

# Housing Market Indicators Monthly Update



February 2018

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

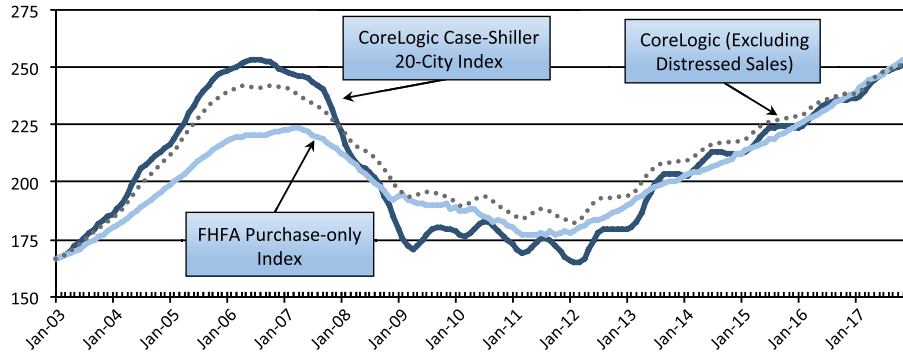
National housing market indicators available as of February show activity in housing markets overall was mixed. Trends in some of the top indicators for this month include:

- **Purchases of new homes declined to the lowest level since August 2017.** New single-family home sales fell 7.8 percent to 593,000 (SAAR) in January, from an upwardly revised pace of 643,000 in December and were 1.0 percent lower than a year ago. The slowdown in new home sales, which are based on the signing of a contract (rather than a closing as is done with existing homes) may be due to inclement weather in the Northeast and South, where sales were down. The limit on the mortgage interest deduction in the new federal tax law is also likely to have pushed sales into November and the first half of December 2017 for some prospective buyers. The lower ceiling on new mortgage debt, which limits the mortgage interest deduction, became effective December 15, 2017. Note that monthly data on new home sales can be volatile and are often revised. (Sources: HUD and Census Bureau.)
- **Sales of previously owned (existing) homes slipped again in January to a four-month low.** The National Association of Realtors® (NAR) reported that January sales of existing homes (including single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums, and cooperatives) fell 3.2 percent to 5.38 million (SAAR), and were down 4.8 percent from a year earlier. Inventories are at near record lows, restricting sales. As with new home sales, the lower limit on the deduction for mortgage interest in the new tax law is also likely to have pushed some sales into the latter part of 2017. Sales were down in all regions.
- **New home construction rose in January to the highest level since October 2016.** Single-family housing starts rose 3.7 percent to 877,000 homes (SAAR) in January and were up 7.6 percent from a year earlier. Construction starts for multifamily housing (5 or more units in a structure), at 431,000 units (SAAR), were up 19.7 percent from December and 3.1 percent from a year earlier. Note that month-to-month changes in the construction of multifamily homes are often volatile. (Sources: HUD and Census Bureau.)
- **Home prices continued to increase in December with annual house price changes in the 6- to 7-percent range.** The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) seasonally adjusted purchase-only house price index for December estimated that home values rose 0.3 percent over the previous month and 6.5 percent over the previous year, lower than the 6.7 percent annual gain in November. The FHFA index shows that U.S. home values are now 13.5 percent above their previous peak set in April 2007 and stand 43.7 percent above the low point reached in March 2011. Another index tracked in the Monthly Update, the non-seasonally adjusted CoreLogic Case-Shiller 20-City Home Price Index, posted a 0.2 percent month-over-month change in home values in December and year-over-year returns of 6.3 percent, down from an annual gain of 6.4 percent in November. The CoreLogic-Case-Shiller index shows home values are at their highest levels since November 2006; house prices peaked during the housing bubble in July 2006 according to this index. (The FHFA and CoreLogic-Case-Shiller price indices are released with a 2-month lag.)
- **The months' supply of homes on the market rose for both new and existing homes.** The listed inventory of new homes for sale at the end of January would support 6.1 months of sales at the current sales pace, up from 5.5 months in December and 5.2 months a year ago. The listed inventory of existing homes for sale represents a 3.4-month supply, up from 3.2 months in December, the lowest recorded dating back to 1999. Inventory was down 9.5 percent year-over-year to 1.52 million available properties. A shortage of homes for sale—especially at the lower end of the market—has been a constraint on purchases for several years now. The long-term average for months' supply of homes is about 6.0 months.
- **Mortgage rates increased in February.** The 30-year fixed rate mortgage (FRM) reached an average weekly low in February of 4.22 percent the week ending February 1, up from January's weekly low of 3.95 for the week ending January 4. February's weekly low is the highest of any month since March 2017 when it was 4.23 percent the week ending March 23. One year ago at this time, the 30-year FRM was slightly lower at 4.19 percent. (Source: Freddie Mac.)



