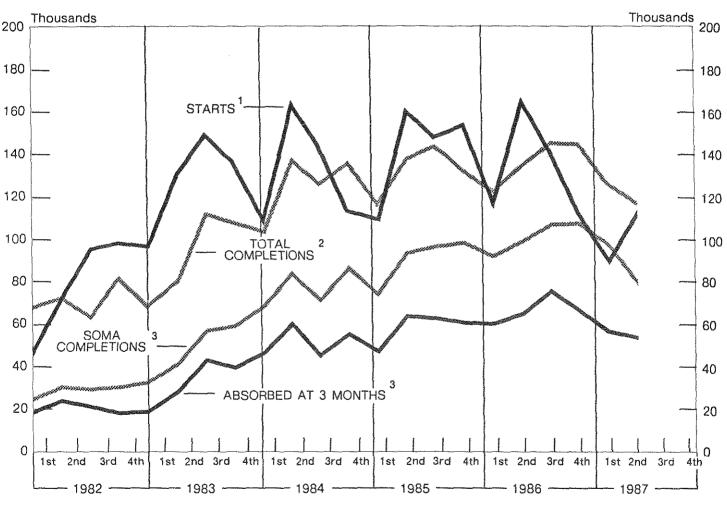
U.S. Department of Commerce BUREAU OF THE CENSUS U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Market Absorption of Apartments

H130-87-Q3 Issued December 1987 Third Quarter 1987–Absorptions (Completions in Second Quarter 1987)

Figure 1.
Units in Apartment Buildings Started, Completed, and Absorbed: 1982 to 1987



QUARTER OF COMPLETION

- Note: Limited to buildings with five of more in permit-issuing places.

 1. Source: Construction Reports, C20-87-2 (May 1987) table 2.
- 2. Source: Construction Reports, C22-87-2 (May 1987) table 2.
- 3. Privated financed, nonsubsidized, unfurished apartments.

Questions regarding these data maybe directed to Housing Division, Telephone 301-763-2866.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402,

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Privately financed, nonsubsidized, unfurnished rental apartments completed in buildings with five units or more during the April-June 1987 quarter were 63 percent absorbed (seasonally adjusted) 3 months after their completion. This is the same (±4 percent) as the 3-month seasonally adjusted rate of 63 percent for apartments completed during the same quarter of 1986. The not seasonally adjusted 3-month rate of 67 percent is about the same (±4 percent) as the 66 percent rate for the same period in 1986. Apartments which have been on the market for 6 months, those completed during January-March 1987, were 80 percent absorbed and those on the market for 9 months, completed during October-December 1986, were 91 percent absorbed.

The statistics in this report are based on a sample survey and consequently they are subject to sampling variability.¹ Estimates derived from different samples would differ from one another. The standard error of a survey estimate is a measure of the variation among the estimates from all possible samples. Estimates of standard errors have been computed from the sample data and are presented in the tables. They allow us to construct interval estimates with prescribed confidence that the interval includes the average of the estimates from all possible samples. For all the change statements made in

this report, 90 percent confidence intervals for statistical comparisons can be constructed by using the 90 percent deviate shown in the parentheses after the change; however, when a 90 percent confidence interval contains zero, we are uncertain whether or not the change has occurred. In addition, some of the statistical findings which are not part of the tables are also provided with a 90 percent deviate.

A total of 117,700 apartments were completed during the second quarter of 1987. The number of privately financed, nonsubsidized, unfurnished, rental apartments completed was 81,000, about 69 (\pm 3) percent of total apartment completions during the quarter.

The median asking rent for unfurnished newly constructed units was \$496 in the second quarter of 1987, down \$18 (\pm \$20) from the \$514 median asking rent for apartments completed in the first quarter. Apartments renting for less than \$350 accounted for 8 percent of unfurnished rental unit completions, while apartments renting for between \$350 and \$549 accounted for 55 percent of these completions. Higher priced apartments, those renting for \$550 or more, accounted for 38 percent of unfurnished rental completions, about the same percentage (\pm 7) as for apartments renting at this price last quarter. Thirty nine percent of all newly constructed apartments were built with fewer than two bedrooms. Another 59 percent had two bedrooms. About 3 percent were built with three bedrooms or more.

