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Housing construction permits soar in 2013

By Angela Hunt



Although the number of housing construction permits granted jumped 71 percent last year, the total number of units planned still hasn't reached pre-downturn levels.

During the building boom between 2005 and 2008, the Department of Buildings issued an average of 30,000 permits annually, according to a New York Building Congress report.

But last year, only 18,095 were issued.

Still, the number marked a citywide uptick, with the number of construction permits for residential units increasing in each of the five boroughs — the first time since 2008 that the city has seen such pervasive growth.

Brooklyn topped the Big Apple's permit numbers with 6,140 units permitted — up 83 percent from 3,353 the previous year — while Manhattan permits jumped 98 percent to 4,956 units, up from 2,492 in 2012. The biggest percentage gain was in Queens, which jumped 107 percent from 1,529 units in 2012 to 3,161 in 2013, bolstered by the construction launch of two affordable housing towers at Hunters Point South.

Staten Island also clocked big gains, jumping 78 percent to 1,200 authorized units in 2013 from 673 in 2012, while the Bronx had a small uptick to 2,638 from 2,552.