

National Data

HOUSING PRODUCTION



Permits for construction of new housing units were down 9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2006, at a seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) of 1,560,000 units, and were down 27 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005. One-unit permits, at 1,166,000 units, were down 9 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 325,000 units, were 9 percent below the third quarter of 2006 and 12 percent below the fourth quarter of 2005.

In 2006, permits for 1,837,300 units were issued, 15 percent fewer than in 2005. Of these, 1,380,000 were for single-family units, a decrease of 18 percent from the previous year. Permits for multifamily units totalled 380,000, down 2 percent from 2005.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Total	1,560	1,709	2,143	- 9	- 27
One Unit	1,166	1,276	1,692	- 9	- 31
Two to Four	68	77	82	- 12	- 17
Five Plus	325	356	369	- 9	- 12

^{*}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 fourth quarter of 2006 totaled 1,564,000 units at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, a statistically insignificant 9 percent below the third quarter of 2006 and 24 percent below the fourth quarter of 2005. Single-family starts, at 1,233,000 units, were 12 percent lower than the previous quarter and 28 percent lower than the fourth-quarter level of the previous year. Multifamily starts totaled 290,000 units, a statistically insignificant 11 percent above the previous quarter but a statistically insignificant 6 percent below the same quarter in 2005.

In 2006, builders started construction on 1,800,700 units, 13 percent fewer than in 2005. Single-family starts fell 15 percent to 1,463,700 units. Multifamily starts totalled 293,000 units for the year, 6 percent fewer than in 2005.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Total	1,564	1,714	2,060	- 9 * *	- 24
One Unit	1,233	1,401	1,718	- 12	- 28
Five Plus	290	262	308	+11**	- 6**

^{*}Components may not add to totals because of rounding. Units in thousands.

Source: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce



Under Construction*

Housing units under construction at the end of the fourth quarter of 2006 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,255,000 units, 5 percent below the previous quarter and 10 percent below the fourth quarter of 2005. Single-family units stood at 810,000, a statistically insignificant 6 percent below the previous quarter and 17 percent below the fourth quarter of 2005. Multifamily units were at 409,000, down a statistically insignificant 1 percent from the previous quarter but up a statistically insignificant 4 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005.

At the end of 2006, 1,210,900 housing units were under construction, 11 percent fewer than at the end of 2005. Single-family units accounted for 769,100 of this total, a decrease of 17 percent from the previous year, and multifamily units accounted for 406,500, down 4 percent from 2005.

1	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Total	1,255	1,320	1,401	- 5	- 10
One Unit	810	866	972	- 6**	- 17
Five Plus	409	414	394	- 1**	+ 4**

^{*}Components may not add to totals because of rounding. Units in thousands.

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

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Completions*

 $oldsymbol{ ext{H}}$ ousing units completed in the fourth quarter of 2006, at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,907,000 units, were down a statistically insignificant 3 percent from the previous quarter and down a statistically insignificant 2 percent from the same quarter of 2005. Single-family completions, at 1,540,000 units, were down a statistically insignificant 8 percent from the previous quarter and down 6 percent from the rate of a year earlier. Multifamily completions, at 312,000 units, were a statistically insignificant 19 percent above the previous quarter and 14 percent above the same quarter of 2005.

In 2006, 1,978,200 housing units were completed, an increase of 2 percent over 2005. Single-family units accounted for 1,654,500 of this total, an increase of 1 percent over 2005. Multifamily units accounted for 282,700 of the completions, up 10 percent from 2005.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Total	1,907	1,957	1,943	-3**	- 2**
One Unit	1,540	1,668	1,638	- 8**	- 6
Five Plus	312	262	274	+ 19**	+ 14

^{*}Components may not add to totals because of rounding. Units in thousands.

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 98,000 units in the fourth quarter of 2006, which is 8 percent below the previous quarter and 49 percent below the rate of a vear earlier.

Manufacturers shipped 131,000 units in all of 2006, 11 percent fewer than in 2005.

0 00 00	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Manufacturers' Shipments	98	107	192	- 8	- 49

^{*}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

^{**}This change is not statistically significant.