Table 1. Characteristics of Apartments Completed During Second Quarter of 1987 and Rented Within 3 Months Not Seasonally Adjusted

(Privately financed, nonsubsidized, unfurnished apartments. Data regarding number of bedrooms and asking rent are collected at the initial interview, i.e., 3 months following completion. Data may not add to total due to rounding. Medians are computed using unrounded data.)

	Total units of	completed	Percent of	total units	Percent rented within 3 months		
!tem	Number	Standard error*	Percent	Standard error* (percentage points)	Percent	Standard error* (percentage points)	
Total	81,000	5,020	100	(X)	67	1.8	
RENT CLASSES							
Less than \$350	6,600 9,400 12,300 13,400 8,600 30,700	1,250 1,030 2,140 2,760 720 1,320	8 12 15 17 11 38	1.5 1.2 1.9 2.6 1.0 2.8	76 73 62 63 63 68	4.0 1.9 4.0 4.6 2.4 1.2	
Median asking rent	\$496	9.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
NUMBER OF BEDROOMS					market and a second		
Less than 2	31,400 47,400 2,300	1,360 4,660 380	39 59 3	2.4 2.6 0.5	69 65 80	1.1 2.6 2.1	

^{*} Standard error within range of about 2 chances out of 3. Standard errors are based on the new sample design.

¹See Reliability of Estimates on page 4.

Figure 2.

Median Rent of Apartments Completed in the United States: 1984 to 1987

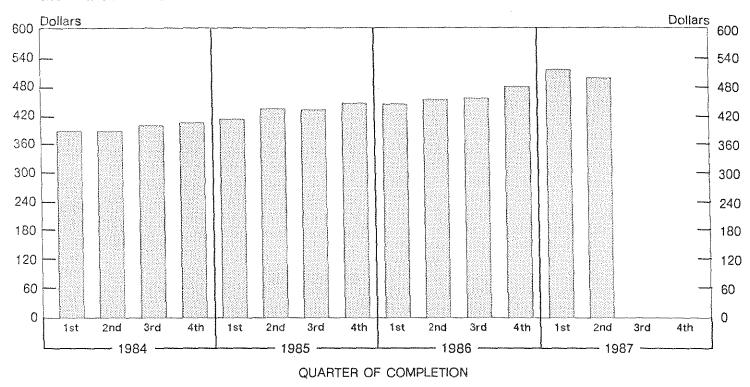
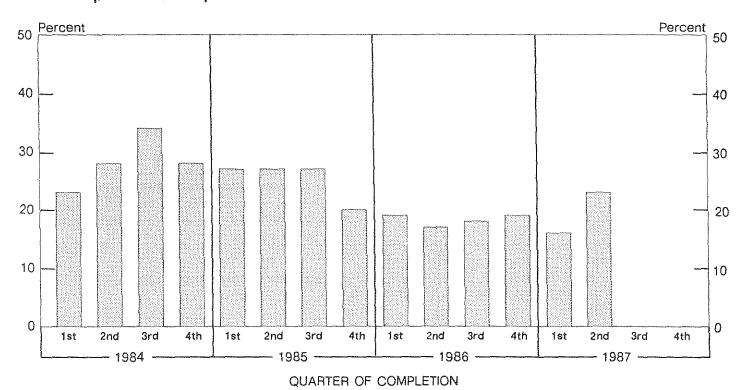


Figure 3.

Cooperative and Condominium Apartment Completions as Percent of Total Apartment Completions: 1984 to 1987



Note: Limited to Buildings with five or more units in permit-Issuing places.

The total number of unfurnished units completed in the last 12 months reported as rented in the third quarter of 1987 was 92,300; the total number of similar apartments remaining for rent at the end of the third quarter was 59,200.

