

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Hurricane Sandy's Effect on the October 2012 New Residential Construction Report**

### **What was the effect of Hurricane Sandy on the estimates of New Residential Construction for October 2012?**

We believe the effect was minimal because the storm affected construction activity in a small part of the country for only the last few days of the month, and it did not affect our ability to collect data.

Please see <http://www.census.gov/newsroom/emergencies/sandy.html> for data from the 2007 Economic Census and other Census Bureau sources on the areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

### **Can the Census Bureau produce monthly estimates for the affected areas?**

Estimates of building permits issued in October for local areas will be released on November 29.

### **Was the Census Bureau able to collect information from the affected areas?**

Yes. The number of nonresponses for October 2012 for the Building Permits Survey was not significantly higher than normal. The normal imputation process for nonresponse was used (described at [http://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/how\\_the\\_data\\_are\\_collected/bps.html#nonresponse](http://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/how_the_data_are_collected/bps.html#nonresponse)).

Census field representatives were able to follow up with respondents or use other sources to determine whether projects sampled for the Survey of Construction were started in October or completed in October. The number of nonresponses was not significantly higher than normal. The estimates were adjusted to account for late reports using the normal method based on historical reporting patterns (see [http://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/how\\_the\\_data\\_are\\_collected/soc.html#compilation](http://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/how_the_data_are_collected/soc.html#compilation)).

### **Did the Census Bureau change its data collection procedures this month?**

No.

### **Did the Census Bureau alter the parameters input to the seasonal adjustment program to produce new residential construction estimates for October 2012?**

No.

### **Will completely rebuilt houses be counted as a new house being built?**

Yes. Following Hurricane Andrew in 1992, the definition of a new housing start was modified to include structures where the entire building was razed and a new house was built on the existing foundation. We plan to work with local jurisdictions in the affected states to assist in the proper classification of the permits for the units being rebuilt.

### **Will manufactured homes placed in the area be counted as new residential construction?**

Manufactured (mobile) homes inspected by HUD at the factory (“HUD-code” homes) are not counted as new residential construction because permits from the local jurisdictions are not required to inspect the construction of the units. These units are counted separately in the Manufactured Housing Survey; data from that survey can be found at this link: <http://www.census.gov/construction/mhs/mhsindex.html> . Modular homes without a HUD factory inspection require local building permits and are included in the new residential construction statistics.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau  
Manufacturing and Construction Division

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