

**WEST AND SOUTH STRONGER, NORTHEAST STILL WEAK . . .** Seasonally adjusted starts in the West increased to an annual rate of 261,000 units, substantially above the April level of 182,000 and virtually the same as the May, 1966, rate. The South continued its upward trend which began in December, 1966. Activity is now running at the 523,000 unit mark. Building permit increases in both regions indicate likely continuance of this trend. In the North Central the increase in activity has been more erratic -- the May annual starts rate is 338,000 units. While the starts rate showed an increase of 16%, the permit rate declined slightly. The Northeast continues to lag other regions in its recovery. The 188,000 unit annual rate in May is about equal to the very low May, 1966, figure but is not pointing in an upward direction as in other regions. After a healthy increase in building permits in April the May level in the Northeast dropped 19%.

**MODEST PERMIT GAINS REPORTED IN MAY . . .** The annual rate of building permits in May was 1,046,000 units, 2% above the April level but 5% below May of last year. All of the gain was in the single family sector which rose above the 600,000 unit rate for the first time in a year. Multi-family activity of 445,000 units was virtually unchanged.

**NEW HOUSING ACTIVITY**  
(in thousands of units)

|               | Total<br>Priv.&<br>Public<br>Starts | Private Starts |        |                  | Total<br>Private<br>Starts       | Government<br>Programs |       | Bldg.<br>Permits    | FHA <sup>2</sup><br>Appli-<br>cations | VA Ap-<br>praisal<br>Re-<br>quests |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Year          | Starts                              | Total          | Family | Multi-<br>Family | Starts                           | FHA <sup>1</sup>       | VA    |                     |                                       |                                    |
| 1959          | 1553.5                              | 1516.8         | 1234.1 | 282.7            | 1516.8                           | 332.4                  | 109.0 | 1208.3              | 369.7                                 | 324.0                              |
| 1960          | 1296.0                              | 1252.1         | 994.8  | 257.4            | 1252.1                           | 260.9                  | 74.6  | 998.0               | 242.4                                 | 142.9                              |
| 1961          | 1365.0                              | 1313.0         | 974.8  | 338.6            | 1313.0                           | 244.3                  | 83.3  | 1064.2              | 236.2                                 | 177.8                              |
| 1962          | 1492.4                              | 1462.8         | 991.6  | 471.4            | 1462.8                           | 260.8                  | 77.8  | 1186.6              | 287.4                                 | 171.2                              |
| 1963          | 1641.0                              | 1609.2         | 1020.8 | 588.4            | 1609.2                           | 220.0                  | 71.0  | 1334.7 <sup>2</sup> | 270.6                                 | 139.3                              |
| 1964          | 1590.7                              | 1557.4         | 971.5  | 585.9            | 1557.4                           | 204.6                  | 59.6  | 1285.8              | 249.8                                 | 113.6                              |
| 1965          | 1542.7                              | 1505.0         | 962.3  | 542.7            | 1505.0                           | 196.6                  | 52.6  | 1240.6              | 237.9                                 | 101.1                              |
| 1966          | 1251.6                              | 1219.9         | 793.4  | 426.3            | 1219.9                           | 157.6                  | 40.5  | 966.5               | 197.0                                 | 99.2                               |
| Actual Starts |                                     |                |        |                  | Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rates |                        |       |                     |                                       |                                    |
| <hr/>         |                                     |                |        |                  |                                  |                        |       |                     |                                       |                                    |
| 1966          |                                     |                |        |                  |                                  |                        |       |                     |                                       |                                    |
| May           | 139.3                               | 135.4          | 88.1   | 47.3             | 1318                             | 128                    | 38    | 1098                | 133                                   | 98                                 |
| June          | 130.7                               | 127.5          | 83.8   | 43.8             | 1285                             | 121                    | 44    | 954                 | 127                                   | 90                                 |
| July          | 104.8                               | 104.0          | 71.3   | 32.7             | 1088                             | 117                    | 42    | 921                 | 124                                   | 99                                 |
| Aug           | 107.3                               | 105.4          | 71.1   | 34.3             | 1107                             | 113                    | 35    | 844                 | 119                                   | 106                                |
| Sept          | 95.2                                | 92.4           | 62.3   | 30.1             | 1075                             | 96                     | 37    | 733                 | 151                                   | 104                                |
| Oct           | 82.8                                | 80.3           | 55.1   | 25.1             | 848                              | 94                     | 38    | 714                 | 122                                   | 119                                |
| Nov           | 77.6                                | 75.3           | 50.8   | 24.5             | 1012                             | 107                    | 40    | 715                 | 135                                   | 103                                |
| Dec           | 65.7                                | 63.6           | 40.2   | 23.4             | 1089                             | 105                    | 42    | 759                 | 203                                   | 104                                |
| <hr/>         |                                     |                |        |                  |                                  |                        |       |                     |                                       |                                    |
| 1967          |                                     |                |        |                  |                                  |                        |       |                     |                                       |                                    |
| Jan           | 67.7                                | 65.1           | 40.3   | 24.8             | 1297                             | 150                    | 59    | 942                 | 157                                   | 107                                |
| Feb           | 65.9                                | 64.1           | 40.2   | 23.9             | 1163                             | 139                    | 55    | 894                 | 135                                   | 104                                |
| March         | 97.0                                | 95.5           | 65.4   | 30.0             | 1167                             | 130                    | 58    | 928                 | 152                                   | 103                                |
| April         | 116.7                               | 114.5          | 76.5   | 38.1             | 1173                             | 125                    | 58    | 1028                | 162                                   | 125                                |
| May           | 137.2                               | 135.1          | 91.7   | 43.3             | 1310                             | 143                    | 55    | 1046                | 160                                   | 108                                |

Source: Department of Commerce, FHA, VA. 1/FHA annual totals include single family and multiple units. FHA refers to 1-4 family units only. 2/Based on 12,000 reporting places since 1962.