National Data

# HOUSING PRODUCTION



**P**ermits for construction of new housing units were unchanged in the first quarter of 2007, at a seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) of 1,556,000 units, but were down 27 percent from the first quarter of 2006. One-unit permits, at 1,118,000 units, were down 4 percent from the level of the previous quarter and down 31 percent from a year earlier. Multifamily permits (5 or more units in structure), at 365,000 units, were 12 percent above the fourth quarter of 2006 but 17 percent below the first quarter of 2006.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Total	1,556	1,560	2,142	_	- 27
One Unit	1,118	1,166	1,614	- 4	- 31
Two to Four	73	68	91	+ 7**	- 20
Five Plus	365	325	437	+ 12	- 17

\*Components may not add to totals because of rounding. Units in thousands. Source: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce



Construction starts of new housing units in the first quarter of 2007 totaled 1,474,000 units at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, a statistically insignificant 5 percent below the fourth quarter of 2006 and 31 percent below the first quarter of 2006. Single-family starts, at 1,177,000 units, were a statistically insignificant 5 percent lower than the previous quarter and 33 percent lower than the first-quarter level of the previous year. Multifamily starts totaled 267,000 units, a statistically insignificant 8 percent below the previous quarter and a statistically insignificant 22 percent below the same quarter in 2006.

1 A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Total	1,474	1,559	2,123	- 5**	- 31
One Unit	1,177	1,234	1,747	- 5**	- 33
Five Plus	267	288	343	- 8**	- 22**

\*Components may not add to totals because of rounding. Units in thousands.

\*\*This change is not statistically significant.

Source: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce



Housing units under construction at the end of the first quarter of 2007 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,195,000 units, a statistically insignificant 4 percent below the previous quarter and 16 percent below the first quarter of 2006. Single-family units stood at 760,000, a statistically insignificant 6 percent below the previous quarter and 23 percent below the first quarter of 2006. Multifamily units were at 402,000, down a statistically insignificant 1 percent from the previous quarter and down a statistically insignificant 1 percent from the first quarter of 2006.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Total	1,195	1,247	1,420	- 4**	- 16
One Unit	760	805	983	- 6**	- 23
Five Plus	402	407	408	- 1**	- 1**

\*Components may not add to totals because of rounding. Units in thousands.

\*\*This change is not statistically significant.

Sources: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce; and Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development



Housing units completed in the first quarter of 2007, at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,702,000 units, were down 11 percent from the previous quarter and down 19 percent from the same quarter of 2006. Singlefamily completions, at 1,378,000 units, were down 10 percent from the previous quarter and down 21 percent from the rate of a year earlier. Multifamily completions, at 287,000 units, were a statistically insignificant 10 percent below the previous quarter and a statistically insignificant 1 percent below the same quarter of 2006.

The second se	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Total	1,702	1,907	2,095	- 11	- 19
One Unit	1,378	1,536	1,750	- 10	- 21
Five Plus	287	317	290	- 10**	- 1**

\*Components may not add to totals because of rounding. Units in thousands.

\*\*This change is not statistically significant.

Sources: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce; and Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development



#### **Manufactured** (Mobile) Home Shipments\*

Shipments of new manufactured (mobile) homes were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 94,000 units in the first quarter of 2007, which is 4 percent below the previous quarter and 36 percent below the rate of a year earlier.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Manufacturers' Shipments	94	97	147	- 4	- 36

\*Units in thousands. These shipments are for HUD-code homes only and do not include manufactured housing units built to meet local building codes, which are included in housing starts figures.

Source: National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards





Sales of new single-family homes totaled 856,000 units at a seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) in the first quarter of 2007, down 14 percent from the previous quarter and down 23 percent from the first quarter of 2006. The number of new homes for sale at the end of the first quarter of 2007 was 545,000 units, a statistically insignificant 2 percent above the previous quarter but a statistically insignificant 1 percent lower than a year ago. At the end of March 2007, inventories represented a 7.8 months' supply at the current sales rate, denoting an increase of 26 percent above the previous quarter and an increase of 28 percent over the first quarter of 2006.

