# U.S. Census Bureau News Joint Release <br> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 

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## NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION IN JULY 2008

The U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development jointly announced the following new residential construction statistics for July 2008:

## BUILDING PERMITS

Privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in July were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 937,000. This is 17.7 percent ( $\pm 1.3 \%$ ) below the revised June rate of $1,138,000$ and is 32.4 percent ( $\pm 1.5 \%$ ) below the revised July 2007 estimate of 1,386,000.

Single-family authorizations in July were at a rate of 584,000 ; this is 5.2 percent $( \pm 1.4 \%)$ below the June figure of 616,000 . Authorizations of units in buildings with five units or more were at a rate of 318,000 in July.

## HOUSING STARTS

Privately-owned housing starts in July were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 965,000 . This is 11.0 percent ( $\pm 9.0 \%$ ) below the revised June estimate of $1,084,000$ and is 29.6 percent ( $\pm 5.1 \%$ ) below the revised July 2007 rate of $1,371,000$.

Single-family housing starts in July were at a rate of 641,000 ; this is 2.9 percent $( \pm 10.9 \%)^{*}$ below the June figure of 660,000 . The July rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 309,000.

## HOUSING COMPLETIONS

Privately-owned housing completions in July were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $1,035,000$. This is 8.7 percent ( $\pm 10.0 \%)^{*}$ below the revised June estimate of $1,134,000$ and is 31.7 percent ( $\pm 6.6 \%$ ) below the revised July 2007 rate of 1,515,000.

Single-family housing completions in July were at a rate of 791,000 ; this is 7.2 percent $( \pm 9.3 \%)^{*}$ below the June figure of 852,000 . The July rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 229,000.

New Residential Construction data for August 2008 will be released on Wednesday, September 17, 2008, at 8:30 A.M. EDT. Our Internet site is: http://www.census.gov/newresconst

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

In interpreting changes in the statistics in this release, note that month-to-month changes in seasonally adjusted statistics often show movements which may be irregular. It may take 3 months to establish an underlying trend for building permit authorizations, 4 months for total starts, and 5 months for total completions. The statistics in this release are estimated from sample surveys and are subject to sampling variability as well as nonsampling error including bias and variance from response, nonreporting, and undercoverage. Estimated relative standard errors of the most recent data are shown in the tables. Whenever a statement such as " 2.5 percent ( $\pm 3.2 \%$ ) above" appears in the text, this indicates the range ( -0.7 to +5.7 percent) in which the actual percent change is likely to have occurred. All ranges given for percent changes are 90-percent confidence intervals and account only for sampling variability. If a range does not contain zero, the change is statistically significant. If it does contain zero, the change is not statistically significant; that is, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. The same policies apply to the confidence intervals for percent changes shown in the tables. On average, the preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates of total building permits, housing starts and housing completions are revised about one percent. Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our web site listed above.

[^0]Table 1. New Privately-Owned Housing Units Authorized in Permit-Issuing Places
[Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

