

# The Obama Administration's Efforts To Stabilize The Housing Market and Help American Homeowners



May 2011

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development | U.S. Department of the Treasury

The Administration's goal is to stabilize the housing market and provide security for homeowners. To meet these objectives in the context of a very challenging market, the Administration developed a broad approach implementing state and local housing agency initiatives, tax credits for homebuyers, neighborhood stabilization and community development programs, mortgage modifications and refinancing, housing counseling, continued Federal Housing Administration (FHA) engagement, support for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and increased consumer protections. In addition, Federal Reserve and Treasury MBS purchase programs have helped to keep mortgage interest rates at record lows over the past year. More detail on the Administration's efforts can be found in the Appendix.

## May 2011 Scorecard on Administration's Comprehensive Housing Initiative

The President's housing market recovery efforts began immediately after taking office in February 2009. The May 2011 housing scorecard includes the following key indicators of market health and results of the Administration's comprehensive response, as outlined above:

- **Housing market remains fragile as data through March paint a mixed picture of recovery.** Home prices remain weak after several straight months of decline. However, CoreLogic reported a minor month-over-month increase for

April and mortgage delinquencies continued a downward trend compared to early 2010. Foreclosure starts and completions remain below peak, though as lenders continue to review internal procedures related to foreclosure processing many foreclosure actions may have been delayed.

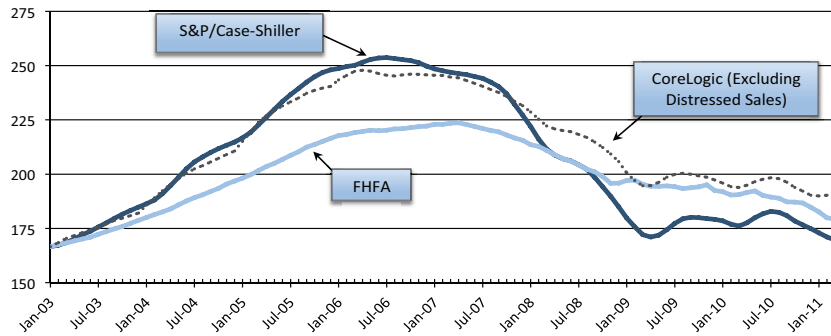
- **More than 4.8 million modification arrangements were started between April 2009 and the end of March 2011 - more than double the number of foreclosure completions during that time.** These actions included nearly 1.6 million HAMP trial modification starts, more than 849,300 FHA loss mitigation and early delinquency interventions, and more than 2.3 million proprietary modifications under HOPE Now. In April, 29,000 homeowners received a trial HAMP modification, and 29,000 additional homeowners received a permanent modification with a median payment reduction of 37 percent—or more than \$500 every month. While some homeowners may have received help from more than one program, the number of agreements offered was more than double the number of foreclosure completions for the same period (2 million). The April Monthly Report can be found at: <http://www.treasury.gov/initiatives/financial-stability/results/MHA-Reports/Pages/default.aspx>

Given the current fragility and recognizing that recovery will take place over time, the Administration remains committed to its efforts to prevent avoidable foreclosures and stabilize the housing market.



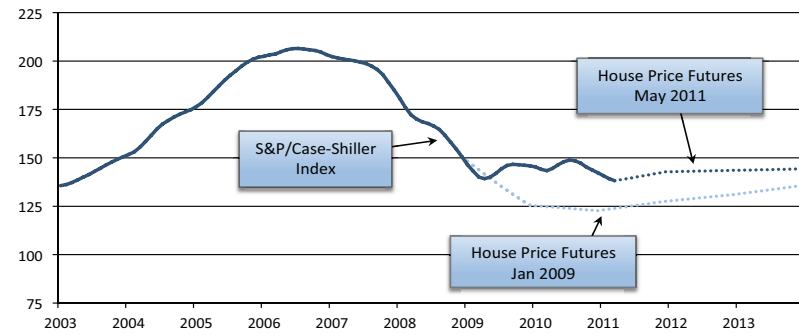
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**Recent House Price Slide Reflects Fragility Of Recovery And Extent Of Distressed Sales**  
 Monthly House Price Trends By Index (\$ Thousands)