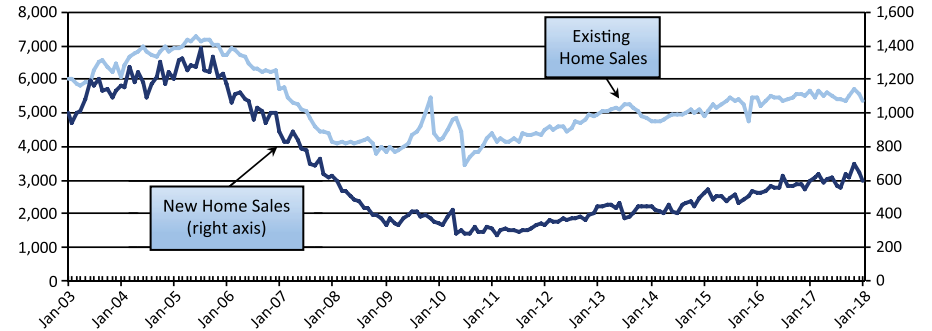
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**House Prices Continued To Rise in December**  
Monthly House Price Trends by Index (\$ Thousands)



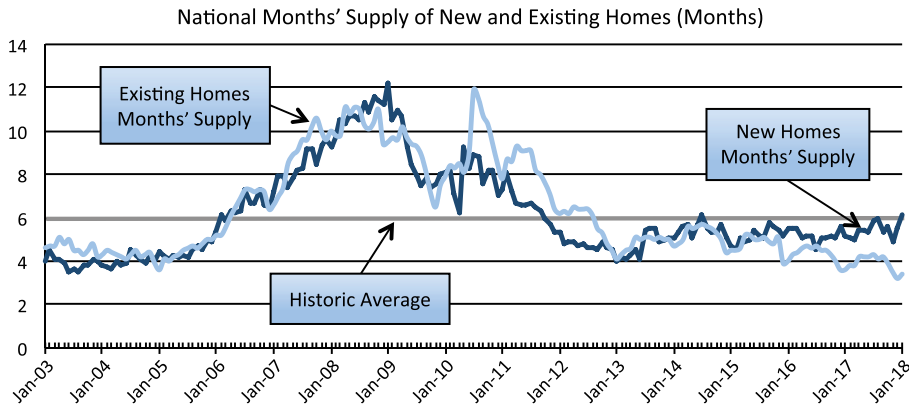
Sources: Standard & Poor's, Federal Housing Finance Agency, CoreLogic, and HUD.  
See Note 1, Sources and Methodology.

**New and Existing Home Sales Fell in January**  
Monthly Sales (Thousands)



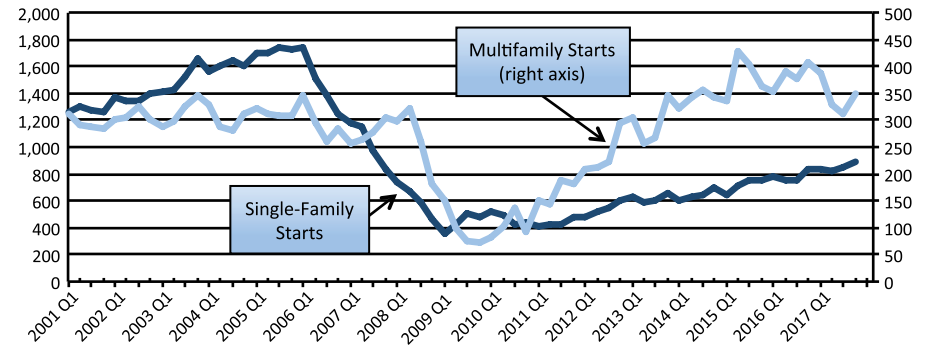
Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate  
Sources: National Association of Realtors®, Census Bureau, and HUD.  
See Note 2, Sources and Methodology.