Approximately 27,600 cooperative and condominium apartments were completed in the second quarter of 1987. This was an increase of 7,000 units ($\pm 8,600$ units) from the number of like apartments completed in the first quarter of 1987. Cooperative and condominium apartments accounted for about 23 percent of total second quarter 1987 completions. The 3-month absorption rate for cooperative and condominium apartments was 78 percent. Of all newly constructed condominium apartments, 67 percent had two bedrooms. The median asking price for condominium units built in the second quarter was \$127,400, an increase of \$17,700 (\pm \$29,400) over the median of \$109,700 in the first quarter.

The total number of condominium apartments completed in the last 12 months reported as sold in the third quarter of 1987 was 25,900. The median price asked for these units was over \$100,000. The total number of condominium apartments remaining for sale at the end of the third quarter was only 14,200. These units also had a median asking price of over \$100,000.

Units in federally subsidized properties built under programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (Low Income Housing Assistance (Section 8), Senior Citizens Housing Direct Loans (Section 202), and all units in buildings containing apartments in the FHA rent supplement program) accounted for only 3 (\pm 1) percent of total completions.

Furnished rental units accounted for just over $2\ (\pm 1)$ percent of apartment completions. The remaining units, $3\ (\pm 1)$ percent, are not in the scope of the survey and include time-sharing units, continuing care retirement units, and turnkey housing (privately built for and sold to local public housing authorities subsequent to completion). The data on privately financed units include privately owned housing subsidized by State and local government.

SAMPLE DESIGN

The Survey of Market Absorption (SOMA) is designed to provide data concerning the rate at which nonsubsidized and unfurnished privately financed units in buildings with five or more units are rented (or absorbed). In addition, data on characteristics of the units, such as rent and number of bedrooms, are collected.

The buildings selected for SOMA are those included in the Census Bureau's Survey of Construction (SOC).² For this survey, the United States is first divided into primary

 $^2 \text{See}$ ''Housing Starts,'' Construction Reports, Series C20, for details of this survey.

sampling units (PSU's) which are sampled on the basis of population. Next, a sample of permit-issuing places is selected within each sample PSU. Finally, all buildings within sampled places with five or more units as well as a subsample of buildings with one to four units are selected.

Each quarter, a sample of buildings with five or more housing units in the SOC sample reported as completed during that quarter come into sample for SOMA. Buildings completed in nonpermit-issuing areas are excluded from consideration. Information on the proportion of units absorbed 3, 6, 9, and 12 months after completion is obtained for units in buildings selected in a given quarter in each of the next four quarters.

Each quarter the absorption data for some buildings are received too late for inclusion in the report. These late data will be included in a revised table in the next quarterly report. (See table 2.)

ESTIMATION

Unbiased quarterly estimates are formed by multiplying the counts for each building by its base weight (the inverse of its probability of selection) and then summing over all buildings. The final estimate is then obtained by multiplying the unbiased estimate by the following ratio estimate factor:

total units in 5+ buildings in permit-issuing areas as estimated by the SOC for that quarter

total units in 5+ buildings as estimated by SOMA for that quarter

This procedure produces estimates of the units completed in a given quarter which are consistent with the published figures from the Housing Completions Series,³ and also reduces, to some extent, the sampling variability of the estimates of totals.

It is assumed that the absorption rates and other characteristics of units not included in the interviewed group or not accounted for are identical to rates for units where data were obtained. The noninterviewed and not-accounted-for cases constitute less that 2 percent of the sample housing units in this survey.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

There are two types of possible errors associated with data from sample surveys: sampling and nonsampling errors. The following is a description of the sampling and nonsampling errors associated with SOMA.

³See "Housing Completions," Construction Reports, Series C22.

Nonsampling Errors

In general, nonsampling errors can be attributed to many sources: inability to obtain information about all cases, definitional difficulties, differences in the interpretation of questions, inability or unwillingness to provide correct information on the part of respondents, mistakes in recording or coding the data, and other errors of collection, response, processing, coverage, and estimation for missing data.

