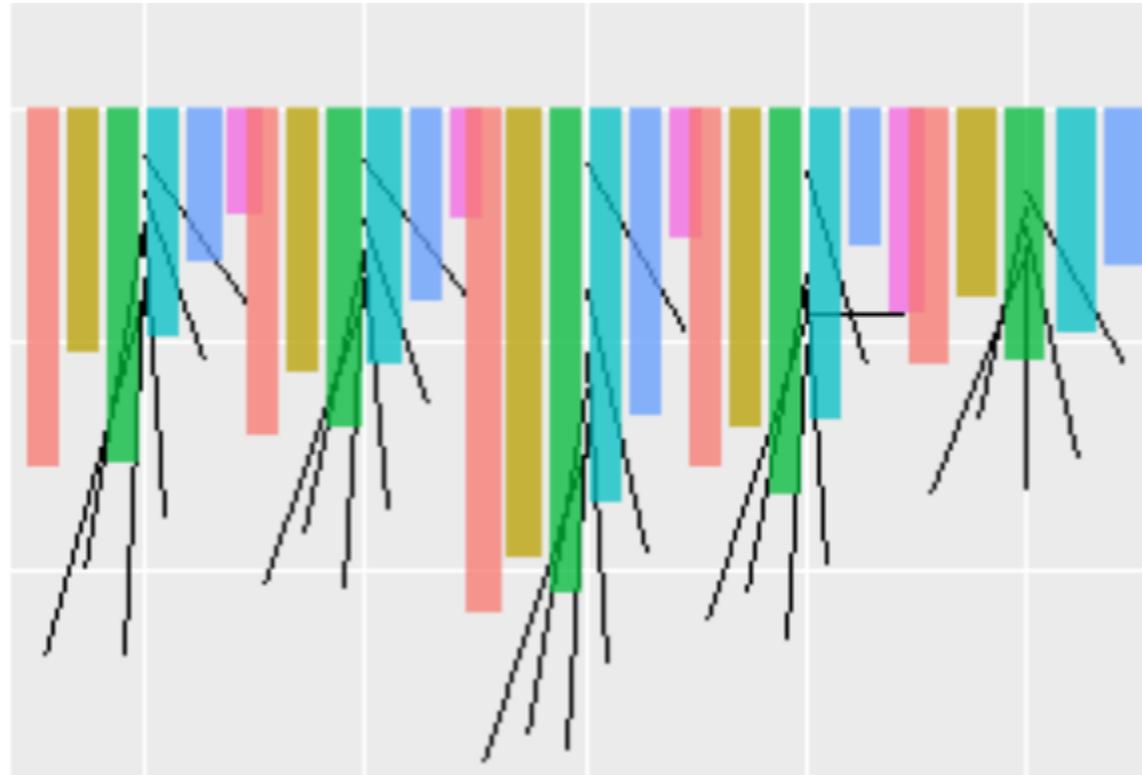


# Data Visualization

Len Kiefer, Dec 2020

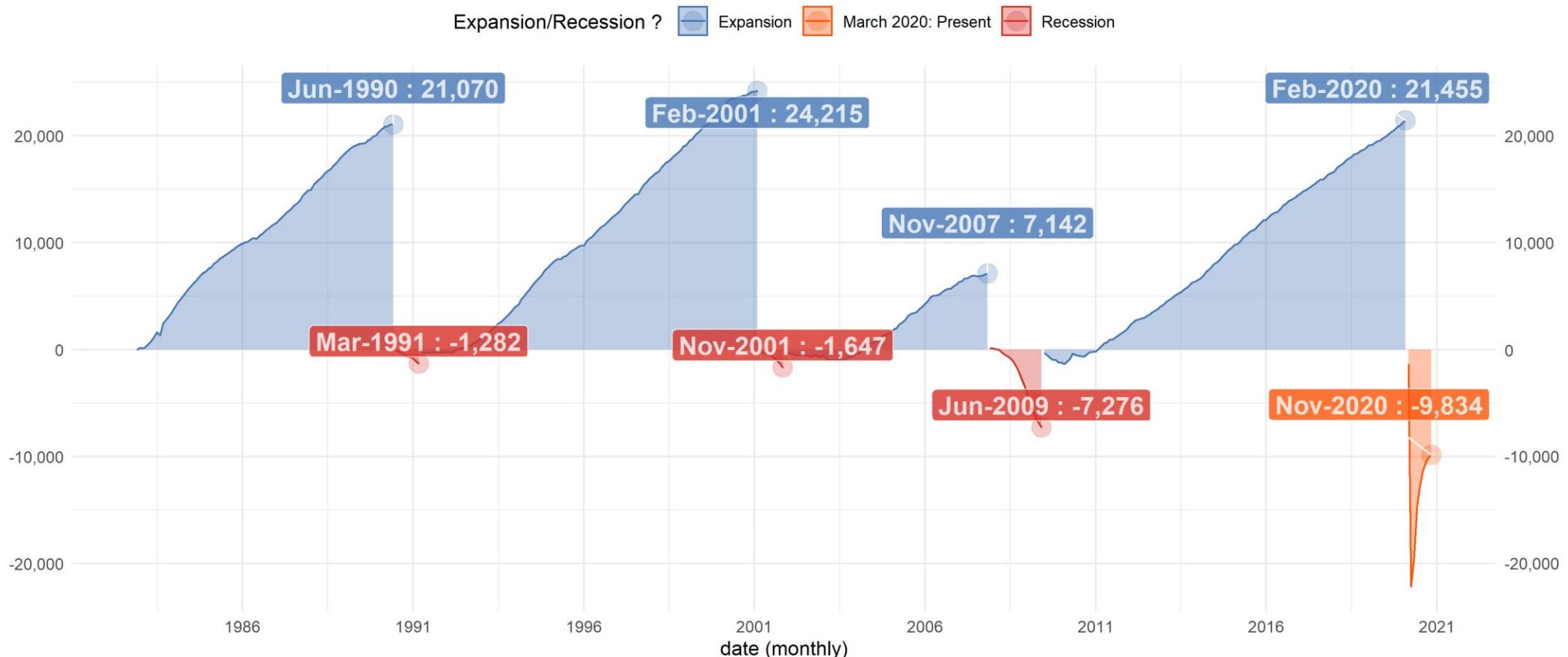
What can be [charted] at all can be [charted] clearly; and  
whereof one cannot [chart] thereof one must be silent.



# Visualizing Labor Market Data

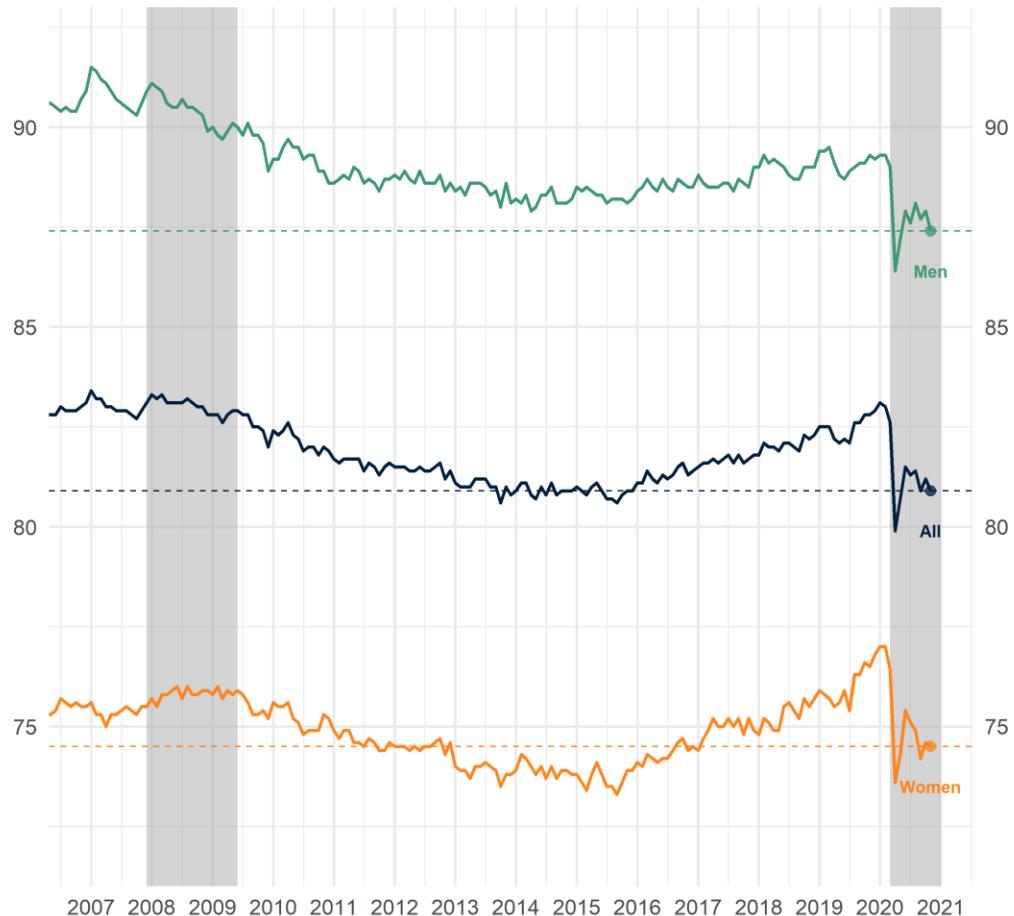
# Cumulative U.S. nonfarm payroll employment growth (1000s) in expansion/recession

