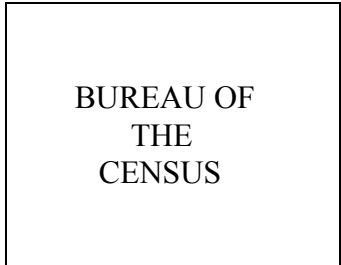


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**CENSUS BUREAU REPORTS ON RESIDENTIAL VACANCIES AND
HOMEOWNERSHIP**

National vacancy rates in the third quarter 2005 were 9.9 percent for rental housing and 1.9 percent for homeowner housing, the Department of Commerce's Census Bureau announced today. The Census Bureau said the rental vacancy rate was not different from the third quarter rate last year (10.1 percent) or the rate last quarter (9.8 percent). For homeowner vacancies, the current rate (1.9 percent) was higher than the rate a year ago (1.7 percent), but not different from the rate last quarter (1.8 percent). The homeownership rate (68.8 percent) for the current quarter was not different from the third quarter 2004 rate (69.0 percent) or the rate last quarter (68.6 percent).

Table 1. Rental and Homeowner Vacancy Rates for the United States: 1994 to 2005 (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
2005....	10.1	9.8	9.9		1.8	1.8	1.9	
2004....	10.4	10.2	10.1	10.0	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8
2003....	9.4	9.6	9.9	10.2	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.8
2002 ^a ..	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

^aRevised in 2002 to incorporate information collected in Census 2000.

NOTE: The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements 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 noninstitutional population of the United States (homeownership rate). For an explanation of how the rates are calculated, please see pages 10-11.

For rental housing, the third quarter 2005 vacancy rates in central cities (9.9 percent), the suburbs (9.5 percent), and outside Core-Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs), 10.8 percent, were not different from each other respectively. (see NOTE below).

The homeowner vacancy rate for third quarter 2005 in central cities (2.6 percent) was higher than rates in the suburbs (1.6 percent) and outside CBSAs (1.8 percent). The rates in the suburbs and outside CBSAs were not statistically different from each other.

Among regions, the rental vacancy rates for the current quarter were highest in the Midwest, (13.4 percent) followed by the South (11.9 percent), the West (7.3 percent), with the lowest rate being in the Northeast (6.0 percent). Regional rates were lower than a year ago in the Northeast, while the Midwest, the South and the West were not different from their respective rates last year.

Comparisons of the regional homeowner vacancy rates for third quarter 2005 showed the highest rates in the Midwest (2.3 percent) and the South (2.2 percent), although they were not different from each other. Rates were lowest in the Northeast (1.4 percent) and West (1.5 percent), which were also not different from each other. When compared with third quarter 2004, the homeowner vacancy rates by region were not different from their respective rates a year ago.

Table 2. Rental and Homeowner Vacancy Rates by Area and Region: Third Quarter 2004 and 2005 (in percent)

Area/Region	Rental vacancy rates				Homeowner vacancy rates			
	Third Quarter 2004	Third Quarter 2005	90-Percent Confidence Interval (±) ^a		Third Quarter 2004	Third Quarter 2005	90-Percent Confidence Interval (±) ^a	
			of 2005 rate	of difference			of 2005 rate	of difference
United States.....	10.1	9.9	0.4	0.5	1.7	1.9	0.1	0.1
Inside Core-Based Statistical Areas.....	(NA)	9.7	0.5	(NA)	(NA)	2.0	0.2	(NA)
In central cities.....	(NA)	9.9	0.6	(NA)	(NA)	2.6	0.3	(NA)
Not in central cities (suburbs).....	(NA)	9.5	0.7	(NA)	(NA)	1.6	0.1	(NA)
Outside Core-Based Statistical Areas.....	(NA)	10.8	1.5	(NA)	(NA)	1.8	0.3	(NA)
Northeast.....	7.3	6.0	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.4	0.2	0.3
Midwest.....	12.3	13.4	0.9	1.1	2.1	2.3	0.3	0.3
South.....	12.3	11.9	0.9	1.0	1.9	2.2	0.2	0.3
West.....	7.7	7.3	0.8	0.9	1.4	1.5	0.2	0.3

^aA 90-percent confidence interval is a measure of an estimate's reliability. The larger the confidence interval is, in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. For more information, see page 10. (NA) Not Available.

NOTE: Core-Based Statistical Area data for 2005 and later are not comparable to earlier data. Beginning in first quarter 2005, the Current Population Survey/Housing Vacancy Survey is using the new metropolitan and micropolitan statistical definitions that were announced by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in June 2003, and were based on the application of the 2000 standards to Census 2000 data. The OMB announced updates as of December 2003, based on application of the 2000 standards to more recent Census Bureau estimates. The December 2003 definitions are available at: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metrodef.html>.