**The Months' Supply of Homes for Sale Rose for Both New and Existing Homes**  
National Months' Supply of New and Existing Homes (Months)



Sources: Census Bureau, National Association of Realtors®, and HUD.

**Housing Starts Rose for Both Single-Family and Multifamily Homes in the Fourth Quarter**  
National Housing Starts (Thousands)



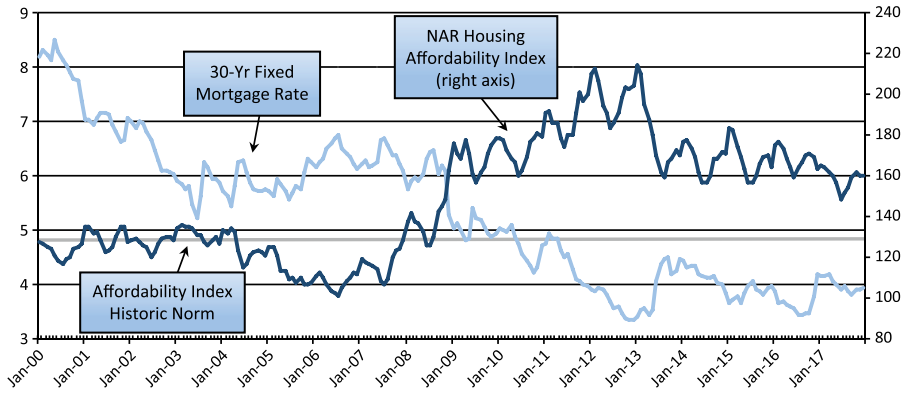
Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate  
Sources: Census Bureau and HUD.



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### Homeownership Affordability Remains Above Historic Norm, Mortgage Rate Within One Percentage Point of Historic Low

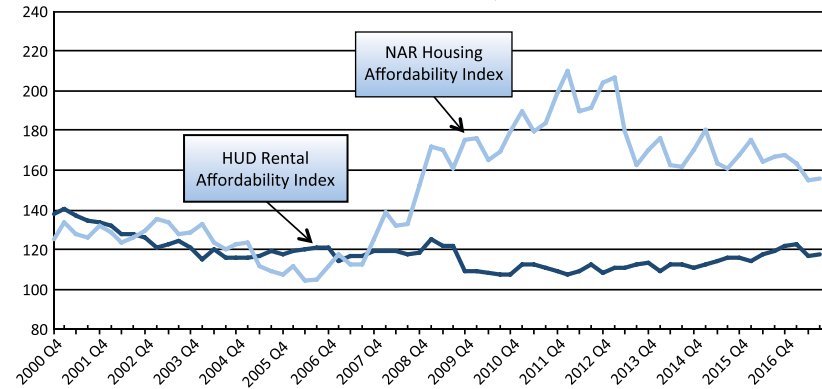
Percentage Rates and Index Values



The historic norm of 129 is the median value of NAR's composite housing affordability index since 1989.  
Sources: Freddie Mac and National Association of Realtors®.

### Rental Affordability Remains a Challenge Due to Rising Rents

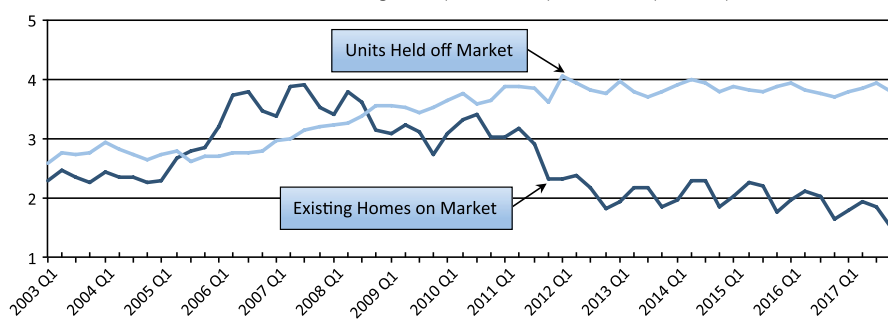
Rental and Homeownership Index Values



Sources: Census Bureau ACS and 2000 Decennial Census, BLS, CPS, HUD, and National Association of Realtors®.  
See Note 3, Sources and Methodology.

