

Housing Market Indicators

Monthly Update



May 2023

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

National housing market indicators available as of May showed overall activity in housing markets improved. Trends in some of the top indicators for this month include:

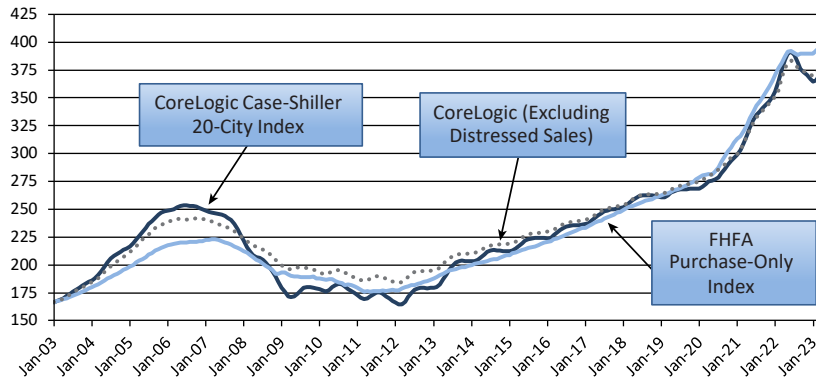
- **Purchases of new homes rose again in April.** New single-family home sales rose 4.1 percent to 683,000 units (SAAR) in April from a pace of 656,000 in March and were 11.8 percent higher year-over-year (y/y). Note that monthly data on new home sales tend to be volatile. (Sources: HUD and Census Bureau)
- **Existing home sales declined.** The National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) reported that April sales of existing homes (including single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums, and cooperatives) fell 3.4 percent to 4.28 million units (SAAR) from a pace of 4.43 million in March and were 23.2 percent lower y/y. Because existing home sales are based on a closing, April sales reflect contract signings in February and March. Mortgage rates have trended down from previous highs and have been hovering in the mid-six percent range, and month-to-month (m/m) house prices have fluctuated modestly in the last several months. Inventories of existing homes for sale are still lean, however.
- **Construction of new homes rose in April.** Single-family housing starts increased 1.6 percent to 846,000 units (SAAR) in April from a pace of 833,000 units in March but were 28.1 percent lower y/y. Multifamily housing starts (5+ units in a structure), at 542,000 units (SAAR), rose 5.2 percent from 515,000 units m/m but were 11.7 percent lower y/y. Note that m/m changes in multifamily starts are often volatile. (Sources: HUD, Census Bureau)
- **Annual house price appreciation continued to slow in March, with annual gains ranging from a 1.1-percent drop to a 3.6-percent rise.** The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) seasonally adjusted (SA) purchase-only house price index for March estimated that home values were up 0.6 percent m/m and rose 3.6 percent y/y, down from an annual gain of 4.3 percent in February. The non-SA CoreLogic Case-Shiller® 20-City Home Price Index, posted a 1.5 percent m/m increase (0.5 percent SA) in home values in March and a 1.1 percent y/y decline, down from a 0.3-percent annual gain in February. Mortgage financing has become more expensive as the Federal Reserve raises interest rates, a process that began in April 2022. House prices peaked in June 2022 and began to decline modestly but have begun to reverse that trend recently. The FHFA (SA) index now stands at 0.7 percent above its June 2022 peak. (Both price indices are released with a 2-month lag.)
- **The inventory of homes for sale fell for new homes but rose for existing homes.** The listed inventory of new homes for sale, at 433,000 units at the end of April, was up 0.2 percent m/m but down 0.2 percent y/y. That inventory would support 7.6 months of sales at the current sales pace, down from 7.9 months in March due to the relatively large increase in sales. Available existing homes for sale, at 1.040 million units in April, increased 7.2 percent m/m and 1.0 percent y/y. That inventory represents a 2.9-month supply, up from 2.6 months in March. The long-term average for months' supply of homes on the market is 6.0 months.
- **The U.S. homeownership rate rose in the first quarter.** The national homeownership rate increased to 66.0 percent in the first quarter of 2023 from 65.9 percent the previous quarter and 65.4 percent one year ago. The historic norm since 1965 is 65.2 percent. (Source: Census Bureau)
- **The affordability of renting or purchasing a home reached respective low points in the first quarter of 2023 and the fourth quarter of 2022.** According to NAR's homeownership affordability index (HAI), at 102.2 in the first quarter, the affordability of purchasing a home was up 6.8 percent from 95.7 in the fourth quarter but down 20.5 percent y/y. The increase in the ability to purchase a home resulted from a decrease in the mortgage interest rate, a drop in the median price of a single-family home, and a rise in Median Family Income. HUD's Rental Affordability Index (RAI) reached a low of 92.1 in the first quarter of 2023, down 8.8 percent from 101.0 in the fourth quarter and down 10.4 percent y/y. Note that purchase and rental prices reflect seasonal changes in housing prices. The decline in the ability to rent a home resulted from a rise in the inflation-adjusted median price of leased homes and a fall in the inflation-adjusted median income of renter households. A HAI/RAI value of less than 100.0 indicates that the median income of homeowner/renter households is below the income typically required to qualify for a median-priced home/rental property.
- **Forbearance on mortgage loans continued to decline.** The MBA Forbearance Survey indicates the share of homeowners with mortgages in forbearance was 0.51 percent (257,000 households) in April, down from 0.55 percent in March and 0.94 percent (473,000 households) one year ago. The forbearance rate was only 0.25 percent of all home loans in the beginning of March 2020, before the economic effects of the COVID pandemic began to be felt.
- **Housing insecurity due to the pandemic remains elevated but has improved.** HUD analysis of the [Census Household Pulse Survey](#) (Week 57: April 26–May 8, 2023) shows that approximately 12.4 percent, or 5.72 million, renter households were behind on rental payments, down from 14.5 percent, or 6.67 million, one year ago. An estimated 4.5 percent, or 2.08 million, renter households feared eviction was imminent in the next two months, down from 7.2 percent, or 3.31 million a year ago. Approximately 4.94 percent, or 4.08 million, homeowner households were behind on their mortgage payments in May, an improvement over 5.75 percent, or 4.75 million, in May 2022. An estimated 1.07 percent, or 880,000 homeowners, feared foreclosure was imminent in the next two months, down from 1.16 percent, or 960,000, one year ago.
- **The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage (FRM) has trended up modestly in the past two weeks.** The average weekly 30-year FRM was 6.57 percent the week ending May 25, up from 6.39 percent the previous week and 5.10 percent one year ago. The mortgage rate rose steadily in 2022 as the Fed increased interest rates, reaching a high of 7.08 percent in November 2022 and then trended down to a low of 6.09 percent in February 2023 as inflation appeared to be retreating. Changes in inflation expectations and financial market concerns have caused mortgage rates to fluctuate recently. (Source: Freddie Mac)



