

KansasBUILDER

The Newsletter of the Kansas Building Industry Association



FALL 2025

State Association News

Welcome back to the second edition of the Kansas Builder. We are happy you are here!

The Kansas Building Industry Association had an exciting summer. Since our last edition, we've had the privilege of traveling around the state and country to attend educational and fun-filled events.

In early August, WABA/KBIA hosted the annual BUILD-PAC Golf Tournament at Sand Creek Station in Newton, KS. This tournament turned out to be a great success and we raised over \$9,250 for the NAHB BUILD-PAC! We also got to see our friends from SWKBA, TABA, WABA, and KBIG play their best game.

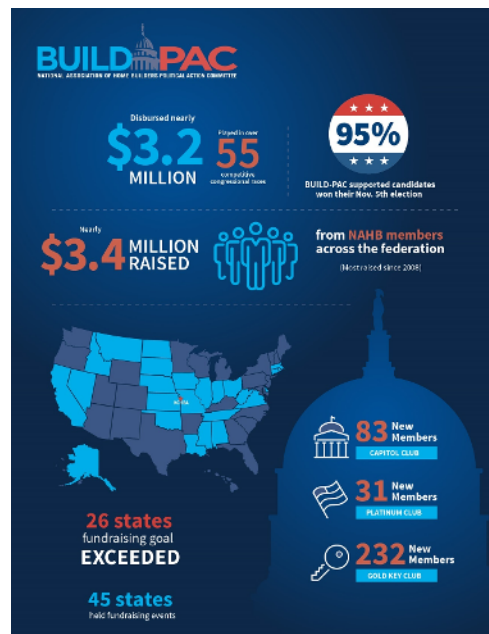
Additionally, we attended the National Association of Home Builders' Association Management Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where Executive Officers and HBA staff nationwide learned association management best practices and strategies to better serve members.

Leadership on the Horizon:

Area 11 Leadership Conference, comprised of Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri HBAs will be in Kearney, Nebraska November 6-7, and is designed for member leaders, EOs, and HBA Staff.

The Fall Leadership Conference will take place November 17-19 in Denver, Colorado, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

These leadership conferences are an incredible opportunity to learn advocacy skills, insights, and strategies to lead in the building industry.



The Kansas Mission



Founded in 1978, the Kansas Building Industry Association (KBIA) is a not-for-profit association dedicated to benefiting home builders and other persons and firms engaged in related businesses and professions in the State of Kansas. KBIA is an affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders and has eight local Building Associations across Kansas.

KBIA serves as an advocate for the Kansas housing industry, and as a corporate channel through which builders contribute time and services to local community service projects and education initiatives.

Additionally, The Kansas Building Industry Association serves as the eyes, ears, and voice of the housing industry at the state level. They actively work to protect and promote home ownership in the Kansas State Legislature and also inform members of changes in the tax or regulatory environment

As an affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), a federation of more than 800 state and local associations with 140,000 members nationwide. KBIA is part of the most influential and active organization representing the building industry.

Local Associations

HBA of Greater Kansas City

Wichita Area Builders Association

Topeka Area Building Association

Flint Hills Area Builders Association

Hutchinson Builders Association

Lawrence Home Builders Association

Salina Area Builders Association

Southwest Kansas Builders Association





KBIA at the Kansas Statehouse

Earlier this month, representatives from KBIA, Garden City, City of Wichita, and Sedgwick County appeared before the legislature to address the actions of the State Fire Marshal. The Senate Committee of Government Efficiency held a three-hour hearing where individuals engaged in conversations around Building Inspections and the challenges imposed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

The primary focus of the conversation revolved around the disagreements over code standards. Kansas is on the antiquated 2006 Fire & Life Safety Code. Sedgwick County and Garden City, among other cities/municipalities, often implement more modernized codes/practices, which sometimes causes friction. Issues arise when the Fire Marshal deems solutions as lower standards, while local municipalities declare them as an equal, alternate standard. Sprinklers vs fire suppression walls were an example referenced often in discussion.

There also seemed to be some initial confusion among committee members with the variance adoption process and conflicting regulations and statutes. Certain practices adopted by some cities and counties, which have proven effective and been approved by an Appeals Board/process, may still potentially be deemed as violations by the State Fire Marshal, which is problematic.

Overall, we shared valuable information and it seems Senators and Representatives were supportive of us and our position. Everyone engaged in a productive discussion and asked insightful questions.

It was great to have representation from the building industry! Hopefully conversations are far from over.





**HOME BUILDERS
ASSOCIATION**
OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

KCHBA on Capitol Hill

Kansas City Builder Testifies Against Energy
Code Mandates

- NAHB Blog

Earlier this month, Kansas City Home Builder Brian Tebbenkamp, on behalf of The Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City, stood before the House Energy and Commerce, Energy Subcommittee, to discuss costly and ineffective energy code mandates.

Builders, including Tebbenkamp, are finding that energy efficiency code mandates drive up the cost of construction and do not yield significant cost savings overtime, consequently decreasing new construction and attainability of home ownership.