There were an estimated 124.1 million housing units in the United States in the third quarter 2005. Approximately 108.4 million housing units were occupied: 74.6 million by owners and 33.8 million by renters. Both the number of owner-occupied units and the number of renter-occupied units were higher than their respective estimates a year ago. Of the 15.7 million vacant housing units, 11.9 million were for year-round use. Approximately 3.8 million of the year-round vacant units were for rent, 1.5 million were for sale only, and the remaining 6.6 million units were vacant for a variety of other reasons.

**Table 3. Estimates of the Total Housing Inventory for the United States:
Third Quarter 2004 and 2005**

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

Type	Third Quarter 2004	Third Quarter 2005	90-Percent Confidence Interval (\pm) ^a		Percent of total (2005)
			of 2005 estimate	of difference	
All housing units.....	122,373	124,119	(X)	(X)	100
Occupied.....	106,870	108,431	330	301	87
Owner.....	73,772	74,588	631	432	60
Renter.....	33,098	33,843	536	413	27
Vacant.....	15,503	15,688	351	311	13
Year-round.....	11,848	11,854	343	297	10
For rent.....	3,798	3,773	172	193	3
For sale only.....	1,321	1,481	92	113	1
Other.....	6,729	6,600	259	230	5
Seasonal.....	3,655	3,834	225	195	3

^aA 90-percent confidence interval is a measure of an estimate's reliability. The larger the confidence interval is, in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. For more information, see page 10.

(X) Not Applicable. Since the number of housing units is set equal to an independent national measure, there is no sampling error, and hence no confidence interval.

NOTE: Since first quarter 2003, the Current Population Survey/Housing Vacancy Survey (CPS/HVS) estimates have been controlled to independent housing unit counts. Doing so should make the CPS/HVS estimates of housing units more comparable to other Census Bureau housing surveys. Please see page 10 for additional information.

The homeownership rate (68.8 percent) for the current quarter was not different from the third quarter 2004 rate (69.0 percent) or the rate last quarter (68.6 percent).

Table 4. **Homeownership Rates for the United States: 1980 to 2005** (in percent)

Year	Homeownership Rates ^a			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
2005.....	69.1	68.6	68.8	
2004.....	68.6	69.2	69.0	69.2
2003.....	68.0	68.0	68.4	68.6
2002 ^b	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 ^b	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 ^c	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

^aStandard errors for quarterly homeownership rates for the United States generally are 0.3 percent.

^bRevised in 2002 to incorporate information collected in Census 2000, and in 1993 to reflect the results of the 1990 decennial census.

^cRevised to reflect edit changes implemented in 1990.

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.) When adjusted for seasonal variation, the current homeownership rate at 68.7 percent was not different from last year's rate (68.9 percent) or the rate last quarter (68.8 percent).

Table 4SA. **Homeownership Rates for the United States: 1980 to 2005**
Seasonally Adjusted (in percent)

Year	Homeownership Rates ^a (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
2005.....	69.2	68.8	↓ 68.7	
2004.....	68.7	69.4	68.9	69.1
2003.....	68.1	68.2	68.3	68.5
2002 ^b	67.9	67.7 ^d	67.9	68.2
2001.....	67.6	67.8	67.9	67.9
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 ^b	63.8	64.0	64.0	64.1
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 ^c	64.0	63.9	63.9	63.7
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

^aStandard errors for quarterly homeownership rates for the United States generally are 0.3 percent.

^bRevised in 2002 to incorporate information collected in Census 2000, and in 1993 to reflect the results of the 1990 decennial census.

^cRevised to reflect edit changes implemented in 1990.

^dRevised as a result of seasonality computation for this quarter.

The homeownership rate by region was highest in the Midwest (73.3 percent) during the third quarter 2005. The South (70.6 percent) ranked second, while the Northeast (65.1 percent) and the West (64.2 percent) were not different from each other. When compared with their respective rates a year ago, the homeownership rates for all regions were not different.

Table 5. Homeownership Rates for the United States and Regions: 2001 to 2005 (in percent)

Year/Quarter	Homeownership Rates ^a				
	United States	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
2005					
Third Quarter.....	68.8	65.1	73.3	70.6	64.2
Second Quarter.....	68.6	64.7	73.4	70.4	63.8
First Quarter.....	69.1	65.4	73.1	71.1	64.9
2004					
Fourth Quarter.....	69.2	65.2	73.7	71.5	63.9
Third Quarter.....	69.0	64.4	73.8	71.0	64.7
Second Quarter.....	69.2	65.4	74.2	70.9	64.5
First Quarter.....	68.6	65.1	73.5	70.3	63.7
2003					
Fourth Quarter.....	68.6	64.7	73.5	70.5	63.8
Third Quarter.....	68.4	64.4	73.5	70.0	63.8
Second Quarter.....	68.0	64.2	72.8	69.9	63.2
First Quarter.....	68.0	64.2	72.9	69.9	62.8
2002 ^b					
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

^aStandard errors for quarterly homeownership rates by region generally are 0.5 percent.