Housing Market Indicators Monthly Update | May 2023

Month-to-Month House Prices Rose in March

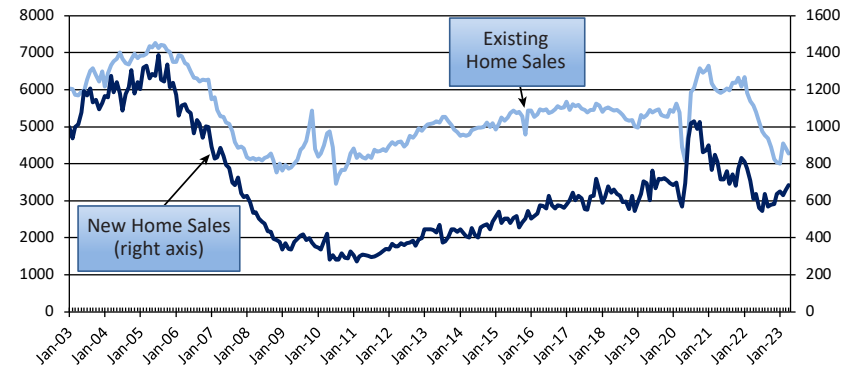
Monthly House Price Trends by Index (\$ Thousands)



Sources: Standard & Poor's, Federal Housing Finance Agency, CoreLogic, and HUD.
See Note 1, Sources and Methodology.

Sales Rose for New Homes but Fell for Existing Homes

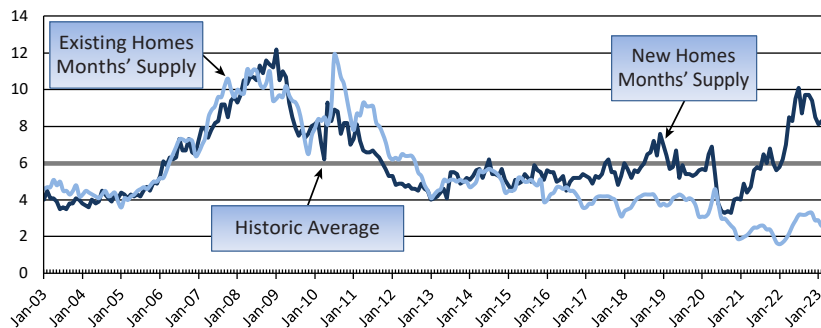
Monthly Sales (Thousands)



Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate
Sources: National Association of REALTORS®, Census Bureau, and HUD.
See Note 2, Sources and Methodology.

Months' Supply of Homes for Sale Fell for New Homes but Rose for Existing Homes

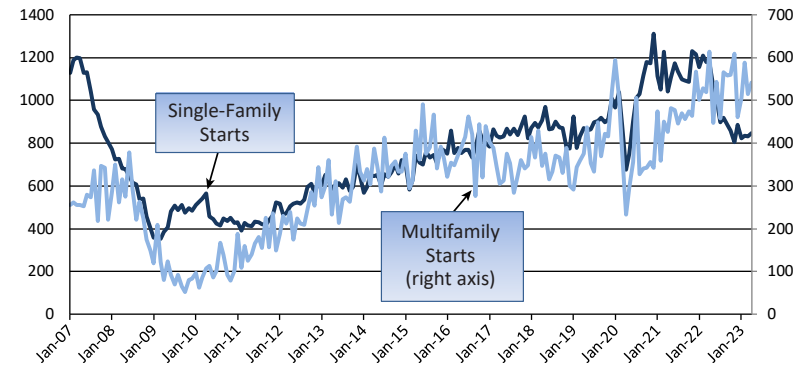
National Months' Supply of New and Existing Homes (Months)



Sources: Census Bureau, National Association of REALTORS®, and HUD.