In the hearing, Tebbenkamp illustrated the detrimental impact the adoption of efficiency codes and standards have on Kansas City: "When the [2021 IECC Standard 90.1-2019] code took effect in October 2023, home building in Kansas City nearly stopped. For over three months, the city didn't issue one new single-family permit under the new code. Before that, the average was 66 permits a month. The number of builders active in the city dropped from 98 in 2023 to just 22 in 2024 — that's a 78% decline."

Tebbenkamp's testimony appeared to resonate with lawmakers. Committee members asked questions, providing application to their districts. Additionally, a couple of legislators recognized the significant cost increases and emphasized the importance of appropriate and reasonable payback periods in code standards. Way to go Kansas City!

Legislation Considered in the Subcommittee

- [H.R. 4626](#), Don't Mess with My Home Appliances Act (Rep. Allen)
- [H.R. 4758](#), Homeowner Energy Freedom Act (Rep. Goldman)
- [H.R. 3699](#), Energy Choice Act (Rep. Langworthy)
- [H.R. 3474](#), Federal Mechanical Insulation Act (Rep. Weber)
- [H.R. 4593](#), Saving Homeowners from Overregulation With Exceptional Rinsing (SHOWER) Act (Rep. Fry)
- [H.R. 4690](#), Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act (Rep. Langworthy)
- [H.R. 5184](#), Affordable Housing Over Mandating Efficiency Standards Act (Rep. Houchin)
- [H.R. 1355](#), Weatherization Enhancement and Readiness Act of 2025 (Rep. Tonko)





Kansas Builders Insurance Group is committed to being the go-to workers' compensation carrier in Kansas for residential and light commercial construction-related trades.

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- Policyholders dividends – we have returned close to 11 million dollars BACK to our members

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We provide members with protection, partnership, and the power of a shared purpose. Learn more about the benefits of being a KBIG member at www.kbig.biz

October is officially “Careers in Construction Month,” and the purpose is to increase public awareness of the opportunities in the construction industry. NAHB invites all student members, local associations, and industry professionals to join in celebrating Careers in Construction Month in October.





Southwest Kansas Builders Association, Topeka Area Building Association, Wichita Area Builders Association and Kansas Builders Insurance Group at the 2025 BUILD-PAC Golf Tournament.

July Housing Starts Edge

Single-family housing starts posted a modest gain in July as builders continue to contend with challenging housing affordability conditions and a host of supply-side headwinds, including labor shortages, elevated construction costs and inefficient regulatory costs.



Led by solid multifamily production, overall housing starts increased 5.2% in July to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.43 million units, according to a report from HUD and the U.S. Census Bureau.

The July reading of 1.43 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 increased 2.8% to a 939,000 seasonally adjusted annual rate and are down 4.2% on a year-to-date basis.

The multifamily sector, which includes apartment buildings and condos, increased 9.9% to an annualized 489,000 pace.

On a regional and year-to-date basis, combined single-family and multifamily starts were 10.2% higher in the

Northeast, 17.7% higher in the Midwest, 2.4% lower in the South and 0.5% lower in the West.

Overall permits decreased 2.8% to a 1.35-million-unit annualized rate in July. Single-family permits increased 0.5% to an 870,000-unit rate and are down 5.8% on a year-to-date basis. Multifamily permits decreased 8.2% to a 484,000 pace.

Looking at regional permit data on a year-to-date basis, permits were 16.6% lower in the Northeast, 9.1% higher in the Midwest, 3.4% lower in the South and 5.1% lower in the West.

Two Big LIHTC Advancements

[Two recent policy actions](#) sought by NAHB will expand and strengthen the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).

First, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) announced that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will be permitted to double their annual LIHTC investment cap from \$1 billion to \$2 billion annually. Second, the newly enacted One Big Beautiful Bill Act includes language that NAHB fought for that includes the biggest expansion of the LIHTC in decades.

Who Are NAHB's Builder Members

New figures from NAHB highlight the enduring role of small businesses in the residential construction industry. According to the latest [NAHB member census](#), most builder members continue to operate on a modest scale amid a housing industry facing affordability challenges, labor shortages, and material cost volatility.

The full census findings are available in the [August 2025 special study](#).

Townhouse Construction Hits Record

Townhouse construction expanded more than 9% on a year-over-year basis in the second quarter of 2025, with single-family attached starts totaling 45,000, according to NAHB analysis of the most recent Census data.

Using a one-year moving average, the [market share of newly-built townhouses](#) stood at 18.3% of all single-family starts for the second quarter. With gains over the last year, the four-quarter moving average market share is the highest on record for data that goes back to 1985.

Make Plans to Attend The Builders' Show

The NAHB International Builders' Show® (IBS) is the premier event for the residential construction industry, bringing together tens of thousands of industry professionals and 1,700+ top manufacturers and suppliers every year. Registration is open as of Sept. 2 for IBS 2026, which will take place Feb. 17-19 in Orlando. Here are three good reasons to make your Builders' Show plans now:

- 1) Star-studded speakers;
- 2) The latest products and trends on the Exhibit Floor; and
- 3) The show's fond farewell to Orlando.