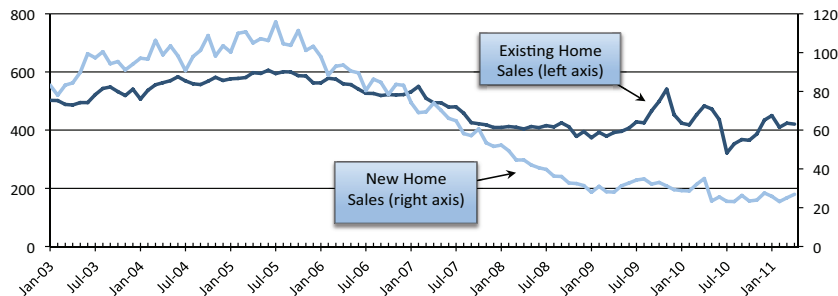
Sources: Standard & Poor's, Federal Housing Finance Agency, Core Logic, and HUD. See Note 1, Sources and Methodology.

**Expectations On House Prices Remain Above 2009 Projections**  
 S&P/Case-Shiller, House Price Futures Index (Jan 2000 = 100)



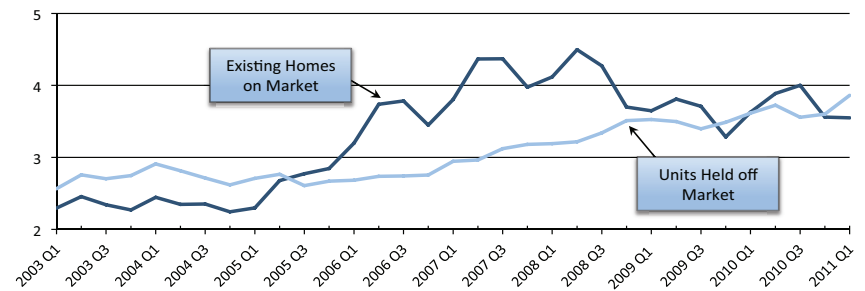
Sources: Standard and Poor's and Radar Logic. See Note 2, Sources and Methodology.

**Existing And New Home Sales**  
 Monthly Sales (Thousands)



Seasonally Adjusted  
 Source: National Association of Realtors®, Census Bureau, and HUD. See Note 3, Sources and Methodology.

**Existing Homes On The Market Below Peak, Number Of Units Held Off The Market Remains High**  
 Existing Homes Available for Sale (End of Period) and Total Vacant Housing Units (Year Round) Off Market (Millions)

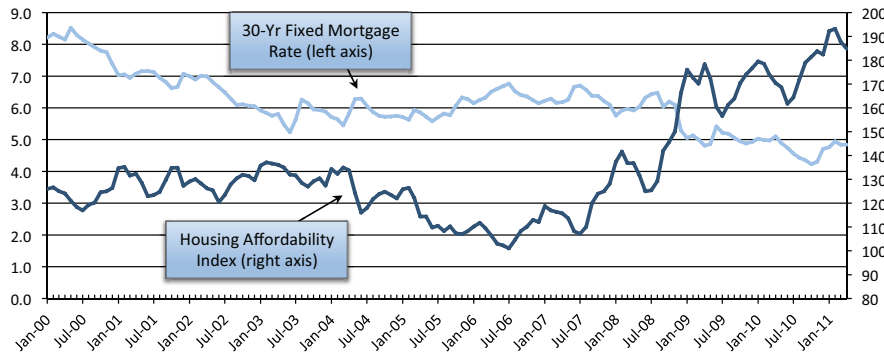


Sources: National Association of Realtors® and Census Bureau.



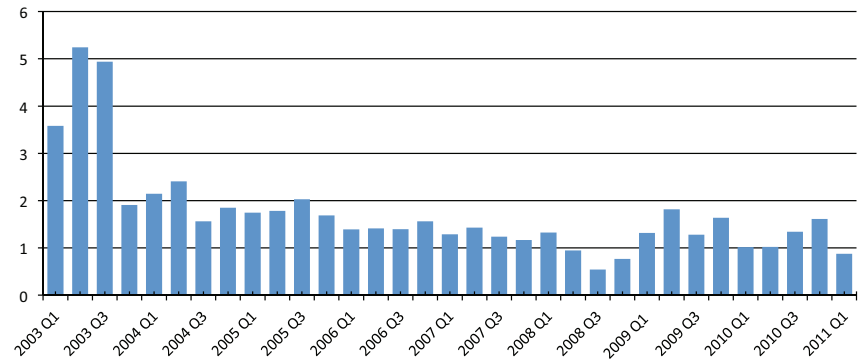
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**Mortgage Rates Remain Near Record Lows  
And Affordability Index Remains High**  
Percentage Rates And Index Values