New Construction Rose for Single-Family and Multifamily Housing

National Housing Starts (Thousands)



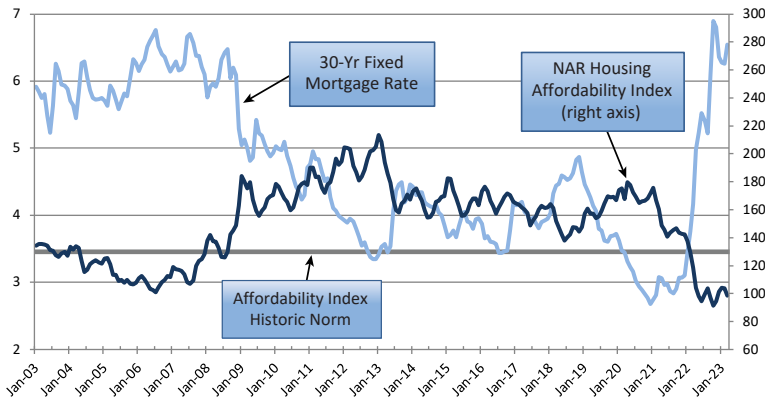
Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate
Sources: Census Bureau and HUD.



Housing Market Indicators Monthly Update | May 2023

Homeownership Affordability Remains Below Historic Norm, Mortgage Rates Up Markedly from Near Record Lows

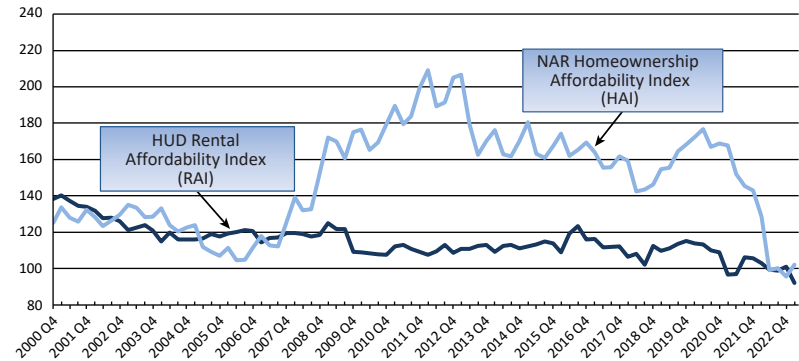
Percentage Rates and Index Values



The historic norm of 130 is the median value of NAR's housing affordability index since 1989.
Sources: Freddie Mac and National Association of REALTORS®.

Rental Affordability Remains a Challenge Due to Rising Rents

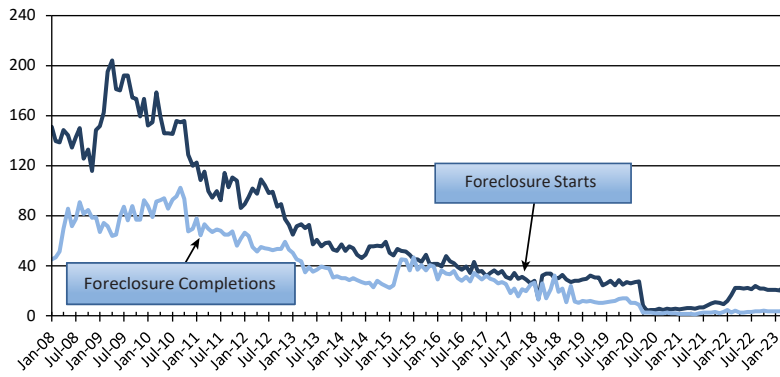
Rental and Homeownership Index Values



NOTE: The Q2 2020 - Q2 2021 rental prices underlying the RAI are partially based on CPS/HVS surveys conducted under COVID restrictions and should be viewed with caution. Normal data collection resumed starting Q3 2021. The RAI is partially based on annual ACS rental prices of recent movers which were also affected by COVID. The HAI and RAI reflect quarterly seasonal changes in prices. See Note 3 and Section C.
Sources: Census ACS, BLS, CPS, HUD, and NAR®.

