# U.S. Census Bureau News Joint Release U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, D.C. 20233<br>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2012 AT 8:30 A.M. EDT

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## NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION IN AUGUST 2012

The U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development jointly announced the following new residential construction statistics for August 2012:

## BUILDING PERMITS

Privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in August were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 803,000. This is 1.0 percent $( \pm 1.2 \%)^{*}$ below the revised July rate of 811,000 , but is 24.5 percent $( \pm 1.7 \%)$ above the August 2011 estimate of 645,000 .

Single-family authorizations in August were at a rate of 512,000 ; this is 0.2 percent $( \pm 0.8 \%)^{*}$ above the revised July figure of 511,000 . Authorizations of units in buildings with five units or more were at a rate of 263,000 in August.

## HOUSING STARTS

Privately-owned housing starts in August were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 750,000 . This is 2.3 percent ( $\pm 10.2 \%)^{*}$ above the revised July estimate of 733,000 and is 29.1 percent ( $\pm 12.8 \%$ ) above the August 2011 rate of 581,000 .

Single-family housing starts in August were at a rate of 535,000 ; this is 5.5 percent $( \pm 10.4 \%)^{*}$ above the revised July figure of 507,000 . The August rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 208,000.

## HOUSING COMPLETIONS

Privately-owned housing completions in August were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 689,000 . This is 0.7 percent ( $\pm 18.8 \%)^{*}$ above the revised July estimate of 684,000 and is 11.7 percent ( $\pm 17.5 \%)^{*}$ above the August 2011 rate of 617,000 .

Single-family housing completions in August were at a rate of 489,000; this is 5.4 percent ( $\pm 14.3 \%$ )* above the revised July rate of 464,000 . The August rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 193,000.

New Residential Construction data for September 2012 will be released on Wednesday, October 17, 2012, at 8:30 A.M. EDT. Our Internet site is: http://www.census.gov/starts

To receive the latest updates on the Nation's key economic indicators, download the America's Economy app for Apple and Android smartphones and tablets.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

In interpreting changes in the statistics in this release, note that month-to-month changes in seasonally adjusted statistics often show movements which may be irregular. It may take 3 months to establish an underlying trend for building permit authorizations, 4 months for total starts, and 6 months for total completions. The statistics in this release are estimated from sample surveys and are subject to sampling variability as well as nonsampling error including bias and variance from response, nonreporting, and undercoverage. Estimated relative standard errors of the most recent data are shown in the tables. Whenever a statement such as " 2.5 percent $( \pm 3.2 \%)$ above" appears in the text, this indicates the range ( -0.7 to +5.7 percent) in which the actual percent change is likely to have occurred. All ranges given for percent changes are 90-percent confidence intervals and account only for sampling variability. If a range does not contain zero, the change is statistically significant. If it does contain zero, the change is not statistically significant; that is, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. The same policies apply to the confidence intervals for percent changes shown in the tables. On average, the preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates of total building permits, housing starts and housing completions are revised about three percent or less. Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our web site listed above.

* $90 \%$ confidence interval includes zero. The Census Bureau does not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

Table 1. New Privately-Owned Housing Units Authorized in Permit-Issuing Places
[Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. RSE Relative standard error. S Does not meet publication standards because tests for identifiable and stable seasonality do not meet reliability standards.

X Not applicable. Z Relative standard error is less than 0.5 percent.
${ }^{1}$ Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.
Reflects revisions not distributed to months
See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of $90 \%$ confidence intervals.

Table 2. New Privately-Owned Housing Units Authorized, but Not Started, at End of Period
[Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