### Supply of Existing Homes Has Been Declining Since 2014, 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)

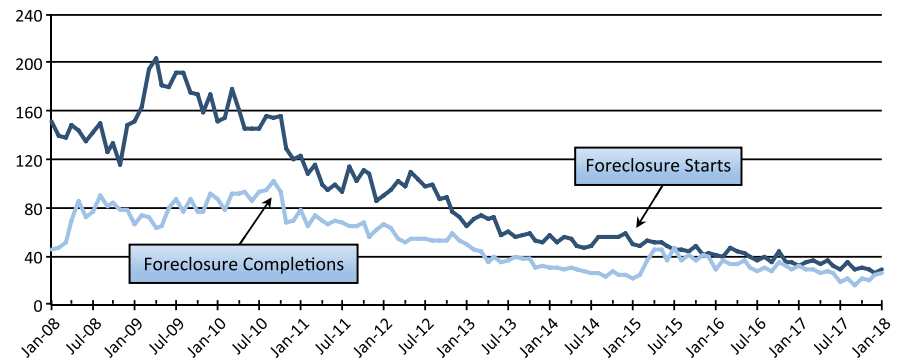


Sources: National Association of Realtors® and Census Bureau.

### Foreclosure Filings Have Trended Downward

Monthly Foreclosure Actions (Thousands)

(Includes investor, second home, and jumbo properties)



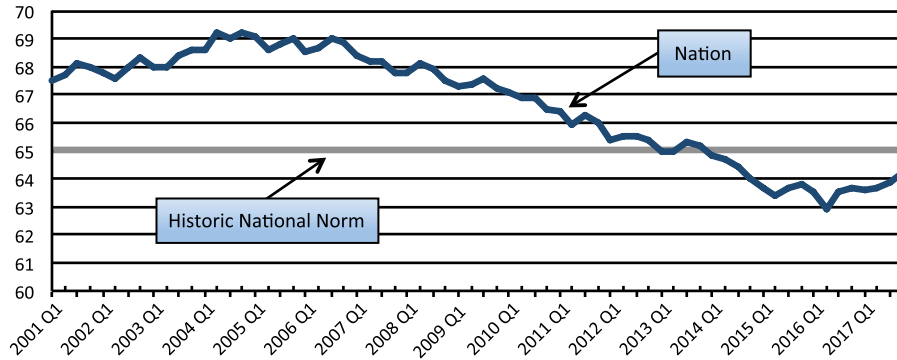
Foreclosure starts are default notices or scheduled foreclosure auctions, depending on the state.  
Source: ATTOM Data Solutions.  
See Note 4, Sources and Methodology.



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### The National Homeownership Rate Rose the Last Three Consecutive Quarters

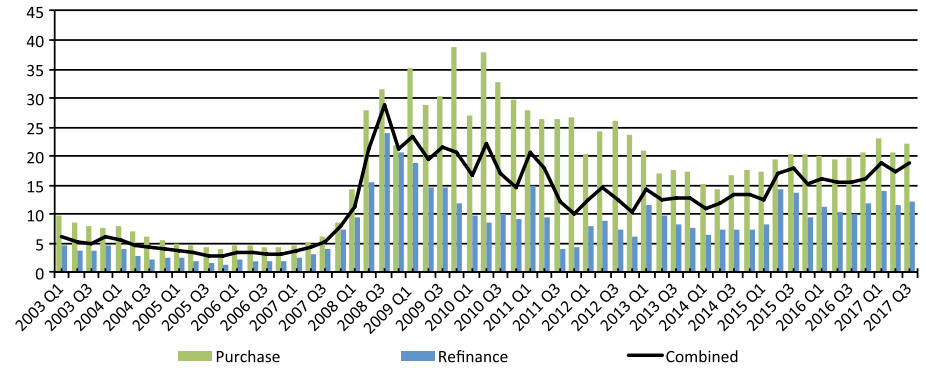
National Homeownership Rate (Percent)



The historical norm of 65 percent is the average national homeownership rate since 1965.  
Sources: Census Bureau and HUD.