labels indicate cumulative growth through end of expansion/recession



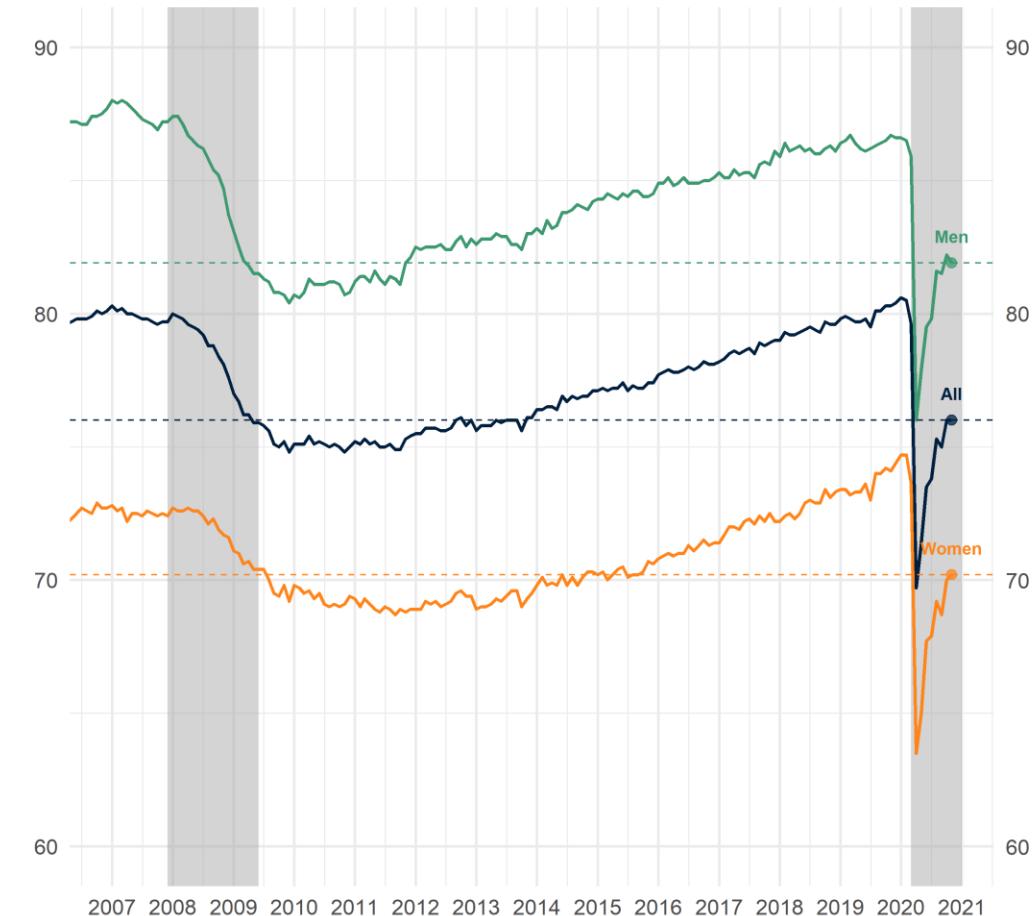
@lenkiefer Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics All Employees: Total Nonfarm Payrolls, retrieved from BLS, Dec 4, 2020. NBER recession dates

**Labor Force Participation Rate: Prime Working Age (25-54)**  
*in percentage points (seasonally adjusted)*



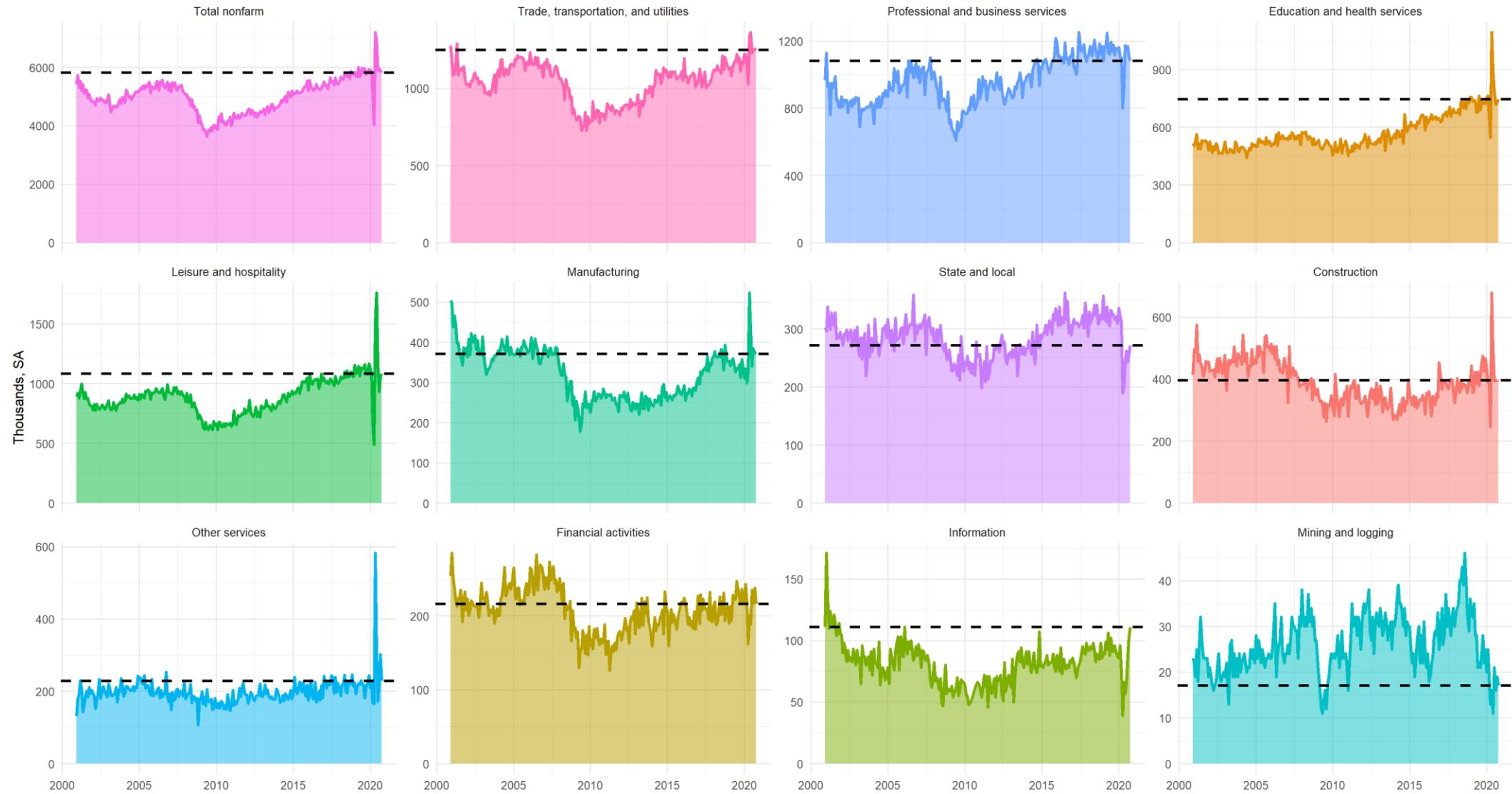
@lenkiefer Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, shaded bars NBER Recessions

**Employment-Population Ratio: Prime Working Age (25-54)**  
*in percentage points (seasonally adjusted)*

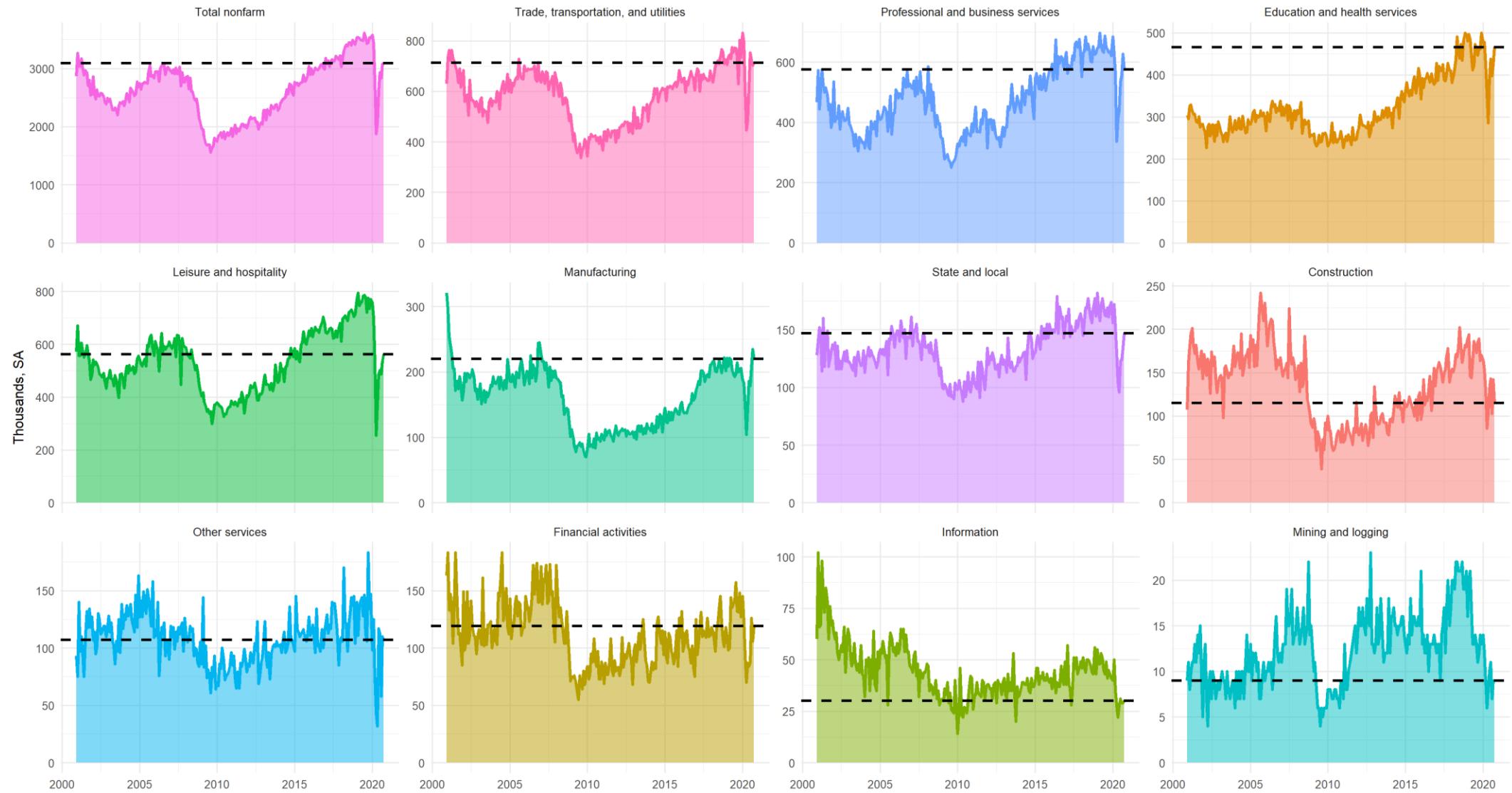


@lenkiefer Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, shaded bars NBER Recessions

