

# Homebuilders

# Builder confidence continues to rise with lower mortgage rates and better sales

**Industry Overview** 

#### Housing starts down sequentially, but SF improves

March 2023 housing starts pace (seasonally adjusted annualized rate) fell to 1.420MM, compared to February starts of 1.432MM (-0.8% m/m) and 1.716MM in Mar 2022 (-17.2% y/y). Multifamily (MF) starts fell on a m/m basis, but were up y/y (-5.9% m/m, +6.5% y/y), while single family (SF) was up 2.7% m/m, but down -27.7% y/y. The Northeast and South increased starts on a MoM basis (+72.4% and 6.8% m/m respectively), while the West and Midwest fell (-28.1% and -23.6%, respectively). Supply outlook: We expect homebuilders to continue to moderate the pace of new construction and US single-family starts to fall <750k in 2023 as builders match their starts and selling pace (new home sales currently running <700k). However, there is upside risk to our outlook if the recent improvement in new home demand sustains through the year. We expect multifamily starts to remain relatively resilient in 2023, but slow in 2024.

#### **Building permits down YoY and MoM**

March 2023 building permits (SAAR) fell to 1.413MM compared to 1.550MM in February 2023 (-8.8% m/m and -24.8% y/y). Single-family permits rose +4.1% m/m, but fell -29.7% y/y. Multifamily permits fell -22.1% m/m and -16.9% y/y.

### MBA purchase index still down significantly YoY

Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) purchase applications index (seasonally adjusted) continue to decline YoY and WoW in the week ended April 14th

## Four consecutive monthly gains for NAHB confidence

Homebuilder confidence, as measured by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Index, rose 1 point to 45 in April, marking the fourth month of sequential increases. Despite a challenging macroeconomic environment and instability in the banking system, builders are cautiously optimistic as 2023 sales have improved significantly from 4Q22.

#### Exhibit 1: NAHB Homebuilder sentiment index Homebuilder sentiment rose to 45 in April



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Equity **United States** Homebuilders

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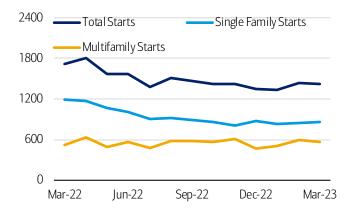
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### Housing starts fell MoM and YoY, but SF improves MoM

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## Exhibit 2: US Housings Starts (SAAR; 1,000s units)

Mar multifamily -5.9% m/m, single family +2.7% m/m

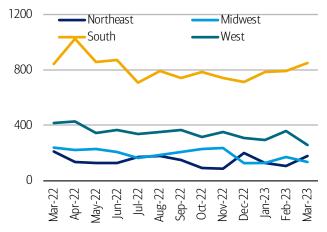


Source: Haver Analytics

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#### Exhibit 3: US Housings Starts (SAAR; 1,000s units) by region

Northeast and South trended higher m/m in March, but Midwest and West were down

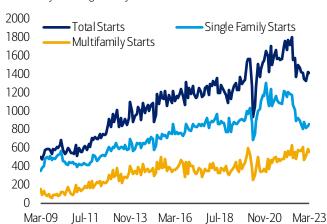


Source: Haver Analytics

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## Exhibit 4: US Housings Starts (SAAR; 1,000s units)

Multifamily and single family starts since 2008

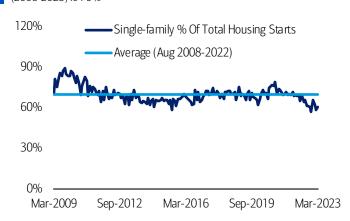


**Source:** Haver Analytics Note: latest data pint is Mar 2023

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# Exhibit 5: US Housings Starts Single-Family as a % of Total Starts (SAAR; 1,000s units)

Single-family represents 61% of total housing starts in March 2023. Average (2008-2023) is 70%



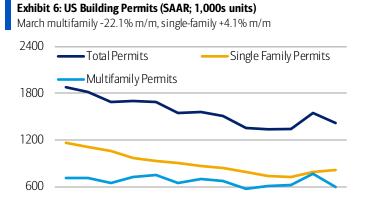
**Source:** Haver Analytics; Note: latest data pint is March 2023

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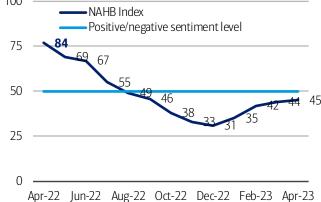
### Building permits down YoY and MoM

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**Exhibit 7: NAHB Homebuilder sentiment index** Builder sentiment rose to 45 in April



Source: National Association of Home Builders

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## Higher rates in Feb drove a slight decrease in affordability

Sep-22 Nov-22

Jan-23

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Mortgage rates have increased rapidly year-to-date affecting the affordability index, but recently pulled back a bit. The National Association of Realtors (NAR) affordability index was still down 19.7% YoY in February, the latest data point, and -0.3% MoM. The 30year fixed mortgage rate was 6.66% at the end of Feb, compared to the 7.08% peak in November.

# Exhibit 8: Affordability vs Freddie Mac 30 YR mortgage Rate

Mar-22 May-22 Jul-22

Source: Haver Analytics



Source: Haver Analytics

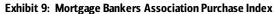
Note: most recent affordability as of Feb

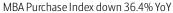
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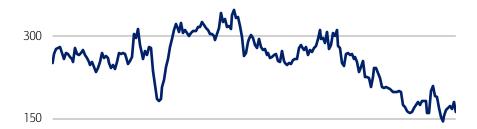
#### MBA Purchase Index fell 10% last week

The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) purchase index measures mortgage loan application volume. The Index is a leading indicator of home sales by four to six weeks. Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) purchase applications index (seasonally adjusted) fell 10.0% to 161.6 during the week ended April 14<sup>th</sup> and was down 36.4% on a y/y basis.











**Source:** Haver Analytics Data through April 14, 2023

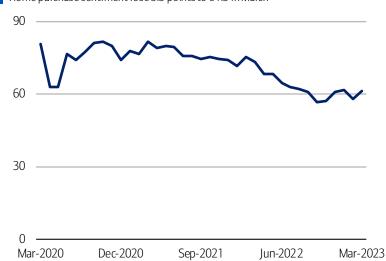
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#### **HPSI** index rose in March

Home purchase sentiment index (HPSI), as measured by Fannie Mae, increased to 61.3 in March. The index is still close to its all-time low (56.7 Oct 2022). Four of the index's six components rose m/m, most notably those associated with home-selling conditions and consumers' sense of job security.

#### Exhibit 10: Fannie Mae home purchase sentiment index

Home purchase sentiment rose 3.3 points to 61.3 in March



Source: Fannie Mae HPSI

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 ≤ 70%

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 ≥ 0%
 ≤ 30%

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 ≥ 20%

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