Sampling Errors

The particular sample used for this survey is one of a large number of possible samples of the same size that could have been selected using the same sample design. Even if the same questionnaires, instructions, and interviewers were used, estimates from each of the different samples would differ from each other. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is defined as the sampling error. The standard error of a survey estimate attempts to provide a measure of this variation among the estimates from the possible samples and, thus, is a measure of the precision with which an estimate from a sample approximates the average result of all possible samples.

As calculated for this survey, the standard error also partially measures the variation in the estimates due to response and interviewer errors (nonsampling errors), but it does not measure, as such, any systematic biases in the data. Therefore, the accuracy of the estimates depends on both the sampling and nonsampling error measured by the standard error, biases, and some additional nonsampling errors not measured by the standard error.

The sample estimate and its estimated standard error enable the user to construct confidence intervals, ranges that would include the average result of all possible samples with a known probability. For example, if all possible samples were selected, each of these were surveyed under essentially the same general conditions, and an estimate and its estimated standard error were calculated from each sample, then—

- Approximately 68 percent of the intervals from one standard error below the estimate to one standard error above the estimate (i.e., 68-percent confidence interval) would include the average result of all possible samples.
- Approximately 90 percent of the intervals from 1.6 standard errors below the estimate to 1.6 standard errors above the estimate (i.e., 90-percent confidence interval) would include the average result of all possible samples.
- Approximately 95 percent of the intervals from two standard errors below the estimate to two standard errors above the estimate (i.e., 95-percent confidence interval) would include the average result of all possible samples.

Table 2. Characteristics of Apartments Completed During First Quarter of 1987 and Rented Within 3 Months (Revised)
Not Seasonally Adjusted

(Privately financed, nonsubsidized, unfurnished apartments. Data regarding number of bedrooms and asking rent are collected at the initial interview, i.e., 3 months following completion. Data may not add to total due to rounding. Medians are computed using unrounded data.)

	Total units	completed	Percent of	total units	Percent rented	within 3 months
ltem	Number	Standard error*	Percent	Standard error* (percentage points)	Percent	Standard error* (percentage points)
Total	97,900	4,620	100	(X)	58	2.1
RENT CLASSES					Transport of the Control of the Cont	
Less than \$350 \$350 to \$399 \$400 to \$449 \$450 to \$499 \$500 to \$549 \$550 or more.	7,200 10,900 12,600 15,000 10,500 41,700	1,620 1,280 1,520 2,360 1,110 4,160	7 11 13 15 11 43	1.6 1.3 1.5 2.3 1.1 3.4	75 57 53 59 61 56	6.3 3.2 3.5 2.1 1.9 4.2
Median asking rent	\$515	11.0	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
NUMBER OF BEDROOMS						!
Less than 2	47,600 47,500 2,900	3,530 2,740 640	49 49 3	2.4 2.2 0.6	57 60 52	3.0 1.6 5.5

^{*} Standard error within range of about 2 chances out of 3.Standard errors are based on the new sample design.

For very small estimates, the lower limit of the confidence level may be negative. In this case, a better approximation to the true interval estimate can be achieved by restricting the interval estimate to positive values, that is, by changing the lower limit of the interval estimate to zero.

The average result of all possible samples either is or is not contained in any particular computed interval. However, for a particular sample, one can say with specified confidence that the average result of all possible samples is included in the constructed interval.

The conclusions stated in this report are considered significant at the 90-percent confidence level.

For example, table 1 of this report shows that there were 47,400 apartments with two bedrooms completed in the second quarter of 1987. The standard error of this estimate is 4,660. The 68-percent confidence interval as shown by these data is from 42,740 to 52,060. Therefore, a conclusion that the average estimate derived from all possible samples lies within a range computed in this way would be correct for roughly 68 percent of all possible samples. Similarly, we could conclude that the average estimate derived from all possible samples lies within the interval from 39,440 to 54,860 (using 1.6 times the standard error) with 90 percent confidence. The data in this report are preliminary and subject to slight changes in the annual report.