Register at buildersshow.com.

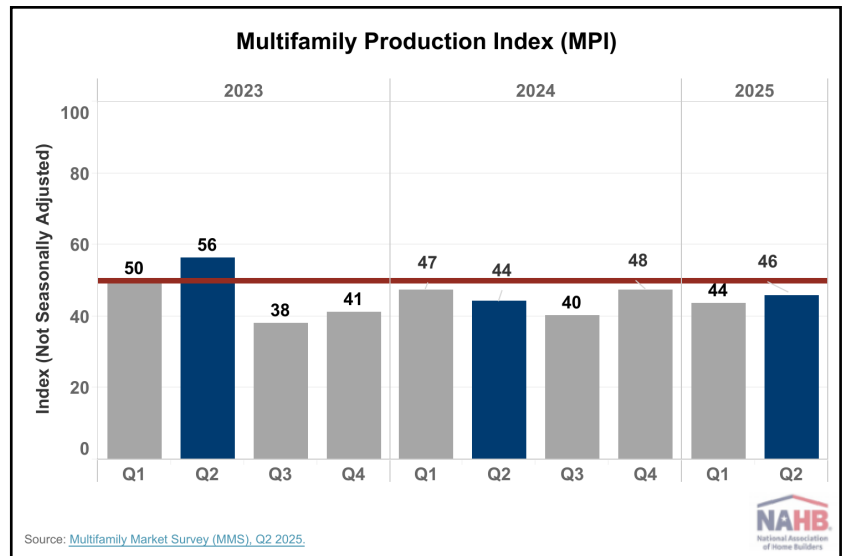
Apply Now to Win a Prestigious NAHB Award

Applications for NAHB's Awards are open. [The award programs](#) include: The Best in American Living™ Awards, sponsored by SMEG; the Associates of Excellence Awards; the Custom Home Builder of the Year Award; the Leading Suppliers Council Spark Award; the Professional Women in Building (PWB) Awards; the NAHB/Builders Mutual Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE) Awards; the NationalsSM Awards, NAHB's largest awards competition; the Young Professional Awards; and the Student Chapter Awards. The [deadline for entries](#) is Oct. 6.

Multifamily Developer Confidence Improves in Q2

Confidence in the market for new multifamily housing increased year-over-year in the second quarter, according to the [Multifamily Market Survey](#) (MMS) released recently by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). The MMS produces two separate indices. The Multifamily Production Index (MPI) had a reading of 46, up two points year-over-year, while the Multifamily Occupancy Index (MOI) had a reading of 82, up one point year-over-year.

The index and all its components are scaled so that a number below 50 indicates that more respondents report conditions are poor than report conditions are good.



The MPI measures builder and developer sentiment about current production conditions. The MOI measures the multifamily housing industry's perception of occupancies.

Podcast Looks at Policy Agenda

On the latest episode of [NAHB podcast Housing Developments](#), NAHB CEO Jim Tobin and COO Paul Lopez discuss how the rest of the year looks as Congress returns to Washington in September.

The first order of business will be to keep the government open in the face of a Sept. 30 appropriations deadline. Tobin noted that home builders and buyers rely on many programs funded through Congressional appropriations, like the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), HUD and VA mortgage programs, and many more. Tobin also noted that NAHB will be focused on funding for Job Corps, a program vital to workforce development in construction.

Foundation Types by Region

In 2024, 73% of new single-family homes started were built on [slab foundations](#), according to NAHB analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Construction (SOC). Although this was a modest year-over-year increase of 0.6 percentage points, it continues the upward trend in slab adoption, widening the gap between slabs and other foundation types. In comparison, basements (full or partial) accounted for 17% of new homes, while crawl spaces made up just 9.2%.

In colder northern areas, where foundations extend below the frost line, basements are more common. Warmer regions favor slab foundations for their affordability and efficiency.



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NAHB Members Enjoying Big Savings in 2025

NAHB has unveiled several [new savings opportunities](#) designed to make membership even more valuable in 2025. Here's what's new:

Best Buy. NAHB members can receive immediate discounts at Best Buy just by creating an online account with the NAHB member code. Go to nahb.org/bestbuy for more information.

Ford Pro. Members can save between \$500 and \$5,000 on the purchase or lease of a Ford truck, van, car or SUV. Go to nahb.org/ford for more details.



Mercedes-Benz Vans. Mercedes-Benz Vans has introduced a \$500 discount exclusively for NAHB members. Visit nahb.org/mbvans.

QuickBooks Savings Through Baytek. NAHB members can unlock a suite of valuable benefits with QuickBooks provided by Baytek. Go to nahb.org/quickbooks for more.

RAM Trucks. RAM Trucks is offering NAHB members \$1,000 off the purchase or lease of eligible RAM vehicles. Visit nahb.org/ram for details.



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