, which includes apartment buildings and condos, increased 10.3% to an



annualized 535,000 pace and are up 19.7% compared to April 2025.

On a regional and year-to-date basis, combined single-family and multifamily starts were 16.6% higher in the Northeast, 2.9% lower in the Midwest, 1.8% higher in the South and 0.4% lower in the West.

Overall permits increased 5.8% to a 1.44 million unit annualized rate in April. Single-family permits decreased 2.6% to an 872,000-unit rate and are down 5.5% compared to April 2025. Multifamily permits increased 21.8% to an annualized 570,000 pace and are up 9.2% compared to April 2025.

The number of single-family homes under construction is at 588,000 units while the number of apartments under construction is at 687,000 units.

EPA Finalizes Refrigerant Rule

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on May 26 published a final rule that will allow the continued installation in homes of HVAC units manufactured or imported prior to Jan. 1, 2025, that use R-410A refrigerant until existing supplies of these HVAC units are depleted.

The rule becomes effective on July 27, 2026. For more information on the new refrigerants, [read this explainer post](#) from NAHB staff.

NAHB Seeks Key Permitting Reforms

NAHB and industry partners responded this week to a request from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for [recommendations to improve](#) the efficiency of the Nationwide Permit (NWP) program in advance of a potential rulemaking. The NWP, which was reauthorized in March, authorizes activities that impact wetlands under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

NAHB provided key feedback on how efficient permitting directly impacts housing supply, affordability, and lot availability.

HUD Rescinds Energy Code Mandate

HUD and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on May 1 that they are [rescinding a requirement](#) that imposed the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and ASHRAE 90.1-2019 as the minimum energy-efficiency standards for certain single-family and multifamily housing programs.

Since the rule was initially finalized under the Biden administration in 2024, NAHB has worked tirelessly on the legal, regulatory and legislative fronts to ensure HUD and USDA's 2021 IECC mandate is never implemented.

Latest Look at Remodeler Cost of Doing Business

BuilderBooks, NAHB's publishing arm, has released a new edition of its Remodelers' Cost of Doing Business Study, 2026 Edition, a national study of remodelers' business practices and financial performance.

[Remodelers' Cost of Doing Business Study](#), 2026 Edition is available for purchase at BuilderBooks.com Soft-cover/75 pages, \$149.95 retail, \$79.95 for NAHB members.

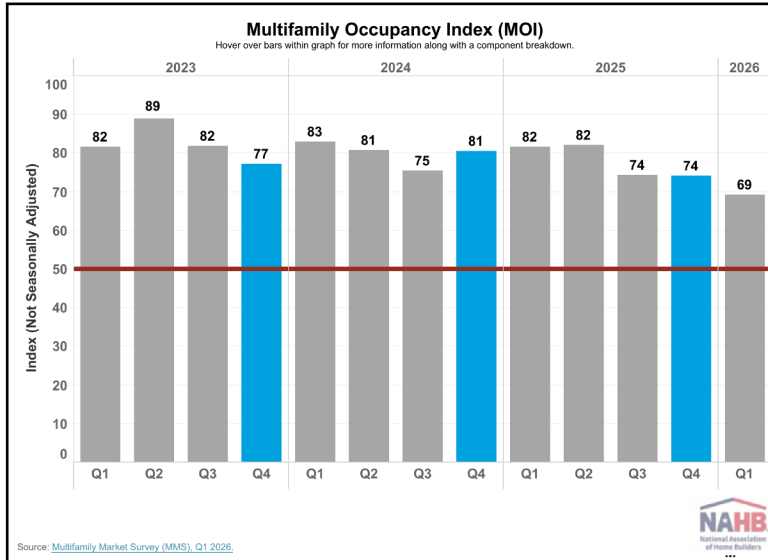
NAHB Applauds HUD for Local Best Practices Report

NAHB Chairman Bill Owens issued the following statement after HUD released its [State and Local Best Practices for Home Construction report](#): "NAHB commends HUD for implementing President Trump's March executive order to reduce barriers to new home construction. The State and Local Best Practices for Home Construction report provides state and local governments a practical framework for removing unnecessary regulations that drive up housing costs. Steps such as streamlining permits, lowering taxes on new construction, making more land available for housing, and adopting sensible, cost-effective building codes can help boost the nation's housing supply."

Multifamily Developer Confidence Holds Steady in Q1

The [Multifamily Market Survey](#) (MMS) released by NAHB in May produced mixed results for the first quarter of 2026. The MMS produces two separate indices. The Multifamily Production Index (MPI) had a reading of 44, unchanged year-over-year, while the Multifamily Occupancy Index (MOI) had a reading of 69, down 13 points year-over-year.

The MOI is a weighted average of three



built-for-rent market segments (garden/low-rise, mid/high-rise and subsidized). Although all three components declined year-over-year, they all remained above the break-even point of 50. The component measuring

garden/low-rise units fell 11 points to 71, the component measuring mid/high-rise units dropped 17 points to 59 and the component measuring subsidized units decreased nine points to 80.

NAHB Offers 2 New Credentials

Trust is vital in this competitive market, and to consumers, these credentials signify years of experience, commitment to industry best practices and knowledge validated by a national standard-setting organization.

NAHB's Certified Master Building Professional (CMBP) and Certified Master Remodeling Professional (CMRP) credentials are designed to set the most accomplished builders and remodelers apart from the rest.

