



U.S. Census Bureau
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NEW RESIDENTIAL SALES IN AUGUST 2003

Sales of new one-family houses in August 2003 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,150,000, according to estimates released jointly today by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is 3.4 percent ($\pm 10.7\%$) above the revised July rate of 1,112,000 and is 12.2 percent ($\pm 12.5\%$) above the August 2002 estimate of 1,025,000.

The median sales price of new houses sold in August 2003 was \$184,500; the average sales price was \$237,500. The seasonally adjusted estimate of new houses for sale at the end of August was 347,000. This represents a supply of 3.7 months at the current sales rate.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

These statistics are estimated from sample surveys. They are subject to sampling variability as well as nonsampling error including bias and variance from response, nonreporting, and undercoverage. Estimated average relative standard errors of the preliminary 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 contains zero, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease; that is, the change is not statistically significant. The same applies to the confidence intervals for percent changes shown in the tables. Changes in seasonally adjusted statistics often show irregular movement. It takes 5 months to establish a trend for new houses sold. Preliminary new home sales figures are subject to revision due to the survey methodology and definitions used. The survey is primarily based on a sample of houses selected from building permits. Since a "sale" is defined as a deposit taken or sales agreement signed, this can occur prior to a permit being issued. An estimate of these prior sales is included in the sales figure. On average, the preliminary seasonally adjusted estimate of total sales is revised about 3 percent. Changes in sales price data reflect changes in the distribution of houses by region, size, etc., as well as changes in the prices of houses with identical characteristics. Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our web site listed below.

***New Residential Sales data for September 2003 will be released on
Monday, October 27, 2003, at 10:00 A.M. EST.***

Our Internet site is: <http://www.census.gov/newhomesales>

Table 1. New Houses Sold and For Sale

[Thousands of houses. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

Period	Sold during period ¹					For sale at end of period					Months' supply ²	Median sales price (\$)	Average sales price (\$)	
	United States	North-east	Mid-west	South	West	United States	North-east	Mid-west	South	West				
Seasonally adjusted														
2002: August	1,025	54	208	480	283	332						4.0		
September	1,057	94	197	490	276	333						3.9		
October	1,005	62	183	465	295	336						4.0		
November	1,022	60	217	457	288	338						4.0		
December	1,052	59	256	468	269	339						4.0		
2003: January	1,009	89	176	466	278	343						4.1		
February	935	50	181	442	262	343						4.5		
March	1,008	83	166	503	256	341						4.1		
April	1,004	70	174	468	292	341						4.1		
May ^f	1,081	73	162	525	321	344						3.9		
June ^e	1,179	83	188	549	359	343						3.6		
July ^f	1,112	72	217	535	288	340						3.7		
August^p	1,150	81	245	529	295	347						3.7		
Average RSE (%) ³	6	22	13	8	10	4						6		
<i>Percent Change:</i>														
<i>August 2003 from July 2003</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>12.5%</i>	<i>12.9%</i>	<i>-1.1%</i>	<i>2.4%</i>	<i>2.1%</i>						<i>0.0%</i>		
<i>90% Confidence Interval⁴</i>	<i>± 10.7</i>	<i>± 52.9</i>	<i>± 24.2</i>	<i>± 12.2</i>	<i>± 27.2</i>	<i>± 1.6</i>						<i>± 10.7</i>		
<i>August 2003 from August 2002</i>	<i>12.2%</i>	<i>50.0%</i>	<i>17.8%</i>	<i>10.2%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>						<i>0.0%</i>		
<i>90% Confidence Interval⁴</i>	<i>± 12.5</i>	<i>± 65.5</i>	<i>± 36.8</i>	<i>± 16.2</i>	<i>± 21.3</i>	<i>± 4.3</i>						<i>± 12.0</i>		
Not seasonally adjusted														
2001:	908	66	164	439	239	310	28	70	142	69	(X)	175,200	213,200	
2002 :	973	65	185	450	273	344	36	77	161	70	(X)	187,600	228,700	
RSE (%)	2	6	6	3	2	3	12	8	5	7	(X)	2	2	
2002: Year to Date	671	44	125	310	192	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
2003: Year to Date	749	53	134	352	210	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
RSE (%)	3	11	7	4	4	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
<i>Year to Date Percent Change⁵</i>	<i>11.6%</i>	<i>19.0%</i>	<i>7.2%</i>	<i>13.6%</i>	<i>9.6%</i>	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
<i>90% Confidence Interval⁴</i>	<i>± 4.6</i>	<i>± 14.7</i>	<i>± 14.8</i>	<i>± 6.5</i>	<i>± 6.1</i>	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
2002: August	90	5	18	43	25	333	32	78	157	66	3.7	178,900	221,300	
September	82	8	15	38	21	332	31	79	157	66	4.1	177,500	215,300	
October	77	5	14	35	23	342	33	82	159	68	4.5	189,200	231,300	
November	73	4	16	34	20	342	35	80	159	68	4.7	181,200	227,100	
December	70	4	15	34	17	344	36	77	161	70	4.9	197,600	237,800	
2003: January	76	6	12	37	22	347	36	77	163	71	4.6	181,700	230,200	
February	82	4	15	39	23	339	34	73	162	70	4.2	187,000	233,400	
March	98	9	17	47	25	330	30	74	157	69	3.4	185,100	231,100	
April	91	7	17	40	27	339	29	76	162	72	3.7	189,500	237,200	
May ^f	101	6	15	50	29	341	30	79	161	71	3.4	195,500	243,700	
June ^f	105	8	17	47	32	342	29	83	163	67	3.3	186,300	237,800	
July ^f	96	6	19	46	24	342	30	84	161	68	3.6	192,500	251,800	
August^p	100	7	22	46	26	346	29	83	168	66	3.4	184,500	237,500	
Average RSE (%) ³	6	22	13	8	10	4	10	10	6	6	6	4	4	

^pPreliminary. ^fRevised. RSE Relative standard error. X Not applicable. Z Less than 0.5 percent.

¹Annual rates. ²Ratio of houses for sale to houses sold. ³Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.

⁴See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of 90% confidence intervals. ⁵ Computed using unrounded data.

Note: The sales price includes the land.

Table 2. New Houses Sold, by Sales Price

[Thousands of houses. Components may not add to total because of rounding. Percents computed from unrounded figures]

Period	Total	Under	\$100,000 to	\$125,000 to	\$150,000 to	\$200,000 to	\$250,000 to	\$300,000
		\$100,000	\$124,999	\$149,999	\$199,999	\$249,999	\$299,999	and over
Number of houses ¹								
2001:	908	75	105	143	221	135	86	142
2002 :	973	62	94	138	237	139	107	196
RSE (%)	2	18	7	6	5	4	7	7
2002: August	90	6	9	13	24	15	8	16
September	82	7	10	12	19	12	7	15
October	77	5	8	12	18	10	8	16
November	73	5	6	13	18	9	8	14
December	70	5	5	9	17	9	9	16
2003: January	76	3	9	12	19	10	8	16
February	82	5	7	13	18	12	8	18
March	98	4	11	15	25	12	11	21
April	91	6	7	14	23	11	10	20
May ^f	101	4	10	13	25	16	10	23
June ^f	105	6	10	16	27	13	8	25
July ^f	96	7	9	12	23	13	9	22
August^p	100	6	11	14	23	12	10	24
Average RSE (%) ²	6	25	19	16	12	13	14	13
Percent distribution								
2001:	100	8	12	16	24	15	10	16
2002 :	100	6	10	14	24	14	11	20
2002: August	100	6	10	15	27	16	9	17
September	100	8	12	14	24	14	9	18
October	100	6	10	15	24	13	11	21
November	100	6	9	18	24	13	11	20
December	100	7	7	13	25	13	12	23
2003: January	100	4	11	16	25	13	10	21
February	100	6	9	17	23	14	10	22
March	100	4	11	15	26	12	11	21
April	100	6	8	15	25	12	11	22
May ^f	100	4	10	13	24	15	10	23
June ^f	100	5	10	15	26	13	8	24
July ^f	100	7	10	13	24	13	10	23
August^p	100	6	11	14	23	12	10	24

^pPreliminary. ^fRevised. RSE Relative standard error. X Not applicable. Z Less than 0.5 percent.

¹Houses for which sales price was not reported have been distributed proportionally to those for which sales price was reported.

²Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.

Note: The sales price includes the land.

Table 3. New Houses Sold and For Sale by Stage of Construction and Median Number of Months on Sales Market

[Thousands of houses. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

Period	Sold during period				For sale at end of period				Median months for sale ¹
	Total	Not started	Under construction	Completed	Total	Not started	Under construction	Completed	
2001:	908	331	341	236	310	39	191	79	4.1
2002 :	973	356	361	256	344	49	208	88	4.0
RSE (%)	2	4	3	7	3	5	4	6	8
2002: August	90	33	33	24	333	50	203	80	3.9
September	82	30	30	22	332	47	201	84	3.8
October	77	28	27	22	342	50	208	84	4.0
November	73	27	25	22	342	49	206	86	3.8
December	70	26	22	22	344	49	208	88	4.0
2003: January	76	30	26	20	347	52	208	87	4.4
February	82	30	31	20	339	55	199	86	4.6
March	98	36	37	25	330	51	197	82	4.7
April	91	35	35	22	339	54	204	81	4.7
May ^r	101	38	39	24	341	55	204	81	4.5
June ^r	105	42	38	25	342	54	211	77	4.5
July ^r	96	36	36	24	342	54	215	74	4.4
August^p	100	38	37	26	346	63	212	71	4.4
Average RSE (%) ²	6	6	6	9	4	5	5	7	7

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. RSE Relative standard error. Z Less than 0.5 percent.

¹Median number of months for sale since completion.

²Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.