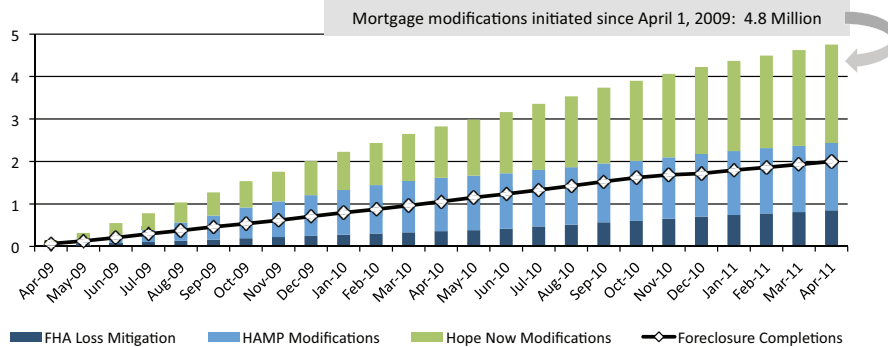
Sources: Freddie Mac and National Association of Realtors.®

**10.6 Million Homeowners Have Refinanced Since April 1, 2009**  
Quarterly Refinance Mortgage Originations (Millions)



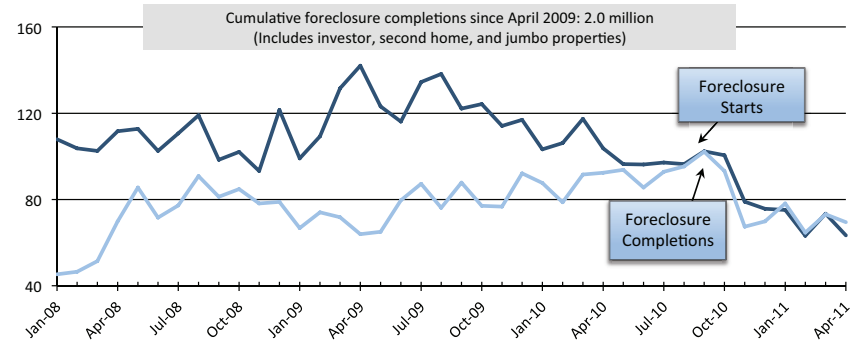
Sources: Mortgage Bankers Association and HUD.  
See Note 4, Sources and Methodology.

**Mortgage Aid Has Been Extended Nearly 5 Million Times,  
Outpacing Foreclosures**  
Cumulative Mortgages Offered Aid Or Foreclosed Since April 1, 2009 (Millions)



Sources: HUD, Dept. of Treasury, Hope Now Alliance, and Realty Trac.  
See Note 5, Sources and Methodology.

**Foreclosure Starts And Completions Remain Affected  
By Lender Reviews Of Internal Procedures**  
Monthly Foreclosure Actions (Thousands)

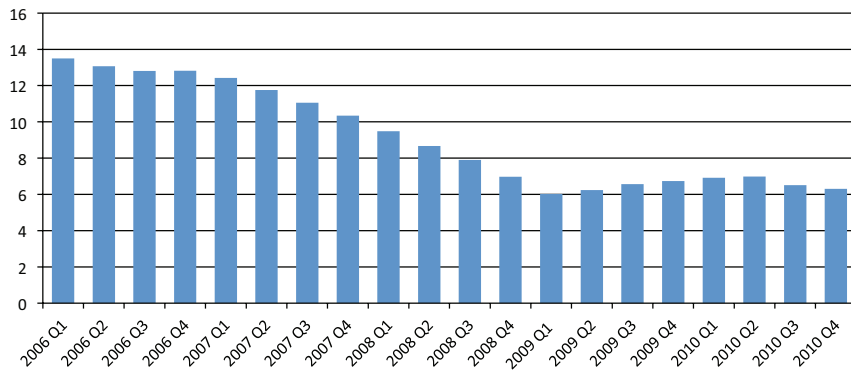


Source: Realty Trac.  
See Note 6, Sources and Methodology.