Foreclosure Filings Remain Low

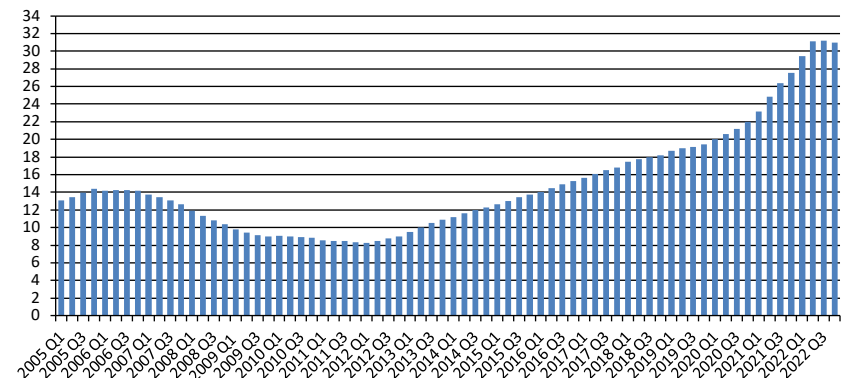
Monthly Foreclosure Actions (Thousands)
(Includes Investor, Second Home, and Jumbo Properties)



Foreclosure starts are default notices or scheduled foreclosure auctions, depending on the state.
Source: ATTOM Data Solutions.
See Note 4, Sources and Methodology.

Homeowners' Equity Fell in the Fourth Quarter of 2022

Owners' Equity in Household Real Estate at End of Period (\$ Trillions)



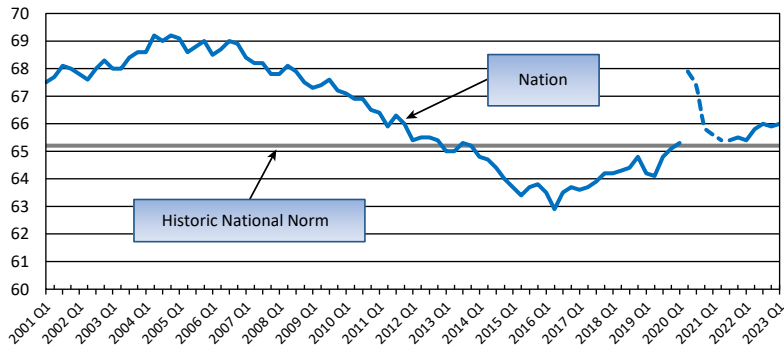
Source: Federal Reserve Board.



Housing Market Indicators Monthly Update | May 2023

The National Homeownership Rate Increased in the First Quarter*

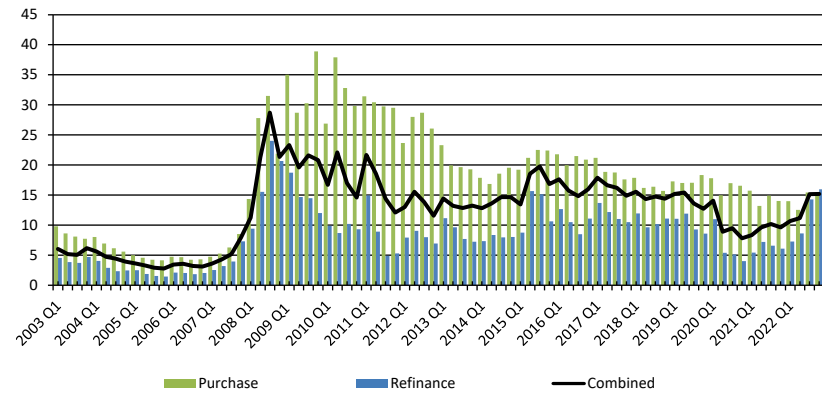
National Homeownership Rate (Percent)



*NOTE: The Q2 2020 through Q2 2021 homeownership rates are based on surveys conducted under COVID-19 restrictions and should be viewed with caution. Normal data collection procedures resumed starting Q3 2021. The historic norm of 65.2 percent is the average national homeownership rate since 1965. See Section C, Sources and Methodology. Sources: Census Bureau, BLS, and HUD.

FHA Mortgage Lending

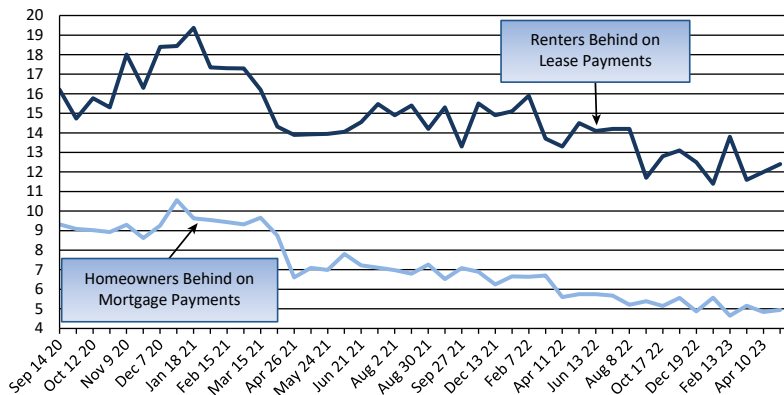
FHA as Share of Quarterly Mortgage Originations by Type (Percent)



Sources: MBA and HUD. See Note 5, Sources and Methodology.