### FHA Mortgage Lending

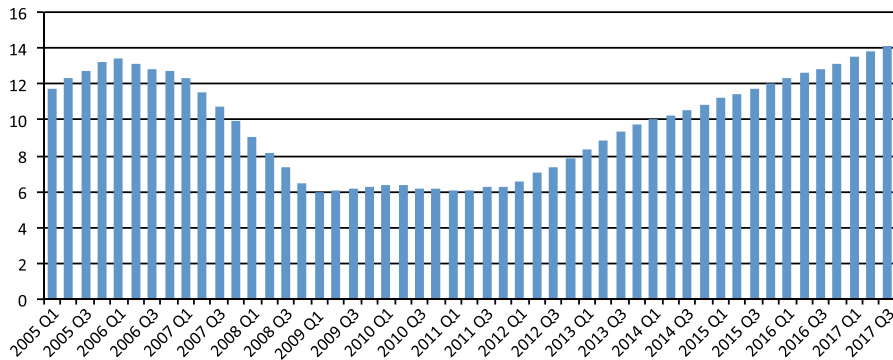
FHA as Share of Quarterly Mortgage Originations by Type (Percent)



Sources: MBA and HUD.  
See Note 5, Sources and Methodology.

### Home Equity Surpassed Its Peak Set in 2006 for a Third Time Since the End of 2016

Owners' Equity in Household Real Estate at End of Period (\$ Trillions)



Source: Federal Reserve Board.



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HOUSING MARKET FACT SHEET				
Indicator	This Period	Last Period	Year Ago	Latest Release
Mortgage Rates (30-Yr FRM, percent)	4.40	4.38	4.16	22-Feb-18
Homeownership Affordability (index)	160.1	160.0 (r)	163.8	December-17
Rental Affordability (index)	117.8	116.9 (r)	119.6	3rd Q 17
Home Prices (indices)				
CoreLogic Case-Shiller (NSA)	204.5	204.1 (r)	192.3	December-17
FHFA (SA)	256.9	256.2 (r)	241.2	December-17
CoreLogic—Excluding Distressed Sales (NSA)	194.7 (s)	193.9 (s,r)	183.9 (s)	December-17
Home Sales				
New (thousands, SAAR)	593	643 (r)	599	January-18
Existing (thousands, SAAR)	5,380	5,560 (r)	5,650	January-18
First-Time Buyers (thousands, SAAR)	2,031 (s)	2,109 (s,r)	2,125 (s)	January-18
Distressed Sales (percent, NSA)	5 (p)	5	9	December-17
Housing Supply				
New Homes for Sale (thousands, SA)	301	294 (r)	261	January-18
New Homes for Sale—Months' Supply (months, SA)	6.1	5.5 (r)	5.2	January-18
Existing Homes for Sale (thousands, NSA)	1,520	1,480	1,680	January-18
Existing Homes—Months' Supply (months)	3.4	3.2	3.6	January-18
Vacant Units Held Off Market (thousands)	3,785	3,944	3,692	4th Q 17
Housing Starts				
Total (thousands, SAAR)	1,326	1,209 (r)	1,236	January-18
Single-Family (thousands, SAAR)	877	846 (r)	815	January-18
Multifamily (thousands, SAAR)	431	360 (r)	418	January-18
Mortgage Originations (thousands)				
Refinance Originations	902.4 (r)	1,102.1 (r)	1,054.7	4th Q 17
Purchase Originations	589.7 (r)	582.0 (r)	994.3	4th Q 17
FHA Mortgage Originations (thousands)				
Refinance Originations	20.4 (p)	22.8 (r)	27.2	January-18
Purchase Originations	44.4 (p)	61.6 (r)	51.2	January-18
Purchases by First-Time Buyers	36.1 (p)	46.9 (r)	42.0	January-18
Mortgage Delinquency Rates (percent)				
Prime	2.2 (s)	2.5 (s)	2.1	January-18
Subprime	23.9 (s)	25.2 (s)	22.5	January-18
FHA	10.0	10.8	8.9	January-18
Seriously Delinquent Mortgages (thousands)				
Prime	304 (s)	305 (s,r)	292	January-18
Subprime	210 (s)	213 (s,r)	386	January-18
FHA	415	414	391	January-18
Change in Aggregate Home Equity (\$ billions)	285.5	328.9 (r)	255.5	3rd Q 17
Underwater Borrowers (thousands)	2,529	2,789 (r)	3,241	3rd Q 17
National Homeownership Rate (percent)	64.2	63.9	63.7	4th Q 17
Foreclosure Actions (thousands)				
Foreclosure Starts	28.3	25.9	32.0	January-18
Foreclosure Completions	26.6	25.2	32.2	January-18
Short Sales	3.3 (p)	3.5 (r)	7.6	December-17
REO Sales	13.7 (p)	17.9 (r)	28.5	December-17

