

## Methodology

The building permit data included in this report was collected through surveys sent to the municipal or county officials responsible for the collection and dissemination of such data in the nine counties. In six counties these officials were in most municipalities the code or zoning enforcement officers; in some cases the municipal clerks. In Seneca and Wyoming Counties building permit application approval and inspection are the responsibility of the respective county building departments. Those two departments provided the data for their counties. The Monroe County Planning and Development Department's Division of Planning administered the surveys, received the responses from municipal officials in the County, and forwarded the data to the Genesee/ Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.

Each municipality received a survey in early January 2002 asking for the requested data. The initial survey was followed with a second reminder survey in late January 2002. After attempts to obtain the data by mail were exhausted, those municipalities that had yet to respond were contacted by telephone to make other arrangements to acquire the requested data. Overall, data was collected for 178 of the 191 municipalities in the nine-county Genesee/ Finger Lakes Region (93%).

The survey requested information on the number of permits issued, total square footage, and total value for new buildings for the following four categories and respective sub-categories:

- “residential” (single-family, two-family, three or four-family, five-or more family, mobile homes/ trailers)
- “industrial”
- “commercial” (offices/ banks, retail/ service, service stations, hotels/ motels)
- “community service” (hospitals/ health facilities, schools/ churches, public works/ safety, utilities)
- “not elsewhere classified”

The last category was introduced to include also those permits not covered by the other four categories. The survey asked to describe the type of building in this category. The entries in this category are part of the analysis in the respective categories (residential, commercial, and community service) for each county.

The instructions for completing the survey as printed on the first of the two-page document were as follows:

*“Include only permits for construction of new buildings in 2001. Do not include additions, repairs, decks, in-ground pools, etc. or buildings used for storage such as sheds and pole barns. Do not include permits for construction that was completed in 2001 but permitted in 2000. If the responses below include a town and a*

*village on the same sheet please denote this by listing them separately on the same line (example: T – 8/ V – 12).”*

For each of the nine counties the report discusses new building activity in 2001. To better illustrate the building trends in 2001, county and regional maps of residential, industrial, commercial, and community service building activities are part of the report (Maps 1-13).

Municipalities that responded to the survey during the last three years are part of a time series analysis that illustrates construction trends between 1999 and 2001. Data from before 2000 is provided for all but industrial and community service buildings in Wyoming County and industrial, commercial, and community services in Monroe County.

In addition, the report analyzes the Transportation Management Area (TMA) in greater detail. The data for new residential, industrial, and commercial buildings for municipalities in the TMA were used in a time series analysis for the 1993/94 through 2001. Maps 14 through 17 present the numbers of permitted residential, industrial, commercial, and community service buildings throughout the TMA in 2001.

The data collected on the number of issued building permits, square footage, and value for each category/ subcategory by municipality in 2001 are presented in appendices A through F.