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

U.S. Department of Commerce - Washington, D.C. 20233

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006 AT 8:30 A.M. EST
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## NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION IN FEBRUARY 2006

The U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development jointly announced the following new residential construction statistics for February 2006:

## BUILDING PERMITS

Privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in February were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $2,145,000$. This is 3.2 percent ( $\pm 1.1 \%$ ) below the revised January rate of $2,216,000$, but is 2.5 percent $( \pm 1.4 \%)$ above the February 2005 estimate of 2,093,000.

Single-family authorizations in February were at a rate of $1,639,000$; this is 3.0 percent ( $\pm 0.9 \%$ ) below the January figure of $1,690,000$. Authorizations of units in buildings with five units or more were at a rate of 417,000 in February.

## HOUSING STARTS

Privately-owned housing starts in February were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2,120,000. This is 7.9 percent ( $\pm 8.5 \%)^{*}$ below the revised January estimate of $2,303,000$ and is 4.8 percent $( \pm 7.2 \%)^{*}$ below the February 2005 rate of 2,228,000.

Single-family housing starts in February were at a rate of $1,800,000$; this is 2.3 percent ( $\pm 10.3 \%)^{*}$ below the January figure of $1,843,000$. The February rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 275,000 .

## HOUSING COMPLETIONS

Privately-owned housing completions in February were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2,022,000. This is 1.7 percent ( $\pm 8.1 \%)^{*}$ below the revised January estimate of $2,058,000$, but is 5.2 percent $( \pm 8.9 \%)^{*}$ above the February 2005 rate of 1,922,000.

Single-family housing completions in February were at a rate of $1,699,000$; this is 2.4 percent ( $\pm 9.7 \%)^{*}$ above the January figure of $1,659,000$. The February rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 241,000 .

New Residential Construction data for March 2006 will be released on Tuesday, April 18, 2006, at 8:30 A.M. EDT. Our Internet site is: http://www.census.gov/newresconst

## 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 4 months to establish an underlying trend for building permit authorizations, 6 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 one percent. Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our web site listed above.

[^0]Table 1. New Privately-Owned Housing Units Authorized in Permit-Issuing Places
[Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

