# Housing Market Indicators Monthly Update

# March 2025

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

- Purchases of new homes rose. New single-family home sales increased 1.8 percent to 676,000 units (SAAR) in February from an upwardly revised pace of 664,000 in January and were 5.1 percent higher year-over-year (y/y). New home sales are based on purchase agreements, unlike existing home sales which are based on closings. Note that monthly data on new home sales tend to be volatile. (Sources: HUD and Census Bureau)
- Existing home sales rose. The National Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup> (NAR) reported that February sales of existing homes (including single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums, and cooperatives) increased 4.2 percent to 4.26 million units (SAAR) from an upwardly revised pace of 4.09 million in January but were 1.2 percent lower y/y. Because existing home sales are based on closings, February sales reflect contract signings in December and January. Month-to-month (m/m) house prices have been mostly increasing modestly in the past several months, and mortgage rates remain fairly stable with the Fed signaling possibly fewer rate cuts in 2025. Inventories of existing homes for sale remain lean.
- Construction of new homes rose. Single-family housing starts, at 1.108 million units (SAAR) in February, were up 11.4 percent from 995,000 units in January but were 2.3 percent lower y/y. Multifamily housing starts (5+ units in a structure), at 370,000 units (SAAR), increased 12.1 percent from a downwardly revised pace of 330,000 units in January but were 6.6 percent lower y/y. Note that m/m changes in multifamily starts are often volatile. Total starts, at 1.501 million units, were up 11.2 percent m/m but down 2.9 percent y/y. (Sources: HUD, Census Bureau)
- Annual house price gains remained the same or accelerated slightly depending on the index referenced, with annual gains ranging from 4.7 to 4.8 percent. The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) seasonally adjusted (SA) purchase-only house price index for January estimated home values increased 0.16 percent m/m and 4.8 percent y/y, the same as the annual gain in December. The non-SA CoreLogic Case-Shiller® 20-City Home Price Index posted a 0.07 percent m/m increase (0.46 percent SA) in home values in January and a 4.7-percent y/y gain, up from a 4.6-percent annual gain in December. Mortgage financing became more expensive after the Federal Reserve began raising interest rates in April 2022. Starting in July 2023, the Fed held rates steady and then lowered them for the first time in four years in September 2024 and then again in November and December. The Fed has held interest rates steady since December. House prices peaked in June 2022 and began to decline modestly, as higher rates put downward pressure on prices. That trend reversed itself in February 2023, however, as current owners became increasingly reluctant to sell.

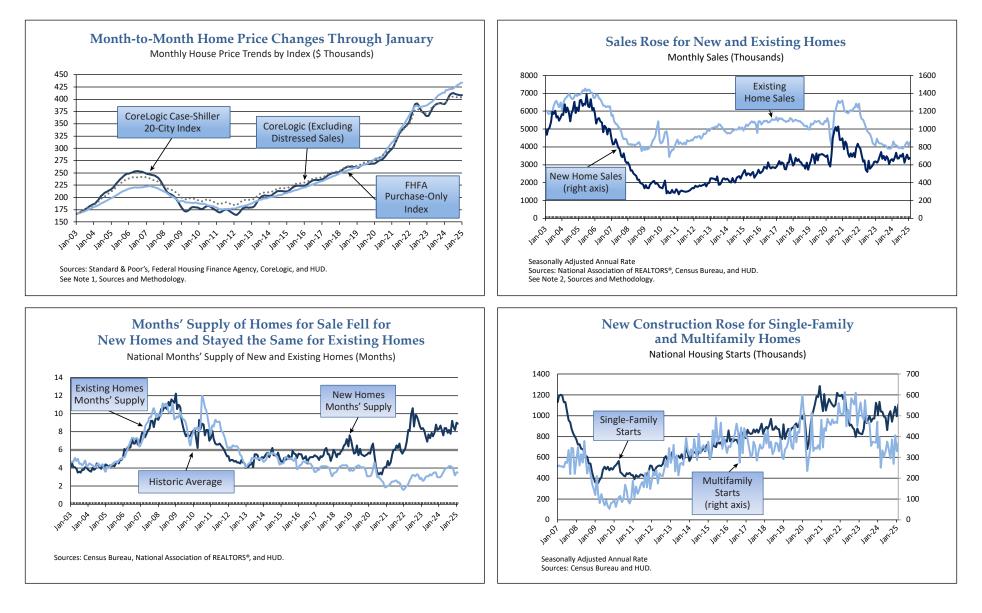
Month-to-month SA house prices have been mostly rising modestly since. The FHFA (SA) index now stands at 12.0 percent above its June 2022 peak and the Case-Shiller (SA) index is 8.1 percent above its June 2022 peak. For all of 2024, the average annual change in home prices for the FHFA index was 5.6 percent compared to 4.9 percent for 2023; for the CoreLogic-Case Shiller index, the average annual change in home prices was 5.9 percent for 2024 compared to 1.8 percent for 2023. (Both price indices are released with a 2-month lag.)