Hires (Ths, seasonally-adjusted)  
by industry, dotted line value as of Oct-2020

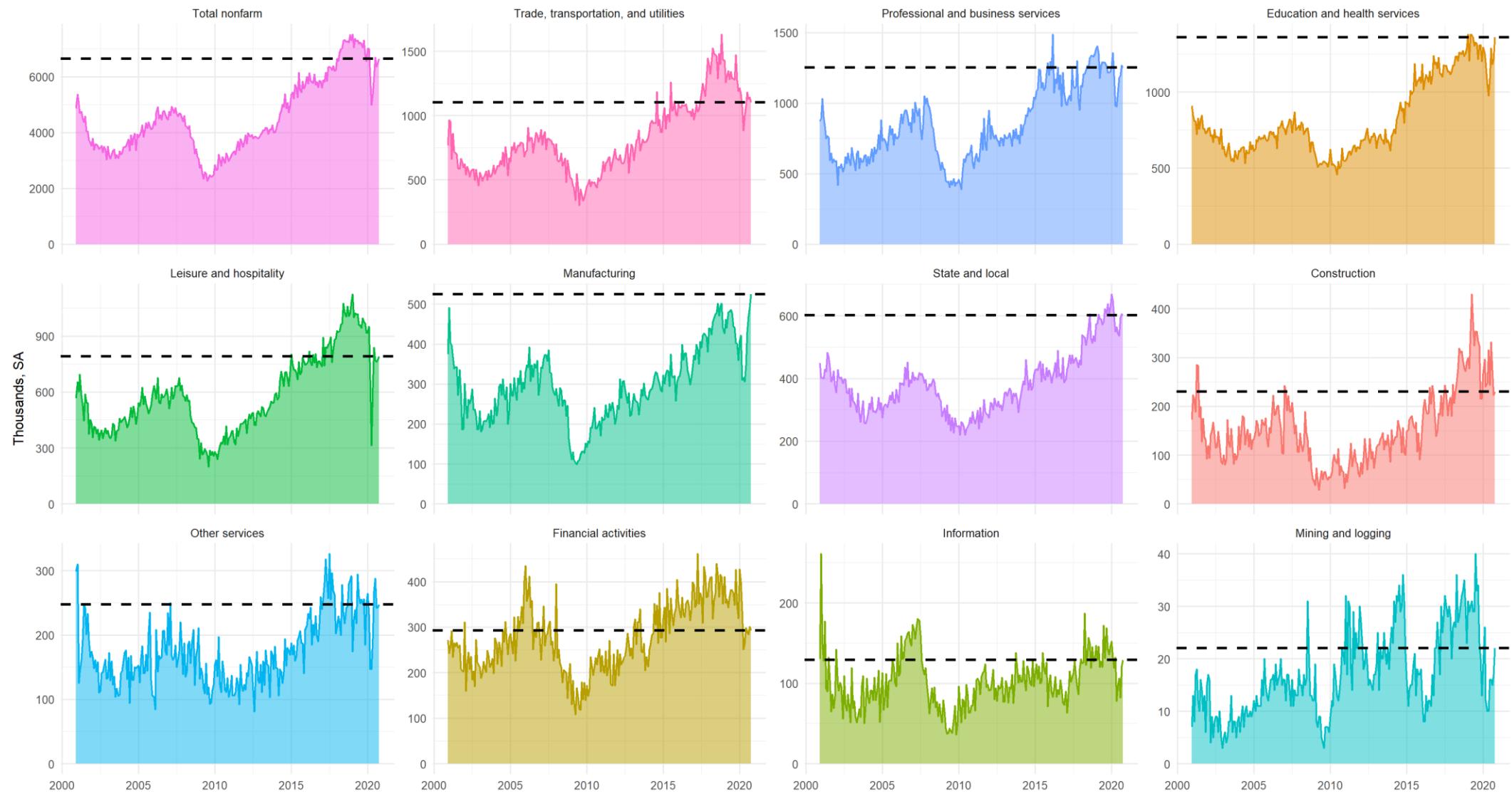


Quits (Ths, seasonally-adjusted)  
by industry, dotted line value as Oct-2020



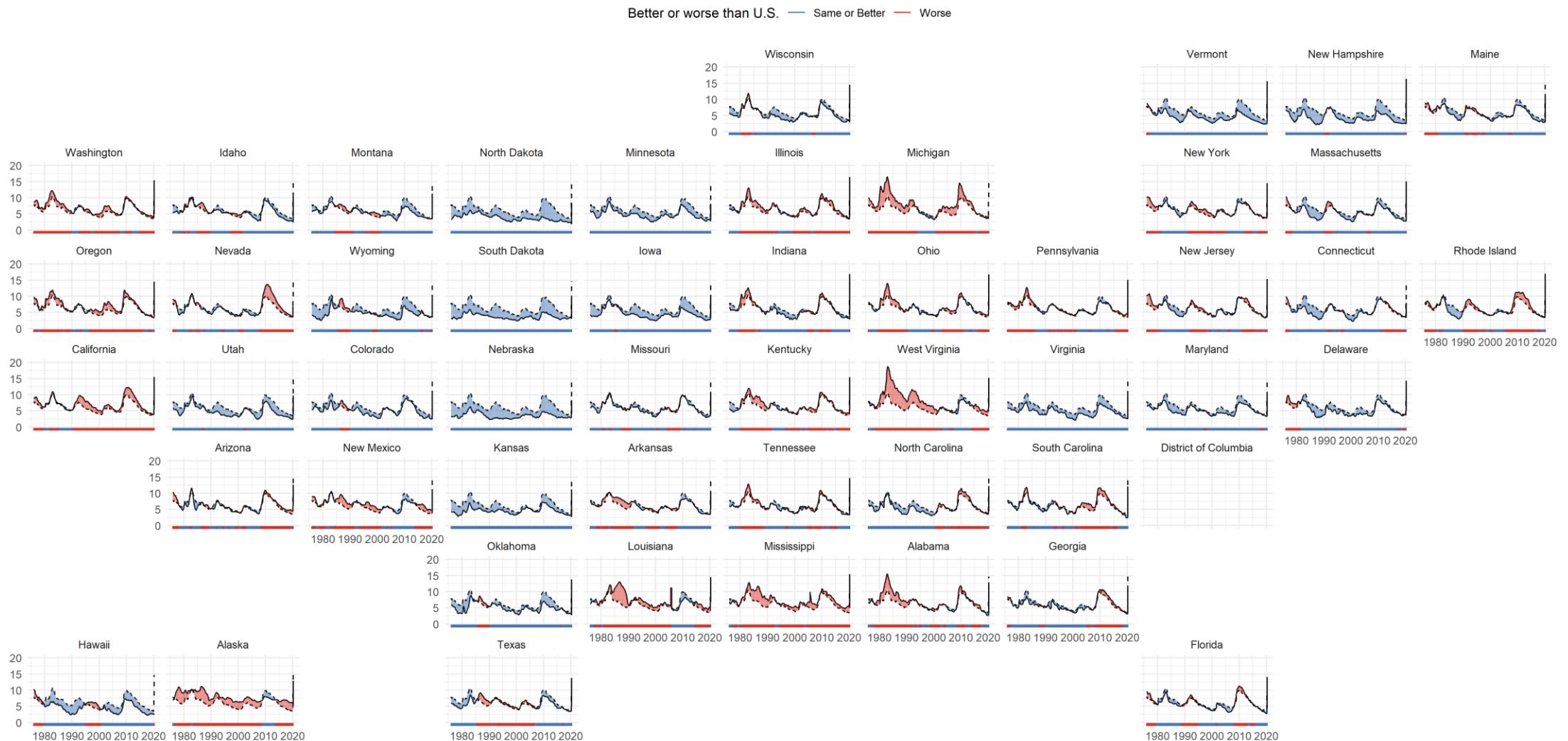
### Job Openings (Ths, seasonally-adjusted)

by industry, dotted line value as of Oct-2020



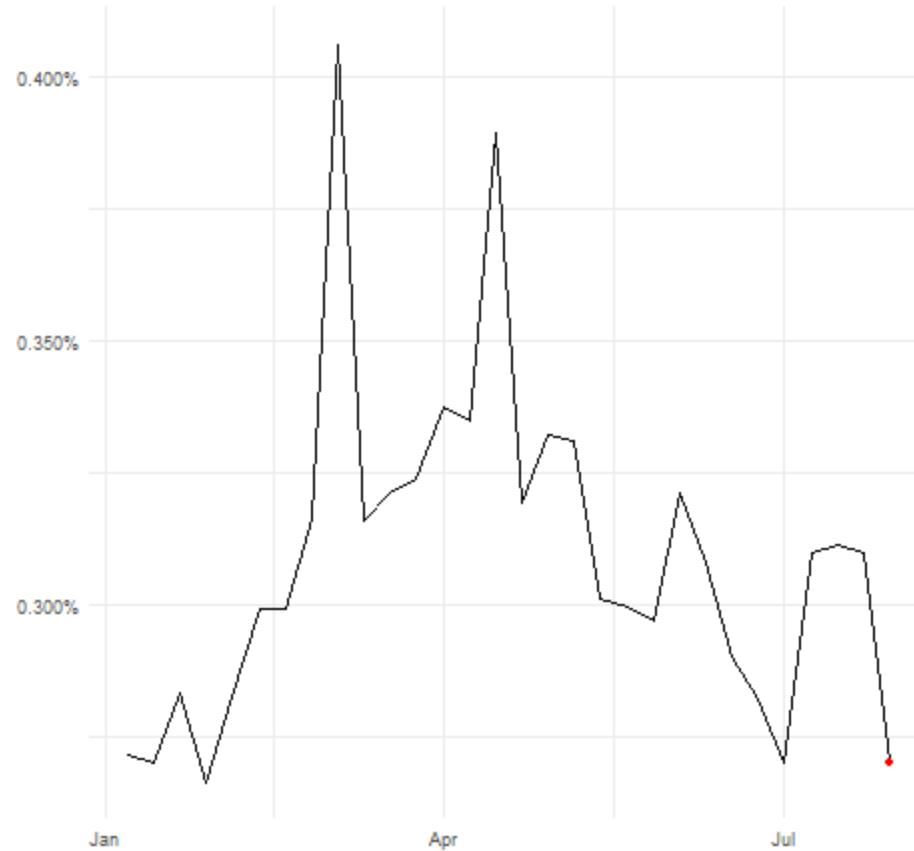
## The state of U.S. jobs - Working out @hrbmstr's workout of @stiles' Viz

Solid line is state unemployment rate, dotted line is U.S. average unemployment rate  
 Red (blue) indicates the state level is higher (lower) than the national average



@lenkiefer Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
 Viz based on <https://rud.is/b/2017/01/18/workout-wednesday-redux-2017-week-3/>,  
 itself based on <http://thedataviz.com/2016/12/14/four-decades-of-state-unemployment-rates-in-small-multiples-part-2/>

Initial Jobless Claims as a % of Labor Force (seasonally adjusted)



@lenkiefer Source: U.S. Department of Labor

# Visualizing Mortgage Data

## Mortgage Rates Remain Flat

December 10, 2020

Mortgage rates remain at record lows, resisting their typical correlation to Treasury yields, which have recently been moving higher. Mortgage spreads – the difference between mortgage rates and the 10-year Treasury rate – are declining from their elevated levels earlier this year. Although today's mortgage spread is about 1.8 percentage points and still has some room to move down if the 10-year Treasury continues to rise, it's encouraging to see that the spread is almost back to normal levels.