| Period | United States |  |  |  | Northeast |  | Midwest |  | South |  | West |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | In structures with -- |  |  | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit |
|  | Total | 1 unit | $\begin{array}{r} 2 \text { to } 4 \\ \text { units } \end{array}$ | 5 units or more |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Not seasonally adjusted |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2011: August | 87.4 | 45.5 | 2.5 | 39.4 | 8.7 | 5.9 | 7.8 | 5.9 | 46.2 | 23.6 | 24.8 | 10.1 |
| September | 79.9 | 45.0 | 3.5 | 31.4 | 8.9 | 5.8 | 7.9 | 5.9 | 41.6 | 23.8 | 21.5 | 9.5 |
| October | 75.3 | 42.8 | 3.0 | 29.5 | 8.0 | 5.6 | 7.0 | 4.9 | 39.9 | 22.8 | 20.3 | 9.4 |
| November | 73.8 | 43.6 | 3.1 | 27.1 | 6.8 | 4.9 | 8.9 | 6.9 | 39.8 | 22.4 | 18.3 | 9.4 |
| December | 78.1 | 42.3 | 2.4 | 33.3 | 7.8 | 4.9 | 6.2 | 3.9 | 43.3 | 23.3 | 20.9 | 10.3 |
| 2012: January | 75.0 | 39.9 | 1.6 | 33.5 | 8.1 | 5.0 | 5.6 | 3.7 | 41.4 | 21.1 | 20.0 | 10.1 |
| February | 78.7 | 44.2 | 1.9 | 32.6 | 9.8 | 5.1 | 6.7 | 4.5 | 41.1 | 23.5 | 21.1 | 11.1 |
| March | 87.6 | 45.2 | 2.0 | 40.4 | 8.4 | 5.2 | 8.4 | 5.2 | 44.4 | 23.6 | 26.4 | 11.3 |
| April | 80.6 | 44.2 | 2.0 | 34.5 | 8.8 | 5.1 | 7.2 | 5.3 | 39.9 | 22.8 | 24.8 | 11.1 |
| May | 85.8 | 45.1 | 1.6 | 39.2 | 8.0 | 4.9 | 8.5 | 5.7 | 43.6 | 23.5 | 25.7 | 11.0 |
| June (r) | 84.7 | 43.5 | 1.5 | 39.8 | 8.5 | 5.6 | 9.3 | 4.9 | 43.3 | 22.2 | 23.6 | 10.7 |
| July (r) | 87.4 | 43.0 | 1.4 | 43.0 | 8.9 | 5.2 | 8.4 | 4.9 | 48.3 | 23.1 | 21.8 | 9.9 |
| August (p) | 94.7 | 46.1 | 2.0 | 46.5 | 8.7 | 5.4 | 8.3 | 5.2 | 54.2 | 24.9 | 23.5 | 10.6 |
| Average RSE (\%) ${ }^{1}$ | 6 | 6 | 20 | 8 | 17 | 22 | 10 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 16 |
| Percent Change: ${ }^{2}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| August 2012 from July 2012 | 8.3\% | 7.2\% | 44.6\% | 8.2\% | -1.9\% | 4.5\% | -1.4\% | 7.2\% | 12.0\% | 8.0\% | 7.8\% | 6.8\% |
| 90\% Confidence Interval ${ }^{3}$ | $\pm 4.1$ | $\pm 5.1$ | $\pm 35.5$ | $\pm 7.6$ | $\pm 15.4$ | $\pm 10.7$ | $\pm 14.3$ | $\pm 19.4$ | $\pm 5.0$ | $\pm 6.7$ | $\pm 9.6$ | $\pm 9.9$ |
| August 2012 from August 2011 | 8.3\% | 1.3\% | -20.9\% | 18.2\% | 0.3\% | -8.5\% | 6.6\% | -12.4\% | 17.3\% | 5.7\% | -5.3\% | 5.0\% |
| 90\% Confidence Interval ${ }^{3}$ | $\pm 9.8$ | $\pm 9.6$ | $\pm 29.2$ | $\pm 20.9$ | $\pm 22.2$ | $\pm 18.2$ | $\pm 27.8$ | $\pm 26.0$ | $\pm 17.3$ | $\pm 16.9$ | $\pm 14.9$ | $\pm 19.8$ |

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. RSE Relative standard error. S Does not meet publication standards because tests for identifiable and stable seasonality do not meet reliability standards.
${ }^{1}$ Average RSE for the latest 6-month period. $\quad{ }^{2}$ Computed using unrounded data.
${ }^{3}$ See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of $90 \%$ confidence intervals.

Note: These data represent the number of housing units authorized in all months up to and including the last day of the reporting period and not started as of that date without regard to the months of original permit issuance. Cancelled, abandoned, expired, and revoked permits are excluded.

Table 3. New Privately-Owned Housing Units Started
[Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. RSE Relative standard error. S Does not meet publication standards because tests for identifiable and stable seasonality do not meet reliability standards.

X Not applicable.
${ }^{1}$ Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.
${ }^{2}$ See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of $90 \%$ confidence intervals.
${ }^{3}$ Computed using unrounded data.

Table 4. New Privately-Owned Housing Units Under Construction at End of Period
[Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]


[^0]Table 5. New Privately-Owned Housing Units Completed
[Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

(p) Prelminary. (r) Revised. RSE Relative standard error. S Does not meet publication standards because tests for identifiable and stable seasonality do not meet reliability standards.

X Not applicable.
${ }^{1}$ Average RSE for the latest 6-month period. ${ }^{2}$ See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of $90 \%$ confidence intervals.
${ }^{3}$ Computed using unrounded data.


[^0]:    (p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. RSE Relative standard error. S Does not meet publication standards because tests for identifiable and stable seasonality do not meet reliability standards.

    X Not applicable.
    ${ }^{1}$ Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.
    ${ }^{2}$ See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of $90 \%$ confidence intervals.