- The inventory of homes for sale rose for new and existing homes. The listed inventory of new homes for sale, at 500,000 units at the end of February, was up 0.8 percent m/m from 496,000 units in January and was 7.5 percent higher y/y. That inventory would support 8.9 months of sales at the current sales pace, down from 9.0 months in January due to the larger increase in sales. Available existing homes for sale, at 1.24 million units in February, increased 5.1 percent from 1.18 million units in January and were 17.0 percent higher y/y. That inventory represents a 3.5-month supply, the same as in January due to the large increase in sales.
- In the fourth quarter of 2024, homeowners' equity declined slightly and the number of underwater borrowers rose for a second consecutive quarter. The Federal Reserve estimated that homeowners' equity (total property value less mortgage debt outstanding) fell 1.4 percent, or \$507 billion, from the third quarter and now stands at more than \$34.7 trillion. Owner's equity peaked at nearly \$35.6 trillion in the second quarter of 2024. Changes in home prices are the primary driver of gains or losses in equity (owners' equity is not seasonally adjusted). For the fourth quarter of 2024, CoreLogic estimated the number of underwater borrowers (those who owe more on their mortgage than the value of their home) increased by 93,000 from the third quarter to 1.099 million borrowers, or 2.0 percent of residential properties with a mortgage, and was 72,100 higher than one year ago.
- The rate of forbearance on mortgage loans declined for a third consecutive month. The February MBA Forbearance Survey indicates the share of homeowners with mortgages in forbearance was 0.38 percent, or 191,000 households, down from 0.40 percent, or 199,000 households in January but up from 0.22 percent, or 109,000 households, one year ago.
- Rates on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages (FRMs) remain below 7.0 percent. The average weekly rate on 30-year FRMs was 6.65 percent the week ending March 27, down from a low of 6.76 percent in February. Mortgage rates began to rise in 2022 as the Fed raised interest rates, peaking at 7.79 percent in October 2023. Rates fluctuated at a relatively high level and declined somewhat with expectations of future Fed interest rate cuts, which took place in September, November and December 2024. Rates remain fairly stable with the Fed signaling possibly fewer rate cuts in 2025. (Source: Freddie Mac)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development





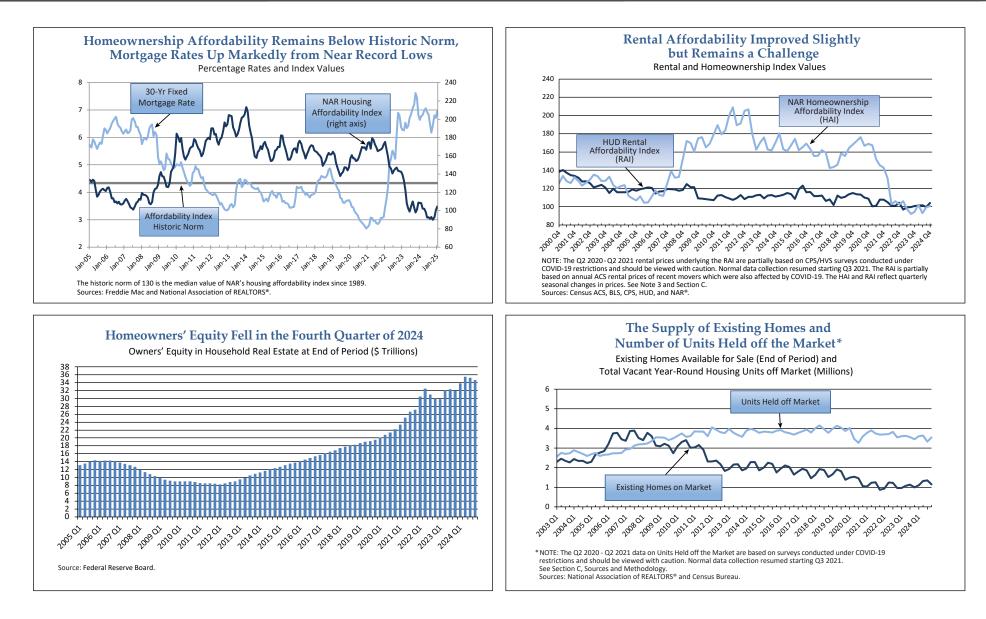


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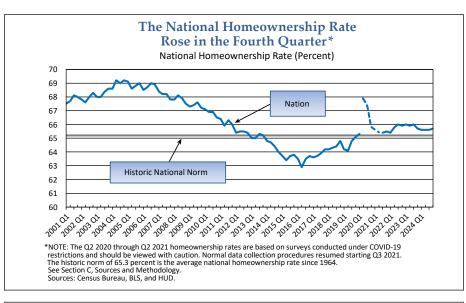