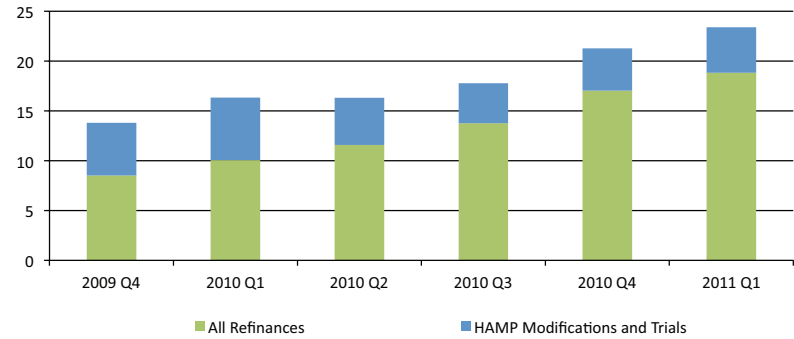
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**Home Equity Down From Prior Quarter But Remains Higher Than First Quarter 2009**  
Owners' Equity In Household Real Estate At End Of Period (\$ Trillions)



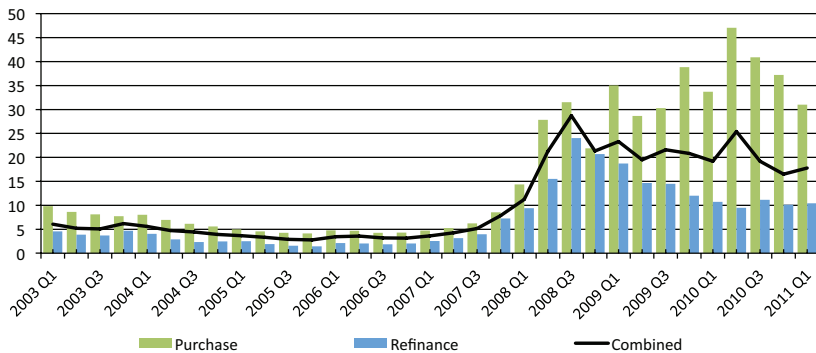
Source: Federal Reserve Board.

**Homeowners Save From Reduced Mortgage Payments**  
Annualized Savings From Payment Reductions (\$ Billions)



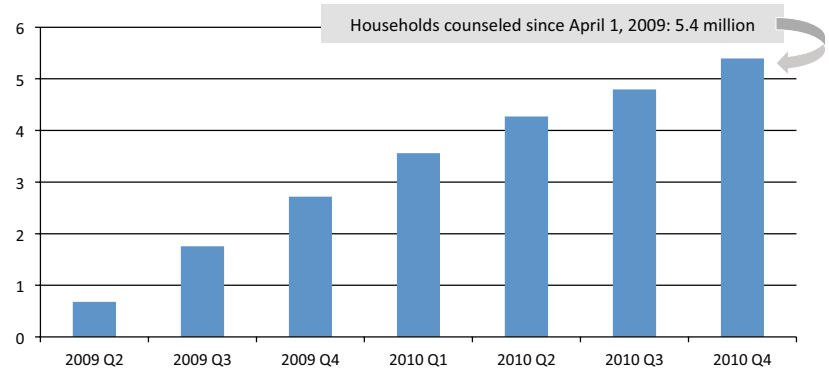
Aggregate annual reduction in mortgage payments on refinances since April 1, 2009 plus active trial and permanent HAMP modifications.  
Sources: MBA, Treasury, Freddie Mac, and HUD.  
See Note 7, Sources and Methodology.

**FHA Supports Mortgage Lending During Crisis**  
FHA As Share Of Quarterly Mortgage Originations By Type (Percent)



Sources: MBA and HUD.  
See Note 8, Sources and Methodology.

**Housing Counselors Serve Millions Of Families**  
Cumulative Households Counselored Since Apr 1, 2009 (Millions)



Source: HUD.