HOUSING MARKETING



Home Sales*

Sales of new single-family homes totaled 1,061,000 units at a seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) in the fourth quarter of 2006, up a statistically insignificant 5 percent from the previous quarter but down 17 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005. The number of new homes for sale at the end of this year's fourth quarter was 537,000 units, a statistically insignificant 4 percent below last quarter but a statistically insignificant 6 percent higher than a year earlier. At the end of December, inventories represented a 5.9 months' supply at the current sales rate, representing a decline of 12 percent from the previous quarter but a 23-percent increase over the fourth quarter of last year. For all of 2006, 1,061,000 new single-family houses were sold, a 17-percent decline from 2005.

Sales of existing homes for the fourth quarter of 2006 reported by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® totaled 6,243,000 (SAAR), down 1 percent from last quarter and down 10 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005. The number of units for sale at the end of this year's fourth quarter was 3,508,000, down 7 percent from the previous quarter but 23 percent above the same quarter last year. At the end of December, a 6.8 months' supply of units remained, 7 percent lower than last quarter but 33 percent more than a year ago. For all of 2006, sales of existing homes fell to 6,480,000, down 8 percent from 2005.

SOLD	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
		New Ho	mes		
New Homes Sold	1,061	1,007	1,280	+ 5**	- 17
For Sale	537	560	509	- 4**	+ 6**
Months' Supply	5.9	6.7	4.8	- 12	+ 23
		Existing H	lomes		
Existing Homes Sold	6,243	6,280	6,943	- 1	- 10
For Sale	3,508	3,783	2,846	- 7	+ 23
Months' Supply	6.8	7.3	5.1	- 7	+ 33

^{*}Units in thousands.

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®

^{**}This change is not statistically significant.

S Home Prices

The median price of new homes sold during the fourth quarter of 2006 was \$237,700, up a statistically insignificant 1 percent from the previous quarter but down a statistically insignificant 2 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005. The average price of new homes sold during the fourth quarter of 2006 was \$296,300, a statistically insignificant 4 percent below last quarter but a statistically insignificant 1 percent above the same quarter a year ago. The price adjusted to represent a constant-quality house was \$268,700, a statistically insignificant 2 percent higher than the previous quarter and a statistically insignificant 3 percent higher than the fourth quarter of last year. The values for the set of physical characteristics used for the constant-quality house are based on 1996 sales.

For all of 2006, the median annual price of new homes increased to \$245,300, up a statistically insignificant 2 percent from 2005. The average annual price for 2006 was \$304,700, a statistically insignificant 3 percent higher than the previous year. The constant-quality house price rose a statistically insignificant 4 percent in 2006 to \$264,600.

The median price of existing homes sold in the fourth quarter of 2006 was \$219,300, down 3 percent from both last quarter and the fourth quarter of 2005, according to the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®. The average price of existing homes sold, \$266,300, was 1 percent lower than the previous quarter and 2 percent lower than the fourth quarter of last year. For all of 2006, the annual median price of existing homes increased 1 percent to \$222,000, while the average annual price rose to \$268,300, also a 1-percent gain over the previous year.

\$	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
		New Ho	mes		
Median	\$237,700	\$235,600	\$243,600	+ 1**	-2**
Average	\$296,300	\$308,100	\$294,200	- 4**	+ 1**
Constant-Quality House ¹	\$268,700	\$264,400	\$259,800	+ 2**	+ 3**
		Existing H	lomes		
Median	\$219,300	\$225,000	\$225,300	- 3	- 3
Average	\$266,300	\$270,300	\$270,700	- 1	- 2

^{**}This change is not statistically significant.

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 median-priced 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 fourth quarter of 2006 shows that families earning median income have 109.3 percent of the income needed to purchase the median-priced existing single-family home. This figure is 6 percent higher than last quarter and 3 percent higher than the fourth quarter of 2005.

The increase in the fourth quarter 2006 housing affordability index reflects current changes in the marketplace. The national average home mortgage interest rate of 6.52 is 24 basis points lower than the previous quarter. The median price of existing single-family homes fell to \$219,300, 3 percent lower than both last quarter and the fourth quarter of 2005. Median family income increased 0.8 percent from the previous quarter to \$58,294, a 3.2-percent gain over last year's fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter 2006 fixed-rate index of housing affordability increased 6 percent from last quarter and was 4 percent higher than the fourth quarter of 2005. The adjustable-rate index was also 6 percent higher than the previous quarter and 1 percent above last year's fourth quarter.