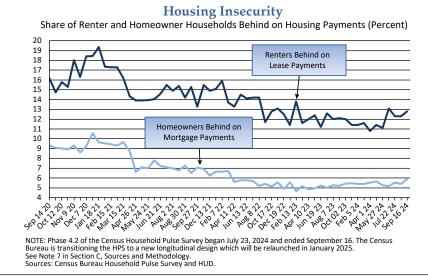
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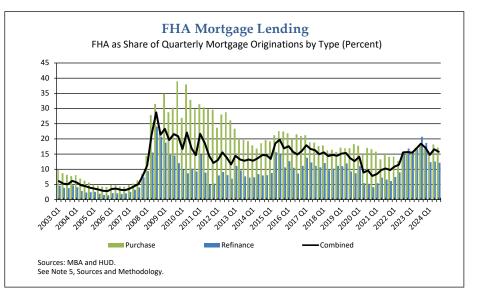
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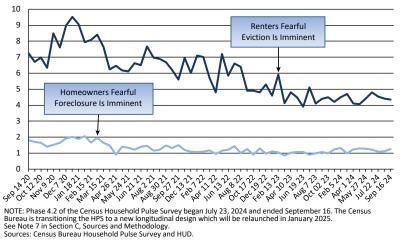








Share of Renter and Homeowner Households Viewing Loss of Home as Imminent (Percent)



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HOUSING	MARKET FAC	T SHEET		
Indicator	This Period	Last Period	Year Ago	Latest Release
Mortgage Rates (30-Yr FRM, percent)	6.65 (s)	6.67	6.79	27-Mar-25
Iomeownership Affordability (index)	100.7	100.9 (r)	104.5	January-25
Rental Affordability (index)	104.1	99.7 (r)	100.7	4th Q 24
Home Prices (indices)				
CoreLogic Case-Shiller (NSA)	332.6	332.3	317.7	January-24
FHFA (SA)	436.5	435.8 (r)	416.4	January-24
CoreLogic - Excluding Distressed Sales (NSA)	311.8 (s)	311.8 (r,s)	302.0 (s)	January-24
Home Sales				
New (thousands, SAAR)	676	664 (r)	643	February-25
Existing (thousands, SAAR)	4,260	4,090 (r)	4,310	February-25
First-Time Buyers (thousands, SAAR)	<b>1,530</b> (s)	1,331 (r,s)	1,288 (s)	February-25
Distressed Sales (percent, NSA)	2	2	2	January-25
Housing Supply				
New Homes for Sale (thousands, SA)	500	496 (r)	465	February-25
New Homes for Sale - Months' Supply (months, SA)	8.9	9.0	8.7	February-25
Existing Homes for Sale (thousands, NSA)	1,240	1,180	1,060	February-25
Existing Homes - Months' Supply (months)	3.5	3.5	3.0	February-25
Vacant Units Held off Market (thousands)	3,538	3,321	3,450	4th Q 24
Housing Starts				
Total (thousands, SAAR)	1,501	1,350 (r)	1,546	February-25
Single-Family (thousands, SAAR)	1,108	995 (r)	1,134	February-25
Multifamily (thousands, SAAR)	370	330 (r)	396	February-25
Mortgage Originations (thousands)				
Purchase Originations	967	914 (r)	954	3rd Q 24
Refinance Originations	383	336 (r)	216	3rd Q 24
FHA Mortgage Originations (thousands)				
Refinance Originations	16.9	20.6	12.4	February-25
Purchase Originations	43.2	54.1	39.1	February-25
Purchases by First-Time Buyers	35.4	44.5	32.4	February-25
Mortgage Loans in Forbearance (percent)	0.38 (s)	0.40 (s)	0.22	February-25
Mortgage Delinquency Rates (percent)				
Prime	1.5 (s)	1.4 (s)	1.5	February-25
Subprime	19.3 (s)	17.0 (s)	16.0	February-25
FHA	12.0	12.0	10.8	February-25
Seriously Delinquent Mortgages (thousands)				
Prime	234 (s)	237 (r,s)	223	February-25
Subprime	68 (s)	<b>30</b> (s)	24	February-25
FHA	381	379	303	February-25
Renter Households - Ability to Pay Rent				
Behind on Rental Payments (%)	12.8 (s)	12.3	12.1	16-Sep-24
Fearful of Imminent Eviction (%)	4.4 (s)	4.4	4.4	16-Sep-24
Homeowner Households - Ability to Pay Mortgage				
Behind on Mortgage Payments (%)	5.90 (s)	5.41	5.20	16-Sep-24
Fearful of Imminent Foreclosure (%)	1.25 (s)	1.11	1.06	16-Sep-24
Change in Aggregate Home Equity (\$ billions)	-507	-327 (r)	-458	4th Q 24
Jnderwater Borrowers (thousands)	1,099	1,006 (r)	1,027	4th Q 24
National Homeownership Rate (percent)	65.7 (s)	65.6 (s)	65.7	4th Q 24
Foreclosure Actions (thousands)	00.7 (0)	0010 (-/	0017	
Foreclosure Starts	22.6	21.8	20.4	February-24
Foreclosure Completions	3.4	4.0	3.8	February-24
Short Sales	2.0 (p)	1.8	1.9	January-25
REO Sales	4.3 (p)	4.1 (r)	4.9	January-25

