

October 10, 2016

# HOUSING CHECK-IN

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## KEY TAKEAWAYS

We continue to expect housing may add to GDP growth in 2017 and for the next several years, as the market normalizes following the severe housing bust of 2005–2010.

Housing affordability, housing supply, home mortgages supply, and home prices may largely determine the pace at which housing adds to GDP growth in the years ahead.

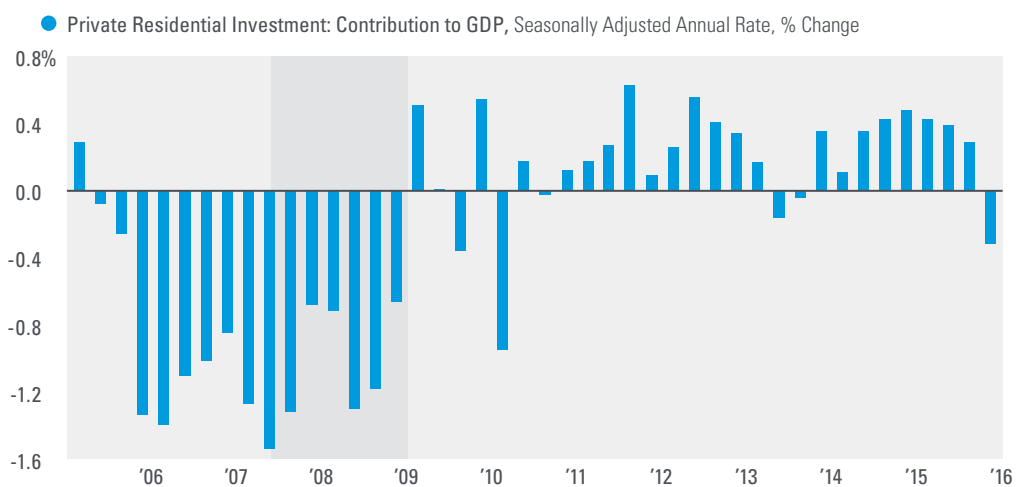
At only around 4% of GDP, housing is not large enough to carry the economy by itself.

Economic data released in the next two weeks will shed light on the state of the housing market as the third quarter of 2016 ended and the fourth quarter began, including reports on homebuilder sentiment for October 2016 (due October 18, 2016), housing starts and building permits for September 2016 (October 19, 2016), and existing home sales for September 2016 (October 20, 2016).

In addition, on October 28, 2016, the data on gross domestic product (GDP) for the third quarter of 2016 will be released, providing the first look at what impact housing had on the overall economy in the third quarter and in 2016 so far. Housing—as measured by residential fixed investment—added 0.3 percentage points to GDP growth in the first quarter of 2016 but gave that all back in the second quarter [Figure 1].

Despite the mixed performance so far in 2016, housing boosted GDP growth in 18 of the 21 quarters since early 2011. Prior to that, between late 2005 and late 2010, housing had been a drag on the overall economy in 17 of the 20 quarters (or five years), as the economy endured the housing-induced Great Recession and its aftermath. We continue to expect (per our long-held view) housing may add to GDP growth in 2016, 2017, and for the next several years, as the market normalizes following the severe housing bust of 2005–10, but we acknowledge, that at under 4% of GDP, housing alone cannot carry the U.S. economy.

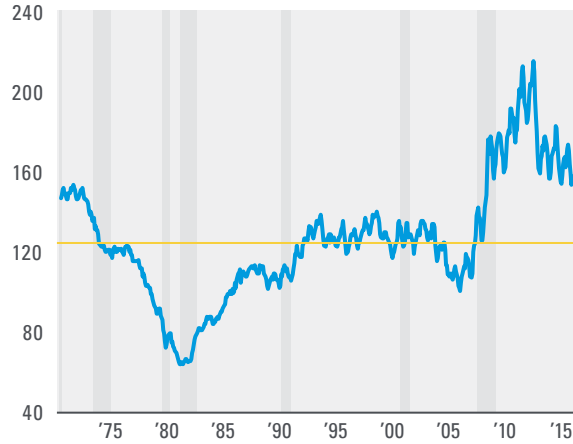
### 1 HOUSING HAS CONSISTENTLY ADDED TO GDP GROWTH SINCE 2011, AND WE EXPECT THAT TO CONTINUE IN THE COMING YEARS



Source: LPL Research, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Haver Analytics 10/10/16

## 2 RISING HOME PRICES HAVE MORE THAN OFFSET RISING INCOMES AND FALLING RATES

- Composite Housing Affordability Index  
Median (Qualifying) Income = 100

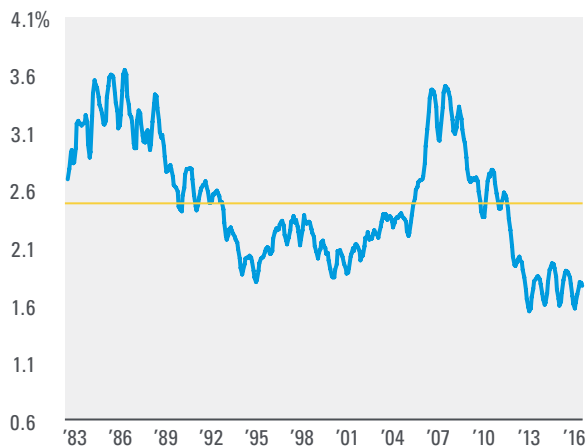


Source: LPL Research, National Association of Realtors, Haver Analytics 10/10/16

The three components of affordability (incomes, home prices, and mortgage rates) may all continue to move higher, potentially driving affordability lower back toward its long-term average, but not much below.

## 3 THE INVENTORY OF NEW AND EXISTING HOMES FOR SALE REMAINS WELL BELOW AVERAGE

- Inventory of New and Existing Homes as a % of Total Households



Source: LPL Research, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Association of Realtors 10/10/16

## KEY DRIVERS OF HOUSING IN 2016 AND BEYOND

Several factors will likely determine the pace at which housing adds to GDP growth in the coming years. Among them are:

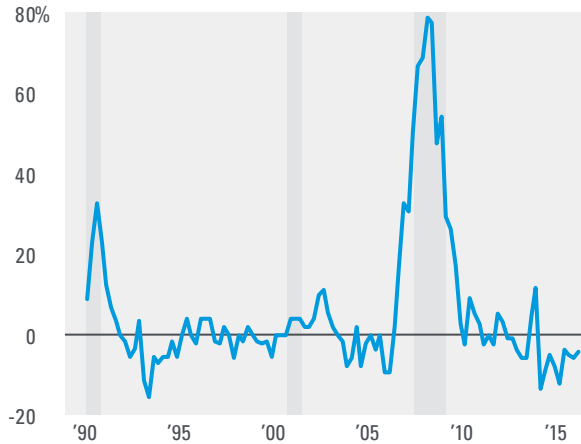
- **Housing affordability.** The ability of a household with the median income to afford the payments on a median-priced house at prevailing mortgage rates hit an all-time high in early 2013, before the big run-up in mortgage rates that began in mid-May 2013, as a result of what is now known as the “taper tantrum.” Since then—despite another sharp drop in mortgage rates since late 2013—a combination of rising home prices and sluggish income growth have driven affordability some 25% lower. Although mortgage rates have moved about 100 basis points (1.00%) lower since the end of the taper tantrum, they remain 25 basis points higher than the 2013 lows that preceded it.

Despite the drop, affordability is well above its long-term average [Figure 2] and also well above levels during the mid-2000s housing boom. The three components of affordability (incomes, home prices, and mortgage rates) may all continue to move higher, potentially driving affordability lower back toward its long-term average, but not much below.

- **Housing supply.** At 235,000 units, the number of new single-family homes for sale at the end of August 2016 was well below the peak of nearly 600,000 units for sale in 2006, but above recent lows (140,000–150,000 units). The number of existing single-family homes for sale (1.8 million in August 2016) is 1.6 million units below the peak of 3.4 million set in mid-2007. Combined, the level of new and existing homes for sale remains well below average [Figure 3] relative to the number of households in the economy—and the low level of inventory is likely to be a big factor in driving housing construction in the coming years. We’ll receive an update on both new and existing home inventories (through September 2016) in the last two weeks of October.

#### 4 IN RECENT YEARS, BANKS' LENDING STANDARDS FOR MORTGAGES HAVE BEEN THE EASIEST SINCE THE MID 1990s

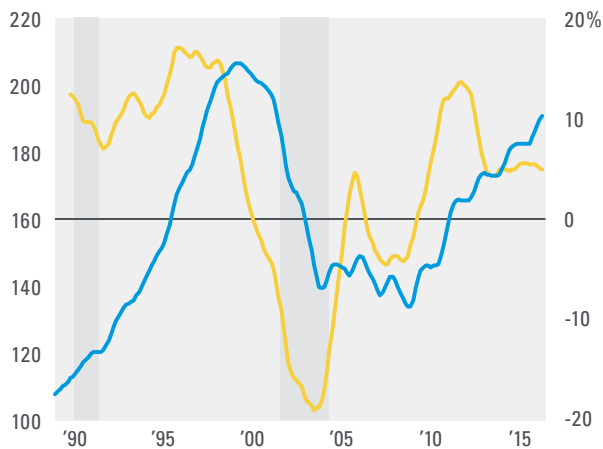
- Residential Mortgages (Federal Reserve Board Senior Loan Survey): Net Share, Banks Tightening, Haver Estimate



Source: LPL Research, Federal Reserve Board, Haver Analytics 10/10/16

#### 5 HOME PRICE APPRECIATION IN RECENT YEARS IS TRENDING BACK TO THE LONG-TERM AVERAGE NEAR 4% PER YEAR

- S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller Home Price Index: Composite 20 Jan. 2000 = 100 (Left Scale)
- S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller Home Price Index: Composite 20 Year-to-Year % Change (Right Scale)



Source: LPL Research, Standard & Poor's, Haver Analytics 10/10/16

■ **Home mortgages supply.** From the mid-1990s through late 2006, bank lending standards (required down payments, credit scores, work history, etc.) for residential mortgages were relatively easy. Coupled with low rates and rapid innovation in financial products backing residential mortgages, this easy credit helped to fuel the housing boom. The banking industry began tightening lending standards in late 2006 and continued to tighten standards for more than two years. Lending standards eased in 2009 and 2010, but remained more restrictive than they were in the peak boom years from 2004–06. The latest survey (third quarter 2016) revealed that although bank lending standards for home mortgages tightened a bit between the second and third quarters of 2016, over the past two years, they have been the easiest in 20 years [Figure 4]. The improvement in this indicator in recent quarters is a good sign and may help to offset the recent rise in the rates banks are charging for mortgages. The market will get an update on this metric for Q4 2016, via the Federal Reserve's Senior Loan Officer Survey, in early November 2016.

■ **Home prices.** The market will have to wait until the final two weeks of October 2016 for an update on home prices via the new and existing home sales reports for September 2016 and the S&P/CoreLogic Home Price Index for August 2016. There are various measures and sources for home price data, which are a component of housing affordability. In general, home prices rose rapidly (much faster than inflation or income growth) in the early 2000s, peaked in 2004–06, fell between 25 and 30% through 2009–10, and have been in recovery mode since then. The S&P/CoreLogic Index [Figure 5] is a good proxy for home prices nationwide. It shows the big run-up in prices in 2000–06, the big drop in prices from 2006–09, the sideways move in house prices in 2009–12, and more solid gains in 2013–16. On a year-over-year basis, the Core Logic Home Price, has been moderating over the past two years, after peaking

at an unsustainable 14% year-over-year increase in late 2013, to a more sustainable 4–5% pace over the past year. We would view price increases in that range, which would be in line with recent personal income growth and consistent with the average housing price gain in the past 35 years, as a sign that the housing market is stable and poised to be a consistent contributor to GDP growth in the quarters and years ahead, without the boom bust cycle of the 1990s and 2000s.

## CONCLUSION

We continue to expect that housing may add to economic growth in the years ahead. Although interest rates are likely to move higher in the coming years, we expect the increases to be modest and in general, we expect the trends that have helped the housing market recover from the housing bust to remain in place. Still, like other segments of the economy that have struggled to recover from the Great Recession, the housing recovery remains choppy and uneven. ■

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The economic forecasts set forth in the presentation may not develop as predicted.

The S&P/Case-Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index measures the change in value of the U.S. residential housing market. This index tracks the growth in value of real estate by following the purchase price and resale value of homes that have undergone a minimum of two arm's-length transactions. The index is named for its creators, Karl Case and Robert Shiller.

The Composite Housing Affordability Index is published monthly by the National Association of Realtors and measures median household income relative to the income needed to purchase a median-priced house.

The National Association of Home Builders Housing Market Index is based on a monthly survey of NAHB members designed to take the pulse of the single-family housing market. The survey asks respondents to rate market conditions for the sale of new homes at the present time and in the next six months as well as the traffic of prospective buyers of new homes.

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