| Period |  | United States |  |  |  | Northeast |  | Midwest |  | South |  | West |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Total | In structures with -- |  |  | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit |
|  |  | 1 unit | $\begin{array}{r} 2 \text { to } 4 \\ \text { units } \end{array}$ | 5 units or more |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Seasonally adjusted annual rate |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2005: | February | 2,093 | 1,624 | 83 | 386 | 189 | 116 | 381 | 300 | 974 | 777 | 549 | 431 |
|  | March | 2,021 | 1,552 | 85 | 384 | 184 | 107 | 349 | 269 | 961 | 756 | 527 | 420 |
|  | April | 2,148 | 1,640 | 78 | 430 | 200 | 117 | 379 | 289 | 1,011 | 795 | 558 | 439 |
|  | May | 2,062 | 1,628 | 85 | 349 | 191 | 120 | 354 | 282 | 968 | 781 | 549 | 445 |
|  | June | 2,132 | 1,653 | 87 | 392 | 213 | 124 | 361 | 286 | 1,032 | 810 | 526 | 433 |
|  | July | 2,171 | 1,690 | 99 | 382 | 200 | 130 | 379 | 297 | 1,010 | 809 | 582 | 454 |
|  | August | 2,138 | 1,676 | 86 | 376 | 186 | 130 | 353 | 287 | 1,064 | 830 | 535 | 429 |
|  | September | 2,219 | 1,767 | 88 | 364 | 208 | 139 | 362 | 296 | 1,036 | 843 | 613 | 489 |
|  | October | 2,103 | 1,707 | 82 | 314 | 189 | 125 | 369 | 303 | 1,009 | 833 | 536 | 446 |
|  | November | 2,163 | 1,724 | 81 | 358 | 205 | 122 | 380 | 300 | 1,022 | 868 | 556 | 434 |
|  | December | 2,075 | 1,645 | 81 | 349 | 207 | 117 | 339 | 257 | 1,019 | 841 | 510 | 430 |
| 2006: | January ${ }^{\text {r }}$ | 2,216 | 1,690 | 103 | 423 | 213 | 131 | 388 | 281 | 1,078 | 852 | 537 | 426 |
|  | February ${ }^{\text {p }}$ | 2,145 | 1,639 | 89 | 417 | 203 | 127 | 372 | 268 | 1,015 | 843 | 555 | 401 |
| Averas | ge RSE (\%) ${ }^{1}$ | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Percent Change: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | February 2006 from January 2006 | -3.2\% | -3.0\% | -13.6\% | -1.4\% | -4.7\% | -3.1\% | -4.1\% | -4.6\% | -5.8\% | -1.1\% | 3.4\% | -5.9\% |
|  | 90\% Confidence Interval ${ }^{3}$ | $\pm 1.1$ | $\pm 0.9$ | $\pm 2.7$ | $\pm 4.1$ | $\pm 1.7$ | $\pm 2.2$ | $\pm 5.6$ | $\pm 6.6$ | $\pm 1.4$ | $\pm 1.5$ | $\pm 2.0$ | $\pm 2.4$ |
|  | February 2006 from February 2005 | 2.5\% | 0.9\% | 7.2\% | 8.0\% | 7.4\% | 9.5\% | -2.4\% | -10.7\% | 4.2\% | 8.5\% | 1.1\% | -7.0\% |
|  | 90\% Confidence Interval ${ }^{3}$ | $\pm 1.4$ | $\pm 0.7$ | $\pm 3.3$ | $\pm 5.7$ | $\pm 3.9$ | $\pm 5.1$ | $\pm 3.5$ | $\pm 4.2$ | $\pm 1.7$ | $\pm 1.9$ | $\pm 3.0$ | $\pm 3.6$ |
|  |  | Not seasonally adjusted |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2004 |  | 2,070.1 | 1,613.4 | 90.4 | 366.2 | 197.0 | 131.8 | 370.5 | 295.5 | 960.8 | 756.1 | 541.9 | 430.0 |
| $2005{ }^{2}$ |  | 2,147.6 | 1,681.2 | 84.0 | 382.5 | 199.8 | 124.9 | 362.8 | 288.2 | 1,027.7 | 820.1 | 557.3 | 448.0 |
| RSE |  | (Z) | (Z) | 2 | (Z) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | (Z) | (Z) | 1 | 1 |
| 2005: | Year to Date ${ }^{2}$ | 285.3 | 219.2 | 10.2 | 56.0 | 22.0 | 13.0 | 38.0 | 30.4 | 150.6 | 117.2 | 74.7 | 58.6 |
| 2006: | Year to Date ${ }^{2}$ | 298.6 | 226.0 | 12.2 | 60.3 | 24.2 | 14.6 | 40.7 | 28.8 | 159.0 | 126.5 | 74.7 | 56.2 |
| RSE (\%) |  | 1 | (Z) | 3 | (Z) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
|  | Year to Date Percent Change ${ }^{4}$ | 4.7\% | 3.1\% | 19.6\% | 7.7\% | 9.9\% | 11.5\% | 7.1\% | -5.1\% | 5.5\% | 7.9\% | 0.0\% | -4.1\% |
|  | $90 \%$ Confidence Interval ${ }^{3}$ | $\pm 1.2$ | $\pm 1.0$ | $\pm 4.8$ | $\pm 2.7$ | $\pm 3.1$ | $\pm 4.0$ | $\pm 3.8$ | $\pm 4.5$ | $\pm 1.2$ | $\pm 1.3$ | $\pm 2.2$ | $\pm 2.5$ |
| 2005: | February | 145.4 | 113.0 | 5.4 | 27.1 | 11.0 | 6.4 | 21.3 | 17.2 | 74.5 | 59.0 | 38.6 | 30.3 |
|  | March | 185.6 | 147.6 | 7.8 | 30.2 | 15.1 | 9.1 | 30.4 | 24.5 | 90.8 | 73.5 | 49.3 | 40.4 |
|  | April | 192.2 | 151.7 | 6.9 | 33.7 | 17.8 | 10.7 | 35.6 | 28.5 | 89.1 | 72.1 | 49.7 | 40.3 |
|  | May | 189.9 | 153.7 | 7.6 | 28.6 | 18.3 | 12.1 | 34.9 | 28.6 | 88.2 | 71.5 | 48.5 | 41.4 |
|  | June | 207.9 | 164.1 | 8.9 | 34.9 | 22.2 | 12.9 | 35.5 | 29.3 | 96.0 | 78.0 | 54.2 | 43.9 |
|  | July | 182.9 | 143.7 | 7.5 | 31.7 | 18.0 | 11.9 | 33.3 | 26.5 | 84.1 | 67.0 | 47.5 | 38.3 |
|  | August | 201.2 | 159.3 | 8.4 | 33.5 | 18.0 | 12.5 | 35.2 | 28.3 | 98.1 | 78.2 | 49.9 | 40.4 |
|  | September | 191.3 | 150.0 | 7.9 | 33.3 | 18.4 | 12.5 | 33.5 | 27.0 | 86.1 | 69.2 | 53.3 | 41.3 |
|  | October | 172.6 | 137.5 | 7.1 | 28.0 | 16.0 | 10.8 | 34.1 | 26.9 | 79.7 | 65.0 | 42.8 | 34.8 |
|  | November | 159.8 | 123.4 | 6.6 | 29.7 | 16.6 | 9.4 | 30.0 | 22.3 | 73.3 | 61.4 | 39.9 | 30.4 |
|  | December | 147.6 | 110.9 | 6.0 | 30.7 | 14.9 | 7.8 | 21.0 | 15.2 | 73.9 | 58.1 | 37.7 | 29.7 |
| 2006: | January ${ }^{\text {r }}$ | 149.1 | 112.6 | 6.5 | 30.0 | 12.4 | 7.6 | 19.7 | 13.9 | 81.5 | 62.9 | 35.4 | 28.3 |
|  | February ${ }^{\text {p }}$ | 149.5 | 113.4 | 5.8 | 30.3 | 11.8 | 7.0 | 21.0 | 14.9 | 77.5 | 63.6 | 39.3 | 27.9 |
| Averas | ge RSE (\%) ${ }^{1}$ | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

[^1]Table 2. New Privately-Owned Housing Units Authorized, but Not Started, at End of Period
[Not seasonally adjusted. Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

|  |  |  | United | tates |  | Nort |  | Mid |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Period |  | In st | tures wit |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Total | 1 unit | $\begin{array}{r} 2 \text { to } 4 \\ \text { units } \end{array}$ | 5 units or more | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit | Total | 1 unit |
| 2005: | February | 197.7 | 131.2 | 9.1 | 57.4 | 27.0 | 12.0 | 25.8 | 20.2 | 100.9 | 67.1 | 44.0 | 31.9 |
|  | March | 221.2 | 154.0 | 9.1 | 58.1 | 24.0 | 11.2 | 30.0 | 24.1 | 118.0 | 82.8 | 49.2 | 35.8 |
|  | April | 229.5 | 164.9 | 8.6 | 56.0 | 25.9 | 13.4 | 35.7 | 29.1 | 112.5 | 79.7 | 55.4 | 42.7 |
|  | May | 219.6 | 157.6 | 8.9 | 53.1 | 26.8 | 14.7 | 31.1 | 25.8 | 112.0 | 79.0 | 49.7 | 38.2 |
|  | June | 232.6 | 170.3 | 9.7 | 52.6 | 29.3 | 15.5 | 31.1 | 25.0 | 113.8 | 83.5 | 58.4 | 46.3 |
|  | July | 222.0 | 161.4 | 9.4 | 51.2 | 28.5 | 15.6 | 30.2 | 24.3 | 107.5 | 79.6 | 55.8 | 42.0 |
|  | August | 231.2 | 165.0 | 9.8 | 56.4 | 27.8 | 16.4 | 30.5 | 23.9 | 120.8 | 87.4 | 52.1 | 37.3 |
|  | September | 231.2 | 166.9 | 7.9 | 56.5 | 27.1 | 17.0 | 27.6 | 22.0 | 122.9 | 88.3 | 53.6 | 39.7 |
|  | October | 220.3 | 160.3 | 8.7 | 51.4 | 26.7 | 15.5 | 30.5 | 23.5 | 113.5 | 83.1 | 49.6 | 38.1 |
|  | November | 217.6 | 158.7 | 8.4 | 50.4 | 27.3 | 15.3 | 27.9 | 21.5 | 112.9 | 85.5 | 49.5 | 36.4 |
|  | December ${ }^{\text {r }}$ | 223.3 | 161.9 | 10.1 | 51.3 | 27.9 | 13.5 | 28.9 | 21.5 | 109.8 | 85.8 | 56.7 | 41.1 |
| 2006: | January ${ }^{\text {r }}$ | 215.0 | 156.1 | 10.0 | 48.9 | 27.7 | 13.9 | 28.9 | 21.2 | 104.5 | 81.5 | 54.0 | 39.5 |
|  | February ${ }^{\text {p }}$ | 212.8 | 151.6 | 9.7 | 51.4 | 29.4 | 15.4 | 29.9 | 21.0 | 102.6 | 79.6 | 50.8 | 35.6 |
| Averag | e RSE (\%) ${ }^{1}$ | 4 | 5 | 15 | 7 | 9 | 14 | 10 | 12 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| Percen | nt Change: ${ }^{2}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | February 2006 from January 2006 | -1.1\% | -2.9\% | -3.6\% | 5.2\% | 6.3\% | 11.2\% | 3.3\% | -0.7\% | -1.8\% | -2.3\% | -5.8\% | -10.1\% |
|  | 90\% Confidence Interval ${ }^{3}$ | $\pm 3.2$ | $\pm 4.3$ | $\pm 9.9$ | $\pm 7.9$ | $\pm 6.1$ | $\pm 20.6$ | $\pm 9.0$ | $\pm 10.4$ | $\pm 5.1$ | $\pm 5.7$ | $\pm 4.7$ | $\pm 6.3$ |
|  | February 2006 from February 2005 | 7.6\% | 15.6\% | 6.3\% | -10.4\% | 9.0\% | 28.7\% | 15.9\% | 4.1\% | 1.8\% | 18.7\% | 15.4\% | 11.5\% |
|  | 90\% Confidence Interval ${ }^{3}$ | $\pm 11.1$ | $\pm 11.9$ | $\pm 30.9$ | $\pm 16.4$ | $\pm 23.3$ | $\pm 37.7$ | $\pm 21.3$ | $\pm 24.8$ | $\pm 18.3$ | $\pm 19.0$ | $\pm 14.5$ | $\pm 17.7$ |

${ }^{\mathrm{P}}$ Preliminary. $\quad{ }^{\mathrm{r}}$ Revised. RSE Relative Standard Error.
${ }^{1}$ 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]


[^2]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]


[^3]Table 5. New Privately-Owned Housing Units Completed
[Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]


[^4]
[^0]:    * $90 \%$ confidence interval includes zero. The Census Bureau does not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

[^1]:    ${ }^{\mathrm{P}}$ Preliminary. ${ }^{\mathrm{r}}$ 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.
    ${ }^{2}$ Reflects revisions not distributed to months.
    ${ }^{3}$ See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of $90 \%$ confidence intervals.

[^2]:    ${ }^{\mathrm{P}}$ Preliminary. ${ }^{\mathrm{r}}$ 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.

[^3]:    ${ }^{\mathrm{p}}$ Preliminary. $\quad{ }^{\mathrm{r}}$ 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

[^4]:    ${ }^{\text {p Preliminary. }}$ 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.