Housing Insecurity Due to the Pandemic

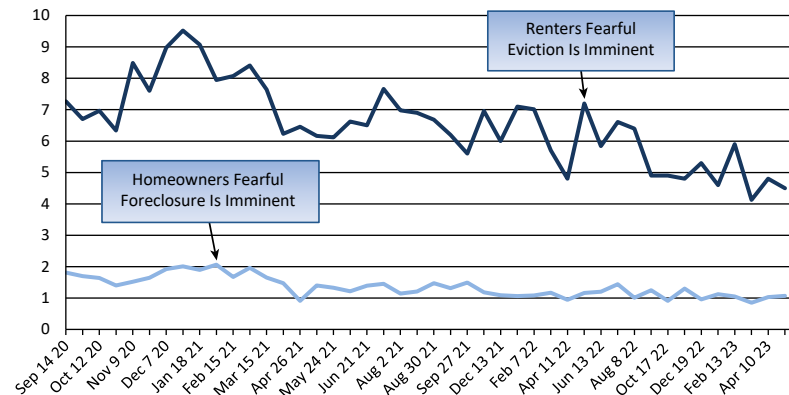
Share of Renter and Homeowner Households Behind on Housing Payments (Percent)



NOTE: Phase 3.8 of the Census Household Pulse Survey began March 1, 2023 with Week 55 and continues through May 8, 2023. This phase continues with the format of collecting data every other two weeks. See Note 7 and Section C, Sources and Methodology. Sources: Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey and HUD.

Households Fearful of Losing Their Homes Due to the Pandemic

Share of Renter and Homeowner Households Viewing Loss of Home as Imminent (Percent)



NOTE: Phase 3.8 of the Census Household Pulse Survey began March 1, 2023 with Week 55 and continues through May 8, 2023. This phase continues with the format of collecting data every other two weeks. See Note 7 and Section C, Sources and Methodology. Sources: Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey and HUD.



Housing Market Indicators Monthly Update | May 2023

HOUSING MARKET FACT SHEET				
Indicator	This Period	Last Period	Year Ago	Latest Release
Mortgage Rates (30-Yr FRM, percent)	6.57 (s)	6.39	5.10	25-May-23
Homeownership Affordability (index)	98.6	103.8 (r)	118.8	March-23
Rental Affordability (index)	92.1	101.0	102.8	1st Q 23
Home Prices (indices)				
CoreLogic Case-Shiller (NSA)	302.3	297.7 (r)	305.8	March-23
FHFA (SA)	398.0	395.5 (r)	384.0	March-23
CoreLogic - Excluding Distressed Sales (NSA)	291.8 (s)	287.2 (s,r)	283.5 (s)	March-23
Home Sales				
New (thousands, SAAR)	683	656 (r)	611	April-23
Existing (thousands, SAAR)	4,280	4,430 (r)	5,570	April-23
First-Time Buyers (thousands, SAAR)	1,439 (s)	1,475 (s,r)	1,792 (s)	April-23
Distressed Sales (percent, NSA)	2	2	2	March-23
Housing Supply				
New Homes for Sale (thousands, SA)	433	432	434	April-23
New Homes for Sale - Months' Supply (months, SA)	7.6	7.9 (r)	8.5	April-23
Existing Homes for Sale (thousands, NSA)	1,040	970 (r)	1,030	April-23
Existing Homes - Months' Supply (months)	2.9	2.6	2.2	April-23
Vacant Units Held off Market (thousands)	3,536	3,818	3,687	4th Q 22
Housing Starts				
Total (thousands, SAAR)	1,401	1,371 (r)	1,803	April-23
Single-Family (thousands, SAAR)	846	833 (r)	1,176	April-23
Multifamily (thousands, SAAR)	542	515 (r)	614	April-23
Mortgage Originations (thousands)				
Purchase Originations	959.8	1,117.2 (r)	1,428.7	4th Q 22
Refinance Originations	249.5	339.6 (r)	1,770.9	4th Q 22
FHA Mortgage Originations (thousands)				
Refinance Originations	12.4 (p)	8.4	23.5	March-22
Purchase Originations	45.2 (p)	30.9	55.8	March-22
Purchases by First-Time Buyers	37.2 (p)	25.3	46.4	March-22
Mortgage Loans in Forbearance (percent)	0.51 (s)	0.55 (s)	0.94	30-Apr-23
Mortgage Delinquency Rates (percent)				
Prime	1.5 (s)	1.3 (s)	1.7	April-23
Subprime	15.9 (s)	14.5 (s)	10.9	April-23
FHA	10.4	9.5	8.9	April-23
Seriously Delinquent Mortgages (thousands)				
Prime	259 (s)	264 (r,s)	429	April-23
Subprime	23 (s)	24 (s)	37	April-23
FHA	324	334	380	April-23
Renter Households - Ability to Pay Rent				
Behind on Rental Payments (%)	12.4 (s)	12.0	14.5	8-May-23
Fearful of Imminent Eviction (%)	4.5 (s)	4.8	7.2	8-May-23
Homeowner Households - Ability to Pay Mortgage				
Behind on Mortgage Payments (%)	4.9 (s)	4.8	5.8	8-May-23
Fearful of Imminent Foreclosure (%)	1.07 (s)	1.03	1.16	8-May-23
Change in Aggregate Home Equity (\$ billions)	-226	63 (r)	1,149	4th Q 22
Underwater Borrowers (thousands)	1,171	1,105 (r)	1,190	4th Q 22
National Homeownership Rate (percent)	66.0 (s)	65.9 (s)	65.4	1st Q 23
Foreclosure Actions (thousands)				
Foreclosure Starts	22.5	24.2	22.3	April-23
Foreclosure Completions	2.9	4.8	2.8	April-23
Short Sales	2.2 (p)	1.8 (r)	2.8	March-23
REO Sales	5.4 (p)	5.1 (r)	6.6	March-23

