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Housing Starts near 8 Year High While Multi-Fam Skews Permits

Permits for residential construction fell sharply in July, down 16.3 percent from June while remaining 7.5 percent above the level of one year earlier. The U.S. Census Bureau and Department of Housing and Urban Development's joint release said permits were issued at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,119,000 compared to a revised June rate of 1,337,000, up from the original estimate of 1,343,000 units and a rate of 1,041,000 in July 2014.

The decline in permitting, while affecting all four regions, was driven by a 60.2 percent slide in the **Northeast**. Bloomberg said a change in real estate law caused permits in New York to be pulled forward into June, diminishing July's numbers. The decline put permits well below the median forecast of 1.232 million.

Away from multi-family, the numbers weren't nearly as bad. Permits were issued for **single-family** construction at a rate of 679,000 units, a 1.9 percent decrease from the revised June figure of 692,000 (from 687,000 units) and for 412,000 annual units of multi-family construction, a 32.6 percent drop from June. The decline in multi-family permits appear to also be driven by events in the Northeast.

On a non-adjusted basis there were 100,900 permits issued nationally compared to 134,100 in June. Single family permits fell by over 5,000 to 64,700.

Housing starts **rose 0.2 percent** to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,206,000 from a substantially revised June estimate of 1,204,000. That makes this month and last month the **best since late 2007** for Starts, though still a mere shadow of the 10yrs before that. The original June estimate of was 1,174,000. The July number was 10.1 percent higher than the July 2014 rate of 1,095,000 units. Analysts had been looking for an average of 1.180 million starts.

National Average Mortgage Rates



Mortgage News Daily	Rate	Change	Points
30YR Fixed	7.33%	-0.12	0.00
15YR Fixed	6.89%	-0.10	0.00
30YR FHA	6.95%	-0.10	0.00
30YR Jumbo	7.44%	-0.06	0.00
7/6 SOFR	6.81%	-0.19	0.00
30YR VA	6.97%	-0.10	0.00

Rates as of: 11/20

MBS and Treasury

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	99.51	+0.41
10 YR Treasury	4.9403	-0.1033
30 YR Treasury	5.3324	-0.0738

Pricing as of: 11/20 5:59PM EST

Recent Housing Data

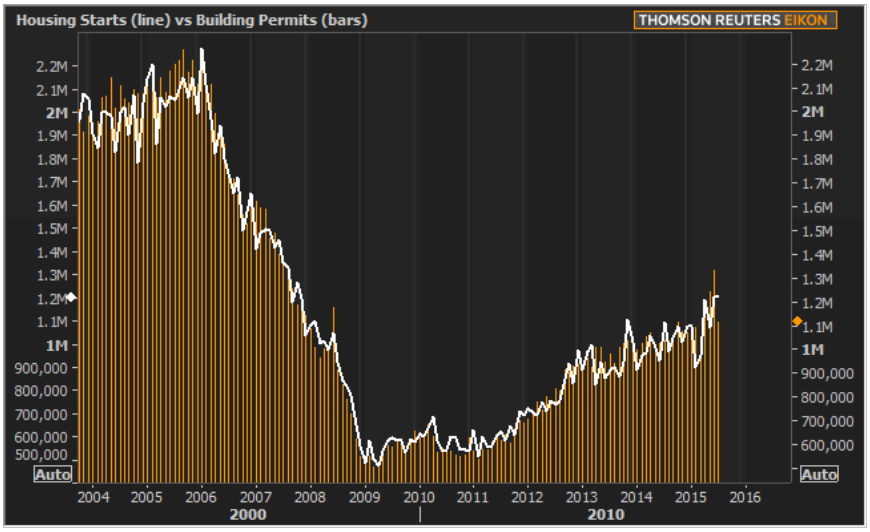
		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Nov 11	199.8	-2.35%
Building Permits	Oct	1.3M	-7.5%
Housing Starts	Oct	1.31M	+7.21%
New Home Sales	Sep	676K	-1.17%
Pending Home Sales	Oct	63	-4.69%
Existing Home Sales	Oct	3.99M	+0.25%
Builder Confidence	Nov	25	-13.79%

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Housing News Update



Single family starts increased by 12.8 percent from June's rate of 693,000 (revised from 685,000) to 782,000. This was an increase of 19.0 percent from the previous year. Construction was begun on multi-family units at an annual rate of 413,000, down 17.1 percent from June and 2.1 percent from July 2014.

Housing starts totaled 112,300 on an unadjusted basis for the month, virtually unchanged from June. Single family starts however rose from 69,900 to 74,100.

Residential units were **completed** (another metric in this report is "Housing Completions") at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 987,000, a 2.4 percent gain over the 964,000 (revised from 972,000) unit rate in June and 14.6 percent more than a year earlier.

Single family housing completions were at an annual rate of 627,000, down 1.4 percent from the previous month and 0.5 percent year-over-year. Multifamily completions rose 9.7 percent from June to a rate of 350,000, an annual jump of 56.3 percent.

There were 85,800 residential units completed in July. Single-family completions numbered 51,100.

On a regional basis, the 60.2 percent drop in permitting in the **Northeast** put the region down 5.0 percent from the July 2014 pace. Starts also fell, down 27.5 percent from June but remaining 15.8 percent higher than a year earlier. Housing completions jumped 36.1 percent compared to the previous month and were up 5.4 percent year-over-year.

In the **Midwest** permitting was down 4.6 percent from June and 2.0 percent from a year earlier. Housing starts rose 20.1 percent and 10.5 percent from the two earlier periods and completions were up by 12.2 percent and 9.9 percent respectively.

The **South** saw a decrease of 1.7 percent in the rate of permitting compared to June but a 12.7 percent gain from a year earlier. Starts rose 7.7 percent from June and 11.6 percent from July 2014 while completions slid 2.7 percent on a monthly basis but were 18.7 percent above those the previous July.

Permitting in the **West** was down 9.9 percent month-over-month but reflected an annual increase of 10.9 percent. Housing starts eased back by 3.1 percent from June but were 4.1 percent higher than in July 2014. Completions were down 3.2 percent for the month and up 13.6 percent for the year.

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At the end of the reporting period there were an estimated 908,000 residential units under construction but only 389,000 were single-family dwellings. There were 507,000 units of multi-family construction underway. Outstanding permits under which construction had not started at the end of the period numbered 144,000. The permits were for 61,000 single-family and 81,000 multifamily units.

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