



Macroeconomic Indicators

Housing Starts

Definition

A housing start is defined as excavation (ground breaking) for the footings or foundation of a residential structure. For a multifamily structure, all units are counted as started when the structure is started. The housing starts data capture housing starts of privately-owned residential buildings (single-family homes, as well as multifamily housing units). The housing starts data are from the Survey of Construction (SOC), which is partially funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

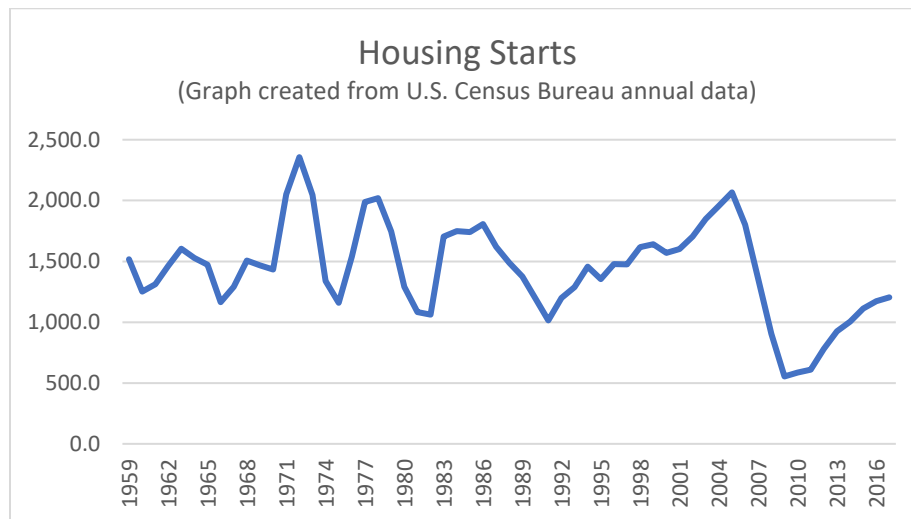
Who Releases the Housing Starts Data?

U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Available to the public: <https://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/pdf/newresconst.pdf>.

What Does the Indicator Tell Investors?

The report is a good gauge of the housing market, as well as the state of the economy. The housing market has a multiplier effect for the economy, as home buyers will also need furniture, appliances, and services, such as landscaping when they are purchasing a home. A strong housing market often goes hand in hand with a bullish stock market. Rising interest rates may provide headwind to the housing market, making housing less affordable.





Type of Indicator

Housing starts is a leading economic indicator.

How Often Is the Indicator Released?

Once a month, towards the middle of the month.

Is the Indicator Revised?

Yes.