SA = seasonally adjusted, NSA = not SA, SAAR = SA annual rate, p = preliminary, r = revised, s = see Additional Notes in Sources



Housing Market Indicators Monthly Update | May 2023

SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

A. Items in Table

Description	Frequency	Sources	Notes on Methodology
Mortgage Rates (30-Yr FRM)	Weekly	Freddie Mac	As reported for 30-year fixed rate mortgages (FRM). See note in Section C for basis of rates as of November 2022.
Homeownership Affordability	Monthly	National Association of REALTORS®	NAR's Housing Affordability (Fixed Rate) Index as reported. A value of 100 means that a family with the median income has exactly enough income to qualify for a mortgage on a median-priced home. An index above 100 signifies that a family earning the median income has more than enough income to qualify.
Rental Affordability	Quarterly	HUD	HUD's Rental Affordability Index measures whether a typical renter household has enough income to qualify for a lease on a typical rental home at the national level based on the most recent price and income data. A typical renter household is one that earns median income and a typical rental home is a median-priced rental unit. It is assumed that a renter household can qualify for a lease if the annual rent is not greater than 30 percent of the renter household's annual income. A value of 100 means that a renter household with median income has exactly enough income to qualify for a lease on a median-priced rental home. An index value above 100 signifies that a household earning the median income of renter households has more than enough income to qualify. For more information on HUD's rental affordability index and methodology, see the Second Quarter 2016 issue of HUD's National Housing Market Summary on their U.S. Housing Market Conditions website: http://www.huduser.gov/portal/ushmc/home.html .
Home Prices			
CoreLogic Case-Shiller (NSA)	Monthly	Standard and Poor's	Case-Shiller 20-metro composite index, January 2000 = 100. Standard and Poor's recommends use of non-seasonally adjusted (NSA) index when making monthly comparisons.
FHFA (SA)	Monthly	Federal Housing Finance Agency	FHFA monthly (purchase-only) index for U.S., January 1991 = 100.
CoreLogic - Excluding Distressed Sales (NSA)	Monthly	CoreLogic	CoreLogic national combined index, distressed sales excluded, January 2000 = 100. (Only available as NSA). Also see additional note in Section C below on the CoreLogic HPI.
Home Sales (SAAR)			
New	Monthly	HUD and Census Bureau	Seasonally adjusted annual rates. A newly constructed house is considered sold when either a sales contract has been signed or a deposit accepted, even if this occurs before construction has actually started.
Existing	Monthly	National Association of REALTORS®	Seasonally adjusted annual rates. Existing-home sales—which include single-family, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops—are based on transaction closings. This differs from the U.S. Census Bureau's series on new single-family home sales, which are based on contracts or the acceptance of a deposit.
First-Time Buyers	Monthly	NAR, Census Bureau, and HUD	Sum of seasonally adjusted new and existing home sales (above) multiplied by National Association of REALTORS® annual estimate of first-time buyer share of existing home sales.
Distressed Sales (NSA)	Monthly	CoreLogic	Short sales and REO (Real Estate Owned) sales as a percentage of total existing home sales (current month subject to revision).
Housing Starts			
Total (SAAR)	Monthly	HUD and Census Bureau	Housing starts are divided into three components: single-family, multifamily, and two-to-four unit structures. Start of construction occurs when excavation begins for the footings or foundation of a building. As of September 1992, housing starts include units being totally rebuilt on an existing foundation.
Single-Family (SAAR)	Monthly	HUD and Census Bureau	Single-family housing includes fully detached, semi-detached (semi-attached, side-by-side), townhouses, and row houses. For attached units, each must be separated from the adjacent unit by a ground-to-roof firewall to be classified as a single-family structure. Also, these units must not share common facilities (i.e., heating/air-conditioning systems, plumbing, attic, or basement). Units built one on top of another and those built side-by-side that do not have a ground-to-roof firewall or have common facilities are not considered single-family units.
Multifamily (SAAR)	Monthly	HUD and Census Bureau	Multifamily housing has five or more units in a structure.
Housing Supply			
New Homes for Sale (SA)	Monthly	HUD and Census Bureau	As reported.
New Homes for Sale - Months' Supply (SA)	Monthly	HUD and Census Bureau	As reported.
Existing Homes for Sale (NSA)	Monthly	National Association of REALTORS®	As reported.
Existing Homes - Months' Supply	Monthly	National Association of REALTORS®	As reported.
Vacant Units Held off Market	Quarterly	Census Bureau	As reported in Census CPS/HPS Table 4. Estimates of Housing Inventory, line item "Year-round vacant, held off market for reasons other than occasional use, or usually reside elsewhere." Vacant units can be held off the market for a variety of reasons.
Mortgage Originations			
Refinance Originations	Quarterly	Mortgage Bankers Association and HUD	HUD estimate of the number of refinance originations based on MBA estimate of dollar volume of refinance originations.
Purchase Originations	Quarterly	Mortgage Bankers Association and HUD	HUD estimate of the number of home purchase originations based on MBA estimate of dollar volume of home purchase originations.
FHA Originations			
Refinance Originations	Monthly	HUD	FHA originations reported as of date of loan closing. Estimate for current month scaled upward due to normal reporting lag and shown as preliminary.
Purchase Originations	Monthly	HUD	
Purchases by First-Time Buyers	Monthly	HUD	



