

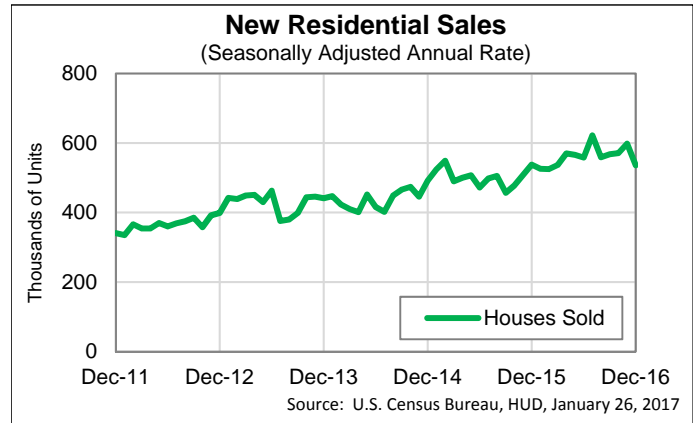
FOR RELEASE AT 8:30 AM EST, THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017

## MONTHLY NEW RESIDENTIAL SALES, DECEMBER 2016

Release Number: CB17-14

**January 26, 2017** - The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development jointly announced the following new residential sales statistics for December 2016:

 <b>NEW RESIDENTIAL SALES</b> <b>DECEMBER 2016</b>	
<b>New Houses Sold<sup>1</sup>:</b>	<b>536,000</b>
<b>New Houses For Sale<sup>2</sup>:</b>	<b>259,000</b>
<b>Median Sales Price:</b>	<b>\$322,500</b>
<b>Next Release: February 24, 2017</b>	
<sup>1</sup> Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rates <sup>2</sup> Seasonally Adjusted	
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, HUD, January 26, 2017	



### New Home Sales

Sales of new single-family houses in December 2016 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 536,000, according to estimates released jointly today by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is 10.4 percent ( $\pm 12.2$  percent)\* below the revised November rate of 598,000 and is 0.4 percent ( $\pm 11.7$  percent)\* below the December 2015 estimate of 538,000.

### Sales Price

The median sales price of new houses sold in December 2016 was \$322,500. The average sales price was \$384,000.

### For Sale Inventory and Months' Supply

The seasonally-adjusted estimate of new houses for sale at the end of December was 259,000. This represents a supply of 5.8 months at the current sales rate.

The January report is scheduled for release on February 24, 2017. View the full schedule in the Economic Briefing Room: <[www.census.gov/economic-indicators/](http://www.census.gov/economic-indicators/)>. The full text and tables for this release can be found at <[www.census.gov/construction/nrs/](http://www.census.gov/construction/nrs/)>.

#### Data Inquiries

Economic Indicators Division, Residential Construction Branch  
301-763-5160  
[eid.rcb@census.gov](mailto:eid.rcb@census.gov)

#### Media Inquiries

Public Information Office  
301-763-3030  
[pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov)



U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](http://census.gov)



## 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 three months to establish an underlying trend for building permit authorizations, six months for total starts, and six 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 ( $\pm 3.2$  percent) above” appears in the text, this indicates the range (-0.7 to +5.7 percent) in which the actual percentage change is likely to have occurred. All ranges given for percentage 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 percentage changes shown in the tables. On average, the preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates of total building permits, housing starts and housing completions are revised 3 percent or less. Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our website. [www.census.gov/construction/nrc/how\\_the\\_data\\_are\\_collected/](http://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/how_the_data_are_collected/)

### America’s Economy Mobile App

The America’s Economy app provides real-time updates for 19 key economic indicators released from the Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[www.census.gov/mobile/economy/](http://www.census.gov/mobile/economy/)

### API

The Census Bureau’s application programming interface lets developers create custom apps to reach new users and makes key demographic, socio-economic and housing statistics more accessible than ever before.