^bRevised to incorporate information collected in Census 2000.

For third quarter 2005, the homeownership rates by age of householder ranged from 43.0 percent for those under 35 years of age to 80.9 percent for those in the 55 to 64 category. The rate for householders 65 years and over (80.6 percent) was lower than a year ago, while rates for the other age groups were not different from their corresponding rates last year.

Table 6. **Homeownership Rates by Age of Householder: 2001 to 2005** (in percent)

Year/Quarter	Homeownership Rates ^a					
	United States	Under 35 years	35 to 44 years	45 to 54 years	55 to 64 years	65 years and over
2005						
Third Quarter.....	68.8	43.0	68.6	76.7	80.9	80.6
Second Quarter....	68.6	42.8	68.7	76.3	81.3	80.3
First Quarter.....	69.1	43.3	70.1	76.5	81.8	80.8
2004						
Fourth Quarter.....	69.2	43.3	70.0	77.4	81.6	80.5
Third Quarter.....	69.0	43.1	68.6	77.4	81.2	81.8
Second Quarter....	69.2	43.6	69.4	77.0	82.4	81.1
First Quarter.....	68.6	42.3	68.8	77.0	81.7	80.7
2003						
Fourth Quarter.....	68.6	42.7	69.0	77.2	81.3	80.8
Third Quarter.....	68.4	42.5	68.8	76.5	81.1	80.7
Second Quarter....	68.0	41.9	67.8	76.3	81.6	80.2
First Quarter.....	68.0	41.7	67.8	76.5	81.4	80.2
2002^b						
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

^aStandard errors for quarterly homeownership rates by age of householder generally are 0.5 percent.

^bRevised to incorporate information collected in Census 2000.

For the racial categories shown below, the homeownership rate for non-Hispanic White householders reporting a single race (75.7 percent) was highest, while single-race Black householders (48.1 percent) had the lowest rate in the current quarter. The rate for non-Hispanic White single-race householders was lower than last year, while rates for single-race Black householders and All Other Races householders (59.9 percent) were not different from their respective rates shown last year. The rate for Hispanic householders (who can be of any race) at 49.1 percent showed no difference from a year ago.

Table 7. Homeownership Rates by Race and Ethnicity of Householder: 2002 to 2005 (in percent)

Year/Quarter	Homeownership Rates ^a				
	U.S.	Non-Hispanic White alone	Black Alone	All Other Races ^c	Hispanic (of any race)
2005					
Third Quarter.....	68.8	75.7	48.1	59.9	49.1
Second Quarter.....	68.6	75.6	48.0 ^b	58.0	49.2
First Quarter.....	69.1	76.0	48.8	59.4	49.7
2004					
Fourth Quarter.....	69.2	76.2	49.1	58.9	48.9
Third Quarter.....	69.0	76.1	48.4	58.6	48.7
Second Quarter.....	69.2	76.2	49.7	58.7	47.4
First Quarter.....	68.6	75.5	49.3	58.2	47.3
2003					
Fourth Quarter.....	68.6	75.5	49.4	56.6*	47.7
Third Quarter.....	68.4	75.7	48.0	56.2*	46.1
Second Quarter.....	68.0	75.2	47.3	55.3*	46.2
First Quarter.....	68.0	75.0	47.7	55.7	46.7
2002^c					
Fourth Quarter.....					
Third Quarter.....	68.3	75.0	47.7	55.2	48.3
Second Quarter.....	68.0	74.9	47.3	54.0	47.1
First Quarter.....	67.6	74.5	46.5	55.3	46.1
	67.8	74.6	48.2	53.5	46.4

*Revised 4/22/04.

^aStandard errors for quarterly homeownership rates by race and ethnicity of householder generally are 0.3 percent for non-Hispanic White (single race) householders, 0.6 percent for Black (single race) householders, 0.8 percent for All Other Races householders, and 0.6 percent for Hispanic householders.

^bThe homeownership rate for third quarter 2005 for householders who reported Black whether or not they reported any other race was 48.1 percent, which is the same rate as those who reported only Black.