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HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND STABILIZATION PERFORMANCE METRICS

Indicator	This Period	Last Period	Cumulative From Apr 1, 2009	Latest Release
Distressed Homeowners Assisted (thousands)				
HAMP Trial Modifications	29.0	36.8	1,588.0	April-11
HAMP Permanent Modifications	28.9	36.4	699.1	April-11
FHA Loss Mitigation Interventions	40.9	32.2	849.3	April-11
HOPE Now Modifications	57.0	76.6	2,314.5	April-11
Counseled Borrowers (thousands)	602	522	5,396	4th Q 10
Borrower Annual Savings (\$ millions)				
HAMP Trial Modifications	-	-	850	1st Q 11
HAMP Permanent Modifications	-	-	3,719	1st Q 11
All Refinances	-	-	18,825	1st Q 11
Activities Completed Under NSP (housing units)				
New Construction or Residential Rehab	192 (p)	462	10,137 [80,882] (b)	1st Q 11
Demolition or Clearance	8,986 (p)	606	12,667 [21,651] (b)	1st Q 11
Direct Homeownership Assistance	9,784 (p)	669	14,745 [35,808] (b)	1st Q 11
Change in Aggregate Home Equity (\$ billions)	-204	-477	282	4th Q 10

HOUSING MARKET FACT SHEET

Indicator	This Period	Last Period	Year Ago	As of Dec 2008	Latest Release
Mortgage Rates (30-Yr FRM, percent)	4.55	4.60	4.79	5.10	2-Jun-11
Housing Affordability (index)	184.9	187.8	170.4	166.3	April-11
Home Prices (indices)					
Case Shiller (NSA)	138.2	139.2 (r)	143.3	150.5	March-11
FHFA (SA)	181.3	181.8	192.6	198.0 (r)	March-11
CoreLogic - Excluding Distressed Sales (NSA)	151.2	149.9 (r)	152.7	162.1 (r)	March-11
Home Sales (thousands, SA)					
New	26.9	25.1 (r)	35.0	31.4	April-11
Existing	420.8	424.2 (r)	483.3	395.0	April-11
First Time Buyers	223.9 (p)	224.6 (r)	259.2	174.8	April-11
Housing Supply					
Existing Homes for Sale (thousands, NSA)	3,870	3,520 (r)	4,029	3,700	April-11
Existing Homes - Months' Supply (months)	9.2	8.3 (r)	8.3	9.4	April-11
New Homes for Sale (thousands, SA)	175	180 (r)	217	353	April-11
New Homes for Sale - Months' Supply (months, SA)	6.5	7.2 (r)	6.2	11.2	April-11
Vacant Units Held Off Market (thousands)	3,861	3,602	3,614	3,511	1st Q 11
Mortgage Originations (thousands)					
Refinance Originations	876	1,613	1,020	767	1st Q 11
Purchase Originations	490	498	597	986	1st Q 11
FHA Originations (thousands)					
Refinance Originations	29.7 (p)	28.7 (r)	34.1	62.9	April-11
Purchase Originations	71.7 (p)	65.9 (r)	105.5	72.7	April-11
Purchases by First Time Buyers	53.3 (p)	48.2 (r)	84.1	56.2	April-11
Mortgage Delinquency Rates (percent)					
Prime	4.3	4.2	5.8	4.4	April-11
Subprime	32.7	32.3	35.9	34.1	April-11
FHA	11.0	10.6	11.7	14.3	April-11
Seriously Delinquent Mortgages (thousands)					
Prime	1,514	1,540 (r)	1,968	913	April-11
Subprime	1,756	1,774 (r)	2,021	1,642	April-11
FHA	576	581	544	333	April-11
Underwater Borrowers (thousands)	11,089	10,780	11,322	-	4th Q 10
Foreclosure Actions (thousands)					
Notice of Default (Foreclosure Starts)	63.4	73.4	103.8	121.5	April-11
Notice of Foreclosure Sale	86.3	93.2	137.6	103.0	April-11
Foreclosure Completions	69.5	73.2	92.4	78.9	April-11
Short Sales	21.2 (p)	18.0 (r)	25.4	13.9	March-11

SA = seasonally adjusted, NSA = not SA, p = preliminary, r = revised, b = brackets include units in process.