SA = seasonally adjusted, NSA = not SA, p = preliminary, r = revised, b = brackets include units in process, s = see Additional Notes in Sources and Methodology.



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### SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

#### A. Items in Table.

Description	Frequency	Sources	Notes on Methodology
Mortgage Rates (30-Yr FRM)	Weekly	Freddie Mac	Primary Mortgage Market Survey, as reported for 30-Year fixed rate mortgages (FRM).
Homeownership Affordability	Monthly	National Association of Realtors®	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 a family earning the median income has more than enough income to qualify.
Rental Affordability	Quarterly	HUD	HUD's Rental Affordability Index measures whether a typical renter household has enough income to qualify for a lease on a typical rental home at the national level based on the most recent price and income data. A typical renter household is one that earns median income and a typical rental home is a median-priced rental unit. It is assumed that a renter household can qualify for a lease if the annual rent is not greater than 30 percent of the renter household's annual income. A value of 100 means that a renter household with median income has exactly enough income to qualify for a lease on a median-priced rental home. An index value above 100 signifies that a household earning the median income of renter households has more than enough income to qualify. For more information on HUD's rental affordability index and methodology see the Second Quarter 2016 issue of HUD's National Housing Market Summary on their U.S. Housing Market Conditions website: <a href="https://www.huduser.gov/portal/ushmc/home.html">https://www.huduser.gov/portal/ushmc/home.html</a> .
Home Prices CoreLogic Case-Shiller (NSA)	Monthly	Standard and Poor's	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 (SA) CoreLogic - Excluding Distressed Sales (NSA)	Monthly Monthly	Federal Housing Finance Agency CoreLogic	FHFA monthly (purchase-only) index for US, January 1991 = 100. CoreLogic national combined index, distressed sales excluded, January 2000 = 100. (Only available as NSA). Also see additional note in Section C below on the CoreLogic HPI.
Home Sales (SAAR) New	Monthly	HUD and Census Bureau	Seasonally adjusted annual rates. 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.
Existing	Monthly	National Association of Realtors®	Seasonally adjusted annual rates. 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.
First Time Buyers	Monthly	NAR, Census Bureau, and HUD	Sum of seasonally adjusted new and existing home sales (above) multiplied by National Association of Realtors® annual estimate of first time buyer share of existing home sales.
Distressed Sales (NSA)	Monthly	CoreLogic	Short sales and REO (Real Estate Owned) sales as a percent of total existing home sales (current month subject to revision).
Housing Starts Total (SAAR)	Monthly	HUD and Census Bureau	Housing starts are divided into three components: single family, multifamily, and two-to-four unit structures. Start of construction occurs when excavation begins for the footings or foundation of a building. As of September 1992, housing starts include units being totally rebuilt on an existing foundation.
Single-Family (SAAR)	Monthly	HUD and Census Bureau	Single-Family housing includes fully detached, semi-detached (semi-attached, side-by-side), townhouses and row houses. For attached units, each must be separated from the adjacent unit by a ground-to-roof firewall in order to be classified as a single-family structure. Also, these units must not share common facilities (i.e. heating/air-conditioning systems, plumbing, attic, or basement). Units built one on top of another and those built side-by-side that do not have a ground-to-roof firewall or have common facilities are not considered single-family units.
Multifamily (SAAR)	Monthly	HUD and Census Bureau	Multifamily housing has five or more units in a structure.
Housing Supply New Homes for Sale (SA) New Homes for Sale - Months' Supply (SA) Existing Homes for Sale (NSA) Existing Homes - Months' Supply Vacant Units Held Off Market	Monthly Monthly Monthly Monthly Quarterly	HUD and Census Bureau HUD and Census Bureau National Association of Realtors® National Association of Realtors® Census Bureau	As reported. As reported. As reported. As reported. As reported in Census CPS/HPS Table 4. Estimates of Housing Inventory, line item "Year-round vacant, held off market for reasons other than occasional use or usually reside elsewhere." Vacant units can be held off the market for a variety of reasons.
Mortgage Originations Refinance Originations	Quarterly	Mortgage Bankers Association and HUD	HUD estimate of refinance originations based on MBA estimate of dollar volume of refinance originations.
Purchase Originations	Quarterly	Mortgage Bankers Association and HUD	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 Monthly	HUD 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	Monthly	Black Knight Financial Services	Total conventional mortgages past due (30+ days) but not in foreclosure, divided by conventional mortgages actively serviced.
Subprime	Monthly	Black Knight Financial Services	Total conventional mortgages past due (30+ days) but not in foreclosure, divided by conventional mortgages actively serviced.
FHA	Monthly	HUD	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 Monthly	LPS Applied Analytics, MBA, and HUD LPS Applied Analytics, MBA, and HUD HUD HUD	Conventional mortgages 90+ days delinquent or in foreclosure, scaled up to market. Conventional mortgages 90+ days delinquent or in foreclosure, scaled up to market. Mortgages 90+ days delinquent or in foreclosure.
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.
Underwater Borrowers	Quarterly	CoreLogic	As reported.
National Homeownership Rate	Quarterly	Census Bureau	Homeownership in the U.S. as a percentage of all households.