Sales of existing homes for the first quarter of 2007 reported by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup> totaled 6,413,000 (SAAR), up 2 percent from the previous quarter but down 7 percent from the first quarter of 2006. The number of units for sale at the end of this year's first quarter was 3,745,000, 9 percent higher than the previous quarter and 17 percent higher than the same quarter a year ago. At the end of March 2007, a 7.3 months' supply of units remained, which is 11 percent higher than the previous quarter and 30 percent higher than a year ago.

SOLD	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
		New Hor	mes		
New Homes Sold	856	992	1,111	- 14	- 23
For Sale	545	536	553	+ 2**	- 1**
Months' Supply	7.8	6.2	6.1	+ 26	+ 28
		Existing H	lomes		
Existing Homes Sold	6,413	6,263	6,863	+ 2	- 7
For Sale	3,745	3,450	3,198	+ 9	+ 17
Months' Supply	7.3	6.6	5.6	+ 11	+ 30

\*Units in thousands.

\*\*This change is not statistically significant.

Sources: New Homes—Census Bureau, Department of Commerce; and Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Existing Homes—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



The median price of new homes sold during the first quarter of 2007 was \$252,200, up a statistically insignificant 3 percent over the previous quarter and up a statistically insignificant 2 percent from the first quarter of 2006. The average price of new homes sold during the first quarter of 2007 was \$322,400, 8 percent higher than the previous quarter and a statistically insignificant 6 percent higher than the same quarter a year ago. The price adjusted to represent a constant-quality house was \$275,200, a statistically insignificant 2 percent higher than the previous quarter and a statistically insignificant 5 percent higher than the first quarter of 2006. The values for the set of physical characteristics used for the constant-quality house are based on 1996 sales.

The median price of existing homes sold in the first quarter of 2007 was \$213,800, down 3 percent from the previous quarter and down 2 percent from the first quarter of 2006, according to the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup>. The average price of existing homes sold, \$260,300, was 2 percent lower than the previous quarter and 2 percent lower than the first quarter of 2006.

\$	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
		New Ho	mes		
Median	\$252,200	\$245,400	\$247,700	+ 3**	+ 2**
Average	\$322,400	\$299,600	\$305,300	+ 8	+ 6**
Constant-Quality House <sup>1</sup>	\$275,200	\$268,600	\$262,200	+ 2**	+ 5**
		Existing H	lomes		
Median	\$213,800	\$219,300	\$217,600	- 3	- 2
Average	\$260,300	\$265,900	\$264,700	- 2	- 2

\*\*This change is not statistically significant.

<sup>1</sup>Effective with the release of the first quarter 2001 New Home Sales Price Index in April 2001, the Census Bureau began publishing the Fixed-Weighted Laspeyres Price Index on a *1996 base year*. (The previous base year was 1992.) "Constant-quality house" data are no longer published as a series but are computed for this table from price indexes published by the Census Bureau.



## **Housing Affordability**

Housing affordability is the ratio of median family income to the income needed to purchase the medianpriced home based on current interest rates and underwriting standards, expressed as an index. The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® composite index of housing affordability for the first quarter of 2007 shows that families earning the median income have 114.7 percent of the income needed to purchase the medianpriced existing single-family home. This figure is 5 percent higher than the previous quarter and 4 percent higher than the first quarter of 2006.

The increase in the first quarter 2007 housing affordability index reflects current changes in the market place. The national average home mortgage interest rate of 6.42 is 10 basis points lower than the previous quarter. The median sales price of existing single-family homes declined to \$212,333, 3 percent lower than the previous quarter and 2 percent lower than the first quarter of 2006. Median family income increased 0.6 percent from the previous quarter to \$58,615, a 3.0 percent gain over the previous year's first quarter.