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### SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

#### A. Items in Tables

Description	Frequency	Sources	Notes on Methodology
Distressed Homeowners Assisted HAMP Trial Modifications HAMP Permanent Modifications FHA Loss Mitigation Interventions HOPE Now Modifications	Monthly Monthly Monthly Monthly	Treasury Treasury HUD Hope Now Alliance	As reported. As reported. All FHA loss mitigation and early delinquency interventions. All proprietary modifications completed.
Counseled Borrowers (thousands)	Quarterly	HUD	Housing counseling activity reported by all HUD-approved housing counselors.
Borrower Annual Savings HAMP Trial Modifications HAMP Permanent Modifications All Refinances	Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly	HUD, Treasury, and Freddie Mac HUD and Treasury HUD, and MBA	HUD estimate of annualized savings based on Treasury reported active HAMP trial modifications and Freddie Mac monthly savings estimates. HUD estimate of annualized savings based on Treasury reported active HAMP permanent modifications and median monthly savings estimates. Refinance originations (see below) multiplied by HUD estimate of annualized savings per refinance.
Completed Activities Under NSP (housing units) New Construction or Residential Rehab Demolition or Clearance Direct Homeownership Assistance	Quarterly Quarterly Quarterly	HUD HUD HUD	Housing units constructed/rehabilitated using Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Bracketed numbers include units in process, to be completed by 3/2013. Housing units demolished/cleared using Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Bracketed numbers as above. Completed downpayment assistance or non-amortizing second mortgages by grantee to make purchase of NSP unit affordable. Bracketed numbers as above.
Change in Aggregate Home Equity	Quarterly	Federal Reserve Board	Difference in aggregate household owners' equity in real estate as reported in the Federal Reserve Board's Flow of Funds Accounts of the United States for stated time period.
Mortgage Rates (30-Yr FRM)	Weekly	Freddie Mac	Primary Mortgage Market Survey, as reported for 30-Year fixed rate mortgages (FRM).
Housing Affordability	Monthly	National Association of Realtors <sup>®</sup>	NAR's composite housing affordability index as reported. A value of 100 means that a family with the median income has exactly enough income to qualify for a mortgage on a median-priced home. An index above 100 signifies that family earning the median income has more than enough income to qualify.
Home Prices Case-Shiller (NSA) FHFA (SA) CoreLogic - Excluding Distressed Sales (NSA)	Monthly Monthly Monthly	Standard and Poor's Federal Housing Finance Agency CoreLogic	Case-Shiller 20-metro composite index, January 2000 = 100. Standard and Poor's recommends use of not seasonally adjusted index when making monthly comparisons. FHFA monthly (purchase-only) index for US, January 1991 = 100. CoreLogic national combined index, distressed sales excluded, January 2000 = 100. (Only available as NSA).
Home Sales (SA) New Existing First Time Buyers	Monthly Monthly Monthly	HUD and Census Bureau National Association of Realtors <sup>®</sup> NAR, Census Bureau, and HUD	Seasonally adjusted annual rates divided by 12. A newly constructed house is considered sold when either a sales contract has been signed or a deposit accepted, even if this occurs before construction has actually started. Seasonally adjusted annual rates divided by 12. Existing-home sales, which include single-family, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, are based on transaction closings. This differs from the U.S. Census Bureau's series on new single-family home sales, which are based on contracts or the acceptance of a deposit. Sum of seasonally adjusted new and existing home sales (above) multiplied by National Association of Realtors <sup>®</sup> annual estimate of first time buyer share of existing home sales.
Housing Supply Existing Homes for Sale (NSA) Existing Homes - Months' Supply New Homes for Sale (SA) New Homes for Sale - Months' Supply (SA) Vacant Units Held Off Market	Monthly Monthly Monthly Monthly Quarterly	National Association of Realtors <sup>®</sup> National Association of Realtors <sup>®</sup> HUD and Census Bureau HUD and Census Bureau Census Bureau	As reported. As reported. As reported. As reported. As reported.
Mortgage Originations Refinance Originations Purchase Originations	Quarterly Quarterly	Mortgage Bankers Association and HUD Mortgage Bankers Association and HUD	HUD estimate of refinance originations based on MBA estimate of dollar volume of refinance originations. HUD estimate of home purchase originations based on MBA estimate of dollar volume of home purchase originations.
FHA Originations Refinance Originations Purchase Originations Purchases by First Time Buyers	Monthly Monthly Monthly	HUD HUD HUD	FHA originations reported as of date of loan closing. Estimate for current month scaled upward due to normal reporting lag and shown as preliminary.
Mortgage Delinquency Rates (NSA) Prime Subprime FHA	Monthly Monthly Monthly	LPS Applied Analytics LPS Applied Analytics HUD	Total mortgages past due (30+ days) but not in foreclosure, divided by mortgages actively serviced. Total mortgages past due (30+ days) but not in foreclosure, divided by mortgages actively serviced. Total FHA mortgages past due (30+ days) but not in foreclosure, divided by FHA's insurance in force.
Seriously Delinquent Mortgages Prime Subprime FHA	Monthly Monthly Monthly	LPS Applied Analytics, MBA, and HUD LPS Applied Analytics, MBA, and HUD HUD	Mortgages 90+ days delinquent or in foreclosure, scaled up to market. Mortgages 90+ days delinquent or in foreclosure, scaled up to market. Mortgages 90+ days delinquent or in foreclosure.
Underwater Borrowers	Quarterly	CoreLogic	As reported.
Foreclosure Actions Notice of Default (Foreclosure Starts) Notice of Foreclosure Sale Foreclosure Completions Short sales	Monthly Monthly Monthly Monthly	Realty Trac Realty Trac Realty Trac Core Logic	Reported counts of notice of default plus <i>lis pendens</i> . Some foreclosure starts may be omitted in states where the filing of a notice of default is optional. Notice of sale (auctions). Real Estate Owned (REO). Count of Short Sales for the month as reported (current month subject to revision).



## SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

### B. Notes on Charts.

1. Monthly house price trends shown as changes in respective house price indices applied to a common base price set equal to the median price of an existing home sold in January 2003 as reported by the National Association of Realtors. Indices shown: S&P/Case Shiller 20-metro composite index (NSA), January 2000 = 100, FHFA monthly (purchase-only) index for US (SA), January 1991 = 100, and CoreLogic-Distressed Sales Excluded (Monthly) for US (NSA), January 2000 = 100.
2. S&P/Case-Shiller 20 metro composite index (NSA) as reported monthly. Futures index figures report forward expectations of the level of the S&P/Case Shiller index as of the date indicated, estimated from prices of futures contracts reported by Radar Logic.
3. Reported seasonally adjusted annual rates for new and existing home sales divided by 12.
4. HUD estimate of refinance originations based on MBA estimate of dollar volume of refinance originations.
5. Cumulative HAMP modifications started, FHA loss mitigation and early delinquency interventions, plus proprietary modifications completed as reported by Hope Now Alliance. Some homeowners may be counted in more than one category. Foreclosure completions are properties entering Real Estate Owned (REO) as reported by Realty Trac.
6. Foreclosure starts include notice of default and *lis pendens*, completions are properties entering REO. Both as reported by Realty Trac. See "Foreclosure Actions" above.
7. See "Borrower Annual Savings" above.
8. FHA market shares as FHA purchase and refinance originations divided by HUD estimates of purchase and refinance mortgage originations as noted in "Mortgage Originations" above.



## Appendix

The Administration has taken a broad set of actions to stabilize the housing market and help American homeowners. A year ago, stress in the financial system had severely reduced the supply of mortgage credit, limiting the ability of Americans to buy homes or refinance mortgages. Millions of responsible families who had made their monthly payments and had fulfilled their obligations saw their property values fall. They also found themselves unable to refinance at lower mortgage rates.

In February 2009, less than one month after taking office, President Obama announced the Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan. As part of this plan and through other housing initiatives, the Administration has taken the following actions to strengthen the housing market:

- Supported Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to ensure continued access to affordable mortgage credit;
- The Federal Reserve and the U.S. Treasury purchased more than \$1.4 trillion in agency mortgage backed securities through independent MBS purchase programs, helping to keep mortgage rates at historic lows;
- Launched a modification initiative to help homeowners reduce mortgage payments to affordable levels and to prevent avoidable foreclosures;
- Launched a \$23.5 billion Housing Finance Agencies Initiative to increase sustainable homeownership and rental resources;
- Supported the First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit, which has helped 2.5 million American families purchase homes;
- Provided more than \$5 billion in support for affordable rental housing through low income housing tax credit programs and \$6.92 billion in support for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to restore neighborhoods hardest hit by the concentrated foreclosures;
- Created the \$7.6 billion HFA Hardest Hit Fund for innovative foreclosure prevention programs in the nation's hardest hit housing markets.
- Supported home purchase and refinance activity through the FHA to provide access to affordable mortgage capital and help homeowners prevent foreclosures.

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