[Learn more](#) about the CMBP and CMRP credentials, requirements and exams.

Why Young Leave Parent's Home

As of 2024, one in five adults aged 25-34 lives with parents or in-laws. NAHB's analysis of the latest American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) evaluates a wide range of socio-economic and demographic factors that shape young adults' path to independence. While the long-run demographic trends toward delaying marriage and childbearing are highly consequential, housing market constraints remain a significant barrier to leaving parental homes.

NAHB looks at the circumstances that lead [young adults to leave](#) (or stay in) their parent's home.

Leadership List

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Blankenship

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Past President, Mike Lee

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David Barnett

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Jeff Matthews

Robbie Robinson

Honorary: Cory Lord

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Greg Wallace

Calendar of Events

June 9, 2026

Board Of Directors Meeting

10:30am to 11:30am

General Membership Meeting

11:30am to 1pm

July, 2026

NO MEETING

ENJOY YOUR VACATION!!!

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!

August 11, 2026

Board Of Directors Meeting

10:30am to 11:30am

General Membership Meeting

11:30am to 1pm

LOCATION:

Gabe's Restaurant

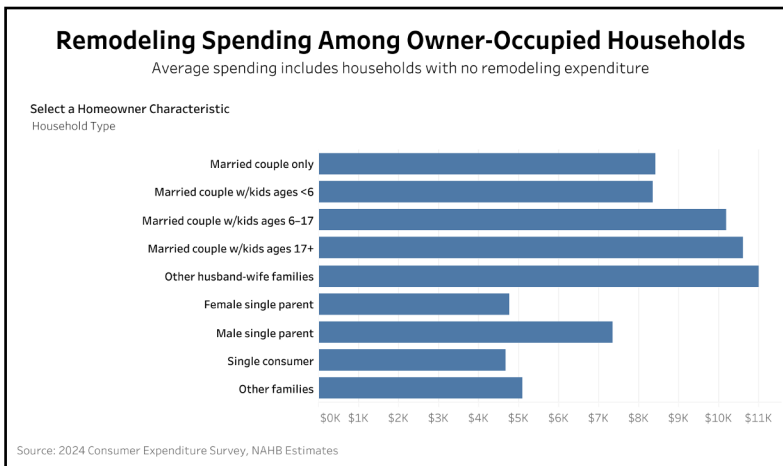
129 Main Street

Villa Rica, GA. 30180



Which Households Are Driving Remodeling Spending?

With elevated mortgage rates and limited for-sale inventory making it harder to move, many home owners are choosing to invest in the homes they already own.



expenditures varied across household characteristics. For example, married-couple households remain the dominant force in remodeling, accounting for the majority of both

In 2024, an estimated \$670 billion was spent on remodeling projects, as roughly 20 million households (nearly one-quarter of owner-occupied homes) undertook home improvements ranging from large additions to smaller alterations and upgrades.

the number of projects and the amount of spending.

NAHB analysis of the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) reveals how these remodeling

Families with children, particularly those with kids ages 6-17, are investing heavily in larger-scale improvements like finished basements, kitchen upgrades, and home additions.

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Westside HBA Members:

John Newman (423) 883-0551

Derek Wirz - (423) 763-1111

<https://thesouthernagency.com/>

At The Southern Agency, we don't just sell insurance—we deliver peace of mind. Built on the principle "Create great policies with great carriers at competitive rates," we take the time to understand your unique risks and craft coverage that truly protects what matters most.

We've redefined the insurance process with The Southern Agency Underwriting Narrative—a method that ensures businesses get a "top of the stack" application, giving underwriters a clear, compelling picture of their needs. For personal insurance, we take the same meticulous approach, designing policies that respond when life hits hardest.

Many agents cut corners. We don't. Our 10 P Underwriting Narrative Process uncovers key risks others miss, ensuring you're not just insured—you're truly protected. With The Southern Agency, you get a partner who advocates for you, fights for the best coverage, and makes sure you never feel lost in the fine print.

**Insurance shouldn't be a guessing game.
Let's get it right—together.**

Remember:

All you have to do is "ASK"....

Invite 2 or more of your Subcontractors, Suppliers or Service Providers to become Members & attend the next WHBA General Membership Meeting. Who are your...

Accountants, Appraisers, Attorneys, Lumber Supplier, Cabinet Co., Plumbing Supplier, Concrete Co., Granite/Marble/Tile Supplier, Dry Wall Co., Framing Contractor, Electrical Contractor, Banker/Mortgage Broker, HVAC Co., Insulation Contractor, Landscaping Co., Masonry Contractor, Paint Co., Real Estate Company, Roofing Contractor, Security Systems Provider, Grading Co., Windows/Doors Supplier, Trim Carpenters, Decking Company.....



GOD Bless America!!!

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN WHBA?

Membership Benefits:

- **SAVE \$100 per house for DET/Blower Door Testing**
- **Health Care Program - Up to 60% more affordable than traditional health insurance**
- **All required Continuing Education Hours (CEU) can be obtained simply by attending membership meetings**
- **HBAG Member Rebate Program - Average SAVINGS of \$1,366/year**
- **Over 50 leading Manufacturer Rebate Programs**
- **NAHB Discount Programs from Lowe's, Office Depot, Dell, General Motors, GEICO, Hertz, UPS, Ram....just to name a few**

Go To www.westsidehba and click on "Member Benefits" to see all Programs and Savings.