The first quarter 2007 fixed-rate index of housing affordability increased 5 percent from both the previous quarter and the first quarter of 2006. The adjustable-rate index was 4 percent higher than both the previous quarter and the first quarter of 2006.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Composite Index	114.7	109.4	109.8	+ 5	+ 4
Fixed-Rate Index	114.5	109.2	108.9	+ 5	+ 5
Adjustable- Rate Index	116.2	111.3	112.1	+ 4	+ 4

Source: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

## Apartment Absorptions

In the fourth quarter of 2006, 33,000 new, unsubsidized, unfurnished, multifamily (five or more units in structure) rental apartments were completed, down a statistically insignificant 3 percent from the previous quarter but up 29 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005. Of the apartments completed in the fourth quarter of 2006, 57 percent were rented within 3 months. This absorption rate is a statistically insignificant 10 percent higher than the previous quarter but a statistically insignificant 10 percent lower than the same quarter a year ago. The median asking rent for apartments completed in the fourth quarter was \$1,037, a statistically insignificant drop of 5 percent from the previous quarter but a statistically insignificant gain of 5 percent over the fourth quarter of 2005.

For all of 2006, 117,200 rental apartments were completed, a statistically insignificant increase of 4 percent over 2005. Of these rental apartments, 58 percent were rented within 3 months. This absorption rate is a statistically insignificant 8 percent lower than the previous year. The median asking rent in 2006 was \$1,039, an increase of 10 percent over 2005.

<b>.</b>	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Apartments Completed*	33.0	33.9	25.6	- 3**	+ 29
Percent Absorbed Next Quarter	57	52	63	+ 10**	- 10**
Median Rent	\$1,037	\$1,088	\$984	- 5**	+ 5**

\*Units in thousands.

\*\*This change is not statistically significant.

Sources: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce; and Office of Policy

#### Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development

### **TEL** Manufactured (Mobile) Home Placements

**M**anufactured homes placed on site ready for occupancy in the fourth quarter of 2006 totaled 101,300 units at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, a statistically insignificant 9 percent below the level of the previous quarter and 17 percent below the fourth quarter of 2005. The number of homes for sale on dealers' lots at the end of the fourth quarter totaled 40,000 units, a statistically insignificant 3 percent above the previous quarter and 8 percent above the same quarter of 2005. The average sales price of the units sold in the fourth quarter was \$64,900, unchanged from the previous quarter but a statistically insignificant 1 percent above the price in the fourth quarter of 2005.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Placements*	101.3	111.3	122.0	- 9**	- 17
On Dealers' Lots*	40.0	39.0	37.0	+ 3**	+ 8
Average Sales Price	\$64,900	\$64,800	\$64,000		+ 1**

\*Units in thousands. These placements are for HUD-code homes only and do not include manufactured housing units built to meet local building codes, which are included in housing completions figures.

\*\*This change is not statistically significant.

Note: Percentage changes are based on unrounded numbers. Sources: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce; and Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development





The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)/Wells Fargo conducts a monthly survey focusing on builders' views of the level of sales activity and their expectations for the near future. NAHB uses these survey responses to construct indices of housing market activity. (The index values range from 0 to 100.) For the first quarter of 2007, the current market activity index for single-family, detached houses stood at 37, up 4 points from the previous quarter but down 24 points from the first quarter of 2006. The index for future sales expectations, at 50, was up 5 points from the fourth quarter of 2006 but fell 14 points from the first quarter of 2006. Prospective buyer traffic had an index value of 28, which is up 4 points from the previous quarter but down 12 points from the first quarter of the past year. NAHB combines these separate indices into a single housing market index that mirrors the three components quite closely. For the first quarter of 2007, this index stood at 37, which is 5 points higher than the fourth quarter of 2006 but 19 points lower than the first quarter of 2006.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Housing Market Index	37	32	56	+ 15	- 34
Current Sales Activity— Single-Family Detached	37	33	61	+ 12	- 40
Future Sales Expectations— Single-Family Detached	50	45	64	+ 11	- 22
Prospective Buyer Traffic	28	24	40	+ 17	- 30

Source: Builders Economic Council Survey, National Association of Home Builders

# **HOUSING FINANCE**



The contract mortgage interest rate for 30-year, fixed-rate, conventional mortgages reported by Freddie Mac decreased to 6.22 percent in the first quarter of 2007, 3 basis points lower than the previous quarter and 2 basis points lower than the first quarter of 2006. Adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMS) in the first quarter of 2007 were going for 5.47 percent, 3 basis points below the previous quarter but 16 basis points above the first quarter of 2006. Fixed-rate, 15-year mortgages, at 5.96 percent, were unchanged from the fourth quarter of 2006 but were up 11 basis points from the first quarter of 2006.