Housing Market Indicators Monthly Update | May 2023

SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

A. Items in Table (continued)

Mortgage Loans in Forbearance	Monthly	Mortgage Bankers Association	Monthly Forbearance and Call Volume Survey, as reported for total number of loans in forbearance as a percent of number of servicing portfolio loans. Data are based on approximately 36.4 million loans, or 73 percent of the first mortgage servicing market. The survey was transformed from a weekly to a monthly survey beginning November 2021.
Mortgage Delinquency Rates (NSA)			
Prime	Monthly	Black Knight Financial Services	Total conventional mortgages past due (30+ days) but not in foreclosure, divided by conventional mortgages actively serviced.
Subprime	Monthly	Black Knight Financial Services	Total conventional mortgages past due (30+ days) but not in foreclosure, divided by conventional mortgages actively serviced.
FHA	Monthly	HUD	Total FHA mortgages past due (30+ days) but not in foreclosure, divided by FHA's insurance in force.
Seriously Delinquent Mortgages			
Prime	Monthly	LPS Applied Analytics, MBA, and HUD	Conventional mortgages 90+ days delinquent or in foreclosure, scaled up to market.
Subprime	Monthly	LPS Applied Analytics, MBA, and HUD	Conventional mortgages 90+ days delinquent or in foreclosure, scaled up to market.
FHA	Monthly	HUD	Mortgages 90+ days delinquent or in foreclosure.
Renter Households - Ability to Pay Rent	Every Other 2 Weeks	Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey	Data are collected over a 2-week period. The Survey began April 23, 2020. Data are weighted by number of households; data posted on the Census website are weighted by population.
Behind on Rental Payments		Census Household Pulse Survey and HUD	Data weighted by # of households; 2021 AHS estimates 45.99 million U.S. renter households.
Not at All Confident in Ability to Pay Rent on Time		Census Household Pulse Survey and HUD	Data weighted by # of households; 2021 AHS estimates 45.99 million U.S. renter households.
Fearful of Imminent Eviction		Census Household Pulse Survey and HUD	Respondent answered "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to the question: <i>How likely is it that your household will have to leave this home or apartment within the next two months because of eviction?</i>
Homeowner Households - Ability to Pay Mortgage	Every Other 2 Weeks	Census Household Pulse Survey	Data are collected over a 2-week period. The Survey began April 23, 2020. Data are weighted by number of households; data posted on the Census website are weighted by population.
Behind on Mortgage Payments		Census Household Pulse Survey and HUD	Data weighted by # of households; 2021 AHS estimates 82.5 million U.S. homeowner households.
Not at All Confident in Ability to Pay Mortgage on Time		Census Household Pulse Survey and HUD	Data weighted by # of households; 2021 AHS estimates 82.5 million U.S. homeowner households.
Fearful of Imminent Foreclosure		Census Household Pulse Survey and HUD	Respondent answered "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to the following question: <i>How likely is it that your household will have to leave this home within the next two months because of foreclosure?</i>
Change in Aggregate Home Equity	Quarterly	Federal Reserve Board	Difference in aggregate household owners' equity in real estate as reported in the Federal Reserve Board's Flow of Funds Accounts of the United States for stated time period.
Underwater Borrowers	Quarterly	CoreLogic	As reported.
National Homeownership Rate	Quarterly	Census Bureau	Homeownership in the U.S. as a percentage of all households.
Foreclosure Actions			
Foreclosure Starts	Monthly	ATTOM Data Solutions (Formerly RealtyTrac)	Foreclosure starts are reported counts of notice of default or scheduled foreclosure auction, depending on which action starts the foreclosure process in a state.
Foreclosure Completions	Monthly	ATTOM Data Solutions	Real Estate Owned (REO).
Short Sales	Monthly	CoreLogic	Count of Short Sales for the month as reported (current month subject to revision).
REO Sales	Monthly	CoreLogic	Count of REO (Real Estate Owned) Sales for the month as reported (current month subject to revision).

