

U.S. Census Bureau News
Joint Release
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, D.C. 20233

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. EST

CB08-14

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NEW RESIDENTIAL SALES IN DECEMBER 2007

Sales of new one-family houses in December 2007 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 604,000, according to estimates released jointly today by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is 4.7 percent ($\pm 12.1\%$)* below the revised November rate of 634,000 and is 40.7 percent ($\pm 7.8\%$) below the December 2006 estimate of 1,019,000.

The median sales price of new houses sold in December 2007 was \$219,200; the average sales price was \$267,300. The seasonally adjusted estimate of new houses for sale at the end of December was 495,000. This represents a supply of 9.6 months at the current sales rate.

An estimated 774,000 new homes were sold in 2007. This is 26.4 percent ($\pm 2.5\%$) below the 2006 figure of 1,051,000.

New Residential Sales data for January 2008 will be released on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, at 10:00 A.M. EST.

Our Internet site is: <http://www.census.gov/newhomesales>

EXPLANATORY NOTES

These statistics are estimated from sample surveys. They are subject to sampling variability as well as nonsampling error including bias and variance from response, nonreporting, and undercoverage. Estimated average relative standard errors of the preliminary 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. Changes in seasonally adjusted statistics often show irregular movement. It takes 5 months to establish a trend for new houses sold. Preliminary new home sales figures are subject to revision due to the survey methodology and definitions used. The survey is primarily based on a sample of houses selected from building permits. Since a "sale" is defined as a deposit taken or sales agreement signed, this can occur prior to a permit being issued. An estimate of these prior sales is included in the sales figure. On average, the preliminary seasonally adjusted estimate of total sales is revised about 4 percent. Changes in sales price data reflect changes in the distribution of houses by region, size, etc., as well as changes in the prices of houses with identical characteristics. Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our web site listed above.

* 90% confidence interval includes zero. The Census Bureau does not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

Table 1. New Houses Sold and For Sale

[Thousands of houses. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

Period	Sold during period ¹					For sale at end of period					Months' supply ²	Median sales price (\$)	Average sales price (\$)
	United States	North-east	Mid-west	South	West	United States	North-east	Mid-west	South	West			
Seasonally adjusted													
2006: December	1,019	73	181	518	247	535					6.2		
2007: January	890	62	166	492	170	536					7.2		
February	840	46	127	462	205	544					8.1		
March	830	82	126	421	201	548					8.3		
April	907	82	121	495	209	547					7.4		
May	861	84	141	435	201	543					7.7		
June	797	65	113	442	177	541					8.3		
July	796	47	105	429	215	538					8.3		
August	701	59	121	366	155	533					9.4		
September ^f	693	62	103	354	174	527					9.3		
October ^f	725	63	130	384	148	512					8.4		
November ^f	634	50	81	353	150	502					9.4		
December^p	604	53	80	330	141	495					9.6		
Average RSE (%) ³	7	21	17	10	12	4					7		
Percent Change:													
<i>December 2007 from November 2007</i>	<i>-4.7%</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>-1.2%</i>	<i>-6.5%</i>	<i>-6.0%</i>	<i>-1.4%</i>					<i>2.1%</i>		
<i>90% Confidence Interval⁴</i>	<i>± 12.1</i>	<i>± 41.6</i>	<i>± 25.4</i>	<i>± 16.2</i>	<i>± 25.7</i>	<i>± 0.8</i>					<i>± 14.2</i>		
<i>December 2007 from December 2006</i>	<i>-40.7%</i>	<i>-27.4%</i>	<i>-55.8%</i>	<i>-36.3%</i>	<i>-42.9%</i>	<i>-7.5%</i>					<i>54.8%</i>		
<i>90% Confidence Interval⁴</i>	<i>± 7.8</i>	<i>± 29.0</i>	<i>± 15.8</i>	<i>± 9.7</i>	<i>± 16.7</i>	<i>± 2.9</i>					<i>± 21.9</i>		
Not seasonally adjusted													
2006:	1,051	63	161	559	267	537	54	97	267	119	(X)	246,500	305,900
2007: ^p	774	64	118	412	181	494	47	78	249	120	(X)	246,900	311,600
RSE (%)	3	10	9	4	5	3	12	8	5	7	(X)	3	3
<i>Year to Year Percent Change⁵</i>	<i>-26.4%</i>	<i>1.6%</i>	<i>-26.7%</i>	<i>-26.3%</i>	<i>-32.2%</i>	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
<i>90% Confidence Interval⁴</i>	<i>± 2.5</i>	<i>± 12.4</i>	<i>± 5.7</i>	<i>± 3.8</i>	<i>± 4.2</i>	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
2006: December	71	5	12	39	15	537	54	97	267	119	7.6	244,700	301,900
2007: January	66	4	11	38	13	539	55	94	267	123	8.2	254,400	314,600
February	68	4	10	36	18	540	54	90	272	124	8.0	250,800	321,500
March	80	7	12	40	21	542	52	87	276	127	6.8	262,600	329,400
April	83	9	11	43	20	542	52	87	274	129	6.5	242,500	311,700
May	79	8	14	39	19	544	52	85	276	131	6.9	245,000	309,700
June	73	6	11	41	15	543	51	85	273	134	7.5	235,500	306,500
July	68	4	9	36	18	538	52	83	271	131	8.0	246,200	307,100
August	60	5	11	31	13	538	52	82	272	132	8.9	236,500	301,300
September ^f	53	5	8	27	14	527	50	80	270	127	9.9	240,300	292,200
October ^f	57	5	10	30	12	518	49	78	264	127	9.1	229,700	307,500
November ^f	46	4	6	26	10	507	48	79	257	123	11.1	245,900	311,200
December^p	42	4	5	25	9	494	47	78	249	120	11.7	219,200	267,300
Average RSE (%) ³	7	21	17	10	12	4	13	9	4	7	7	5	5

