



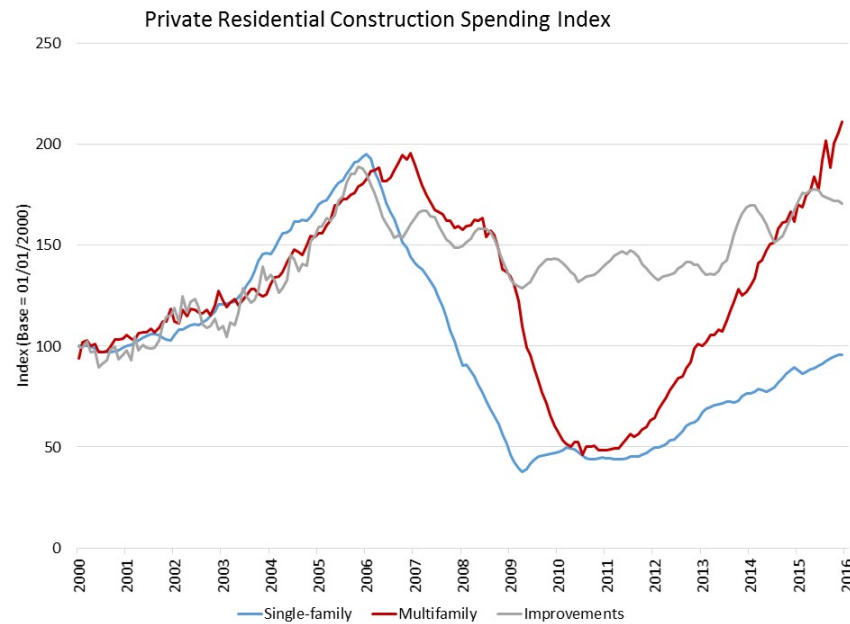
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## Multi-Family Expenditures Hit Record Levels

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) took an in-depth look at one aspect of the Census Bureau's report on January construction expenditures which was released on Tuesday, multi-family construction. As we reported here, total private residential construction spending stood at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$433.2 billion in January, virtually unchanged from December's upwardly revised rate of \$433.1 billion. It was up 7.7% from one year earlier and the **highest since November 2007**.

Within that figure, expenditures on single-family housing **declined by 0.2 percent** from December to a seasonally adjusted rate of \$230,000 billion but NAHB notes that, in relative terms, multifamily construction fared better. As of January total multi-family spending was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$59.8 billion which Na Zhao, writing for the Association, says exceeds the peak readings registered during the housing boom years. It was also a 30 percent increase from a year earlier.



## National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News Daily			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.09%	+0.07	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.56%	+0.03	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	6.62%	+0.07	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.35%	+0.04	0.00
5/1 ARM	7.30%	+0.06	0.00

Freddie Mac			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.02%	-0.42	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.28%	-0.48	0.00

Mortgage Bankers Assoc.			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.08%	-0.10	0.63
15 Yr. Fixed	6.61%	+0.01	0.65
30 Yr. FHA	6.89%	-0.03	0.94
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.22%	-0.09	0.58
5/1 ARM	6.56%	-0.04	0.66

Rates as of: 5/17

## Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	May 15	198.1	+0.51%
Building Permits	Mar	1.46M	-3.95%
Housing Starts	Mar	1.32M	-13.15%
New Home Sales	Mar	693K	+4.68%
Pending Home Sales	Feb	75.6	+1.75%
Existing Home Sales	Feb	3.97M	-0.75%

	Value	Change
Private sector spending on home improvements was also down slightly in January. At a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$143,000 billion it has increased 2 percent year-over-year. As the chart above shows, both multi-family construction and home improvement spending are far out-performing single family construction. Zhao said, however, that <b>NAHB anticipates accelerating growth</b> in single-family spending this year.	51	+6.25%

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