

Survey of Market Absorption: First Quarter 2008

First Quarter 2008 - Absorptions (Completions in Fourth Quarter 2007)

H130/08-Q1

Issued June 2008

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Survey of Market Absorption (SOMA) measures how soon privately financed, nonsubsidized, unfurnished units in buildings with five or more units are rented or sold (absorbed) after completion. In addition, the survey collects data on characteristics of the units such as number of bedrooms, asking rent, and asking price.

All statistics from the SOMA refer to apartments in newly constructed buildings with five units or more. Absorption rates reflect the first time an apartment is rented after completion or the first time a condominium or cooperative apartment is sold after completion. If apartments initially intended to be sold as condominium or cooperative units are, instead, offered by the builder or building owner for rent they are counted as rental apartments. Units categorized as federally subsidized are those built under two programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (Section 8, Low Income Housing Assistance, and Section 202, Citizens Housing Direct Loans) and all units in buildings containing apartments in the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) rent supplement program. The data on privately financed units include privately owned housing subsidized by state and local governments. Time-share units, continuing care retirement units, and turnkey units (privately built for and sold to local public housing authorities after completion) are outside the scope of the survey.

Tables 1 through 4 and Table 9 provide information about privately financed, nonsubsidized, unfurnished, rental apartments. Table 5 provides information about privately financed, nonsubsidized, condominium and cooperative apartments, while Tables 6 through 8 and Table 10 provide information about condominium apartments only. Table 11 summarizes the totals for all types of newly constructed apartments in buildings with five units or more.