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**NEW RESIDENTIAL SALES IN AUGUST 2005**

Sales of new one-family houses in August 2005 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,237,000, according to estimates released jointly today by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is 9.9 percent ( $\pm 9.8\%$ ) below the revised July rate of 1,373,000, but is 6.2 percent ( $\pm 12.3\%$ )\* above the August 2004 estimate of 1,165,000.

The median sales price of new houses sold in August 2005 was \$220,300; the average sales price was \$283,400. The seasonally adjusted estimate of new houses for sale at the end of August was 479,000. This represents a supply of 4.7 months at the current sales rate.

*New Residential Sales data for September 2005 will be released on  
Thursday, October 27, 2005, at 10:00 A.M. EDT.*

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

**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 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. Changes in seasonally adjusted statistics often show irregular movement. It takes 6 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 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.

**Table 1. New Houses Sold and For Sale**

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

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				
Seasonally adjusted														
2004: August	1,165	67	217	541	340	406						4.3		
September	1,223	79	225	562	357	411						4.1		
October	1,306	103	248	535	420	412						3.8		
November	1,175	85	156	594	340	419						4.3		
December	1,247	66	244	618	319	422						4.1		
2005: January	1,194	61	186	616	331	437						4.4		
February	1,247	82	180	636	349	446						4.4		
March	1,307	79	213	648	367	446						4.2		
April	1,269	99	206	607	357	446						4.3		
May <sup>f</sup>	1,293	91	241	599	362	452						4.3		
June <sup>f</sup>	1,304	88	239	627	350	457						4.3		
July <sup>f</sup>	1,373	100	217	626	430	467						4.1		
<b>August<sup>p</sup></b>	<b>1,237</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>479</b>						<b>4.7</b>		
Average RSE (%) <sup>3</sup>	7	18	12	11	11	4						6		
<b>Percent Change:</b>														
<i>August 2005 from July 2005</i>	<b>-9.9%</b>	<b>-22.0%</b>	<b>-10.6%</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>	<b>-17.9%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>						<b>14.6%</b>		
<i>90% Confidence Interval<sup>4</sup></i>	± 9.8	± 36.1	± 17.6	± 14.2	± 19.2	± 1.4						± 13.2		
<i>August 2005 from August 2004</i>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>16.4%</b>	<b>-10.6%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>						<b>9.3%</b>		
<i>90% Confidence Interval<sup>4</sup></i>	± 12.3	± 34.3	± 19.7	± 21.4	± 21.7	± 11.4						± 14.4		
Not seasonally adjusted														
2003:	1,086	79	189	511	307	377	29	97	172	79	(X)	195,000	246,300	
2004:	1,203	83	210	562	348	431	30	111	200	91	(X)	221,000	274,500	
RSE (%)	2	11	5	4	4	3	12	8	5	7	(X)	3	3	
2004: Year to Date	841	57	146	393	245	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
2005: Year to Date	903	59	149	437	259	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
RSE (%)	3	12	5	4	4	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
<i>Year to Date Percent Change<sup>5</sup></i>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
<i>90% Confidence Interval<sup>4</sup></i>	± 6.4	± 27.0	± 12.9	± 10.5	± 10.0	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
2004: August	102	6	19	47	30	404	30	102	187	84	4.0	218,100	272,200	
September	94	7	17	42	28	413	30	104	191	89	4.4	211,600	269,200	
October	101	8	20	40	33	414	29	105	196	83	4.1	229,200	289,600	
November	84	6	12	44	23	423	30	111	195	87	5.0	224,500	283,200	
December	83	5	15	43	20	431	30	111	200	91	5.2	229,600	284,300	
2005: January	92	4	12	50	25	441	32	112	204	92	4.8	223,100	283,000	
February	109	7	15	56	31	439	32	113	205	90	4.0	237,300	289,100	
March	127	7	21	62	37	441	33	113	206	90	3.5	229,300	289,600	
April	116	9	20	54	33	441	33	110	208	90	3.8	236,300	289,100	
May <sup>f</sup>	120	9	22	55	34	448	36	107	213	92	3.7	228,300	287,400	
June <sup>f</sup>	115	8	22	54	31	459	37	106	221	95	4.0	221,700	274,500	
July <sup>f</sup>	118	8	20	54	36	460	39	104	226	92	3.9	215,000	280,000	
<b>August<sup>p</sup></b>	<b>106</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>220,300</b>	<b>283,400</b>	
Average RSE (%) <sup>3</sup>	7	18	12	11	11	4	13	8	7	4	6	5	4	

<sup>1</sup>Preliminary. <sup>2</sup>Revised. RSE Relative standard error. X Not applicable. Z Less than 0.5 percent.