+%	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Conventional, Fixed-Rate, 30-Year	6.22	6.25	6.24	_	_
Conventional ARMs	5.47	5.50	5.31	- 1	+ 3
Conventional, Fixed-Rate, 15-Year	5.96	5.96	5.85		+ 2

Source: Federal Mac



Applications for FHA mortgage insurance on 1-4 family homes were received for 164,500 (not seasonally adjusted) properties in the first quarter of 2007, up 8 percent from the previous quarter but down 2 percent from the first quarter of 2006. Total endorsements or insurance policies issued totaled 120,700, unchanged from the fourth quarter of 2006 but up 5 percent from the first quarter of 2006. Purchase endorsements, at 58,100 were down 14 percent from the previous quarter and down 16 percent from the first quarter of 2006. Endorsements for refinancing increased to 62,600, up 18 percent from the fourth quarter of 2006 and up 36 percent from the first quarter of 2006.

Leans	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Applications Received	164.5	152.4	168.7	+ 8	- 2
Total Endorsements	120.7	120.4	115.2		+ 5
Purchase Endorsements	58.1	67.5	69.0	- 14	- 16
Refinancing Endorsements	62.6	53.0	46.2	+ 18	+ 36

\*Units in thousands of properties.

Source: Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development



**P**rivate mortgage insurers issued 411,100 policies or certificates of insurance on conventional mortgage loans during the first quarter of 2007, up 8 percent from the fourth quarter of 2006 and up 25 percent from the first quarter of 2006; these numbers are not seasonally adjusted. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reported the issuance of mortgage loan guaranties on 30,900 single-family properties in the first quarter of 2007, down 3 percent from the previous quarter and down 3 percent from the first quarter of 2006.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Total PMI Certificates	411.1	382.1	329.8	+ 8	+ 25
Total VA Guaranties	30.9	31.9	31.7	- 3	- 3

\*Units in thousands of properties.

Sources: PMI-Mortgage Insurance Companies of America; and VA-Department of Veterans Affairs



T otal delinquencies for all loans past due were at 4.95 percent in the fourth quarter of 2006, up 6 percent from the third quarter of 2006 and up 5 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005. Delinquencies for sub-prime loans past due were at 13.33 percent, up 6 percent from the third quarter of 2006 and up 15 percent from the fourth quarter of 2006, 90-day delinquencies for all loans were at 0.96 percent, up 2 percent from the third quarter of 2006 but down 6 percent from the fourth quarter a year ago. Subprime loans that were 90 days past due stood at 3.13 percent at the close of 2006, up 6 percent from the third quarter of 2005. During the fourth quarter of 2006, 0.54 percent of all loans entered foreclosure, an increase of 17 percent from the third quarter of 2006 and an increase of 29 percent from the fourth quarter of 2006, an increase of 10 percent over the third quarter of 2006 and 36 percent over the fourth quarter of 2005.

The annual data for 2006 shows that all loans that were past due increased to 4.61 percent, an increase of 4.0 percent from 2005. Loans past due for 90 days were at 0.96 percent for 2006, an increase of 8.0 percent over the previous year. Foreclosures for 2006 increased 12.0 percent for the year.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year			
	Total Past Due (%)							
All Loans	4.95	4.67	4.70	+ 6	+ 5			
Subprime Loans	13.33	12.56	11.63	+ 6	+ 15			
90 Days Past Due (%)								
All Loans	0.96	0.94	1.02	+ 2	- 6			
Subprime Loans	3.13	2.96	2.94	+ 6	+ 6			
Foreclosures Started (%)								
All Loans	0.54	0.46	0.42	+ 17	+ 29			
Subprime Loans	2.00	1.82	1.47	+ 10	+ 36			

Source: National Delinquency Survey, Mortgage Bankers Association



# **HOUSING INVESTMENT**



#### **Residential Fixed Investment and Gross Domestic Product\***

Residential Fixed Investment (RFI) for the first quarter of 2007 was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$687.2 billion, 4 percent below the value from the fourth quarter of 2006 and 15 percent below the first quarter of 2006. As a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), RFI for the first quarter of 2007 was 5.0 percent, 0.3 percentage point below the previous quarter and 1.2 percentage points below the same quarter a year ago.

