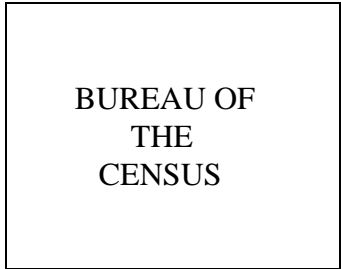


**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
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**CENSUS BUREAU REPORTS ON RESIDENTIAL VACANCIES AND  
HOMEOWNERSHIP**

National vacancy rates in the first quarter 2003 were 9.4 percent in rental housing and 1.7 percent in homeowner housing, the Department of Commerce's Census Bureau announced today. The Census Bureau said neither the rental vacancy rate nor the homeowner vacancy rate differed from the respective revised first quarter 2002 rate or the revised rate for last quarter.

**Table 1. Rental and Homeowner Vacancy Rates for the United States: 1990 to 2003 (in percent)**

Year	Rental vacancy rate				Homeowner vacancy rate			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
2003....	↓ 9.4				↓ 1.7			
2002 <sup>f</sup> ...	9.1	8.4	9.0	9.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
2002....	9.1	8.5	9.1	9.4	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
2001....	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.8	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.8
2000....	7.9	8.0	8.2	7.8	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
1999....	8.2	8.1	8.2	7.9	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6
1998....	7.7	8.0	8.2	7.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8
1997....	7.5	7.9	7.9	7.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.7
1996....	7.9	7.8	8.0	7.7	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7
1995....	7.4	7.7	7.7	7.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6
1994....	7.5	7.4	7.2	7.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6
1993 <sup>f</sup> ....	7.8	7.6	7.0	6.9	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
1993....	7.9	7.6	7.1	6.9	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
1992....	7.4	7.7	7.3	7.1	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5
1991....	7.5	7.3	7.6	7.3	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.6
1990....	7.5	7.0	7.2	7.2	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7

<sup>f</sup>Revised, please see page 10 for additional information.

NOTE: The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All comparisons made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. The data in this report are from the monthly samples of the Housing Vacancy Survey, which is a supplement to the Current Population Survey. The populations represented (the population universe) are all housing units (vacancy rates) and the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States (homeownership rate).

For rental housing, the vacancy rates inside central cities, in the suburbs, and outside metropolitan areas (MAs) were not different from each other for the first quarter 2003. The rental vacancy rate in the suburbs (9.2 percent) was higher than the revised first quarter 2002 rate (8.3 percent); however, no changes occurred in other areas.

The homeowner vacancy rates were highest outside MAs (1.9 percent) and in central cities (1.8 percent), though not different from each other, and lowest in the suburbs (1.5 percent). The homeowner vacancy rates for all areas did not change from the revised first quarter 2002 rates.

Among regions, the rental vacancy rate was highest in the South (12.4 percent) and lowest in the Northeast (6.0 percent). The rental vacancy rates for all regions were not different from the revised first quarter 2002 rates.

The homeowner vacancy rate by region was highest in the South (2.0 percent) and lowest in the Northeast (1.1 percent), while rates in the other regions were not different from each other. When compared with the homeowner vacancy rates for first quarter 2002, there were no differences in the respective first quarter 2003 rates by region.

**Table 2. Rental and Homeowner Vacancy Rates by Area and Region:  
First Quarter 2003 and 2002 (in percent)**

Area /Region	Rental vacancy rates				Homeowner vacancy rates			
	First Quarter 2003	First Quarter 2002 <sup>r</sup>	Standard error on 2003 rate	Standard error on difference	First Quarter 2003	First Quarter 2002 <sup>r</sup>	Standard error on 2003 rate	Standard error on difference
United States.....	9.4	9.1	0.2	0.2	1.7	1.7	(z)	0.1
Inside MAs.....	9.3	9.0	0.2	0.3	1.6	1.6	0.1	0.1
In central cities..	9.4	9.5	0.3	0.4	1.8	2.0	0.1	0.2
Not in central cities (suburbs)..	9.2	8.3	0.3	0.4	1.5	1.4	0.1	0.1
Outside MAs.....	10.1	9.8	0.5	0.7	1.9	1.9	0.1	0.2
Northeast.....	6.0	5.8	0.3	0.5	1.1	1.2	0.1	0.2
Midwest.....	10.2	10.3	0.4	0.6	1.7	1.7	0.1	0.1
South.....	12.4	11.8	0.3	0.5	2.0	1.9	0.1	0.1
West.....	7.3	7.0	0.3	0.4	1.6	1.5	0.1	0.1

(z)Less than 0.05 percent.

