Housing News Update



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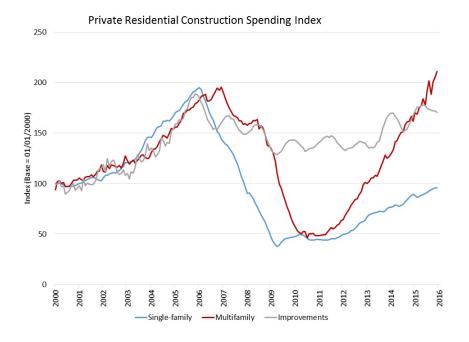
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Multi-Family Expenditures Hit Record Levels

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 I	Daily		
30 Yr. Fixed	6.86%	-0.05	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.31%	-0.02	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	6.32%	-0.06	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.04%	-0.03	0.00
5/1 ARM	6.53%	-0.02	0.00
Freddie Mac			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.78%	-0.08	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.07%	-0.09	0.00
Mortgage Banke	rs Assoc.		
30 Yr. Fixed	7.00%	-0.03	0.60
15 Yr. Fixed	6.63%	+0.07	0.61
30 Yr. FHA	6.87%	-0.03	0.92
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.13%	+0.02	0.38
5/1 ARM Rates as of: 7/26	6.22%	-0.16	0.60

Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Jul 10	206.1	-0.19%
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%

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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 **NAHB anticipates** accelerating growth in single-family spending this year.

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