^cIncludes people who reported Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or American Indian or Alaska Native regardless of whether they reported any other race, as well as all other combinations of two or more races.

^dIncludes people who reported Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or American Indian or Alaska Native.

^eRevised to incorporate information collected in Census 2000.

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 report more than one race, but small sample sizes preclude showing all race categories. The question on Hispanic origin is asked separately, and is asked before the question on race. 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.html>.

In third quarter 2005, the homeownership rates for households with family incomes greater than or equal to the median family income (83.7 percent) and those with family incomes less than the median family income (52.8 percent), were not different from the corresponding rates reported last year.

Table 8. **Homeownership Rates by Family Income: 2001 to 2005** (in percent)

Homeownership Rates ^a			
Year/Quarter	United States	Households with family income greater than or equal to the median family income ^b	Households with family income less than the median family income
2005			
Third Quarter.....	68.8	83.7	52.8
Second Quarter.....	68.6	84.0	52.7
First Quarter.....	69.1	84.5	53.0
2004			
Fourth Quarter.....	69.2	84.6	52.5
Third Quarter.....	69.0	84.0	52.7
Second Quarter.....	69.2	83.9	53.1
First Quarter.....	68.6	83.8	51.5
2003			
Fourth Quarter.....	68.6	83.6	52.1
Third Quarter.....	68.4	83.7	52.1
Second Quarter.....	68.0	83.6	51.6
First Quarter.....	68.0	83.3	51.3
2002 ^c			
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

^aStandard errors for quarterly homeownership rates by family income generally are 0.3 percent.

^bBased on families or primary individuals reporting income.

^cRevised to incorporate information collected in Census 2000.

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

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 sample estimate and its standard error enable one to construct a confidence interval. A confidence interval is a measure of an estimate's reliability. The larger a confidence interval is in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. For example, the standard error on the estimated rental vacancy rate of 9.9 percent is 0.2 percentage points. Then the 90-percent confidence interval is calculated as 9.9 percent \pm (1.645 x 0.2), or 9.9 percent \pm 0.3, or from 9.6 percent to 10.2 percent. If all possible samples were surveyed under essentially the same general conditions and the same sample design, and an estimate calculated from each sample, then 90 percent of the estimates would fall within the 90 percent confidence interval, in this case, from 9.6 percent to 10.2 percent.

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 estimate 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 for the first quarter 2003. 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.

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 are now asked to report one or more races. The question on Hispanic origin is asked separately, and is asked before the question on race.

First stage factors for year-round vacant units have been corrected as of the second quarter 2004. Research has shown that this correction had no significant effect on the vacancy rates or homeownership rates.

The rental vacancy rate is the proportion of the rental inventory that is vacant for rent. In tables 1 and 2 the rates are computed using the following formula.

$$\text{Rental vacancy rate} = \frac{\text{Vacant year-round units for rent}}{\text{Renter occupied units} + \text{Vacant year-round units rented but not yet occupied} + \text{Vacant year-round units for rent}}$$

The homeowner vacancy rate is the proportion of the homeowner inventory that is vacant for sale. In tables 1 and 2 the rates are computed using the following formula.

$$\text{Homeowner vacancy rate} = \frac{\text{Vacant year-round units for sale only}}{\text{Owner occupied units} + \text{Vacant year-round units sold but awaiting occupancy} + \text{Vacant year-round units for sale only}}$$

The homeownership rate is the proportion of households that is owner-occupied. It is computed by dividing the number of households that are occupied by owners by the total number of occupied households (tables 4 and 5).

$$\text{Homeownership rate} = \frac{\text{Owner occupied housing units}}{\text{Total occupied housing units}}$$

For the homeownership rate for a specific characteristic (tables 6-8), use the owner and total number of units for that characteristic. For example, for the West region,

$$\text{Homeownership rate (West)} = \frac{\text{Owner occupied housing units (West)}}{\text{Total occupied housing units (West)}}$$

The Housing Vacancy Survey uses a three-month average to produce housing vacancies. The rates for the third quarter only have one month (September) affected by Hurricane Katrina, so the impact of the hurricane is not readily apparent.

In September, the Current Population Survey was conducted largely according to standard procedures. Efforts were made to contact households in storm-affected areas with the exception of Orleans and Jefferson Parishes in Louisiana, which were under mandatory evacuation orders when interviewer instructions were issued. In addition, there were inaccessible housing units that were not interviewed. These units are not weighted as either occupied or vacant.

No units in Louisiana or Mississippi were classified as demolished. This was a slight departure from standard Current Population Survey procedure. In affected areas, all cases not interviewed in September will be revisited as originally scheduled in the following months to determine whether they are suitable for occupancy.