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

There were an estimated 120.2 million housing units in the United States in the first quarter 2003. Approximately 105.4 million housing units were occupied, 71.6 million by owners and 33.8 million by renters. The number of owner-occupied units increased from the revised first quarter 2002 estimate, while the number of renter-occupied units did not change. Of the 14.8 million vacant housing units, 11.3 million were for year-round use. Approximately 3.6 million of the year-round vacant units were for rent, 1.2 million were for sale only, and the remaining 6.5 million units were vacant for a variety of reasons.

**Table 3. Estimates of the Total Housing Inventory for the United States:  
First Quarter 2003 and 2002**

(Estimates are in thousands and may not add to total, due to rounding)

Type	First Quarter 2003	First Quarter 2002 <sup>f</sup>	Standard error on 2003 Estimate	Standard error on difference	Percent of total (2003)
All housing units.....	120,249	118,721	217	319	100
Occupied.....	105,407	104,421	228	334	88
Owner.....	71,645	70,811	227	333	60
Renter.....	33,762	33,610	182	266	28
Vacant.....	14,842	14,300	128	186	12
Year-round.....	11,319	10,755	113	164	9
For rent.....	3,553	3,393	65	94	3
For sale only.....	1,242	1,197	39	56	1
Other.....	6,524	6,165	87	126	5
Seasonal.....	3,523	3,545	65	95	3

<sup>f</sup>Revised.

NOTE: The Current Population Survey/Housing Vacancy Survey (CPS/HVS) estimates are now controlled to independent housing unit counts. This should make the CPS/HVS counts of housing units more comparable to other Census Bureau housing surveys. Please see page 10 for additional information.

The first quarter 2003 homeownership rate (68.0 percent) was not different from the revised first quarter 2002 rate (67.8 percent) or the revised fourth quarter 2002 rate (68.3 percent).

Table 4. **Homeownership Rates for the United States: 1980 to 2003**  
(in percent)

Year	Homeownership Rates <sup>1</sup>			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
2003.....	↓ 68.0			
2002 <sup>r</sup> .....	67.8	67.6	68.0	68.3
2002.....	67.8	67.6	68.0	68.3
2001.....	67.5	67.7	68.1	68.0
2000.....	67.1	67.2	67.7	67.5
1999.....	66.7	66.6	67.0	66.9
1998.....	65.9	66.0	66.8	66.4
1997.....	65.4	65.7	66.0	65.7
1996.....	65.1	65.4	65.6	65.4
1995.....	64.2	64.7	65.0	65.1
1994.....	63.8	63.8	64.1	64.2
1993 <sup>r</sup> .....	63.7	63.9	64.2	64.2
1993.....	64.2	64.4	64.7	64.6
1992.....	64.0	63.9	64.3	64.4
1991.....	63.9	63.9	64.2	64.2
1990.....	64.0	63.7	64.0	64.1
1989 <sup>r</sup> .....	63.9	63.8	64.1	63.8
1989.....	63.9	63.9	64.0	63.8
1988.....	63.7	63.7	64.0	63.8
1987.....	63.8	63.8	64.2	64.1
1986.....	63.6	63.8	63.8	63.9
1985.....	64.1	64.1	63.9	63.5
1984.....	64.6	64.6	64.6	64.1
1983.....	64.7	64.7	64.8	64.4
1982.....	64.8	64.9	64.9	64.5
1981.....	65.6	65.3	65.6	65.2
1980.....	65.5	65.5	65.8	65.5

<sup>1</sup>Standard errors for quarterly homeownership rates for the United States generally are 0.2 percent.

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

Table 4SA shows the seasonally adjusted homeownership rates for the United States from 1980 to the present. (Research has shown that seasonality for homeownership rates is present.) The seasonally adjusted homeownership rate (68.1 percent) for the first quarter 2003, was not different from the revised first quarter rate in 2002 or the revised fourth quarter 2002 rate.

