

#130 in U.S. Metro Residential Builders — ALEX Intelligence 2026

Boulder Ranks #130 in U.S. Metro Residential Builders

A strategic outlier in a national supply crisis

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THE DATA

269

Residential Builders (2022)

Boulder, CO ranks #130 among 914 U.S. metros in residential construction activity.

This figure represents the number of active residential building construction firms in Boulder's MSA as of 2022, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's County Business Patterns. While low on the national scale, this number reflects a sustained, localized construction engine—especially when compared to Boulder's high cost of living and tight housing inventory. The data underscores that supply is not absent, but strategically constrained by regulatory, environmental, and labor factors rather than lack of activity.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 2361 (Residential building construction) · ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-03-boulder-istand-2361-msa>



01

Supply Is Not Absent—It's Strategic

Boulder's 269 residential builders are not a sign of weakness but a signal of targeted growth. Unlike markets where construction is driven by speculative sprawl, Boulder's building activity is concentrated in mid- to upper-tier developments, often aligned with sustainability, innovation, and transit-oriented design. This suggests that new supply is not flooding the market but is being directed toward high-demand, high-value segments—particularly in Boulder, Lafayette, and Superior. The result is a constrained but quality-driven pipeline that preserves market stability without sacrificing long-term affordability potential.



02

Affordability's Next Frontier Is Supply Quality

The real story isn't how many builders Boulder has—it's who they are and where they build. With 38% of unsheltered individuals having previously lived in affordable housing (per CU Boulder Klump Center), the market's challenge isn't just supply volume but supply alignment. The fact that new construction is occurring in a few key corridors suggests that future affordability gains will come not from more units, but from smarter zoning, density reforms, and incentive structures that expand access to these high-quality, high-impact developments. The next wave of affordability isn't about volume—it's about inclusion.

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