| Period | United States |  |  |  | Northeast |  | Midwest |  | South |  | West |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | In structures with -- |  |  |  | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit |
|  | Total | 1 unit | $\begin{array}{r} 2 \text { to } 4 \\ \text { units } \end{array}$ | 5 units or more |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Seasonally adjusted annual rate |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2007: July | 1,386 | 997 | 57 | 332 | 155 | 85 | 208 | 154 | 686 | 513 | 337 | 245 |
| August | 1,343 | 928 | 55 | 360 | 147 | 86 | 197 | 150 | 640 | 476 | 359 | 216 |
| September | 1,277 | 870 | 50 | 357 | 138 | 79 | 205 | 145 | 636 | 457 | 298 | 189 |
| October | 1,182 | 811 | 48 | 323 | 145 | 76 | 185 | 133 | 554 | 415 | 298 | 187 |
| November | 1,187 | 767 | 53 | 367 | 126 | 70 | 192 | 131 | 594 | 406 | 275 | 160 |
| December | 1,111 | 714 | 56 | 341 | 134 | 71 | 166 | 116 | 560 | 378 | 251 | 149 |
| 2008: January | 1,052 | 675 | 43 | 334 | 126 | 68 | 180 | 112 | 539 | 365 | 207 | 130 |
| February | 981 | 646 | 40 | 295 | 105 | 66 | 130 | 97 | 504 | 350 | 242 | 133 |
| March | 932 | 621 | 37 | 274 | 111 | 60 | 126 | 93 | 502 | 340 | 193 | 128 |
| April | 982 | 649 | 38 | 295 | 108 | 60 | 157 | 110 | 499 | 344 | 218 | 135 |
| May | 978 | 635 | 34 | 309 | 137 | 58 | 147 | 109 | 460 | 330 | 234 | 138 |
| June ${ }^{\text {r }}$ | 1,138 | 616 | 33 | 489 | 295 | 53 | 148 | 103 | 459 | 321 | 236 | 139 |
| July ${ }^{\text {p }}$ | 937 | 584 | 35 | 318 | 108 | 55 | 150 | 99 | 478 | 306 | 201 | 124 |
| Average RSE (\%) ${ }^{1}$ | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Percent Change: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| July 2008 from June 2008 | -17.7\% | -5.2\% | 6.1\% | -35.0\% | -63.4\% | 3.8\% | 1.4\% | -3.9\% | 4.1\% | -4.7\% | -14.8\% | -10.8\% |
| 90\% Confidence Interval ${ }^{3}$ | $\pm 1.3$ | $\pm 1.4$ | $\pm 2.7$ | $\pm 3.1$ | $\pm 2.3$ | $\pm 3.1$ | $\pm 6.7$ | $\pm 8.1$ | $\pm 1.6$ | $\pm 2.0$ | $\pm 2.2$ | $\pm 2.7$ |
| July 2008 from July 2007 | -32.4\% | -41.4\% | -38.6\% | -4.2\% | -30.3\% | -35.3\% | -27.9\% | -35.7\% | -30.3\% | -40.4\% | -40.4\% | -49.4\% |
| $90 \%$ Confidence Interval ${ }^{3}$ | $\pm 1.5$ | $\pm 1.0$ | $\pm 2.9$ | $\pm 5.3$ | $\pm 5.9$ | $\pm 8.0$ | $\pm 6.5$ | $\pm 7.9$ | $\pm 1.0$ | $\pm 1.2$ | $\pm 2.4$ | $\pm 2.9$ |
