

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

What was the effect of Hurricane Sandy on the estimates of New Residential Sales for October 2012?

We believe the effect was minimal because the storm affected new home sales 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 new houses sold and for sale are not available for local 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?

Census field representatives were able to follow up with respondents or use other sources to determine whether houses sampled for the Survey of Construction were sold in October. (For this survey, a sale date is defined as the date when a deposit was made toward the purchase of the house or a sales agreement was signed.) 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/nrs/how_the_data_are_collected/#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 sales estimates for October 2012?

No.

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

Last Revised: November 28, 2012