- Current Mortgage Rates Data Since 1971 [\[LS\]](#)

## Primary Mortgage Market Survey®

U.S. weekly averages as of 12/10/2020

### 30-Yr FRM

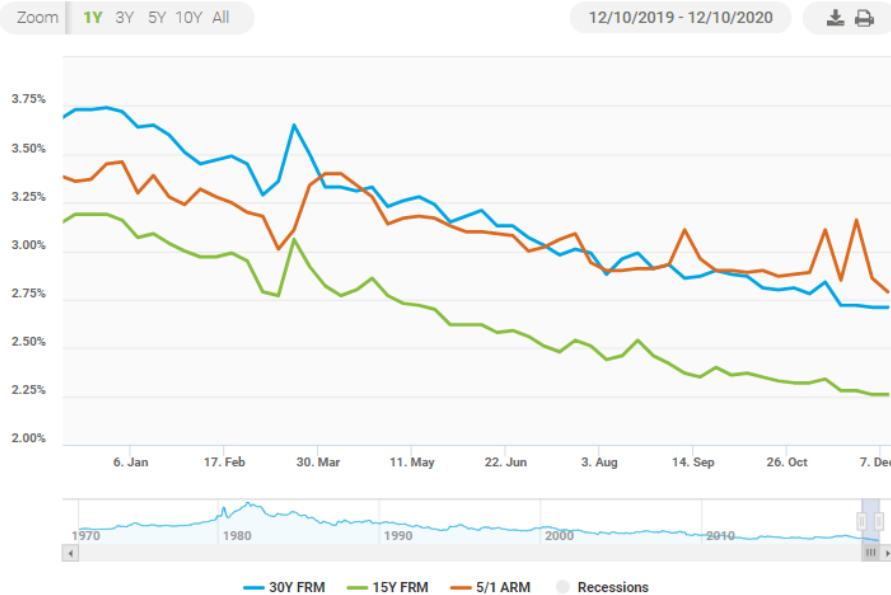
**2.71%** | 0.00 1-Wk  
▼ 1.02 1-Yr  
0.7 Fees/Points

### 15-Yr FRM

**2.26%** | 0.00 1-Wk  
▼ 0.93 1-Yr  
0.6 Fees/Points

### 5/1-Yr ARM

**2.79%** | ▼ 0.07 1-Wk  
▼ 0.57 1-Yr  
0.3 Fees/Points



## Freddie Mac House Price Index (FMHPI™)

### Explore House Price Trends

Review national housing statistics and compare to additional states or metros as of [October, 2020](#)

United States

Virginia

[Add another state or metro](#)

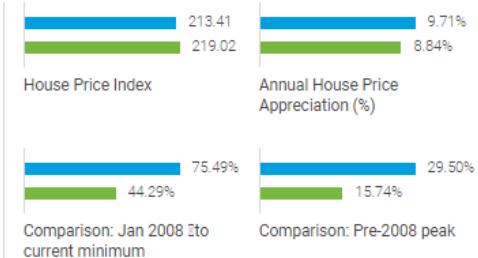


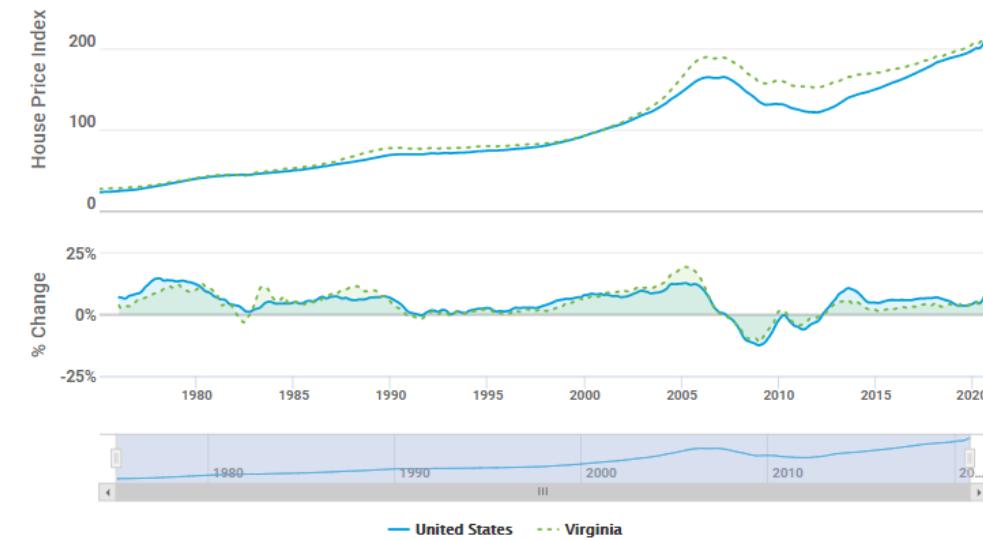
Chart Table

Zoom

1Y 3Y 5Y 10Y All

Show % Change

01/01/1975 - 10/01/2020



## Monthly average mortgage rates by year\*

U.S. average 30-year fixed mortgage rate (%)



year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2010	5.03	4.99	4.97	5.10	4.89	4.74	4.56	4.43	4.35	4.22	4.30	4.71
2011	4.75	4.95	4.84	4.84	4.64	4.51	4.54	4.27	4.11	4.07	3.99	3.96
2012	3.92	3.89	3.95	3.91	3.80	3.67	3.55	3.60	3.50	3.38	3.35	3.34
2013	3.41	3.53	3.56	3.45	3.54	4.07	4.37	4.46	4.49	4.19	4.25	4.46
2014	4.43	4.30	4.34	4.34	4.19	4.16	4.13	4.12	4.16	4.04	4.00	3.86
2015	3.67	3.71	3.77	3.67	3.84	3.98	4.05	3.91	3.89	3.80	3.94	3.96
2016	3.87	3.66	3.69	3.60	3.60	3.57	3.44	3.44	3.46	3.47	3.77	4.20
2017	4.15	4.17	4.20	4.04	4.01	3.90	3.97	3.88	3.80	3.90	3.92	3.95
2018	4.03	4.33	4.44	4.47	4.59	4.57	4.53	4.55	4.63	4.83	4.87	4.64
2019	4.46	4.37	4.26	4.14	4.07	3.80	3.77	3.62	3.60	3.69	3.70	3.72
2020	3.62	3.47	3.45	3.31	3.23	3.16	3.02	2.94	2.89	2.83	2.77	2.71

@lenkiefer Source: Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey through December 10, 2020

## Multiple record lows for the 30-year fixed mortgage rate in 2020

US weekly average 30-year fixed mortgage rate (%) dots indicate historical low (up to that week)



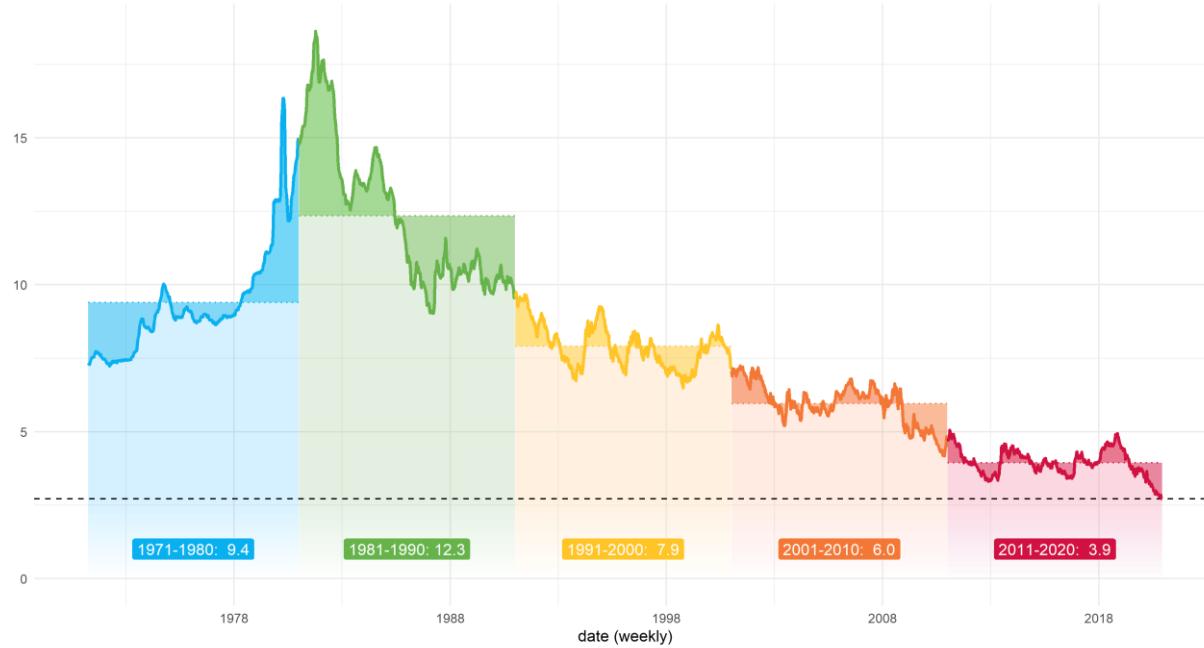
US weekly average 30-year fixed mortgage rate (%) dots indicate historical low (up to that week)



@lenkiefer Source: Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey April 2, 1971 through December 10, 2020  
Dotted line at 2.71% average for week of December 10, 2020

### Mortgage rates over 5 decades

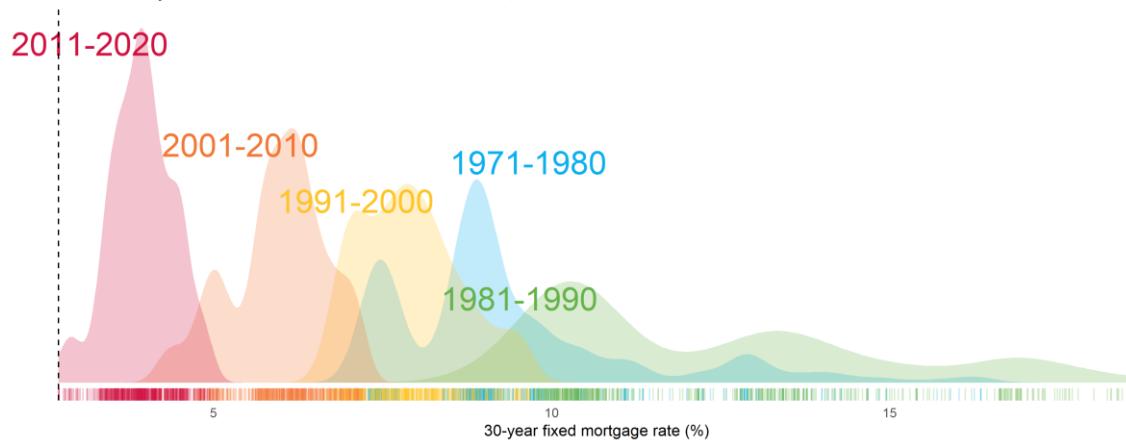
U.S. Weekly Average 30-year fixed mortgage rate April 2, 1971 to December 10, 2020  
Line weekly value, dark shaded area from decade average to weekly value



@lenkiefer Source: Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey

### Estimated density over weekly values

Ticks at bottom weekly observations, dotted line value for December 10, 2020



# Lower rates offset higher home prices

*Mortgage affordability for conventional loans*

## Monthly mortgage payment (P&I)

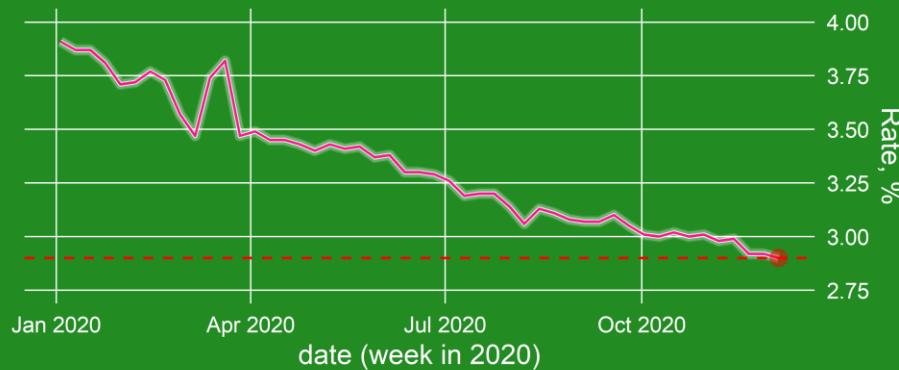
for average loan size, average rate



## Average conventional purchase mortgage loan size



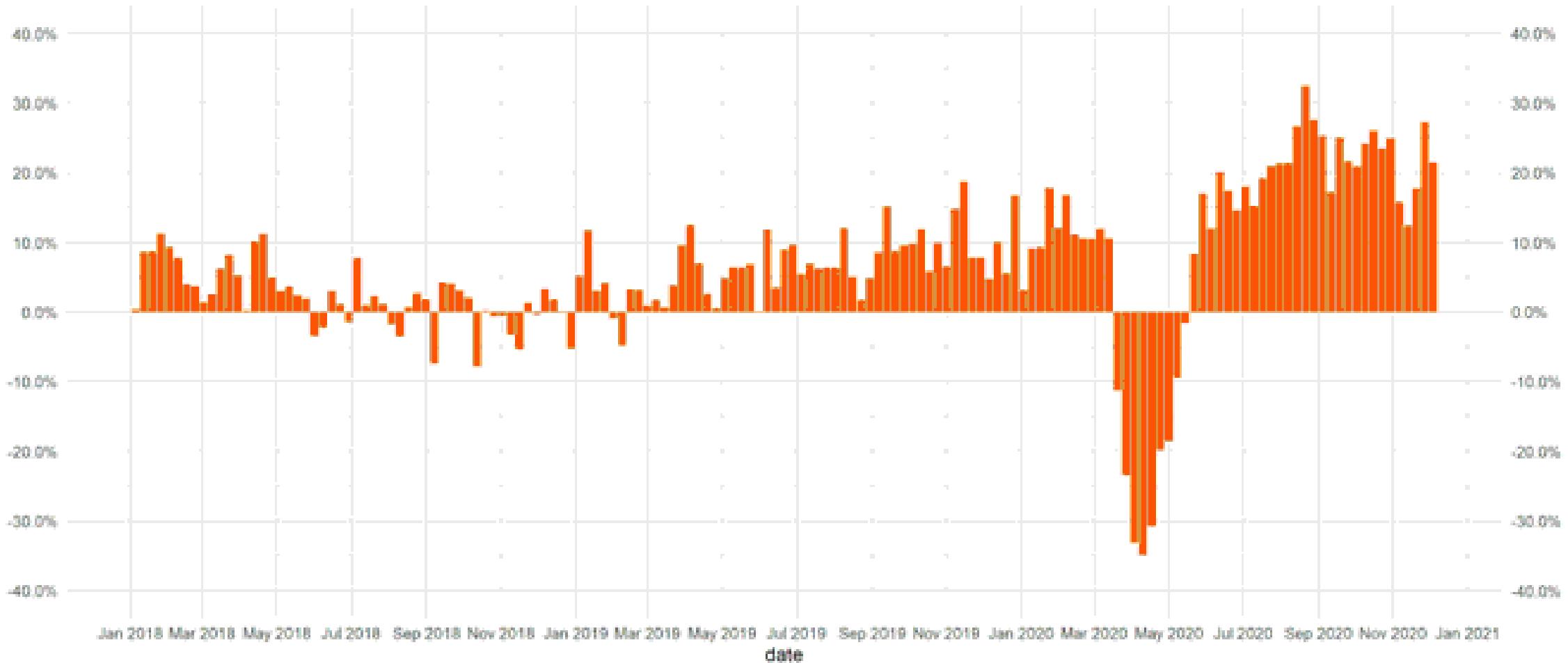
## Average interest rate



@lenkiefer Source: Mortgage Bankers Association, Weekly Applications Survey data through December 04, 2020

## U.S. Home Purchase Mortgage Applications

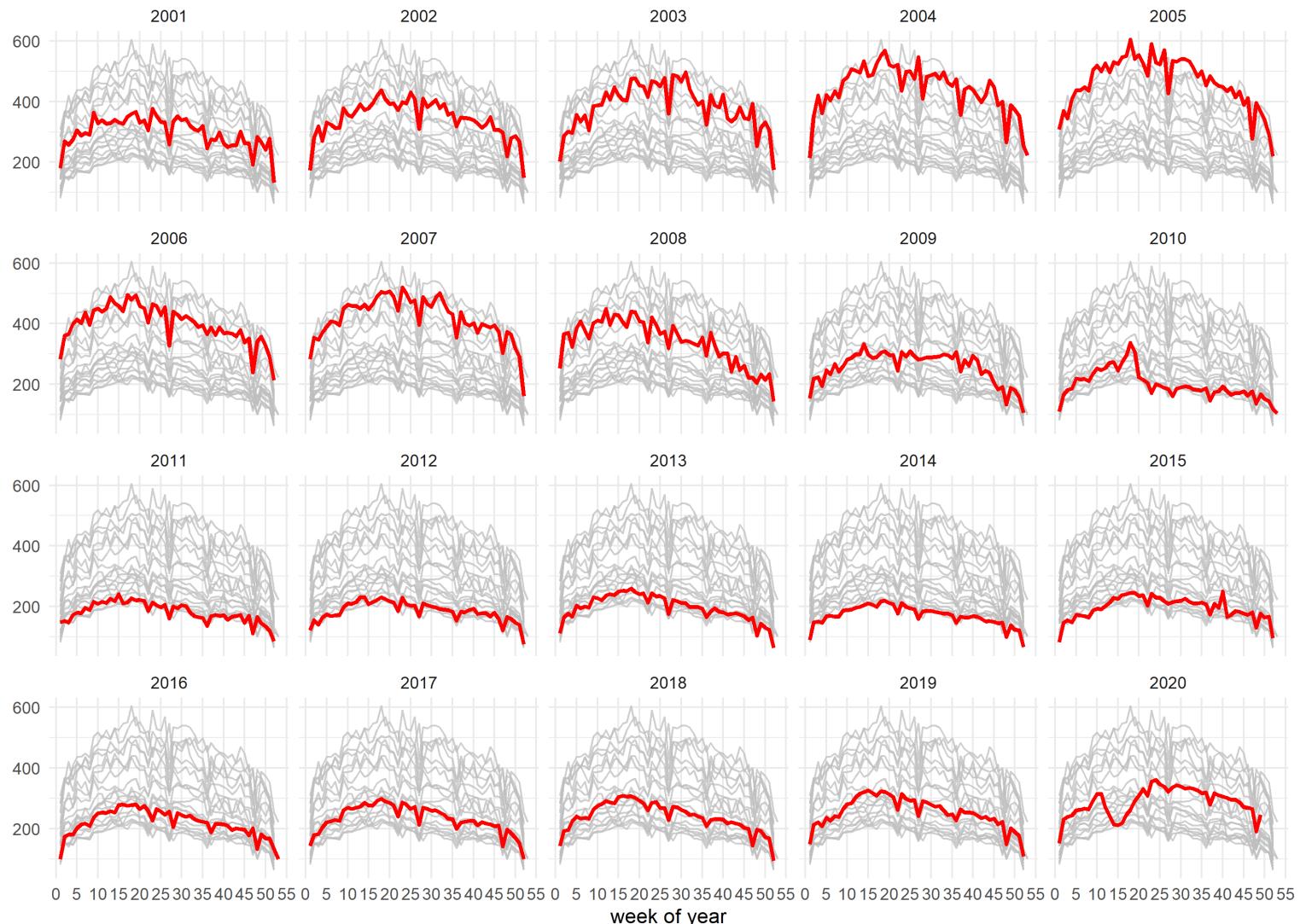
52-week percent change in seasonally adjusted purchase mortgage applications index



