

**SENT TO LSU AGCENTER/LOUISIANA FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT CENTER - FOREST SECTOR / FORESTY PRODUCTS INTEREST GROUP**

All of the articles/items seem interesting so I am forwarding the whole post I received. Regards, Rich



November 29, 2017

## Rising Starts and Sales Indicate More Gains Ahead

October was a good month for housing. [Single-family and multifamily housing starts rose by almost 14%](#). Single-family starts (877,000) are at a post-recession high and have grown 8% on a year-to-date basis compared to last year.

And rising home sales indicate more gains are in store for residential construction. [Existing home sales expanded 2%](#) in October, while inventory fell for the 29th consecutive month to only a 4.4 months' supply. [Newly built single-family homes sales rose 6%](#) last month, recording its strongest reading in a decade.

At this sales pace, there is only a 4.9 months' supply of new homes available. Moreover, a rising share of new home sales is coming from homes that have not yet begun construction, pointing to additional gains for construction in the near term.

*—NAHB Chief Economist Robert Dietz*

### Prices and Sales

#### [New Home Sales Reach Strongest Pace in a Decade](#)

Shrinking inventory of existing homes gives more momentum to new home construction.

#### [Existing Sales Up 2% in October](#)

Share of first-time buyers increased to 32%.

#### [Home Price Appreciation Continues](#)

All 20 of the U.S. metro areas had positive annual growth.

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## Housing Starts

### Slight Gains for Custom Home Building

Volume is expanding, but overall market share is seeing declines.

### Construction of Multifamily Rentals on the Rise

Starts ticked back up to an elevated level of 95% in the third quarter.

### Townhouse Construction Growth Continues

Starts in the third quarter were 18% higher than a year ago.

### Housing Starts Rise in October

Solid readings from the single-family sector.

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## Industry Insights

### AD&C Financing Conditions Ease at a Slower Pace

All major categories of lending continue to report easing standards.

### How Many Toilets, Showers are in Newer Homes?

NAHB study examines bathroom fixture trends through several decades.

### Multifamily Developer Confidence Weakens

Third-quarter index reading the lowest since 2011.

### Declining New Home Size Trend Continues

Median size of a new single-family home has decreased to 2,378 square feet.

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