Table 4SA. **Homeownership Rates for the United States: 1980 to 2003**  
**Seasonally Adjusted** (in percent)

Year	Homeownership Rates <sup>2</sup> (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
2003.....	↓ 68.1			
2002 <sup>r</sup> .....	67.9	<sup>r</sup> 67.8	67.8	68.2
2002.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2001.....	67.6	67.8	67.9	68.0
2000.....	67.2	67.3	67.5	67.5
1999.....	66.8	66.7	66.8	66.9
1998.....	66.0	66.1	66.6	66.4
1997.....	65.5	65.8	65.8	65.7
1996.....	65.2	65.4	65.4	65.4
1995.....	64.4	64.8	64.8	65.1
1994.....	64.0	63.9	63.9	64.1
1993 <sup>r</sup> .....	63.8	64.0	64.0	64.1
1993.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1992.....	64.1	64.0	64.1	64.3
1991.....	64.0	64.1	64.0	64.1
1990.....	64.1	63.9	63.8	64.0
1989 <sup>r</sup> .....	64.0	63.9	63.9	63.7
1989.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1988.....	63.8	63.8	63.9	63.8
1987.....	63.9	63.9	64.1	64.1
1986.....	63.7	63.8	63.7	63.9
1985.....	64.1	64.1	63.8	63.6
1984.....	64.6	64.6	64.5	64.2
1983.....	64.7	64.7	64.6	64.5
1982.....	64.8	64.9	64.7	64.6
1981.....	65.6	65.4	65.4	65.3
1980.....	65.5	65.6	65.6	65.6

<sup>2</sup>Standard errors for quarterly homeownership rates for the United States generally are 0.2 percent.

(NA) Not Applicable; only the revised series for 1989, 1993, and 2002 were used in calculating the seasonality adjustment.

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

During the first quarter 2003, the homeownership rate by region was highest in the Midwest (72.9 percent) and lowest in the West (62.8 percent). None of the regional homeownership rates for first quarter 2003 were different from their respective revised first quarter 2002 rates.

**Table 5. Homeownership Rates for the United States and Regions:  
1999 to 2003 (in percent)**

Year/Quarter	Homeownership Rates <sup>3</sup>				
	United States	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
2003					
First Quarter.....	68.0	64.2	72.9	69.9	62.8
2002 <sup>r</sup>					
Fourth Quarter.....	68.3	64.8	73.3	70.3	62.5
Third Quarter.....	68.0	64.6	73.2	69.5	62.7
Second Quarter.....	67.6	63.8	72.8	69.3	62.4
First Quarter.....	67.8	63.8	73.2	69.8	62.1
2002					
Fourth Quarter.....	68.3	64.9	73.3	70.3	62.6
Third Quarter.....	68.0	64.7	73.2	69.5	62.8
Second Quarter.....	67.6	63.9	72.8	69.3	62.4
First Quarter.....	67.8	63.9	73.1	69.9	62.2
2001					
Fourth Quarter.....	68.0	64.0	73.5	70.1	62.3
Third Quarter.....	68.1	64.1	72.9	70.1	63.1
Second Quarter.....	67.7	63.2	72.7	69.7	62.9
First Quarter.....	67.5	63.6	73.2	69.3	62.0
2000					
Fourth Quarter.....	67.5	63.2	73.1	69.8	61.6
Third Quarter.....	67.7	63.9	72.9	69.7	62.2
Second Quarter.....	67.2	63.4	72.2	69.2	61.9
First Quarter.....	67.1	63.3	72.2	69.5	61.3
1999					
Fourth Quarter.....	66.9	63.2	72.5	69.1	60.6
Third Quarter.....	67.0	63.6	72.1	69.3	60.8
Second Quarter.....	66.6	62.8	71.2	68.9	61.3
First Quarter.....	66.7	62.7	71.2	69.2	61.0

<sup>3</sup>Standard errors for quarterly homeownership rates by region generally are 0.3 percent.

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

For first quarter 2003, the homeownership rates by age of householder ranged from 41.7 percent for those under 35 years of age to 81.4 percent for those aged 55 to 64. The homeownership rate for those aged 65 years and over (80.2 percent) was lower than the revised first quarter 2002 rate (80.9 percent), while the rates for the other age groups did not change from their respective rates a year ago.

Table 6. **Homeownership Rates by Age of Householder: 1999 to 2003** (in percent)

Year/Quarter	Homeownership Rates <sup>4</sup>					
	United States	Under 35 years	35 to 44 years	45 to 54 years	55 to 64 years	65 years and over
2003						
First Quarter.....	68.0	41.7	67.8	76.5	81.4	80.2
2002 <sup>f</sup>						
Fourth Quarter.....	68.3	42.0	69.0	76.4	81.5	80.8
Third Quarter.....	68.0	41.5	68.6	76.4	81.3	80.4
Second Quarter....	67.6	40.8	68.2	76.3	80.8	80.1
First Quarter.....	67.8	41.0	68.6	76.0	80.9	80.9
2002						
Fourth Quarter.....	68.3	42.0	69.0	76.4	81.5	80.8
Third Quarter.....	68.0	41.4	68.6	76.4	81.3	80.4
Second Quarter....	67.6	40.8	68.3	76.3	80.7	80.1
First Quarter.....	67.8	41.0	68.6	76.0	80.8	80.9
2001						
Fourth Quarter.....	68.0	42.2	68.2	76.2	81.4	80.7
Third Quarter.....	68.1	41.6	68.6	77.1	81.6	80.3
Second Quarter....	67.7	40.8	68.1	77.2	81.5	79.7
First Quarter.....	67.5	40.4	68.1	76.5	80.8	80.7
2000						
Fourth Quarter.....	67.5	41.2	68.3	76.4	80.2	80.4
Third Quarter.....	67.7	41.1	68.4	76.8	80.1	80.7
Second Quarter....	67.2	40.2	67.5	76.7	80.3	80.3
First Quarter.....	67.1	40.5	67.3	76.0	80.8	80.1
1999						
Fourth Quarter.....	66.9	40.3	67.9	75.2	81.3	79.6
Third Quarter.....	67.0	40.1	67.4	76.3	80.7	80.8
Second Quarter....	66.6	39.1	66.5	76.4	80.8	80.4
First Quarter.....	66.7	39.4	67.0	76.2	81.1	79.8

<sup>4</sup>Standard errors for quarterly homeownership rates by age of householder generally are 0.4 percent

<sup>f</sup>Revised.

The first quarter 2003 homeownership rates, when tabulated by race and ethnicity, were 75.0 percent for non-Hispanic White (single race) householders, 47.7 percent for those who indicated that they were Black (and no other race), and 55.7 percent for householders who were of any of the other races (see note below). The homeownership rate for Hispanic or Latino householders, who can be of any race, was 46.7 percent.

**Table 7. Homeownership Rates by Race<sup>5</sup> and Ethnicity of Householder: 2001 to 2003 (in percent)**

Year/Quarter	Homeownership Rates <sup>6</sup>				
	U.S.	Non-Hispanic White alone	Black Alone <sup>7</sup>	All Other Races <sup>8</sup>	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
2003 First Quarter.....	68.0	75.0	47.7	55.7	46.7
		Non-Hispanic White	Black	Other Race	
2002 <sup>r</sup> Fourth Quarter.....	68.3	75.0	47.7	55.2	48.3
Third Quarter.....	68.0	74.9	47.3	54.0	47.1
Second Quarter.....	67.6	74.5	46.5	55.3	46.1
First Quarter.....	67.8	74.6	48.2	53.5	46.4
2002 Fourth Quarter.....	68.3	74.8	47.5	55.4	49.5
Third Quarter.....	68.0	74.6	47.1	54.1	48.3
Second Quarter.....	67.6	74.2	46.3	55.4	47.2
First Quarter.....	67.8	74.3	48.0	53.7	47.6
2001 Fourth Quarter.....	68.0	74.4	48.1	53.2	48.8
Third Quarter.....	68.1	74.6	47.5	54.4	48.1
Second Quarter.....	67.7	74.1	47.9	55.2	46.1
First Quarter.....	67.5	74.0	47.5	53.9	46.1

<sup>5</sup>For further information on each major race group and the Two or more races populations, see reports from the Census 2000 Brief series (C2KBR/01), available on the Census 2000 Web site at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.htm>

<sup>6</sup>Standard errors for quarterly homeownership rates by race and ethnicity of householder generally are 0.2 percent for non-Hispanic White (single race) householders, 0.5 percent for Black (single race) householders, 1.0 percent for All other race householders, and 0.6 percent for Hispanic householders.

<sup>7</sup>The homeownership rate for first quarter 2003 for householders who reported the single race of Black or Black in a combination of races was 47.5 percent, compared with a rate of 47.7 percent for those who reported Black as a single race.