©Jenksfeier Source: Mortgage Bankers Association, data through December 04, 2020

## U.S. Mortgage Purchase Activity Rebounds

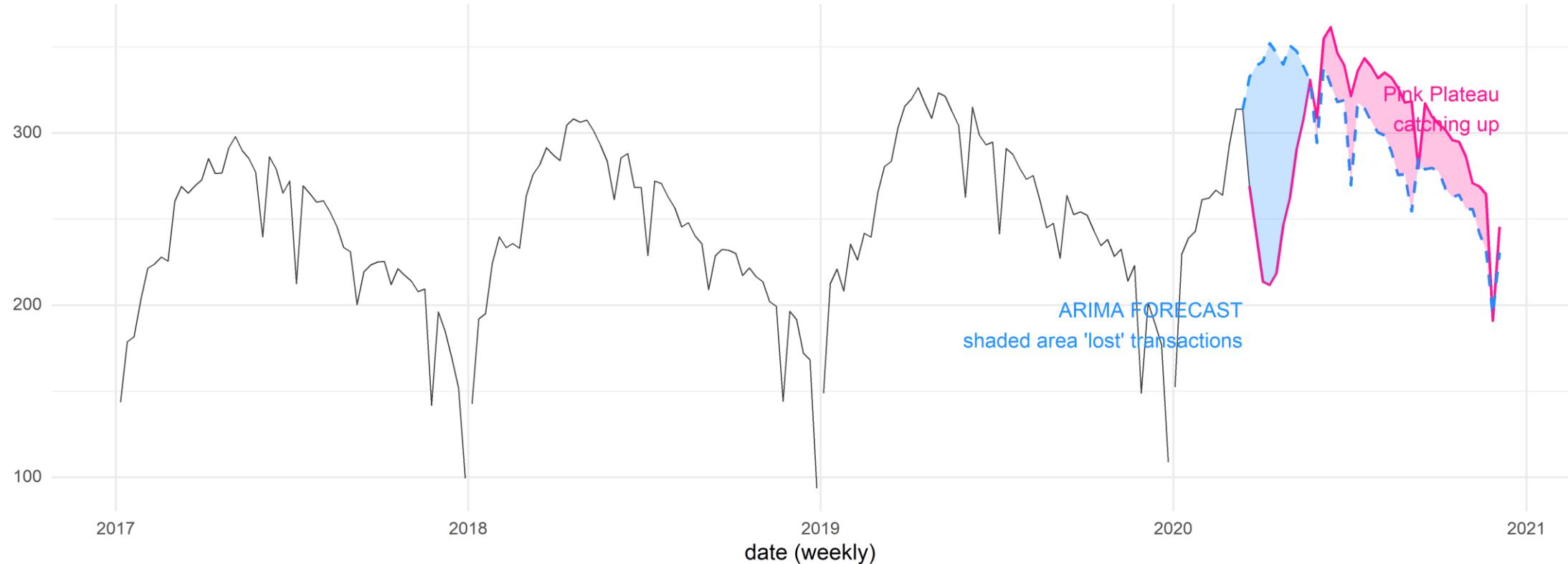
Purchase Application Index (Mar 16, 1990 =100, not seasonally adjusted)  
Gray lines all years 2001-2020



@lenkiefer Source: Mortgage Bankers Association, data through December 04, 2020

## **U.S. Mortgage Purchase Activity Rebounds**

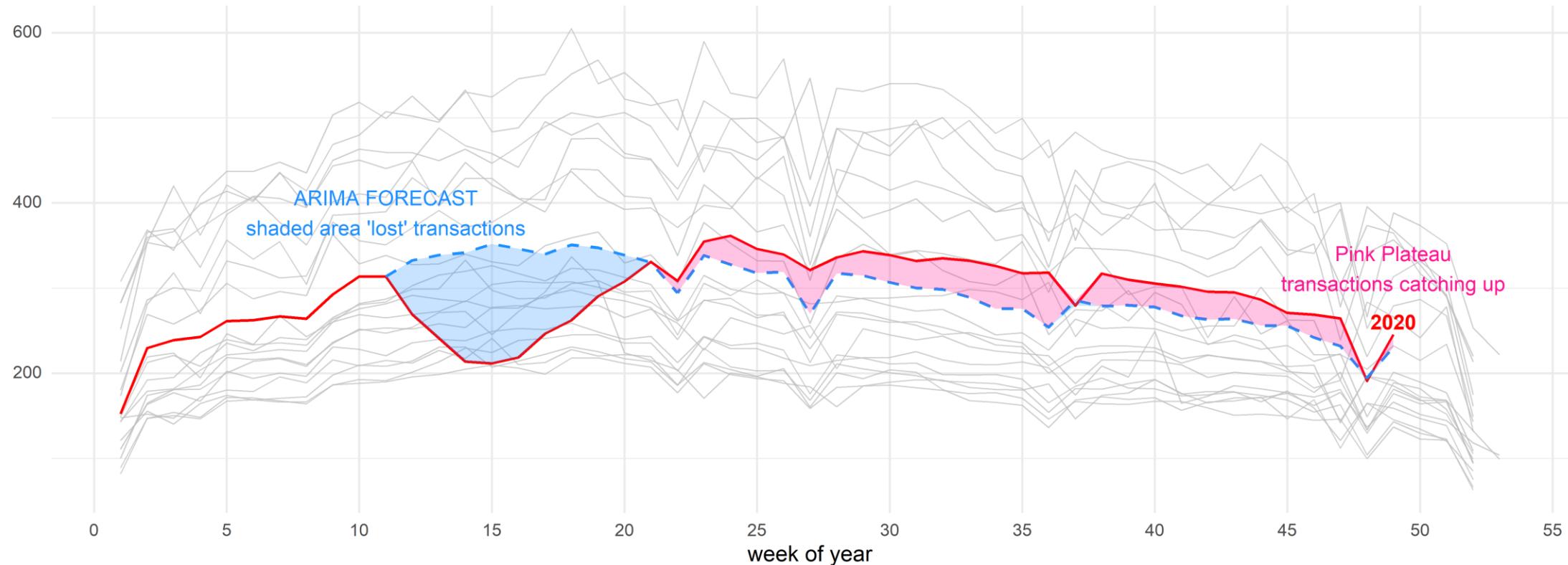
Purchase Application Index (Mar 16, 1990 =100, not seasonally adjusted) Gray lines all years 2001-2019



@lenkiefer Source: Mortgage Bankers Association, data through December 04, 2020  
Seasonal autoregressive  $(1,1,0)(1,1,0)_{52}$  Blue ARIMA forecast (extrapolated from 2020-03-13), orange actuals from 2020-03-13 forward.

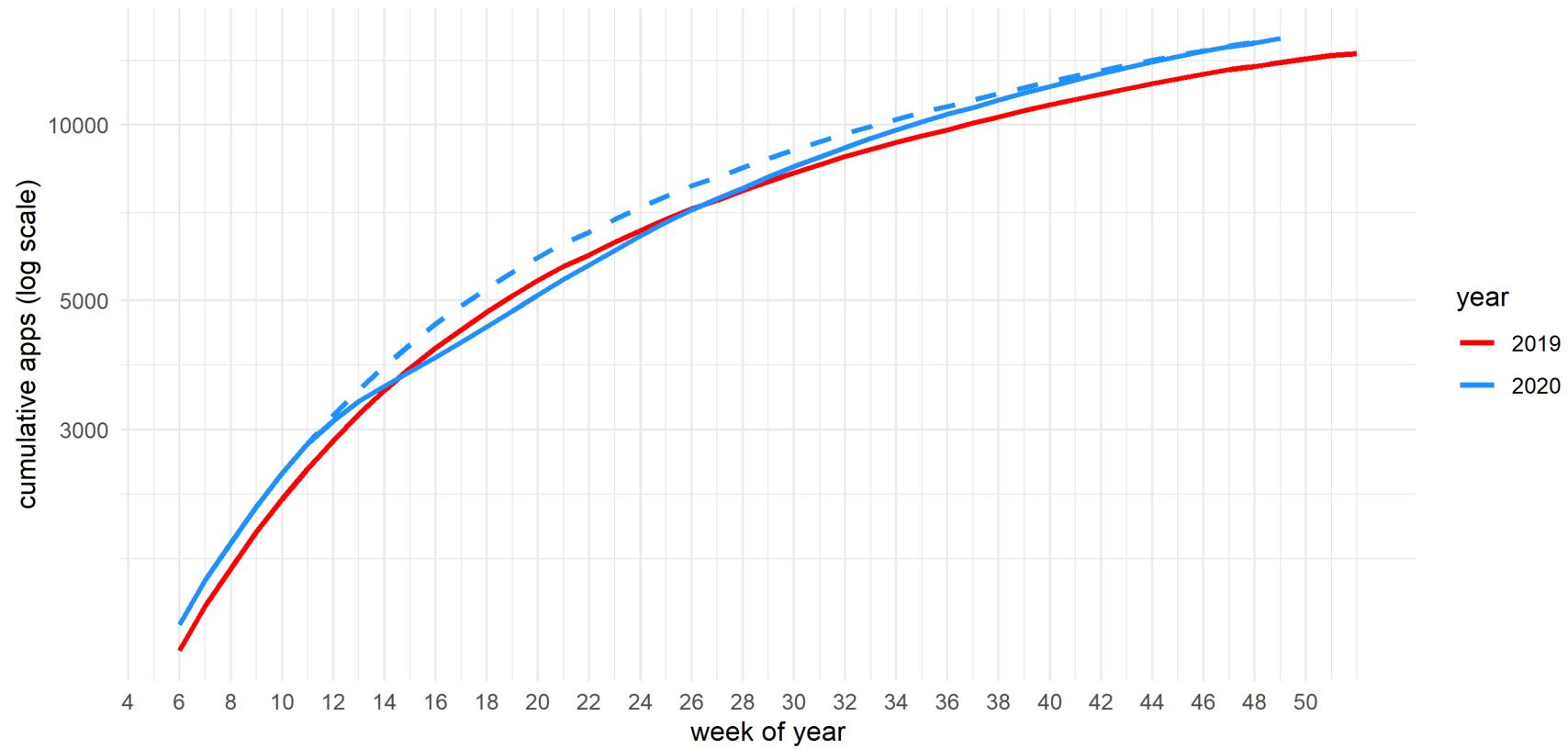
## **U.S. Mortgage Purchase Activity Rebounds**

Purchase Application Index (Mar 16, 1990 =100, not seasonally adjusted) Gray lines all years 2001-2019