CDF Me	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
GDP	13,632.6	13,458.2	13,008.4	+ 1	+ 5
RFI	\$687.2	\$717.1	\$808.5	- 4	- 15
RFI/GDP (%)	5.0	5.3	6.2	- 6	- 19

\*Billions of dollars.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce

# HOUSING INVENTORY



At the end of the first quarter of 2007 the estimate of the total housing stock, 127,266,000 units, was up a statistically insignificant 0.5 percent from the fourth quarter of 2006 and up a statistically insignificant 1.5 percent above the first quarter of 2006. The number of occupied units decreased a statistically insignificant 0.2 percent from the fourth quarter of 2006 but increased a statistically insignificant 0.4 percent from the first quarter of 2006 but increased a statistically insignificant 1.0 percent from the fourth quarter of 2006 but increased a statistically insignificant 1.0 percent from the fourth quarter of 2006 but increased a statistically insignificant 1.0 percent from the fourth quarter of 2006 but increased a statistically insignificant 0.2 percent above the previous year's first quarter. Rentals increased a statistically insignificant 1.5 percent from the previous quarter and increased a statistically insignificant 0.8 percent from the first quarter of 2006. Vacant units were up 5.0 percent from last quarter and up 9.2 percent from the first quarter of 2006.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
All Housing Units	127,266	126,651	125,373	+ 0.5**	+ 1.5**
Occupied Units	109,704	109,932	109,289	- 0.2**	+ 0.4**
Owner Occupied	75,006	75,763	74,883	- 1.0**	+ 0.2**
Renter Occupied	34,698	34,169	34,406	+ 1.5**	+ 0.8**
Vacant Units	17,562	16,719	16,084	+ 5.0	+ 9.2

\*Components may not add to totals because of rounding. Units in thousands.

\*\*This change is not statistically significant.

Source: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce





The homeowner vacancy rate for the first quarter of 2007, at 2.8 percent, was up a statistically insignificant 0.1 percentage point from the fourth quarter of 2006 and was up 0.7 percentage point from the first quarter of 2006.

The 2007 first quarter national rental vacancy rate, at 10.1 percent, was up a statistically insignificant 0.3 percentage point from the previous quarter and up a statistically insignificant 0.6 percentage point from the same quarter a year ago.

The 2006 annual homeowner vacancy rate was 2.4 percent, up 0.5 percentage point from 2005. In 2006, the annual rental vacancy rate was 9.7 percent, down a statistically insignificant 0.1 percentage point from the previous year.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Homeowner Rate	2.8	2.7	2.1	+ 4**	+ 33
Rental Rate	10.1	9.8	9.5	+ 3**	+ 6**

\*\*This change is not statistically significant.

Source: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce



#### **Homeownership Rates**

I he national homeownership rate for all households was 68.4 percent in the first quarter of 2007, down 0.5 percentage point from the previous quarter and down a statistically insignificant 0.1 percentage point from the first quarter of 2006. The homeownership rate for minority households, at 51.3 percent, decreased a statistically insignificant 0.1 percentage point from the fourth quarter of 2006 but increased a statistically insignificant 0.3 percentage point from the first quarter of 2006. The 61.8-percent homeownership rate for young married-couple households was down 1.1 percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2006 and down 0.6 percentage point from the first quarter of 2006.

The 2006 annual homeownership rate for all households was 68.8 percent, down a statistically insignificant 0.1 percentage point from 2005. Annual homeownership rates for minority households were unchanged at 51.3 percent and for young married-couple households were down a statistically insignificant 0.2 percentage point to 63.1 percent from the annual 2005 figure.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
All Households	68.4	68.9	68.5	- 0.7	- 0.1**
Minority Households	51.3	51.4	51.0	- 0.2**	+ 0.6**
Young Married-Couple Households	61.8	62.9	62.4	- 1.7	- 1.0

\*\*This change is not statistically significant.

Source: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce