Update on the National Housing Market

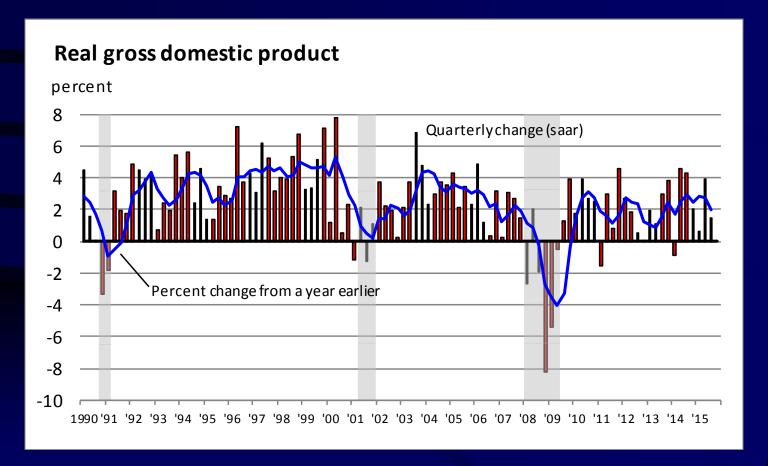
Economic Forecasting Center Conference Atlanta, GA November 18, 2015 William Strauss
Senior Economist
and Economic Advisor
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago



The Great Recession and Housing

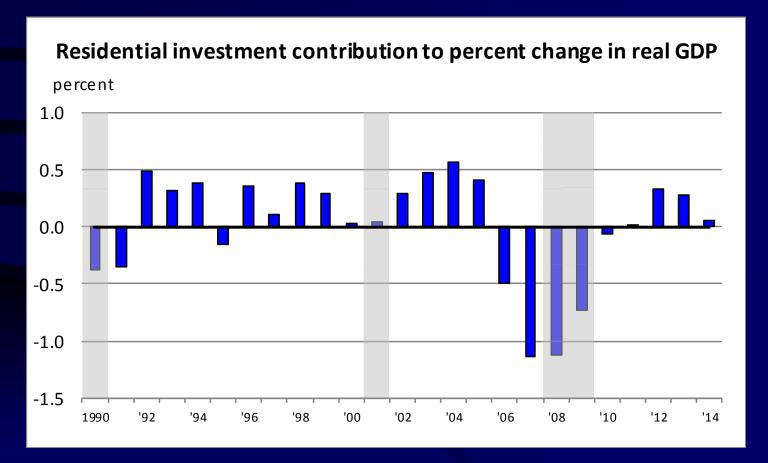


The "Great Recession" ended in June 2009, with the deepest drop and longest lived downturn since the 1930s



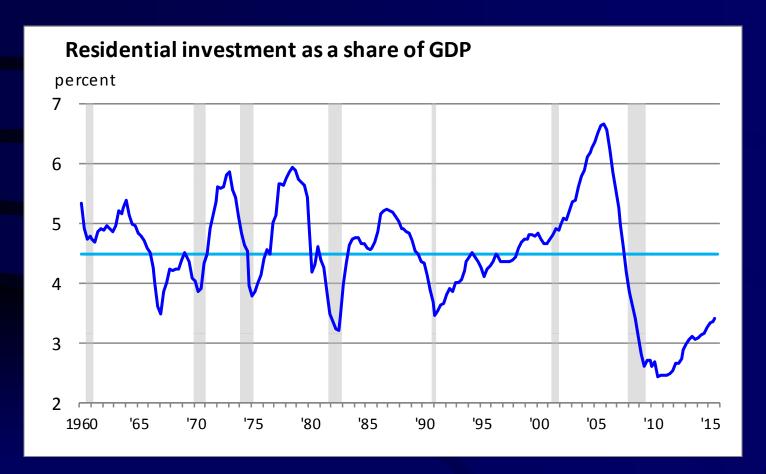


Residential investment had been a drag on the U.S. economy between 2006 and 2011





Residential investment remains well below its long-run average share of the U.S. economy