B. Notes on Charts

- Monthly house price trends, shown as changes in respective house price indices applied to a common base price set equal to the median price of an existing home sold in January 2003, as reported by the National Association of REALTORS®. Indices shown: S&P/CoreLogic Case-Shiller 20-metro composite index (NSA), January 2000 = 100, FHFA monthly (purchase-only) index for U.S. (SA), January 1991 = 100, and CoreLogic-Distressed Sales Excluded (Monthly) for U.S. (NSA), January 2000 = 100. Also see additional note below in Section C on the CoreLogic HPI.
- Reported seasonally adjusted annual rates for new and existing home sales.
- A comparison of the affordability of renting a home to purchasing a home. HUD's Quarterly Rental Affordability Index is compared to NAR's Composite Quarterly Affordability Index. See note in Section A on Rental Affordability.
- Filings of a notice of default or scheduled foreclosure auction, depending on which action starts the foreclosure process in a state, are reported for foreclosure starts. Foreclosure completions are properties entering REO. Both as reported by ATTOM Data Solutions (formerly RealtyTrac).
- FHA market shares are FHA purchase and refinance originations divided by HUD estimates of purchase and refinance mortgage originations, as noted in "Mortgage Originations" above. See additional note below on FHA market share.
- See notes in Section A on renter and homeowner households' ability to make rental or mortgage payments. The results represent a "No" in response to the question, "Is this household currently caught up on their rent or mortgage payment?" Results prior to the two-week period ending August 31, 2020, are not presented because the survey question then was, "Did you pay your last month's rent or mortgage payment on time?"
- See notes in Section A on renter and homeowner households fearful of eviction or foreclosure. For renter households, the results represent a "Very Likely" or "Somewhat Likely" response to the question, "How likely is it that your household will have to leave this home or apartment within the next two months because of eviction?" For homeowner households, the results represent a "Very Likely" or "Somewhat Likely" response to the question, "How likely is it that your household will have to leave this home within the next two months because of foreclosure?"



Housing Market Indicators Monthly Update | May 2023

SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

C. Additional Notes

As of November 17, 2022, Freddie Mac no longer surveys lenders, but instead, bases its mortgage rate estimates on thousands of applications received from lenders and submitted to Freddie Mac when a borrower applies for a mortgage.

Beginning in May 2019, NAR replaced its Monthly Composite Housing Affordability Index (HAI), which was based on 30-year fixed rate mortgages (FRM) and adjustable rate mortgages (ARM), with a Fixed HAI based only on the 30-year fixed rate mortgage.

Black Knight enhanced their database as of December 2017 data, increasing their database coverage by nearly 1 million additional loans through several new contributors and improved coverage of certain types of data. In addition, HUD added filters to make sure all FHA and VA loans were excluded from the data to ensure reporting of only conventional loans. The November 2017 changes in reported data are mainly due to the additional filters.

FHA market share estimates were based on new methodology beginning with the October 2013 report; estimates were revised back through Q1 2011. See the FHA Market Share report on their website for an explanation of the new methodology: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/rmra/oe/rpts/fhamktsh/fhamktqtrly.

The estimate for first-time buyers was 26 percent for 2022, based on NAR's 2022 annual report, A Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers. The estimate was down sharply from 34 percent for 2021 with the October 2021 release of findings from their annual survey and the lowest rate since NAR began tracking the data in 1981. The annual reporting of first-time buyers differs from NAR's monthly REALTORS® Confidence Index survey because the annual survey, for the most part, represents purchases of homes by owner-occupants and does not include purchases by investors, as in the monthly survey.

CoreLogic's House Price Index (HPI) estimates are based on new methodology beginning with their June 2016 report, which includes data through April 2016. A variety of modeling and other enhancements to their HPI and its forecast, including a 14-percent expansion in the number of transaction pairs, were made.

MBA switched to reporting monthly forbearance data in place of weekly data starting November 2021.

Data for Week 55, the first Pulse Survey of Phase 3.8, started March 1, 2023 and continues through May 8, 2023. During Phase 3.8, data collection will continue with the sequence of every other two weeks.

The BLS Consumer Population Survey/Housing Vacancy Survey (CPS/HVS) is conducted by the Census Bureau and collects data on indicators used in this report, including the homeownership rate, housing units held off market, and housing rental prices. The Bureau views the 2Q 2020 through 2Q 2021 period as a break in series because COVID-19 prevented normal data collection procedures. The Census Bureau suspended in-person interviews on March 20, 2020 and conducted the survey for the rest of the first quarter and the entirety of the second quarter solely by telephone interviews. In-person interviews were incrementally added back in the subsequent four quarters with respective rates of 63, 94, 98, and 99 percent of in-person interviews allowed. Normal data collection procedures resumed in Q3 2021 with less than one-half of one percent of in-person interviews restricted. As an example of the break in series, the national homeownership rate, at 65.3 percent in the first quarter of 2020, was estimated to have jumped to 67.9 in the second quarter of 2020 and decline to 65.4 percent by the second quarter of 2021. The changes in survey methods likely contributed to the sharp increase and following decline in the homeownership rate during that time period. See Source and Accuracy release <https://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/index.html>.