For all of 2006, the composite housing affordability index averaged 106.0, a 5-percent decline from 2005. The national average home mortgage interest rate for 2006 was 6.58, 67 basis points above the same rate in 2005. The median price of existing single-family homes for 2006 was \$222,000, 1 percent higher than the previous year, and median family income in 2006 was \$57,612, a 3-percent increase over 2005. The fixed-rate affordability index for 2006 was 105.6, 4 percent below the previous year, and the adjustable-rate affordability index of 108.0 was 7 percent lower than that of 2005.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Composite Index	109.3	103.1	106.5	+ 6	+ 3
Fixed-Rate Index	109.0	102.6	105.1	+ 6	+ 4
Adjustable- Rate Index	111.2	104.9	110.1	+ 6	+ 1

Source: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Apartment Absorptions

In the third quarter of 2006, 32,100 new, unsubsidized, unfurnished, multifamily (five or more units in structure) rental apartments were completed, up a statistically insignificant 13 percent from the previous quarter and up a statistically insignificant 5 percent from the third quarter of 2005. Of the apartments completed in the third quarter of 2006, 57 percent were rented within 3 months. This absorption rate is a statistically insignificant 7 percent lower than last quarter and 10 percent below the same quarter of the previous year. The median asking rent for apartments completed in the third quarter was \$1,052, an increase of 7 percent from the previous quarter and a gain of 15 percent from the third quarter of 2005.

1	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Apartments Completed*	32.1	28.5	30.5	+ 13**	+ 5**
Percent Absorbed Next Quarter	57	61	63	- 7**	- 10
Median Rent	\$1,052	\$979	\$911	+ 7	+ 15

^{*}Units in thousands.

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

Manufactured (Mobile) Home Placements

Manufactured homes placed on site ready for occupancy in the third quarter of 2006 totaled 111,300 at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, a statistically insignificant 5 percent below the level of the previous quarter and 9 percent below the third quarter of 2005. The number of homes for sale on dealers' lots at the end of the third quarter totaled 39,000 units, 7 percent below the previous quarter but a statistically insignificant 3 percent above the same quarter of 2005. The average sales price of the units sold in the third quarter of 2006 was \$64,800, a statistically insignificant 5 percent above the previous quarter and 5 percent above the price in the third quarter of 2005.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Placements*	111.3	116.7	122.3	- 5 * *	- 9
On Dealers' Lots*	39.0	42.0	38.0	- 7	+ 3**
Average Sales Price	\$64,800	\$61,700	\$61,700	+ 5**	+ 5

^{*}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.

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

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Builders' Views of Housing Market Activity

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 fourth quarter of 2006, the current market activity index for single-family detached houses stood at 33, down 4 points from last quarter and down 35 points from the fourth quarter of 2005. The index for future sales expectations, 45, was up 4 points from the third quarter of 2006 but fell 23 points below last year's fourth quarter. Prospective buyer traffic had an index value of 24, which is unchanged from the previous quarter but down 22 points from the fourth quarter of last year. NAHB combines these separate indices into a single housing market index that mirrors the three components quite closely. For the fourth quarter of 2006, this index stood at 32, which is 2 points lower than the third quarter of 2006 and 30 points below the fourth quarter of last year.

For all of 2006, the current sales index averaged 45, down 28 points from 2005. The average future sales expectations index was 51, 24 points lower than the previous year. The prospective sales index averaged 30 for the year, down 20 points from 2005. The composite index for 2006 was 42, a decrease of 25 points from the previous year.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Housing Market Index	32	34	62	- 6	- 48
Current Sales Activity— Single-Family Detached	33	37	68	- 11	- 51
Future Sales Expectations— Single-Family Detached	45	41	68	+ 10	- 34
Prospective Buyer Traffic	24	24	46	_	- 48

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

HOUSING FINANCE



Mortgage Interest Rates

The contract mortgage interest rate for 30-year, fixed-rate, conventional mortgages reported by Freddie Mac decreased to 6.25 percent in the fourth quarter of 2006, 31 basis points lower than in the previous quarter but 3 basis points higher than in the fourth quarter of 2005. Adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) in the fourth quarter of 2006 were going for 5.50 percent, 16 basis point below the previous quarter but 44 basis points above the fourth quarter of 2005. Fixed-rate, 15-year mortgages, at 5.96 percent, were down 26 basis points from the third quarter of 2006 but up 19 basis points from the fourth quarter of 2004. The 2006 annual rate for 30-year, fixed-rate, conventional mortgages was 6.41 percent, up 54 basis points from last year.