Table 3. Absorption Rates of Privately Financed Nonsubsidzed Unfurnished Apartments: 1984 to 1987 (Structures with five units or more.)

	Total	intal units		onally			Not seasonally adjusted—rented within—						
	completed		adjusted—rented within 3 months		3 months		6 months		9 months		12 m	onths	
Quarter of completion	Number	Stand- ard error*	Percent	Stand- ard error* (per- centage points)	Percent	Stand- ard error* (per- centage points)	Percent	Stand- ard error* (per- centage points	Percent	Stand- ard error * (per- centage Points)	Percent	Standard error* (per- centage points)	
1984												*****	
January-March April-June July-September October-December 1985	68,900 84,800 72,200 87,400	2,620 3,790 3,700 3,730	71 68 63 66	2.6 2.5 2.2 2.0	68 72 64 64	2.7 2.4 2.2 2.0	88 88 82 81	1.9 1.7 1.9 1.6	94 93 91 90	1.4 1.3 1.4 1.0	96 96 96 94	1.1 0.9 0.8 0.8	
January-March April-June July-September October-December	74,800 94,200 97,100 98,300	3,260 4,080 3,900 3,420	67 65 64 65	1.5 2.0 1.9 1.6	64 68 65 62	2.1 2.0 1.9 1.6	84 85 83 82	1.6 1.5 1.5 1.3	91 92 91 93	1.2 1.1 1.1 0.9	94 95 96 96	1.2 0.9 0.8 0.7	
1986 January-March April-June July-September October-December	92,700 99,600 107,700 107,700	3,430 4,020 5,670 5,670	67 63 69 64	1.7 1.9 1.7 1.8	65 66 71 61	1.7 1.9 1.7 1.9	86 84 85 81	1.3 1.4 1.3 1.5	93 91 92 91	0.9 1.1 1.0 0.6	96 95 96 (NA)	0.8 0.8 0.4 (NA)	
1987 January-March ^r	97,900 81,000	4,620 5,020	60 63	1.8	58 67	2.1 1.8	80 (NA)	2.6 (NA)	(NA) (NA)	(NA) (NA)	(NA) (NA)	(NA) (NA)	

^{*} Standard error within range of about 2 chances out of 3.

Standard errors are based on the new sample design.

⁽NA) Not available.

^{&#}x27; Revised.

Table 4. Absorption Rates of Cooperative and Condominium Apartments: 1984 to 1987

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(Structures with five units or more)

ден и под при на пр На при на при	Total units Percent of		Percent absorbed within—									
	comp	leted	all 5+	units	3 mo	3 months 6 months			9 months		12 months	
Quarter of completion	Number	Standard error*	Per- cent	Stand- ard error* (per- centage points)	Per- cent	Stand- ard error* (per- centage points)	Per- cent	Stand- ard error* (per- centage points)	Per- cent	Stand- ard error* (per- centage points)	Per- cent	Standard error* (per- centage points)
1984								:				
January-March April-June July-September October-December	23,600 38,500 43,200 38,400	2,150 3,290 3,360 3,280	23 28 34 28	2.0 2.0 2.1 2.0	64 72 74 64	4.4 3.8 3.4 4.1	78 82 84 81	3.7 3.2 2.8 3.3	84 86 88 88	3.3 2.9 2.5 2.2	88 90 92 91	2.9 2.5 1.7 1.9
1985												
January-March April-June July-September October-December	32,700 36,600 39,000 27,400	2,850 3,570 3,510 2,870	28 26 27 21	2.0 6.0 4.0 4.2	65 69 59 69	4.1 4.3 4.4 4.8	81 78 70 81	3.4 3.8 4.1 4.1	86 82 84 85	3.0 3.7 3.3 3.7	90 87 89 90	3.0 3.2 2.8 3.1
1986										-		
January-March April-June July-September October-December	23,300 23,700 26,500 28,200	2,830 3,130 3,300 3,390	19 17 18 19	4.7 4.9 5.1 4.7	75 72 74 73	5.1 5.9 5.4 5.3	86 79 81 83	4.2 5.3 4.9 4.5	90 82 87 88	3.8 5.0 4.2 2.2	94 85 92 (NA)	3.1 4.7 1.1 (NA)
1987							ĺ					
January-March ^r April-June July-September October-December	20,600 27,600	3,210 4,330	16 23	5.2 3.3	78 78	5.5 3.1	88 (NA)	2.4 (NA)	(NA) (NA)	(NA) (NA)	(NA) (NA)	(NA) (NA)