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

<sup>4</sup>See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of 90% confidence intervals. <sup>5</sup>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	\$100,000 to \$124,999	\$125,000 to \$149,999	\$150,000 to \$199,999	\$200,000 to \$249,999	\$250,000 to \$299,999	\$300,000 and over
	Number of houses <sup>1</sup>							
2003:	1,086	54	96	146	264	148	112	266
2004:	1,203	48	85	137	254	181	131	368
RSE (%)	2	21	10	8	6	6	6	6
2004: August	102	5	7	12	23	15	10	31
September	94	4	7	13	19	15	8	28
October	101	3	7	11	21	14	11	33
November	84	3	6	9	16	14	9	27
December	83	4	4	7	17	15	9	26
2005: January	92	4	5	10	20	13	10	29
February	109	3	8	10	21	18	12	37
March	127	4	7	15	25	20	13	43
April	116	3	5	12	23	20	13	41
May <sup>f</sup>	120	4	9	12	25	17	14	40
June <sup>f</sup>	115	3	10	10	26	18	13	35
July <sup>f</sup>	118	4	9	15	26	19	9	36
<b>August<sup>p</sup></b>	<b>106</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>34</b>
Average RSE (%) <sup>2</sup>	7	32	24	17	13	14	15	11
Percent distribution								
2003:	100	5	9	13	24	14	10	24
2004:	100	4	7	11	21	15	11	31
2004: August	100	5	7	11	23	14	9	30
September	100	4	7	14	20	16	8	30
October	100	3	7	11	21	14	11	33
November	100	4	7	11	19	17	10	32
December	100	5	5	9	21	18	11	31
2005: January	100	5	6	11	22	14	11	32
February	100	3	7	9	19	16	11	34
March	100	3	6	12	19	16	10	34
April	100	3	4	10	20	17	11	35
May <sup>f</sup>	100	3	7	10	20	14	12	33
June <sup>f</sup>	100	3	8	9	23	15	11	30
July <sup>f</sup>	100	3	7	13	22	16	8	31
<b>August<sup>p</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>32</b>

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>f</sup>Revised. RSE Relative standard error. X Not applicable. Z Less than 0.5 percent.

<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 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 <sup>1</sup>
	Total	Not started	Under construction	Completed	Total	Not started	Under construction	Completed	
2003:	1,086	416	406	264	377	51	236	90	3.6
2004:	1,203	482	439	281	431	68	260	103	4.1
RSE (%)	2	3	3	7	3	5	4	6	8
2004: August	102	35	40	26	404	63	251	89	3.7
September	94	33	37	25	413	70	253	90	4.0
October	101	39	41	20	414	62	256	96	3.8
November	84	35	28	21	423	68	258	97	4.0
December	83	34	28	21	431	68	260	103	4.1
2005: January	92	43	30	19	441	67	267	106	4.3
February	109	47	38	24	439	67	266	107	4.4
March	127	51	47	29	441	78	258	105	4.4
April	116	45	43	28	441	78	260	103	4.4
May <sup>f</sup>	120	44	44	32	448	79	263	106	3.8
June <sup>f</sup>	115	40	44	31	459	87	268	103	4.0
July <sup>f</sup>	118	47	44	28	460	93	267	101	3.8
<b>August<sup>p</sup></b>	<b>106</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Average RSE (%) <sup>2</sup>	7	8	8	9	4	5	5	6	7

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. RSE Relative standard error. Z Less than 0.5 percent.

<sup>1</sup>Median number of months for sale since completion.

<sup>2</sup>Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.