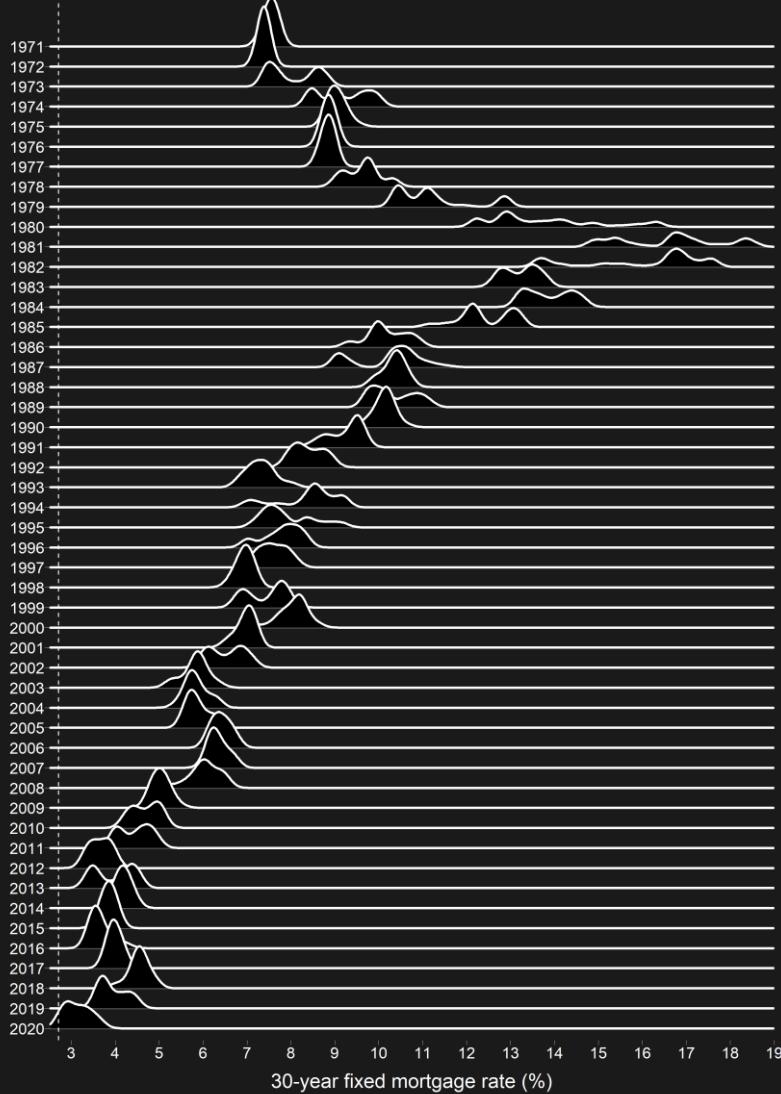
@lenkiefer Source: Mortgage Bankers Association, data through December 04, 2020  
Seasonal autoregressive  $(1,1,0)(1,1,0)_{52}$

Cumulative total home purchase mortgage applications by year  
dotted line ARIMA forecast for 2020 starting March 13



@lenkiefer Source: Mortgage Bankers Association, data through December 04, 2020

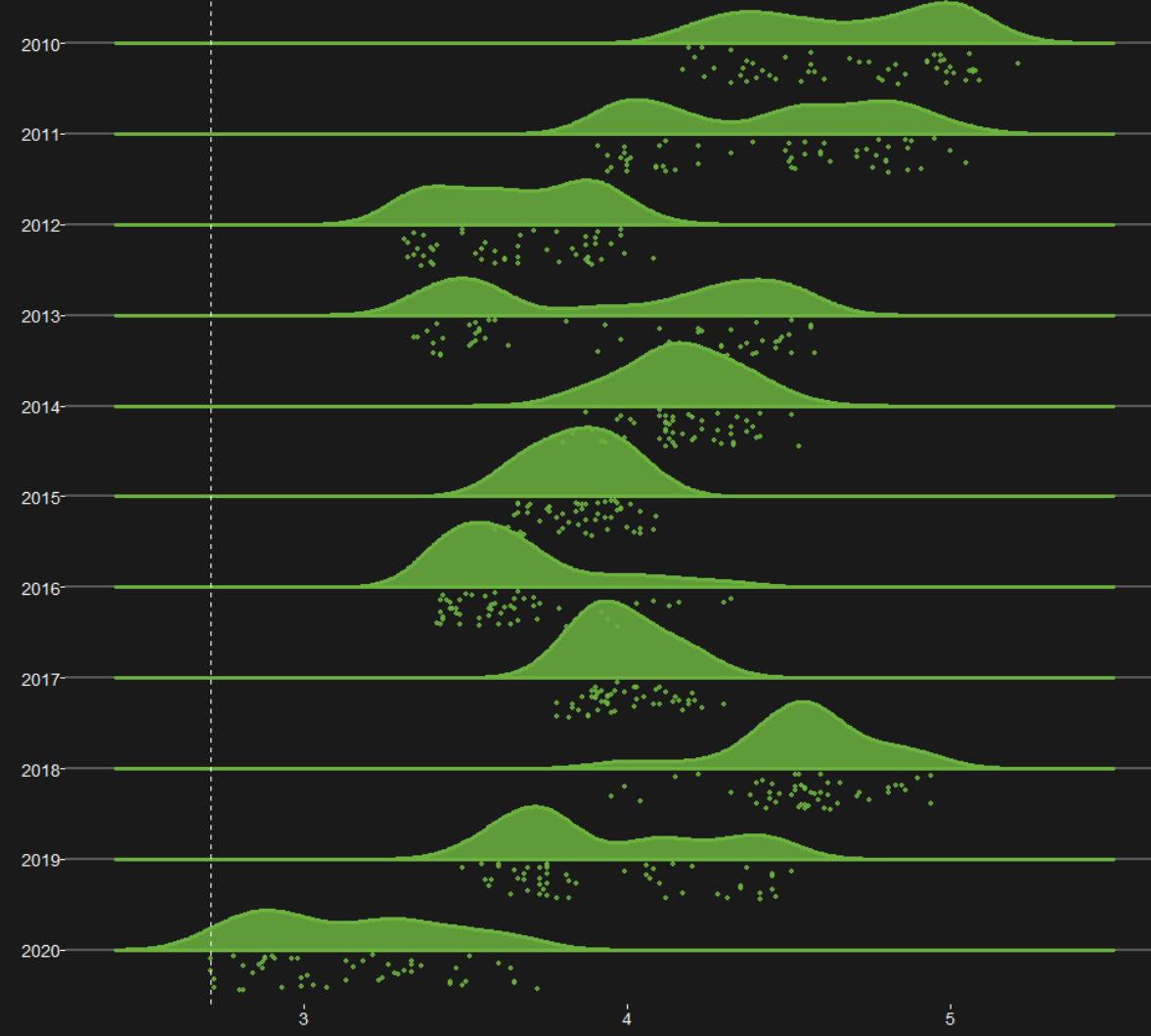
**Distribution over weekly mortgage rates by year**  
*Curves are densities fit to weekly observations for each year*



@lenkiefer Source: Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey,  
Dotted line at 2.71% average for week of December 10, 2020

## Distribution over weekly mortgage rates by year

Curves are densities fit to weekly observations for each year, dots weekly values



@lenkiefer Source: Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey,  
Dotted line at 2.71% average for week of December 10, 2020

# Visualizing Housing Data

## U.S. Existing Home Sales Inventory

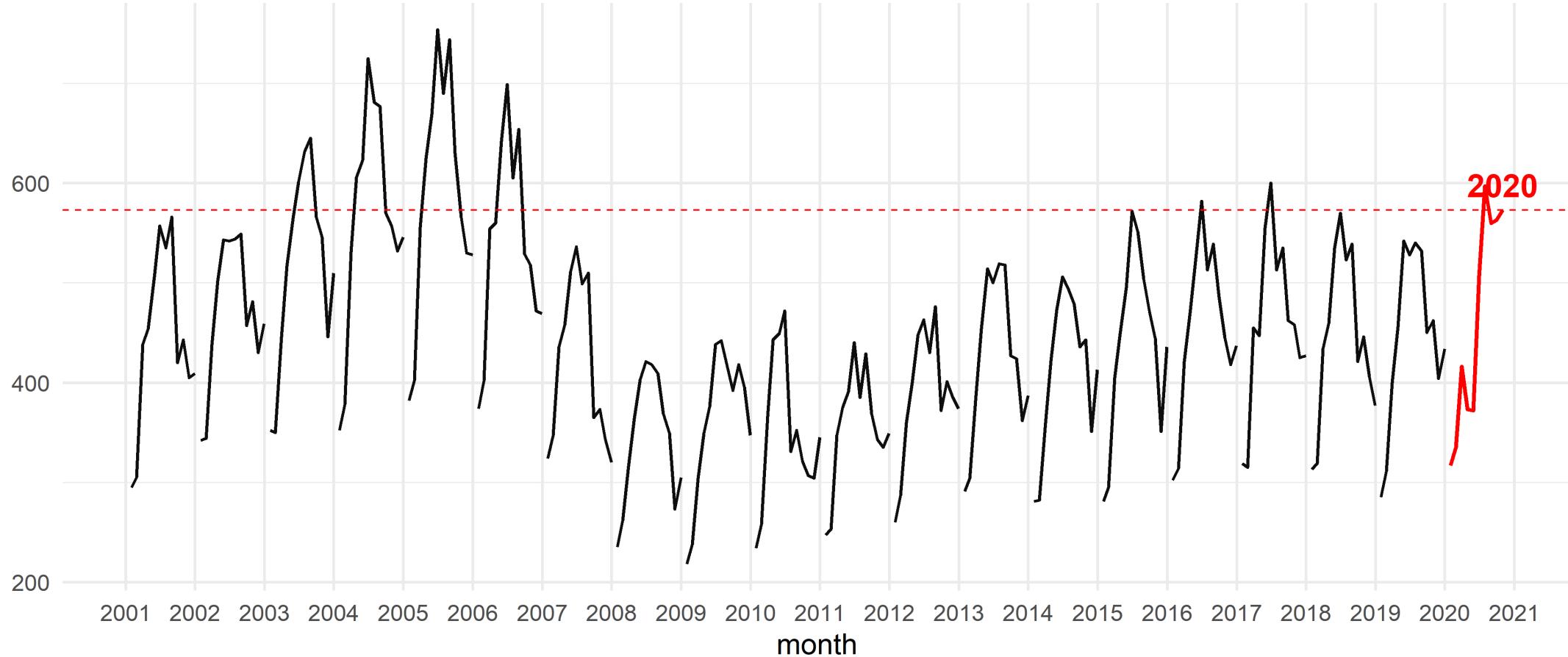
Number of single-family homes available for sale (millions, not seasonally adjusted)