[www.census.gov/developers/](http://www.census.gov/developers/)

-X-

\* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. In such cases, there is insufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

#### Data Inquiries

Economic Indicators Division, Residential Construction Branch  
301-763-5160  
[eid.rcb@census.gov](mailto:eid.rcb@census.gov)



U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](http://census.gov)

#### Media Inquiries

Public Information Office  
301-763-3030  
[pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov)



# New Privately-Owned Houses Sold and For Sale

(Thousands of Units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.)

**Table 1a - Seasonally adjusted**

Period	Sold during period <sup>1</sup>					For sale at end of period					Months' supply <sup>2</sup>	Median sales price (\$)	Average sales price (\$)	
	United States	North-east	Mid-west	South	West	United States	North-east	Mid-west	South	West				
<b>2015</b>														
December . . . . .	538	31	69	285	153	235	X	X	X	X	5.2	X	X	
<b>2016</b>														
January . . . . .	526	36	67	293	130	239	X	X	X	X	5.5	X	X	
February . . . . .	525	29	59	290	147	242	X	X	X	X	5.5	X	X	
March . . . . .	537	32	68	305	132	244	X	X	X	X	5.5	X	X	
April . . . . .	570	40	61	324	145	241	X	X	X	X	5.1	X	X	
May . . . . .	566	32	73	319	142	240	X	X	X	X	5.1	X	X	
June . . . . .	558	28	75	321	134	242	X	X	X	X	5.2	X	X	
July . . . . .	622	37	79	364	142	236	X	X	X	X	4.6	X	X	
August . . . . .	559	23	66	331	139	240	X	X	X	X	5.2	X	X	
September (r) . . . . .	568	31	74	328	135	242	X	X	X	X	5.1	X	X	
October (r) . . . . .	571	35	68	329	139	247	X	X	X	X	5.2	X	X	
November (r) . . . . .	598	31	83	326	158	249	X	X	X	X	5.0	X	X	
<b>December (p) . . . . .</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
Average RSE (%) <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	7	22	20	10	14	5	X	X	X	X	7	X	X	
Percent Change <sup>4</sup>														
<b>Dec. 2016 from Nov. 2016 . . . . .</b>	<b>-10.4%</b>	<b>48.4%</b>	<b>-41.0%</b>	<b>-12.6%</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>16.0%</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
90 percent confidence interval <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	± 12.2	± 80.5	± 19.2	± 18.0	± 26.1	± 1.3	X	X	X	X	± 15.7	X	X	
<b>Dec. 2016 from Dec. 2015 . . . . .</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>48.4%</b>	<b>-29.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
90 percent confidence interval <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	± 11.7	± 105.9	± 19.6	± 19.1	± 20.8	± 6.5	X	X	X	X	± 14.1	X	X	

**Table 1b - Not seasonally adjusted**

Period	Sold during period					For sale at end of period					Months' supply	Median sales price (\$)	Average sales price (\$)	
	United States	North-east	Mid-west	South	West	United States	North-east	Mid-west	South	West				
2015 Annual . . . . .	501	24	61	286	130	235	24	32	124	55	X	296,400	360,600	
2016 Annual (p) . . . . .	563	33	69	319	141	259	27	34	134	64	X	313,200	372,700	
RSE (%) . . . . .	3	10	11	5	4	5	13	10	6	7	X	3	3	
Year to year percent change <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	12.2%	35.9%	13.3%	11.7%	8.6%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
90 percent confidence interval <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	± 3.5	± 21.6	± 11.4	± 4.5	± 7.1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>2015</b>														
December . . . . .	38	2	5	21	10	235	24	32	124	55	6.2	299,000	358,100	
<b>2016</b>														
January . . . . .	39	3	4	22	10	235	24	31	125	55	6.1	291,100	365,600	
February . . . . .	45	2	4	26	13	236	24	31	126	55	5.3	311,300	349,400	
March . . . . .	50	3	6	29	13	240	24	32	127	57	4.8	311,400	367,700	
April . . . . .	55	4	6	31	14	239	25	32	126	56	4.3	321,300	380,000	
May . . . . .	53	3	7	29	14	238	24	31	127	56	4.5	296,000	350,000	
June . . . . .	50	3	7	28	12	243	26	32	128	58	4.8	321,600	364,300	
July . . . . .	54	3	7	32	12	236	25	31	122	58	4.4	295,000	355,000	
August . . . . .	46	2	6	26	12	242	26	32	125	59	5.3	302,400	364,700	
September (r) . . . . .	44	3	6	25	10	248	27	32	129	60	5.6	323,700	372,800	
October (r) . . . . .	46	3	6	26	11	250	27	32	130	61	5.4	301,800	339,900	
November (r) . . . . .	42	2	5	23	11	252	27	33	131	61	6.0	309,200	365,200	
<b>December (p) . . . . .</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>322,500</b>	<b>384,000</b>	
Average RSE (%) <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	7	22	20	10	14	5	13	10	6	7	7	4	5	