₩*	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Conventional, Fixed-Rate, 30-Year	6.25	6.56	6.22	- 5	_
Conventional ARMs	5.50	5.66	5.06	- 3	+ 9
Conventional, Fixed-Rate, 15-Year	5.96	6.22	5.77	- 4	+ 3

Sources: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation; and Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development





FHA 1-4 Family Mortgage Insurance*

Applications for FHA mortgage insurance on 1–4 family homes were received for 152,400 (not seasonally adjusted) properties in the fourth quarter of 2006, down 2 percent from the previous quarter but up 13 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005. Total endorsements or insurance policies issued totaled 120,400, down 7 percent from the third quarter of 2006 but unchanged from the fourth quarter of 2005. Purchase endorsements, at 67,500, were down 18 percent from the previous quarter and were down 14 percent from the fourth quarter 2005. Endorsements for refinancing increased to 53,000, a 13-percent increase from the third quarter and were up 27 percent from the fourth quarter a year ago.

The total number of FHA applications received in 2006 was 653,900, a 3-percent decline from 2005. Total endorsements were 465,400, a decline of 11 percent from last year. Purchase endorsements, at 264,100, declined 21 percent from 2005 and the 201,300 refinancings were 6 percent above that of the previous year.

Loans	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Applications Received	152.4	154.9	134.2	- 2	+ 13
Total Endorsements	120.4	129.5	120.6	- 7	_
Purchase Endorsements	67.5	82.4	78.8	- 18	- 14
Refinancing Endorsements	53.0	47.1	41.8	+ 13	+ 27

^{*}Units in thousands of properties.

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



Private mortgage insurers issued 382,100 policies or certificates of insurance on conventional mortgage loans during the fourth quarter of 2006, up 3 percent from the third quarter of 2006 and up 1 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005; these numbers are not seasonally adjusted. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reported the issuance of mortgage loan guaranties on 31,900 single-family properties in the fourth quarter of 2006, down 18 percent from the previous quarter and down 13 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005.

In 2006, private insurers issued 1,444,330 certificates of insurance, a decrease of 9 percent from 2005. Total VA mortgage loan guaranties decreased 14 percent to 137,874 from 2005 to 2006.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Total PMI Certificates	382.1	372.3	379.7	+ 3	+ 1
Total VA Guaranties	31.9	39.0	36.8	- 18	- 13

^{*}Units in thousands of properties.

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



Delinquencies and Foreclosures

Total delinquencies for all past due loans were at 4.67 percent in the third quarter of 2006, up 6 percent from the second quarter of 2006 and up 5 percent from the third quarter of 2005. Delinquencies for subprime past due loans were at 12.56 percent, up 7 percent from the second quarter of 2006 and up 17 percent from the third quarter of the previous year. Ninety-day delinquencies for all loans were at 0.94 percent, up 3 percent from the second quarter of 2006 and up 13 percent from the third quarter a year ago. Subprime loans that were 90 days past due stood at 2.96 percent in the third quarter of 2006, up 12 percent from second quarter of 2006 and up 30 percent from the third quarter 2005. During the third quarter of 2006, 0.46 percent of all loans entered foreclosure, up 7 percent from the second quarter of 2006 and up 12 percent from the third quarter of the previous year. In the subprime category, 1.82 percent began foreclosure in the third quarter of 2006, an increase of 2 percent over the second quarter of 2006 and up 31 percent from the third quarter of 2005.