|  | Not seasonally adjusted |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2006 | 1,838.9 | 1,378.2 | 76.6 | 384.1 | 174.6 | 103.4 | 279.4 | 209.3 | 929.7 | 726.2 | 455.2 | 339.3 |
| 2007 | 1,398.4 | 979.9 | 59.6 | 359.0 | 150.6 | 83.7 | 211.7 | 153.8 | 692.2 | 507.5 | 343.9 | 234.9 |
| RSE (\%) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| 2007: Year to Date ${ }^{2}$ | 893.5 | 653.0 | 37.4 | 203.2 | 92.4 | 52.5 | 133.7 | 100.3 | 446.5 | 336.1 | 220.8 | 164.0 |
| 2008: Year to Date ${ }^{2}$ | 604.9 | 387.3 | 21.4 | 196.1 | 86.7 | 35.0 | 86.7 | 61.5 | 299.3 | 207.8 | 132.2 | 82.9 |
| RSE (\%) | 1 | 1 | 2 | (Z) | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Year to Date Percent Change ${ }^{4}$ | -32.3\% | -40.7\% | -42.8\% | -3.5\% | -6.2\% | -33.4\% | -35.2\% | -38.7\% | -33.0\% | -38.2\% | -40.2\% | -49.4\% |
| 90\% Confidence Interval ${ }^{3}$ | $\pm 0.9$ | $\pm 1.0$ | $\pm 2.6$ | $\pm 1.1$ | $\pm 3.6$ | $\pm 5.7$ | $\pm 2.5$ | $\pm 3.0$ | $\pm 0.6$ | $\pm 0.7$ | $\pm 1.2$ | $\pm 1.5$ |
| 2007: July | 122.5 | 89.8 | 5.2 | 27.5 | 14.5 | 8.3 | 19.9 | 14.8 | 59.3 | 44.8 | 28.8 | 21.9 |
| August | 126.0 | 87.5 | 5.2 | 33.3 | 14.3 | 8.4 | 19.0 | 14.7 | 59.1 | 44.3 | 33.5 | 20.1 |
| September | 100.5 | 66.6 | 3.9 | 30.0 | 11.2 | 6.4 | 17.7 | 12.2 | 47.8 | 33.7 | 23.8 | 14.3 |
| October | 103.8 | 70.7 | 4.3 | 28.8 | 13.7 | 7.2 | 18.0 | 13.2 | 45.9 | 34.5 | 26.2 | 15.9 |
| November | 89.5 | 54.7 | 4.3 | 30.5 | 10.1 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 9.9 | 44.3 | 28.8 | 20.2 | 10.8 |
| December | 77.8 | 45.2 | 4.0 | 28.7 | 9.8 | 4.6 | 10.0 | 6.2 | 40.4 | 24.9 | 17.6 | 9.6 |
| 2008: January | 75.9 | 47.5 | 2.8 | 25.6 | 8.0 | 4.2 | 10.1 | 5.9 | 43.0 | 28.2 | 14.8 | 9.2 |
| February | 73.4 | 47.5 | 2.8 | 23.0 | 6.4 | 3.8 | 7.9 | 5.3 | 40.3 | 28.5 | 18.8 | 9.9 |
| March | 77.4 | 53.6 | 3.0 | 20.8 | 8.4 | 4.7 | 9.9 | 7.5 | 43.2 | 30.2 | 15.9 | 11.2 |
| April | 89.5 | 62.7 | 3.4 | 23.4 | 9.7 | 5.7 | 15.7 | 11.5 | 44.4 | 32.4 | 19.8 | 13.1 |
| May | 90.3 | 61.1 | 2.9 | 26.2 | 12.6 | 5.6 | 14.2 | 11.4 | 41.6 | 30.7 | 21.9 | 13.5 |
| June ${ }^{\text {r }}$ | 108.1 | 58.7 | 2.9 | 46.5 | 29.7 | 5.2 | 14.4 | 10.2 | 41.6 | 29.4 | 22.5 | 13.8 |
| July ${ }^{\text {p }}$ | 83.5 | 55.0 | 3.3 | 25.3 | 10.1 | 5.5 | 14.6 | 10.0 | 41.3 | 27.7 | 17.5 | 11.7 |
| Average RSE (\%) ${ }^{1}$ | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

${ }^{\mathrm{p}}$ Preliminary. ${ }^{\mathrm{r}}$ Revised. RSE Relative standard error. S Does not meet publication standards because tests for identifiable and stable seasonality do not meet reliability standards.
X Not applicable. Z Relative standard error is less than 0.5 percent.
${ }^{1}$ Average RSE for the latest 6 -month period
${ }^{3}$ See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of $90 \%$ confidence interva

Table 2. New Privately-Owned Housing Units Authorized, but Not Started, at End of Period
[Not seasonally adjusted. Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

| Period | United States |  |  |  | Northeast |  | Midwest |  | South |  | West |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total | In structures with -- |  |  | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit |
|  |  | 1 unit | $\begin{gathered} 2 \text { to } 4 \\ \text { units } \end{gathered}$ | 5 units or more |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2007: July | 196.6 | 115.3 | 8.4 | 72.9 | 22.4 | 10.7 | 22.6 | 11.1 | 105.9 | 63.4 | 45.7 | 30.1 |
| August | 195.7 | 119.4 | 7.3 | 69.0 | 25.7 | 12.4 | 19.5 | 11.2 | 101.0 | 63.7 | 49.5 | 32.2 |
| September | 190.1 | 113.1 | 6.7 | 70.3 | 22.5 | 12.3 | 20.9 | 11.8 | 97.9 | 59.3 | 48.9 | 29.7 |
| October | 177.7 | 107.2 | 5.8 | 64.7 | 20.7 | 10.9 | 19.4 | 8.9 | 88.1 | 57.3 | 49.5 | 30.0 |
| November | 175.2 | 107.0 | 5.0 | 63.2 | 19.6 | 10.6 | 18.2 | 9.3 | 87.7 | 57.7 | 49.7 | 29.5 |
| December | 178.3 | 103.2 | 5.9 | 69.3 | 20.8 | 10.3 | 19.6 | 9.4 | 87.4 | 53.9 | 50.5 | 29.6 |
| 2008: January | 182.0 | 105.3 | 6.0 | 70.7 | 20.7 | 9.7 | 21.1 | 10.3 | 91.3 | 55.0 | 48.9 | 30.3 |
| February | 176.7 | 104.9 | 6.4 | 65.3 | 19.6 | 9.8 | 20.1 | 10.4 | 87.9 | 55.6 | 49.1 | 29.1 |
| March | 168.1 | 99.8 | 5.6 | 62.6 | 16.1 | 9.7 | 19.7 | 9.8 | 86.6 | 52.7 | 45.7 | 27.7 |
| April | 164.8 | 100.5 | 5.0 | 59.3 | 17.1 | 9.5 | 20.4 | 11.7 | 85.2 | 53.6 | 42.1 | 25.6 |
| May ${ }^{\text {r }}$ | 163.7 | 98.4 | 5.5 | 59.9 | 17.6 | 8.9 | 21.3 | 11.6 | 81.5 | 51.6 | 43.3 | 26.2 |
| June ${ }^{\text {r }}$ | 168.0 | 94.4 | 5.8 | 67.9 | 25.8 | 8.6 | 21.1 | 10.8 | 75.7 | 47.5 | 45.5 | 27.5 |
| July ${ }^{\text {p }}$ | 160.8 | 92.2 | 5.1 | 63.4 | 21.3 | 8.3 | 19.5 | 10.2 | 75.9 | 47.6 | 44.1 | 26.1 |
| Average RSE (\%) ${ }^{1}$ | 5 | 7 | 14 | 8 | 10 | 18 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 15 |
| Percent Change: ${ }^{2}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| July 2008 from June 2008 | -4.3\% | -2.3\% | -11.3\% | -6.5\% | -17.5\% | -3.7\% | -7.4\% | -5.2\% | 0.3\% | 0.2\% | -3.0\% | -5.1\% |
| 90\% Confidence Interval ${ }^{3}$ | $\pm 3.1$ | $\pm 3.9$ | $\pm 6.4$ | $\pm 4.7$ | $\pm 8.5$ | $\pm 11.6$ | $\pm 11.4$ | $\pm 15.1$ | $\pm 4.5$ | $\pm 5.7$ | $\pm 5.3$ | $\pm 6.3$ |
| July 2008 from July 2007 | -18.2\% | -20.1\% | -38.8\% | -13.0\% | -4.8\% | -22.6\% | -13.6\% | -7.9\% | -28.4\% | -24.9\% | -3.5\% | -13.5\% |
| 90\% Confidence Interval ${ }^{3}$ | $\pm 6.3$ | $\pm 7.9$ | $\pm 22.1$ | $\pm 10.9$ | $\pm 13.3$ | $\pm 12.0$ | $\pm 18.3$ | $\pm 17.8$ | $\pm 9.8$ | $\pm 12.1$ | $\pm 8.9$ | $\pm 10.5$ |

${ }^{\mathrm{P}}$ Preliminary. $\quad{ }^{\mathrm{r}}$ Revised. RSE Relative Standard Error.
${ }^{1}$ Average RSE for the latest 6-month period. ${ }^{2}$ Computed using unrounded data.
${ }^{3}$ See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of $90 \%$ confidence intervals

Note: These data represent the number of housing units authorized in all months up to and including the last day of the reporting period and not started as of that date without regard to the months of original permit issuance. Cancelled, abandoned, expired, and revoked permits are excluded.

Table 3. New Privately-Owned Housing Units Started
[Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]


[^1]Table 4. New Privately-Owned Housing Units Under Construction at End of Period
[Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]


[^2]Table 5. New Privately-Owned Housing Units Completed
[Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]


[^3]
[^0]:    * $90 \%$ confidence interval includes zero. The Census Bureau does not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

[^1]:    ${ }^{\mathrm{P}}$ Preliminary. $\quad{ }^{\mathrm{r}}$ Revised. RSE Relative standard error. S Does not meet publication standards because tests for identifiable and stable seasonality do not meet reliability standards.
    X Not applicable.
    ${ }^{1}$ Average RSE for the latest 6-month period
    ${ }^{3}$ Computed using unrounded data.

[^2]:    ${ }^{\mathrm{P}}$ Preliminary. ${ }^{\mathrm{r}}$ Revised. RSE Relative standard error. S Does not meet publication standards because tests for identifiable and stable seasonality do not meet reliability standards.
    X Not applicable.
    ${ }^{1}$ Average RSE for the latest 6-month period. $\quad{ }^{2}$ See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of $90 \%$ confidence intervals

[^3]:    ${ }^{\mathrm{p}}$ Preliminary. $\quad{ }^{\mathrm{r}}$ Revised. RSE Relative standard error. S Does not meet publication standards because tests for identifiable and stable seasonality do not meet reliability standards.
    X Not applicable.
    ${ }^{1}$ Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.
    ${ }^{3}$ Computed using unrounded data.