^{*}Standard error within range of about 2 chances out of 3. Standard errors are based on the new sample design. 'Revised

(NA) Not available.

Table 5. Characteristics of Condominium Apartments Completed During Second Quarter of 1987 and Sold Within 3 Months

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(Privately financed, nonsubsidized apartments. Data regarding number of bedrooms and asking price are collected at the initial interview, i.e., 3 months following completion. Data may not add to total due to rounding. Medians are computed using unrounded data.)

AND COLOR TO THE BEACHT AND COLOR TO THE STATE OF THE STA	Total units	completed	Percent of	total units	Percent sold within 3 months		
ltem	Number	Standard error*	Percent	Standard error* (percentage points)	Percent	Standard error* (percentage points)	
Total	27,600	4,330	100	(X)	78	3.1	
PRICE CLASSES							
Less than \$50,000	1,300 4,100 4,500 7,000 3,600 7,000	460 530 650 1,730 1,190 3,020	5 15 16 25 13 25	1.6 2.7 3.0 5.4 3.2 8.5		7.9 3.9 3.7 6.3 3.6 4.6	
Median asking price	\$127,400	15,430	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
Less than 2	6,100 18,500 3,000	1,880 2,630 650	22 67 11	4.5 4.2 1.9	76 79 77	4.3 3.7 6.7	

^{*}Standard error within range of about 2 chances out of 3. Standard errors are based on the new sample design.

Table 6. Housing Units Completed in Buildings With Five Units or More: 1984 to 1987

(Data may not add to total due to rounding.)

ARTINIAL DIA TERMINAL PROPERTY OF THE STATE	То	tai	Unfuri apartr	1	Furni apartr		Coopera condon	í	Fede subsi	rally dized	Oth	ier ¹
Quarter of completion	Number	Stand- ard error*	Number	Stand- ard error*	Number	Stand- ard error*	Number	Stand- ard error*	Number	Stand- ard error*	Number	Stand- ard error*
1984					Apple and the second se		0,110					Annual Management Stranger Str
January-March April-June July-September October-December	104,400 138,100 126,900 136,600	5,110 7,260 6,940 7,220	68,900 84,800 72,200 87,400	2,620 3,790 3,700 3,730	1,700 2,700 1,700 3,700	630 970 770 1,140	23,600 38,500 43,200 38,400	2,150 3,290 3,360 3,280	6,200 9,000 9,000 4,300	1,180 1,750 1,740 1,220	4,000 3,100 800 2,800	960 1,040 530 990
1985												
January-March April-June July-September October-December		6,290 8,040 7,850 7,110	74,800 94,200 97,100 98,300	3,260 4,060 3,990 3,420	1,100 1,700 2,100 2,500	590 850 890 940	32,700 36,600 39,000 27,400	2,850 3,570 3,550 2,870	2,500 3,300 2,400 3,800	880 1,190 970 1,160	6,800 2,500 3,900 600	1,430 1,030 1,010 460
1986												
January-March April-June July-September ^r October-December ^r	123,400 135,500 145,900 145,400	7,220 8,300 5,640 5,640	92,700 99,600 107,700 107,700	3,430 4,020 5,670 5,670	1,400 4,600 3,100 2,500	710 1,460 1,200 1,080	23,300 23,700 26,500 28,200	2,830 3,130 3,670 3,890	5,300 6,600 6,900 4,400	1,440 1,740 1,780 1,430	700 900 1,600 2,700	530 650 870 1,120
1987												
January-March'	126,500 117,700	5,140 5,140	97,900 81,000	4,620 5,020	1,300 2,700	780 530	20,600 27,600	3,210 4,330	3,700 3,300	1,310 280	2,900 3,100	1,160 880

^{*}Standard error within range of about 2 chances out of 3. Standard errors are based on the new sample design.