BANK	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year	
		Total Past Du	ıe (%)			
All Loans	4.67	4.39	4.44	+ 6	+ 5	
Subprime Loans	12.56	11.70	10.76	+ 7	+ 17	
90 Days Past Due (%)						
All Loans	0.94	0.91	0.83	+ 3	+ 13	
Subprime Loans	2.96	2.65	2.28	+ 12	+ 30	
Foreclosures Started (%)						
All Loans	0.46	0.43	0.41	+ 7	+ 12	
Subprime Loans	1.82	1.79	1.39	+ 2	+ 31	

Source: National Delinquency Survey, Mortgage Bankers Association



HOUSING INVESTMENT



Residential Fixed Investment and Gross Domestic Product*

Residential Fixed Investment (RFI) for the fourth quarter of 2006 was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$718.8 billion, 4 percent below the value from the third quarter of 2006 and 10 percent below the fourth quarter of 2005. As a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), RFI for the fourth quarter of 2006 was 5.3 percent, 0.3 percentage point below the previous quarter and 1.0 percentage point below the same quarter a year ago.

RFI for all of 2006 was \$767.1 billion, unchanged from 2005. Annual RFI was 5.8 percent of annual GDP, a decline of 0.4 percentage point from the previous year.

(apr olo	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
GDP	13,487.2	13,322.6	12,730.5	+ 1	+ 6
RFI	\$718.8	\$750.5	\$801.5	- 4	- 10
RFI/GDP (%)	5.3	5.6	6.3	- 5	- 16

^{*}Billions of dollars.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce

HOUSING INVENTORY



At the end of the fourth quarter of 2006 the estimate of the total housing stock, 126,651,000 units, was up a statistically insignificant 0.3 percent from the third quarter of 2006 and up a statistically insignificant 1.7 percent from the fourth quarter for 2005. The number of occupied units was up a statistically insignificant 0.3 percent from the third quarter of 2006 and rose a statistically insignificant 1.0 percent above the fourth quarter of 2005. Owner-occupied homes increased a statistically insignificant 0.2 percent from the third quarter of 2005 and were up a statistically insignificant 0.8 percent above last year's fourth quarter. Rentals increased a statistically insignificant 0.5 percent from the previous quarter and increased a statistically insignificant 1.3 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005. Vacant units were up a statistically insignificant 0.7 percent from last quarter and increased 7.0 percent from the fourth quarter of 2005.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
All Housing Units	126,651	126,225	124,509	+ 0.3**	+ 1.7**
Occupied Units	109,932	109,630	108,888	+ 0.3**	+ 1.0**
Owner Occupied	75,763	75,646	75,163	+ 0.2**	+ 0.8**
Renter Occupied	34,169	33,984	33,725	+ 0.5**	+ 1.3**
Vacant Units	16,719	16,595	15,621	+ 0.7**	+ 7.0

^{*}Components may not add to totals because of rounding. Units in thousands.

Source: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce

^{**}This change is not statistically significant.





Vacancy Rates

The national homeowner vacancy rate for the fourth quarter of 2006, at 2.7 percent, increased 0.2 percentage point from the third quarter of 2006 and increased 0.7 percentage point from the fourth quarter of 2005.

The national rental vacancy rate for the fourth quarter of 2006, at 9.8 percent, decreased a statistically insignificant 0.1 percentage point from the previous quarter but was up a statistically insignificant 0.2 percentage point from the same quarter of last year.

FOR	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
Homeowner Rate	2.7	2.5	2.0	+ 8	+ 35
Rental Rate	9.8	9.9	9.6	-1**	+ 2**

^{**}This change is not statistically significant. Source: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce



Homeownership Rates

T he national homeownership rate was 68.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2006, down a statistically insignificant 0.1 percentage point from both the previous quarter and the fourth quarter of 2005. The homeownership rate for minority households, at 51.4 percent, decreased a statistically insignificant 0.3 percentage point from the third quarter of 2006 and decreased a statistically insignificant 0.1 percentage point from the fourth quarter of 2005. The 62.9-percent homeownership rate for young married-couple households was down 0.8 percentage point from the third quarter of 2006 and was down 1.0 percentage point from the fourth quarter of 2005.

	Latest Quarter	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Previous Year	% Change From Previous Quarter	% Change From Last Year
All Households	68.9	69.0	69.0	- 0.1**	- 0.1 * *
Minority Households	51.4	51.7	51.5	- 0.6**	- 0.2**
Young Married-Couple Households	62.9	63.7	63.9	- 1.3	- 1.6

^{**}This change is not statistically significant. Source: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce