

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

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**NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION IN FEBRUARY 2013**

The U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development jointly announced the following new residential construction statistics for February 2013:

**BUILDING PERMITS**

Privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in February were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 946,000. This is 4.6 percent ( $\pm 0.8\%$ ) above the revised January rate of 904,000 and is 33.8 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ ) above the February 2012 estimate of 707,000.

Single-family authorizations in February were at a rate of 600,000; this is 2.7 percent ( $\pm 0.7\%$ ) above the revised January figure of 584,000. Authorizations of units in buildings with five units or more were at a rate of 316,000 in February.

**HOUSING STARTS**

Privately-owned housing starts in February were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 917,000. This is 0.8 percent ( $\pm 10.6\%$ )\* above the revised January estimate of 910,000 and is 27.7 percent ( $\pm 13.7\%$ ) above the February 2012 rate of 718,000.

Single-family housing starts in February were at a rate of 618,000; this is 0.5 percent ( $\pm 12.1\%$ )\* above the revised January figure of 615,000. The February rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 285,000.

**HOUSING COMPLETIONS**

Privately-owned housing completions in February were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 711,000. This is 0.6 percent ( $\pm 10.0\%$ )\* below the revised January estimate of 715,000, but is 24.3 percent ( $\pm 12.2\%$ ) above the February 2012 rate of 572,000.

Single-family housing completions in February were at a rate of 574,000; this is 3.6 percent ( $\pm 11.7\%$ )\* above the revised January rate of 554,000. The February rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 130,000.

*New Residential Construction data for March 2013 will be released on Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 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 two 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.