

# ***NEWS RELEASE***



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **More Young Professionals Entering Residential Construction Industry—**

*While statewide building permits drop in February*

(Lansing, MI) – Today the Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBAM) announced that the number of licensed builders and contractors under the age of 45 in the state grew by 8% from 2023 to 2025. Those between the ages of 35-45 grew by 11.6% over this period. At the same time, according to U.S. Census data, some 910 single-family housing permits were issued in February of this year compared to 999 in February of 2024—nearly a 10% reduction. Comparing year-to-date (YTD) numbers: 1,770 permits have been issued so far this year, compared to 1,780 last year at this time.

“Given the tough month we had weather-wise in February and given the economic uncertainty regarding tariffs, it’s not surprising to see our building numbers flatten out,” noted HBAM CEO Bob Filka.

“However, it was a pleasant surprise to see that more and more young people are entering our industry as licensed professionals.” Filka credited the work of the Skilled-to-Build Michigan Foundation and efforts by local home builder associations around the state for the uptick in those entering the industry. “Dawn Crandall, our foundation’s executive director, has done a tremendous job working with policy leaders, educators, and local HBA leaders. The foundation works to educate young people, their parents, school counselors and others about the great career opportunities that exist in residential construction. That work is having an important impact.”

The Skilled-to-Build Michigan Foundation worked with HBAM and Practical Political Data, LLC to analyze a database of Michigan’s 58,000 licensed builders and contractors. “We were able to cross sort publicly available data with the state licensure list to plot the actual ages of license holders in the state,” said foundation director Dawn Crandall. “While the total number of license holders did not change much from 2023 to 2025, the growth in younger licensed professionals is very encouraging. However, the average age of a licensed builder or contractor in Michigan is still 56.42 and the median age is 58. In other words, our foundation’s work and those of all our partners around the state needs to continue. More than half of all license holders are over the age of 56 in our industry.”

*Skilled-to-Build Michigan Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is focused solely on recruiting and educating parents, students, counselors, teachers, administrators, veterans, and returning citizens on the well paying career opportunities available today and tomorrow in the residential construction industry.*

*The Home Builders Association of Michigan is a professional trade association comprised of 16 local homebuilder associations around the state and their builder, subcontractor, and supplier members. HBA of Michigan works to positively promote the building industry and impact legislative, regulatory and legal issues affecting housing affordability.*

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**Licensed Builder Age Data**  
Total Michigan Builders Per Age Range

AGE RANGE	2025 TOTALS	2023 TOTALS	% CHANGE
18-25	469	436	7.6%
26-34	1,920	1,987	-3.4%
35-45	6,841	6,129	11.6%
46-55	9,390	9,433	-0.5%
56-65	12,394	13,290	-6.7%
66+	11,192	11,381	-1.7%