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### SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

#### A. Items in Table (continued).

Foreclosure Actions Foreclosure Starts	Monthly	ATTOM Data Solutions (Formerly RealtyTrac)	Foreclosure starts are reported counts of notice of default or scheduled foreclosure auction, depending on which action starts the foreclosure process in a state. Real Estate Owned (REO). Count of Short Sales for the month as reported (current month subject to revision). Count of REO (Real Estate Owned) Sales for the month as reported (current month subject to revision).
Foreclosure Completions	Monthly	ATTOM Data Solutions	
Short sales	Monthly	CoreLogic	
REO Sales	Monthly	CoreLogic	

#### 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. Also see additional note below in Section C on the CoreLogic HPI.
2. Reported seasonally adjusted annual rates for new and existing home sales.
3. A comparison of the affordability of renting a home to purchasing a home, added as of the September 2016 release. HUD's Quarterly Rental Affordability Index is compared to NAR's Composite Quarterly Affordability Index. See note above on Rental Affordability.
4. Filings of a notice of default or scheduled foreclosure auction, depending on which action starts the foreclosure process in a state, are reported for foreclosure starts. Foreclosure completions are properties entering REO. Both as reported by ATTOM Data Solutions (formerly RealtyTrac).
5. 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. See additional note below on FHA market share.

#### C. Additional Notes.

Black Knight enhanced their database as of December 2017 data, increasing their database coverage by nearly 1 million additional loans through several new contributors and improved coverage of certain types of data. Also, HUD included additional filters to make sure all FHA and VA loans were excluded from the data to ensure reporting of only conventional loans. The November 2017 changes in reported data are mainly due to the additional filters.

FHA Market Share data were updated in the June 2017 report based on the most recent HMDA data and revised house price estimates. FHA market share estimates were based on new methodology beginning with the October 2013 report; estimates were revised back through Q1 2011. See the FHA Market Share report on their website for an explanation of the new methodology: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/housing/rmra/oe/rpts/fhamktsh/fhamktqtrly](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/rmra/oe/rpts/fhamktsh/fhamktqtrly).

The estimate for first-time buyers was revised downward from 35 percent for 2016 to 34 percent for 2017, with the October 2017 release of the NAR Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers 2017 report. The annual reporting of first-time buyers differs from NAR's monthly Realtors Confidence Index survey, because the annual survey, for the most part, represents purchases of homes by owner-occupants and does not include purchases by investors, as in the monthly survey.

CoreLogic's House Price Index (HPI) estimates are based on new methodology beginning with their June 2016 report, which includes data through April 2016. A variety of modeling and other enhancements to their HPI and its forecast, including a 14 percent expansion in the number of transaction pairs, were made.