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





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Description   Frequency   Sources   Notes on Methodology     Wortgage Rates (30:YFRM)   Weekly   Feddie Mac   A reported for 30 year fixed rate mottgage (FRM). See note in Section C for basis of rates as of November 2322.     stormeownership Affordability   Menthy   National Association of REALTOSE   MAR: Housing Affordability (Fixed Basis) index as reported. A value of 100 means that a family with in median income has an exploremoup income to qualify for a lease of the anotype of the	SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY						
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Months' Supply   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,	<b>.</b>	Monthly					
	•	Monthly	National Association of REALTORS®	As reported.			
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Mortgage Originations Refinance Originations Quarterly Mortgage Bankers Association and HUD estimate of the number of refinance originations based on MBA estimate of dollar volume of refinance originations.	Mortgage Originations Refinance Originations	Quarterly					
Purchase Originations Quarterly Mortgage Bankers Association and HUD estimate of the number of home purchase originations based on MBA estimate of dollar volume of home purchase originations.	Purchase Originations	Quarterly		HUD estimate of the number of home purchase originations based on MBA estimate of dollar volume			
	FHA Originations						
Refinance Originations Monthly HUD FHA originations reported as of date of loan closing. Estimate for current month scaled upward due	-	Monthly	HUD				
Purchase Originations Monthly HUD to normal reporting lag and shown as preliminary.	Purchase Originations	Monthly	HUD	to normal reporting lag and shown as preliminary.			
Purchases by First-Time Buyers Monthly HUD	Purchases by First-Time Buyers	Monthly	HUD				

SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

A Itoms in Table (continued)





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A. Items in Table (cont	tinued)			
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 Month	Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey	The Household Pulse Survey began April 23, 2023 with data collection every other 2 weeks and transitioned to continuous data collection each month on January 9, 2024. Final data from the HPS was released October 3, 2024 (August 20 - September 16 data). The Census Bureau is transitioning the HPS to a new longitudinal design and it will be relaunched as the Household Trends and Outlook Pulse Survey (HTOPS) in January 2025.	
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.	
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</i> household will have to leave this home or apartment within the next two months because of eviction?	
Homeowner Households - Ability to Pay Mortgage	Every Month	Census Household Pulse Survey	Beginning with Phase 4.0 (January 9 - April 1, 2024) data are collected continuously throughout each month instead of every other two weeks as was done previously. Data for Phase 4.1 (April 2 - July 22, 2024) will be released on the following dates: May 16, June 13, July 11, and August 8. The Pulse Survey began April 23, 2020. Note that 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.	
Fearful of Imminent Foreclosure		Census Household Pulse Survey and HUD	Respondent answered "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to the following question: How likely is it that your household will have to leave this home within the next two months because of foreclosure?	
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<sup>®</sup>. 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.

2. Reported seasonally adjusted annual rates for new and existing home sales.

- 3. 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.
- 4. 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).
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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?"
- 7. 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 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?"



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#### **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.

Final data from the Household Pulse Survey (HPS) was collected August 20 through September 16 and released on October 3, 2024. The Census Bureau is transitioning the HPS to a new longitudinal design and it will be relaunched as the Household Trends and Outlook Pulse Survey (HTOPS) in January 2025. See: <a href="https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024/longitudinal-design-household-pulse-survey.html">https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024/longitudinal-design-household-pulse-survey.html</a>.

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 usepended 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 55.4 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.