<sup>8</sup>Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native (only one race reported) and Two or more races.

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

NOTE: Beginning in 2003, the question on race on the CPS was modified to comply with the revised standards for federal statistical agencies. Respondents may now select more than one race, but small sample sizes preclude showing all race categories. The question on Hispanic or Latino origin is asked separately, and is asked before the question on race.



For first quarter 2003, the homeownership rate for households with family incomes greater than or equal to the median family income increased from the revised first quarter 2002 rate, while the rate for those with incomes less than the median decreased during the same time period.

Table 8. **Homeownership Rates by Family Income: 1999 to 2003** (in percent)

Homeownership Rates <sup>8</sup>			
Year/Quarter	United States	Households with family income greater than or equal to the median family income <sup>9</sup>	Households with family income less than the median family income
2003			
First Quarter.....	68.0	83.3	51.3
2002 <sup>f</sup>			
Fourth Quarter.....	68.3	83.2	52.4
Third Quarter.....	68.0	83.0	51.9
Second Quarter.....	67.6	82.2	51.5
First Quarter.....	67.8	82.0	52.4
2002			
Fourth Quarter.....	68.3	83.3	52.4
Third Quarter.....	68.0	83.0	51.9
Second Quarter.....	67.6	82.3	51.5
First Quarter.....	67.8	82.1	52.3
2001			
Fourth Quarter.....	68.0	82.2	53.0
Third Quarter.....	68.1	82.2	52.6
Second Quarter.....	67.7	82.0	51.7
First Quarter.....	67.5	81.7	51.6
2000			
Fourth Quarter.....	67.5	81.6	51.8
Third Quarter.....	67.7	81.7	52.2
Second Quarter.....	67.2	81.8	50.8
First Quarter.....	67.1	81.4	51.4
1999			
Fourth Quarter.....	66.9	81.6	51.2
Third Quarter.....	67.0	81.7	51.4
Second Quarter.....	66.6	81.5	50.8
First Quarter.....	66.7	81.1	51.2

<sup>8</sup>Standard errors for quarterly homeownership rates by family income generally are 0.2 percent.

<sup>9</sup>Based on families or primary individuals reporting income.

<sup>f</sup>Revised.

Note: This press release, along with more detailed data, is available on the Internet. Our Internet address is: [www.census.gov/hhes/www/hvs.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hvs.html)

The estimates in this release are based on a sample survey and therefore are subject to both sampling and non-sampling error. Sampling error is a result of not surveying the entire population. Non-sampling error occurs because accurate information cannot always be obtained. The standard errors provided in the tables are primarily measures of sampling error.

Standard errors are used to: 1) measure the accuracy of estimates from a sample survey, and 2) draw inferences from the survey data. For example, the standard error on the estimated rental vacancy rate of 9.4 percent is 0.2 percentage points. Consequently, the 90-percent confidence interval as shown by these data is from 9.1 percent to 9.7 percent; i.e., the interval  $9.4 \pm (1.6 \times 0.2)$  percentage points. Thus, one can say with 90-percent confidence that, were it feasible to draw all possible samples, the average rental vacancy rate would be included in this confidence interval. Statements about differences are made only when the 90-percent confidence interval indicates that a statistical difference exists.

Beginning with first quarter 2003, population controls that reflect the results of Census 2000 are used in the CPS/HVS estimation process. As a final additional step in the process, the estimates are controlled to independent housing counts used for the first time in order to produce a more accurate estimate of housing units. This new procedure should make the CPS/HVS estimates of housing units more consistent with other Census Bureau housing surveys. The new housing controls affect the count of vacant units in the sense that the estimates of total occupied and vacant units sum to the new control total. Vacancy *rates* and homeownership *rates* are not affected by this change.

The CPS/HVS also began computing first-stage factors (used for weighting purposes) based on year-round and seasonal counts of housing units from Census 2000. From 1980 to 2002, the CPS/HVS first-stage factors were based on year-round estimates only. The effect on the data is slight and the change should improve the counts of year-round and seasonal units. For more information on the effects of these changes, please see Source and Accuracy Statement at [www.census.gov/hhes/www/hvs.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hvs.html).

The question on race on the CPS was modified beginning in the first quarter 2003 to comply with new standards for federal statistical agencies. Respondents may now select more than one race. The question on Hispanic or Latino origin is asked separately, and is asked before the question on race.