^pPreliminary. ^fRevised. RSE Relative standard error. X Not applicable. Z Less than 0.5 percent.

¹Seasonally adjusted houses sold are published at annual rates.

²Ratio of houses for sale to houses sold.

³Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.

⁴See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of 90% confidence intervals.

⁵Computed using unrounded data.

Note: The sales price includes the land.

Table 2. New Houses Sold, by Sales Price

[Thousands of houses. Components may not add to total because of rounding. Percents computed from unrounded figures]

Period	Total	Under	\$150,000 to	\$200,000 to	\$300,000 to	\$400,000 to	\$500,000 to	\$750,000
		\$150,000	\$199,999	\$299,999	\$399,999	\$499,999	\$749,999	and over
Number of houses ¹								
2006:	1,051	162	208	300	174	84	80	43
2007: ^P	774	108	163	226	120	64	61	32
RSE (%)	3	10	5	5	7	9	8	13
2006: December	71	12	13	20	11	5	6	3
2007: January	66	9	15	18	11	6	5	3
February	68	9	12	21	11	5	6	3
March	80	8	16	24	14	7	6	4
April	83	14	18	22	12	7	6	4
May	79	10	17	24	13	6	6	3
June	73	10	18	20	10	5	6	3
July	68	10	13	22	10	4	6	3
August	60	9	14	18	8	5	4	2
September ^f	53	8	10	18	7	4	4	2
October ^f	57	9	14	13	9	4	4	2
November ^f	46	7	10	13	7	4	4	1
December^P	42	7	9	14	5	4	2	1
Average RSE (%) ²	7	20	14	13	16	21	23	31
Percent distribution								
2006:	100	15	20	29	17	8	8	4
2007: ^P	100	14	21	29	16	8	8	4
2006: December	100	17	19	28	16	7	9	4
2007: January	100	14	22	27	16	9	7	4
February	100	14	18	32	16	7	9	4
March	100	11	20	30	17	9	8	5
April	100	16	22	26	15	9	7	5
May	100	12	21	30	17	8	7	4
June	100	14	25	28	14	7	8	4
July	100	15	19	32	15	6	9	4
August	100	15	23	29	13	9	7	4
September ^f	100	15	19	34	14	8	7	3
October ^f	100	17	25	23	16	8	8	4
November ^f	100	15	22	27	16	8	9	3
December^P	100	17	21	34	13	8	5	2

^PPreliminary. ^fRevised. RSE Relative standard error. X Not applicable. Z Less than 0.5 percent.

¹Houses for which sales price was not reported have been distributed proportionally to those for which sales price was reported.

²Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.

Note: The sales price includes the land.

Table 3. New Houses Sold and For Sale by Stage of Construction and Median Number of Months on Sales Market

[Thousands of houses. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

Period	Sold during period				For sale at end of period				Median months for sale ¹
	Total	Not started	Under construction	Completed	Total	Not started	Under construction	Completed	
2006:	1,051	346	368	337	537	78	285	174	4.3
2007: ^p	774	198	255	322	494	72	227	195	6.3
RSE (%)	3	6	5	5	3	5	4	6	8
2006: December	71	19	21	30	537	78	285	174	4.3
2007: January	66	21	21	24	539	82	281	177	4.8
February	68	20	24	24	540	83	277	180	5.2
March	80	23	27	30	542	85	276	181	5.5
April	83	22	30	31	542	81	281	181	5.8
May	79	20	27	32	544	84	278	182	5.6
June	73	18	26	29	543	80	281	181	5.8
July	68	15	23	30	538	77	280	181	6.0
August	60	14	20	27	538	80	270	187	5.7
September ^f	53	11	17	26	527	76	261	191	5.8
October ^f	57	12	18	27	518	74	253	192	5.9
November ^f	46	10	12	24	507	74	240	193	6.1
December^p	42	12	11	19	494	72	227	195	6.3
Average RSE (%) ²	7	7	10	9	4	9	5	5	6

^pPreliminary. ^fRevised. RSE Relative standard error. Z Less than 0.5 percent.

¹Median number of months for sale since completion.

²Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.