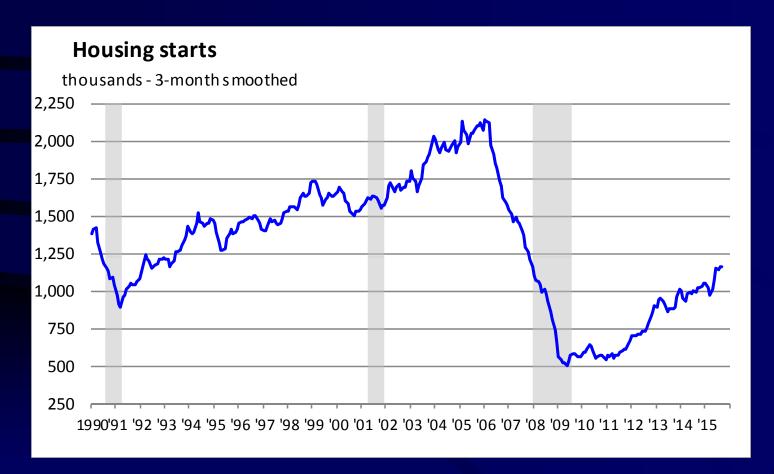




The Housing Recovery

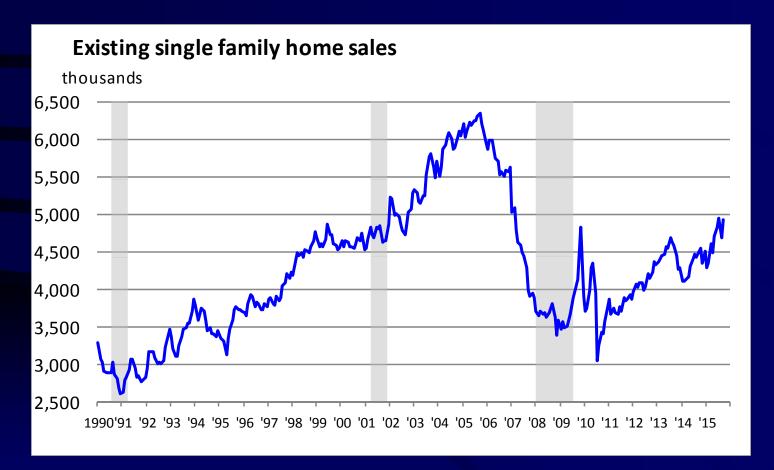


Housing starts have been improving



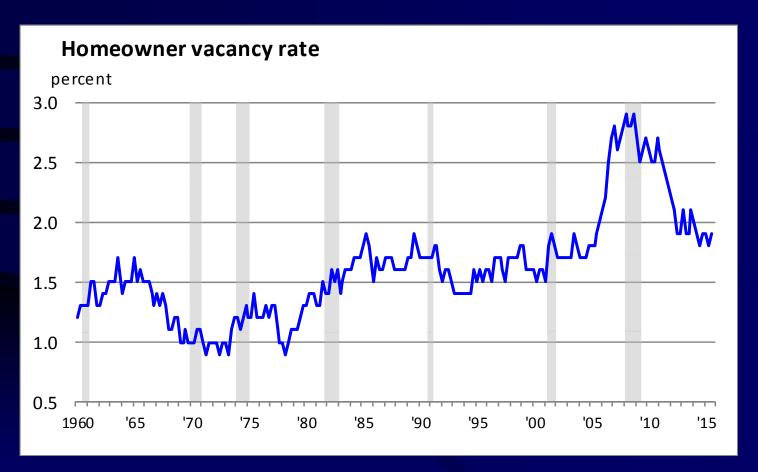


Existing home sales have been improving



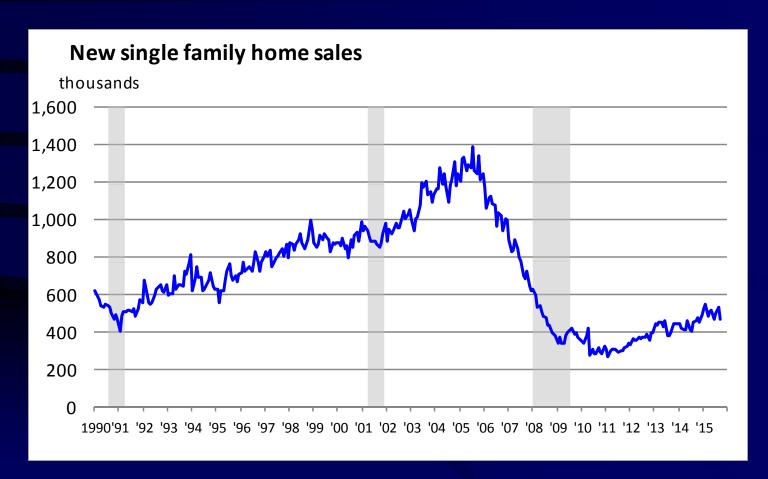


Homeowner vacancy rates have been falling



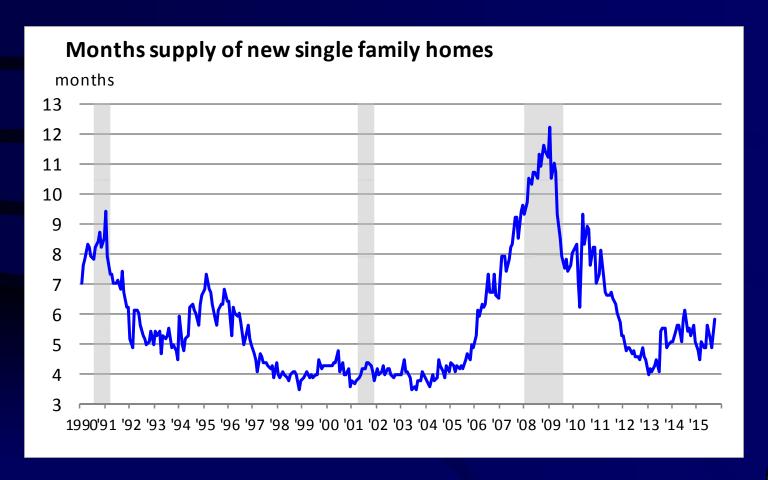


However, new home sales have only been edging higher



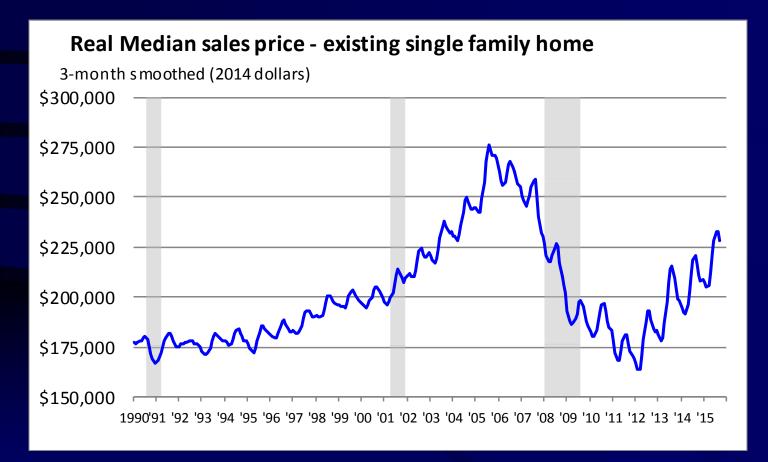


Largely due to the reduction in the production of single family homes the supply has fallen from very high levels



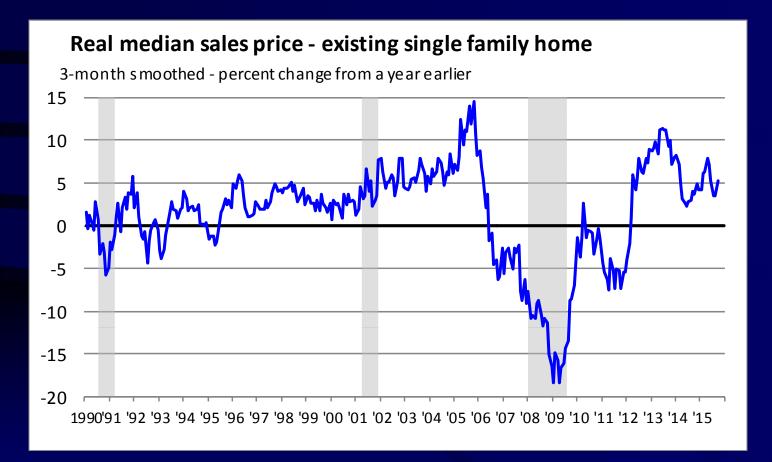


Real home prices fell by over 40 percent



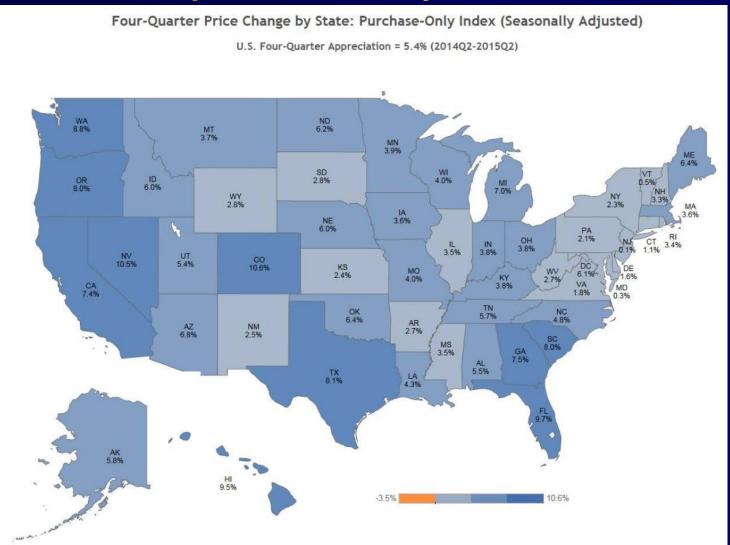


Real home prices have been rising over the past couple of years



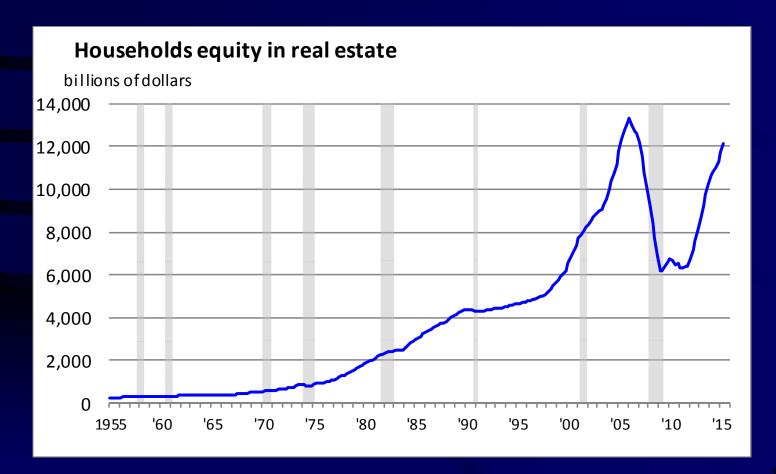


In the second quarter, home prices rose by 5.4 percent from a year earlier



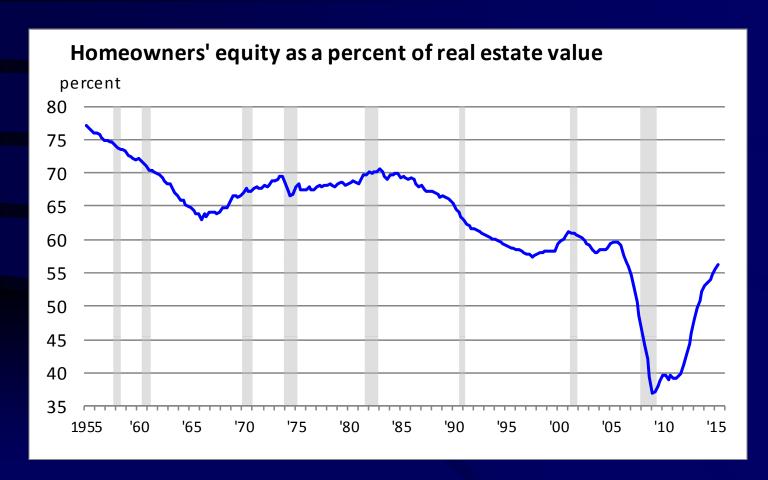


The loss in homeowner equity was significant, but it has been recovering at a very decent pace



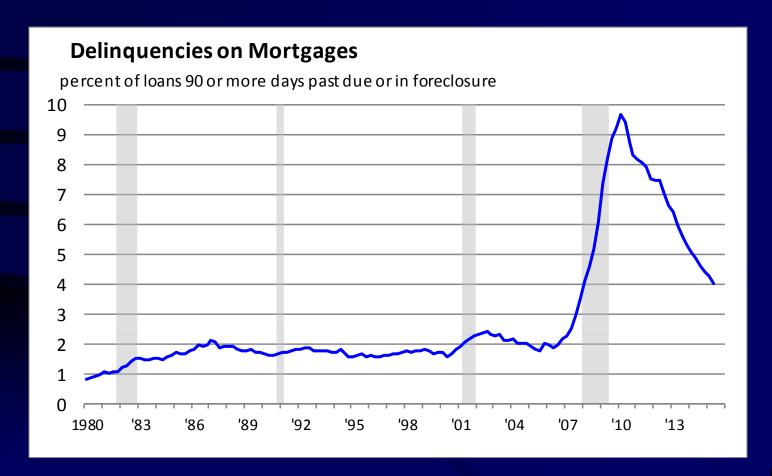


Equity as a share of value never rose during the housing bubble as homeowners borrowed heavily from their "gains"



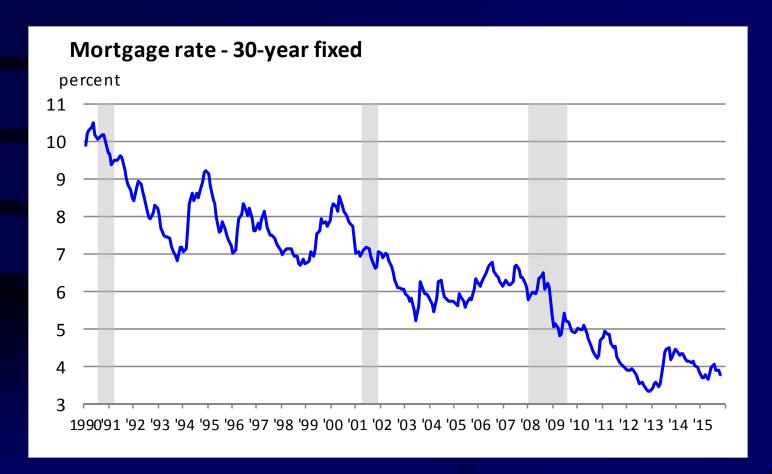


Mortgage distress is moderating, but it still remains elevated



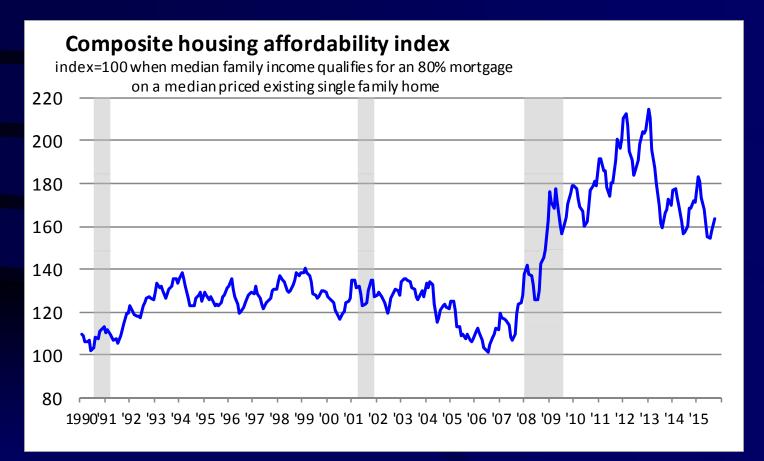


Mortgage rates remain very low



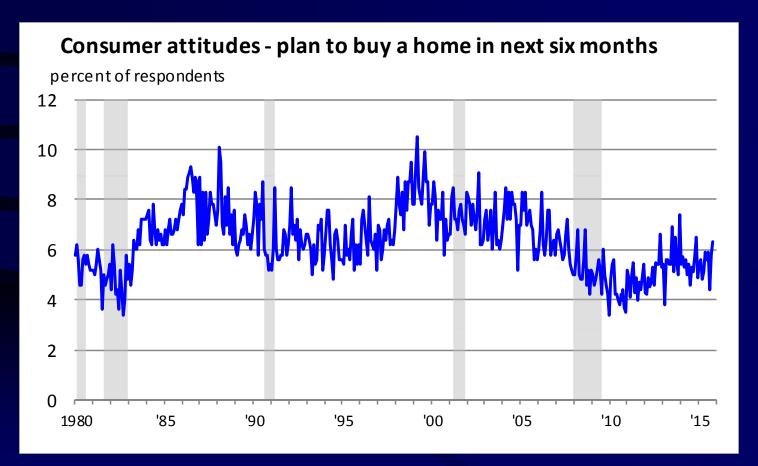


Housing affordability remains strong



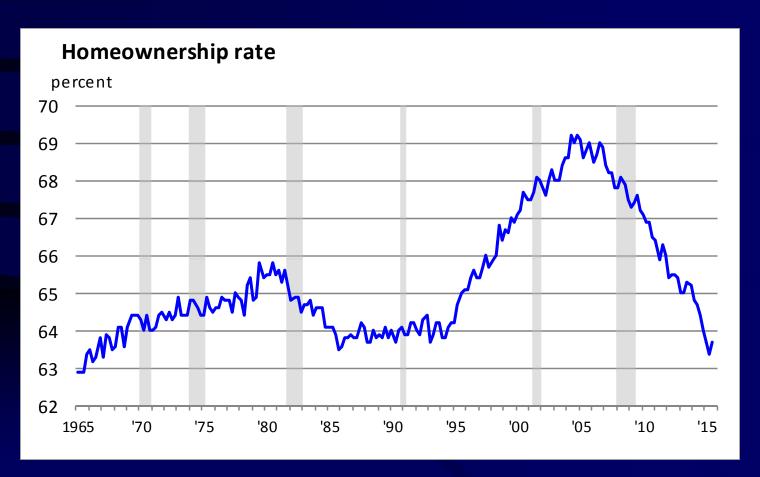


Yet, consumer attitudes towards buying a home remains moderate



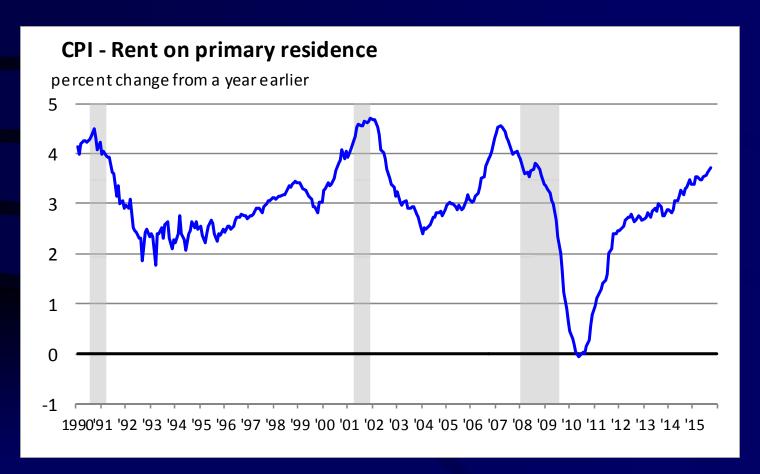


Home ownership rates have been moving lower





Rents have been rising



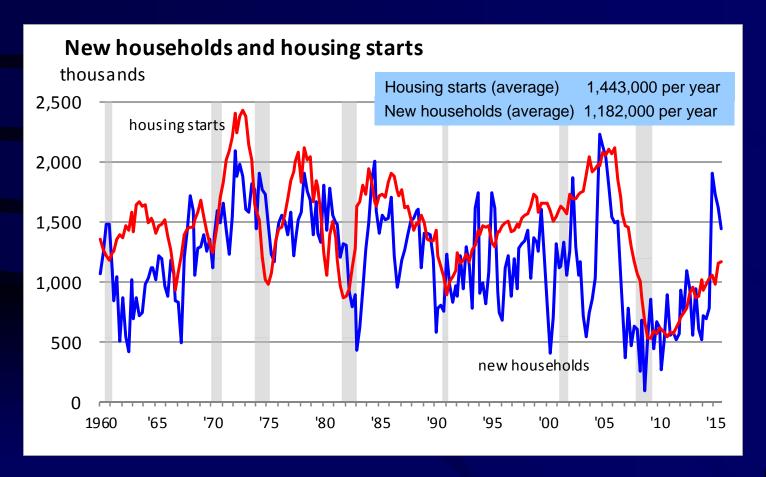


Why do you build homes?

You build homes for people

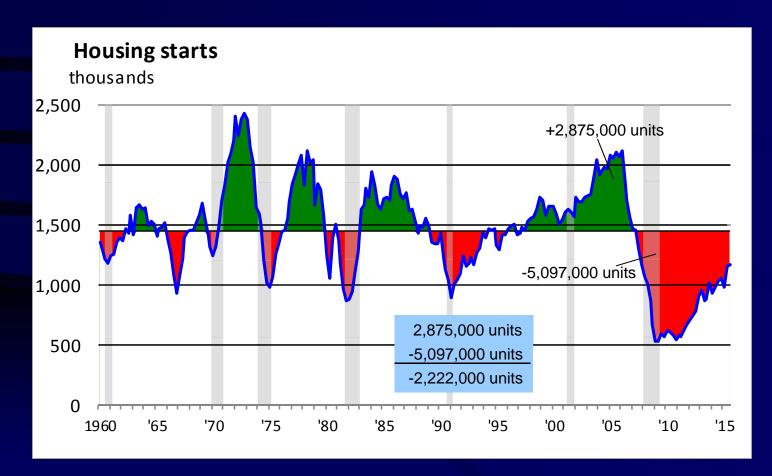


There is a very close relationship between household formation and housing starts, but housing starts tend to be above household formation



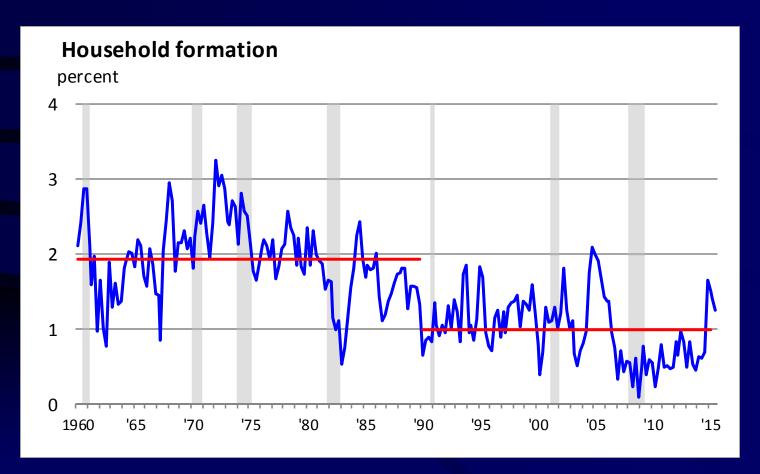


The amount of excess housing units compared with trend has disappeared



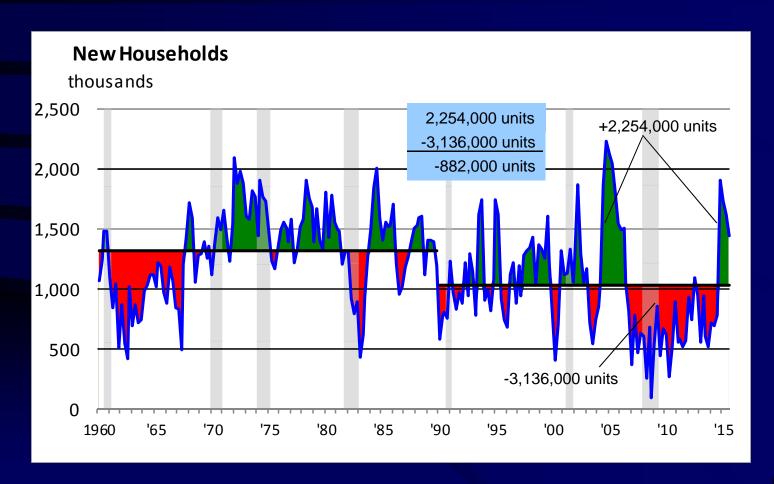


Since 1990, household formation growth has averaged one percent



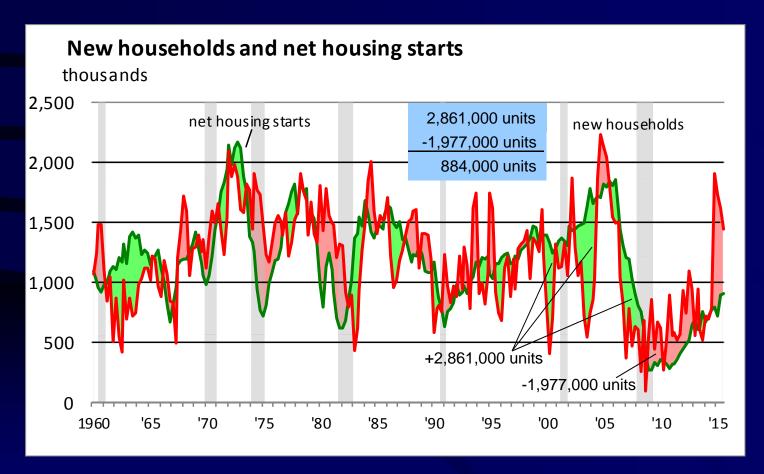


Household formation remains below its long-run average



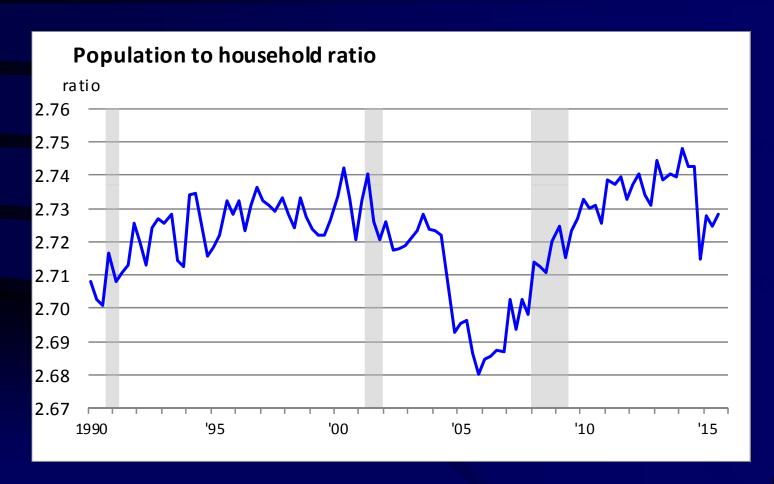


Looking at the relationship between housing starts and household formation shows a large excess amount of inventory on the market, although it has begun to fall



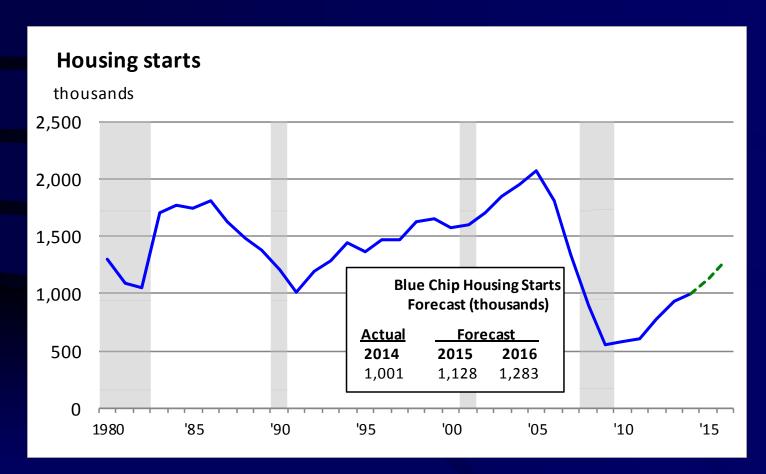


The population to household ratio had been increasing up until the past year





The forecast calls for a very gradual recovery in housing





Summary

- The housing market is improving at a moderate pace
- Low household formation had been restraining absorption of excess housing inventory
- Homeownership may be impacted by a changing view on the benefits of homeownership
- An improving labor market and economy will be a positive for housing over the next several years
- We may be just a couple of years away from having a normalized housing market