⁽X) Not applicable.

Table 7. Characteristics of Unfurnished Apartments Completed in Last 4 Quarters and Reported as Rented and Remaining For Rent in Third Quarter of 1987

(Privately financed, nonsubsidized, unfurnished apartments. Data regarding number of bedrooms and asking rent are collected at the initial interview, i.e., 3 months following completion. Data may not add to total due to rounding. Medians are computed using unrounded data.)

Item	Total units completed in last 4 quarters	Standard error*	Units rented prior to 3rd quarter 1987	Standard error*	Units rented in 3rd quarter 1987	Standard error*	Units remaining for rent at end of 3rd quarter 1987	Standard error*
Total	394,300	9,010	242,700	7,800	92,300	2,840	59,200	3,270
RENT CLASSES								
Less than \$350. \$350 to \$399. \$400 to \$449. \$450 to \$499. \$500 or more.	47,600 52,600 55,600 61,200 177,300	4,180 3,140 3,270 4,320 4,950	33,300 33,200 36,500	2,850 3,600 2,880 3,020 4,730		920 980 1,420 1,580 1,310	3,600 6,800 9,100 9,600 30,100	590 590 1,410 1,680 2,270
Median asking rent	\$484	3.7	\$476	5.3	\$492	4.7	\$500+	(NA)
NUMBER OF BEDROOMS								
Less than 2	175,000 206,400 12,800	5,700 6,850 1,330	124,900	5,110 5,760 1,250	50,000	1,690 2,250 370	1 - 7	2,170 2,430 210

^{*} Standard error within range of about 2 chances out of 3. Standard errors are based on the new sample design. Note: These data are for third and fourth quarter 1986 and first and second quarter 1987 completions.

(NA) Not available.

Table 8. Characteristics of Condominium Apartments Completed in Last 4 Quarters and Reported as Sold and Remaining For Sale in Third Quarter of 1987

(Privately financed, nonsubsidized apartments. Data regarding number of bedrooms and asking price are collected at the initial interview, i.e., 3 months following completion. Data may not add to total due to rounding. Medians are computed using unrounded data.)

Item	Total units completed in last 4 quarters	Standard error*	Units sold prior to 3rd quarter 1987	Standard error*	Units sold in 3rd quar- ter 1987	Standard error*	Units remaining for sale at end of 3rd quarter 1987	Standard error*
Total	100,900	6,840	60,800	4,510	25,900	2,670	14,200	1,030
PRICE CLASSES				:				
Less than \$50,000 \$50,000 to \$74,999 \$75,000 to \$99,999 \$100,000 or more		710 910 1,420 6,600	3,600 12,900 13,500 30,900	300 530 960 4,370	1,000 3,900 4,100 16,900	200 390 400 2,610	1,200 2,200 2,600 8,100	240 160 360 920
Median Price Asked	\$100,000+	(NA)	\$100,000+	(NA)	\$100,000+	(NA)	\$100,000+	(NA)
NUMBER OF BEDROOMS								
Less than 2	23,000 68,200 9,800	,	42,500	2,060 3,950 710	17,100	1,280 2,230 710	8,600	540 790 380

^{*} Standard error within range of about 2 chances out of 3. Standard errors are based on the new sample design. Note: These data are for third and fourth quarter 1986 and first and second quarter 1987 completions.

(NA) Not available.

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current housing reports

Data on housing vacancies and housing characteristics

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