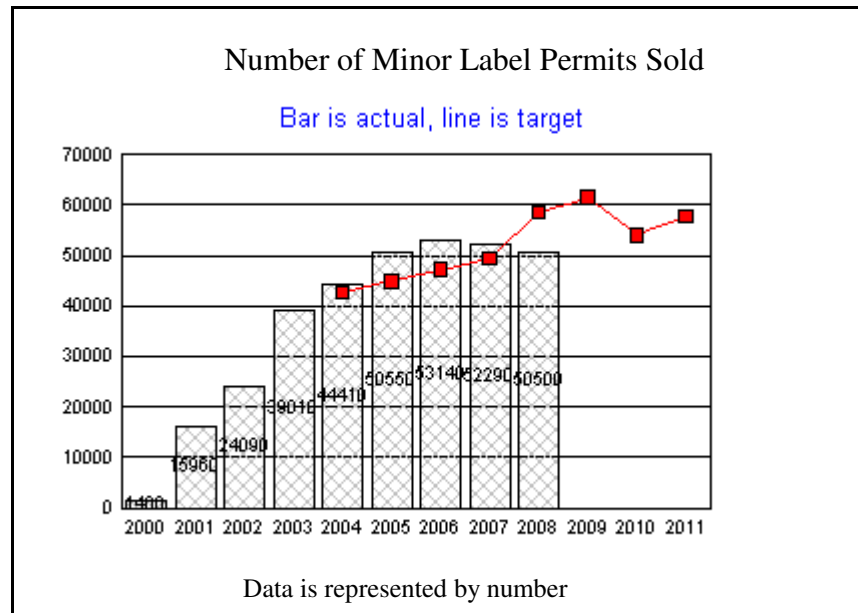


<b>KPM #10</b>	PERMITS FOR MINOR CONSTRUCTION WORK – Number of building permits that can be used by contractors in multiple jurisdictions for minor construction work.	2004
<b>Goal</b>	DCBS Goal #2: Regulate in a manner that supports a positive business climate.	
<b>Oregon Context</b>	Oregon Benchmark #9: Oregon’s national rank in the cost of doing business.	
<b>Data Source</b>	Minor Label Permit database maintained by Building Codes Division staff.	
<b>Owner</b>	Liz Browder, Manager, Statewide Inspections, (503) 373-1983	



**1. OUR STRATEGY**

Make it easier and less expensive for contractors to comply with regulations by offering “minor label” building permits for routine plumbing and electrical installations that can be used anywhere in the state.

Minor labels permits are multiple permits that are purchased together and can be used throughout the state for numerous types of jobs, making them more convenient than traditional permits. For example, using traditional permits, a contractor installing new electrical outlets at 10 locations throughout the state must purchase 10 separate permits from multiple jurisdictions to comply with regulations. However, using minor labels permits, this contractor can make only one minor labels purchase that will cover all 10 jobs. Further, this purchase can be made online - 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week - making purchasing permits much more convenient for contractors. This streamlining of the permit process saves contractors time and money and improves compliance with the law.

## 2. ABOUT THE TARGETS

Our goal is to increase the number of minor labels sold around the state. We used our history of sales to establish a baseline, and we set targets by factoring in expected growth based on our aggressive marketing strategies. Targets for 2008 and 2009 were established in 2006, with the assumptions that economic conditions would remain favorable and that construction activity would show continued growth. However, construction activity has slowed since 2007, which has a significant impact on minor label permit sales. To establish targets for 2009-2011, we must take this reduced construction activity into account. Construction activity is expected to remain relatively constant until 2010, when it is expected to begin increasing gradually. Using a growth rate for the number of minor label permits sold of approximately 7 percent per year beginning in 2010, we target 54,000 minor labels permits sold in 2010 and 57,800 sold in 2011.

## 3. HOW WE ARE DOING

Customers report a great deal of satisfaction in using this simpler and cheaper process to purchase permits for minor work. However, despite continued efforts from the Building Codes Division to increase the utility and availability of minor labels permits, the total number of permits sold dropped from 52,290 in 2007 to 50,500 in 2008. This is likely due to economic factors that have caused a reduction in construction activity.

## 4. HOW WE COMPARE

Oregon is a national leader in the area of simplifying building permits. We know of no other state that has such a program, and we are being contacted by other state jurisdictions for help in establishing their own “minor label” programs. There also are no industry standards that relate to this goal.

## 5. FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS

Construction activity has historically had a major impact on outcomes for this measure. For example, the construction industry had been booming,

constituting 20 percent of all job gains in Oregon from mid-2003 to 2006, which led to an increase in the number of building permits sold. However the economic downturn and problems in the lending markets have caused the construction industry to slow during the past two years, which likely caused the number of permits sold to decrease.

#### 6. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

We are continuing our aggressive marketing efforts through BCD newsletters, e-mail, and articles in trade publications. We are expanding the type of work that can be covered by a minor label building permit to elevators and boilers.

#### 7. ABOUT THE DATA

The data reported for this measure is the number of minor label permits sold in Oregon during the fiscal year (July 1 – June 30); data is collected monthly. Permit sales are registered and maintained in BCD databases. Note, data from 2006 and 2007 was audited for data validity in September, 2008. In the internal audit, the data and results were verified as “accurate”, indicating that the auditor was able to recreate 2006 and 2007 results from raw data to within 5 percent of published values.