p Preliminary

r Revised

S Does not meet publication standards because tests for identifiable and stable seasonality do not meet reliability standards

X Not applicable

<sup>1</sup> Seasonally-adjusted houses sold are published at annual rates

<sup>2</sup> Ratio of houses for sale to houses sold

<sup>3</sup> Average relative standard error for the latest 6-month period

<sup>4</sup> Computed using unrounded data

<sup>5</sup> See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of 90 percent confidence intervals

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, New Residential Sales, January 26, 2017.

Additional information on the survey methodology may be found at [http://www.census.gov/construction/nrs/how\\_the\\_data\\_are\\_collected/](http://www.census.gov/construction/nrs/how_the_data_are_collected/).

## New Privately-Owned Houses Sold, by Sales Price

(Thousands of Units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.)

Table 2a - Number of Houses<sup>1</sup>

Period	Total	Price Ranges						
		Under \$150,000	\$150,000 to \$199,999	\$200,000 to \$299,999	\$300,000 to \$399,999	\$400,000 to \$499,999	\$500,000 to \$749,000	\$750,000 and over
2015 Annual	501	27	69	159	102	63	54	28
2016 Annual (p)	563	23	73	162	134	76	64	30
RSE (%)	3	20	17	6	8	8	9	12
<b>2015</b>								
December	38	2	5	12	7	5	4	2
<b>2016</b>								
January	39	1	8	12	8	5	4	2
February	45	3	4	13	12	8	4	1
March	50	2	5	17	12	7	6	2
April	55	2	8	14	15	7	7	3
May	53	2	9	16	13	6	5	2
June	50	1	6	15	12	9	5	1
July	54	2	8	17	13	7	4	3
August	46	2	5	15	11	6	5	2
September (r)	44	1	6	13	11	6	6	2
October (r)	46	2	8	13	11	7	4	1
November (r)	42	1	4	14	11	5	5	2
December (p)	38	1	4	11	9	5	5	3
Average RSE (%) <sup>2</sup>	7	41	25	13	15	21	20	27

Table 2b - Percent Distribution

Period	Total	Price Ranges						
		Under \$150,000	\$150,000 to \$199,999	\$200,000 to \$299,999	\$300,000 to \$399,999	\$400,000 to \$499,999	\$500,000 to \$749,000	\$750,000 and over
2015 Annual	100	5	14	32	20	13	11	5
2016 Annual (p)	100	4	13	29	24	14	11	5
SE (%)	X	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
<b>2015</b>								
December	100	6	13	32	18	14	11	5
<b>2016</b>								
January	100	3	20	30	21	12	10	5
February	100	6	9	29	26	17	10	2
March	100	4	10	34	23	13	12	4
April	100	3	14	26	26	12	13	5
May	100	4	17	30	24	11	9	5
June	100	2	12	30	23	18	11	3
July	100	3	15	31	24	14	8	5
August	100	5	11	32	24	12	11	5
September (r)	100	3	13	28	25	13	13	4
October (r)	100	3	17	29	24	15	9	3
November (r)	100	3	11	34	25	12	11	4
December (p)	100	3	11	29	25	14	12	7
SE (%)	X	1	4	3	3	2	2	2

p Preliminary

r Revised

S Does not meet publication standards because tests for identifiable and stable seasonality do not meet reliability standards

X Not applicable

<sup>1</sup> Houses for which sales price was not reported have been distributed proportionally to those for which sales price was reported

<sup>2</sup> Average relative standard error for the latest 6-month period

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, New Residential Sales, January 26, 2017.

Additional information on the survey methodology may be found at <[http://www.census.gov/construction/nrs/how\\_the\\_data\\_are\\_collected/](http://www.census.gov/construction/nrs/how_the_data_are_collected/)>.

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

(Thousands of Units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.)

Table 3a - Seasonally adjusted

Period	Sold during period <sup>1</sup>				For sale at end of period				Median months for sale <sup>2</sup>
	Total	Not started	Under construction	Completed	Total	Not started	Under construction	Completed	
<b>2015</b>									
December .....	538	157	226	155	235	39	141	55	X
<b>2016</b>									
January .....	526	166	196	164	239	38	145	56	X
February .....	525	147	198	180	242	38	148	56	X
March .....	537	167	200	170	244	37	150	57	X
April .....	570	156	231	183	241	36	147	58	X
May .....	566	205	176	185	240	37	144	59	X
June .....	558	157	205	196	242	38	147	57	X
July .....	622	170	257	195	236	38	139	59	X
August .....	559	179	197	183	240	40	139	61	X
September (r) .....	568	180	202	186	242	40	142	60	X
October (r) .....	571	187	184	200	247	38	150	59	X
November (r) .....	598	172	226	200	249	40	150	59	X
<b>December (p) .....</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>X</b>
Average RSE (%) <sup>3</sup> .....	7	8	9	10	5	8	5	6	X

Table 3b - Not seasonally adjusted

Period	Sold during period				For sale at end of period				Median months for sale <sup>2</sup>
	Total	Not started	Under construction	Completed	Total	Not started	Under construction	Completed	
2015 Annual .....	501	161	175	166	235	39	138	59	2.9
2016 Annual (p) .....	563	171	207	184	259	47	148	64	3.2
RSE (%) .....	3	10	5	6	5	8	5	6	8
<b>2015</b>									
December .....	38	11	14	13	235	39	138	59	2.9
<b>2016</b>									
January .....	39	13	14	12	235	36	139	60	3.3
February .....	45	14	16	15	236	36	140	60	3.7
March .....	50	17	18	15	240	38	143	58	4.0
April .....	55	16	22	17	239	36	145	58	4.1
May .....	53	19	17	17	238	37	144	57	3.8
June .....	50	14	19	17	243	39	150	53	4.0
July .....	54	14	23	17	236	37	145	54	3.6
August .....	46	14	17	14	242	40	144	58	3.2
September (r) .....	44	13	17	14	248	42	148	59	3.0
October (r) .....	46	14	15	17	250	38	152	59	3.1
November (r) .....	42	11	15	15	252	39	152	61	3.2
<b>December (p) .....</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Average RSE (%) <sup>3</sup> .....	7	8	9	10	5	8	5	6	8

p Preliminary

r Revised

S Does not meet publication standards because tests for identifiable and stable seasonality do not meet reliability standards

X Not applicable

<sup>1</sup> Seasonally-adjusted houses sold are published at annual rates

<sup>2</sup> Median number of months for sale since completion

<sup>3</sup> Average relative standard error for the latest 6-month period

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, New Residential Sales, January 26, 2017.

Additional information on the survey methodology may be found at <[http://www.census.gov/construction/nrs/how\\_the\\_data\\_are\\_collected/](http://www.census.gov/construction/nrs/how_the_data_are_collected/)>.