@lenkiefer Source: National Association of Realtors

## U.S. Existing Home Sales

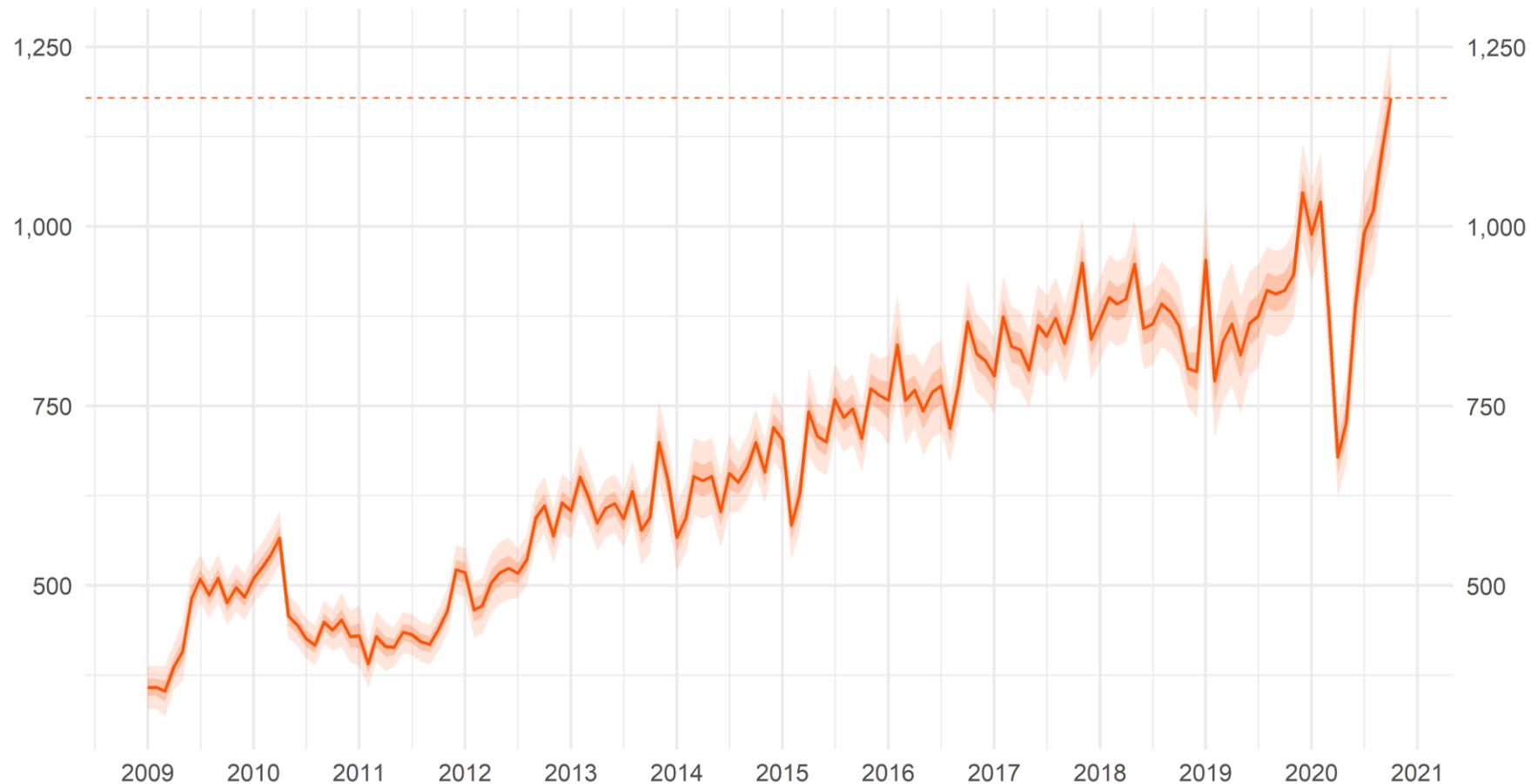
Total existing home sales (thousands, not seasonally adjusted)



@lenkiefer Source: National Association of Realtors

# U.S. Single-family Housing Starts (1000s, SAAR)

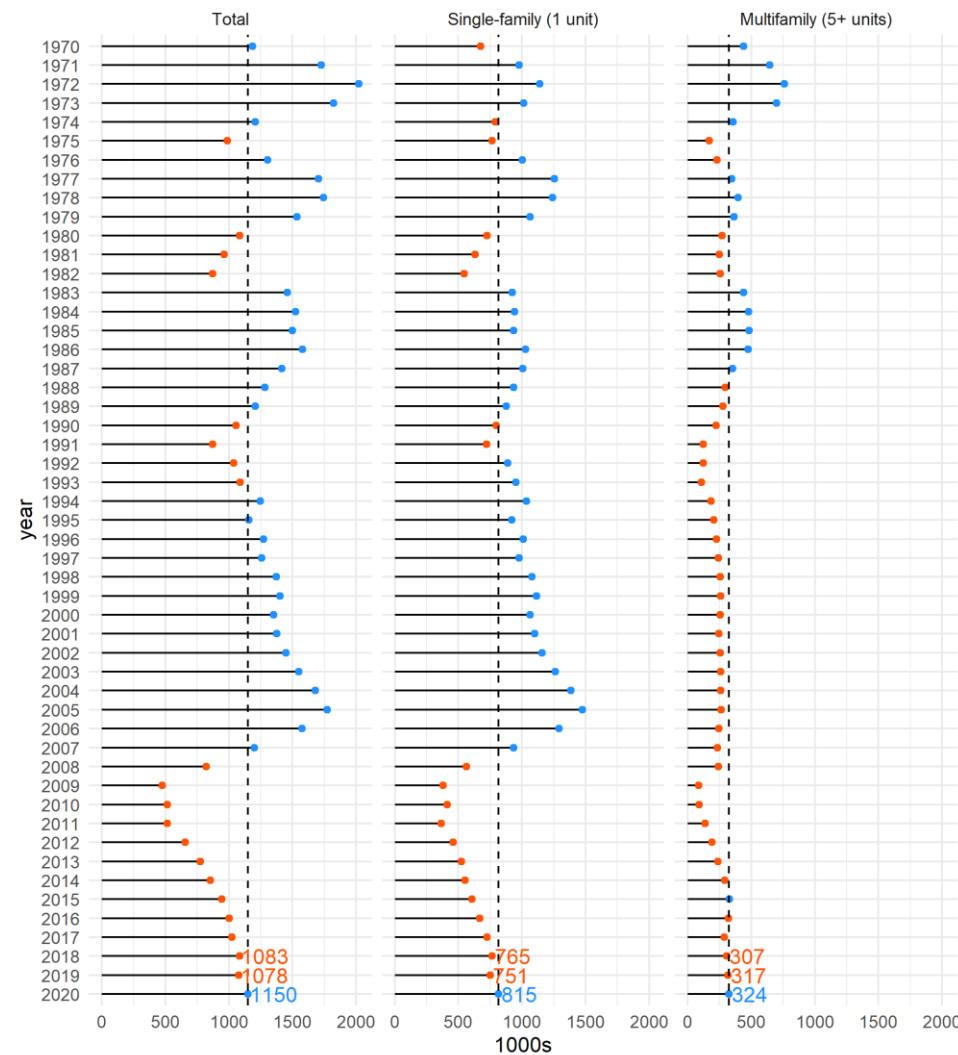
Confidence Interval Around Estimates ■ 25th to 75th pctile ■ 5th to 25th (75th to 95th)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Confidence interval based on normal distribution given relative standard error.  
Dotted line at October 2020 estimate

**U.S. housing starts gaining momentum**  
year-to-date housing starts through October

Through October • <2020 • >= 2020



@lenkiefer Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Department of Housing and Urban Development

## House Price Growth (USA)

Jan 1975-Oct 2020

3-month growth (annualized rate)

5.0%

10.0%

15.0%

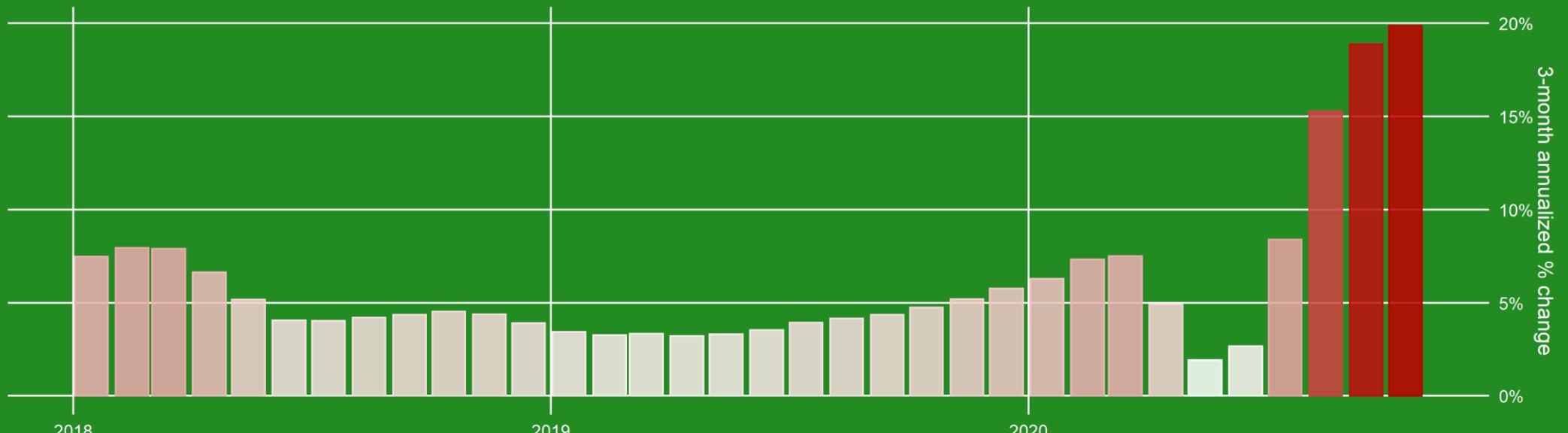
20%

15%

10%

5%

0%



@lenkiefer Source: Freddie Mac House Price Index, seasonally adjusted

## House Price Growth by State

Jan 2018-Oct 2020

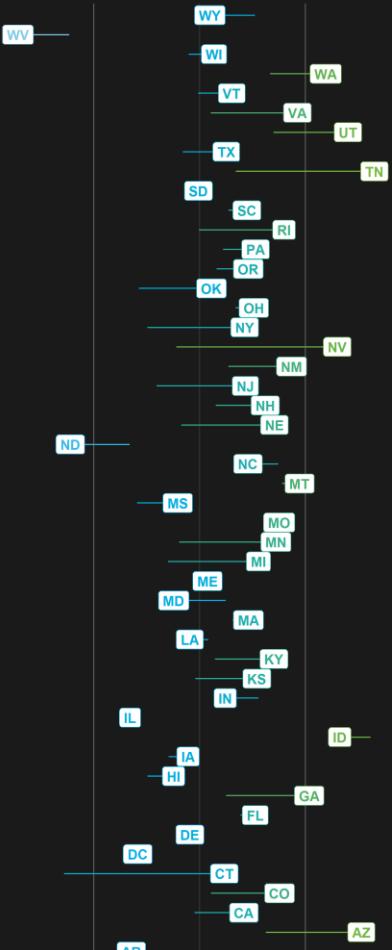


## House Price Growth by State

Feb 2020

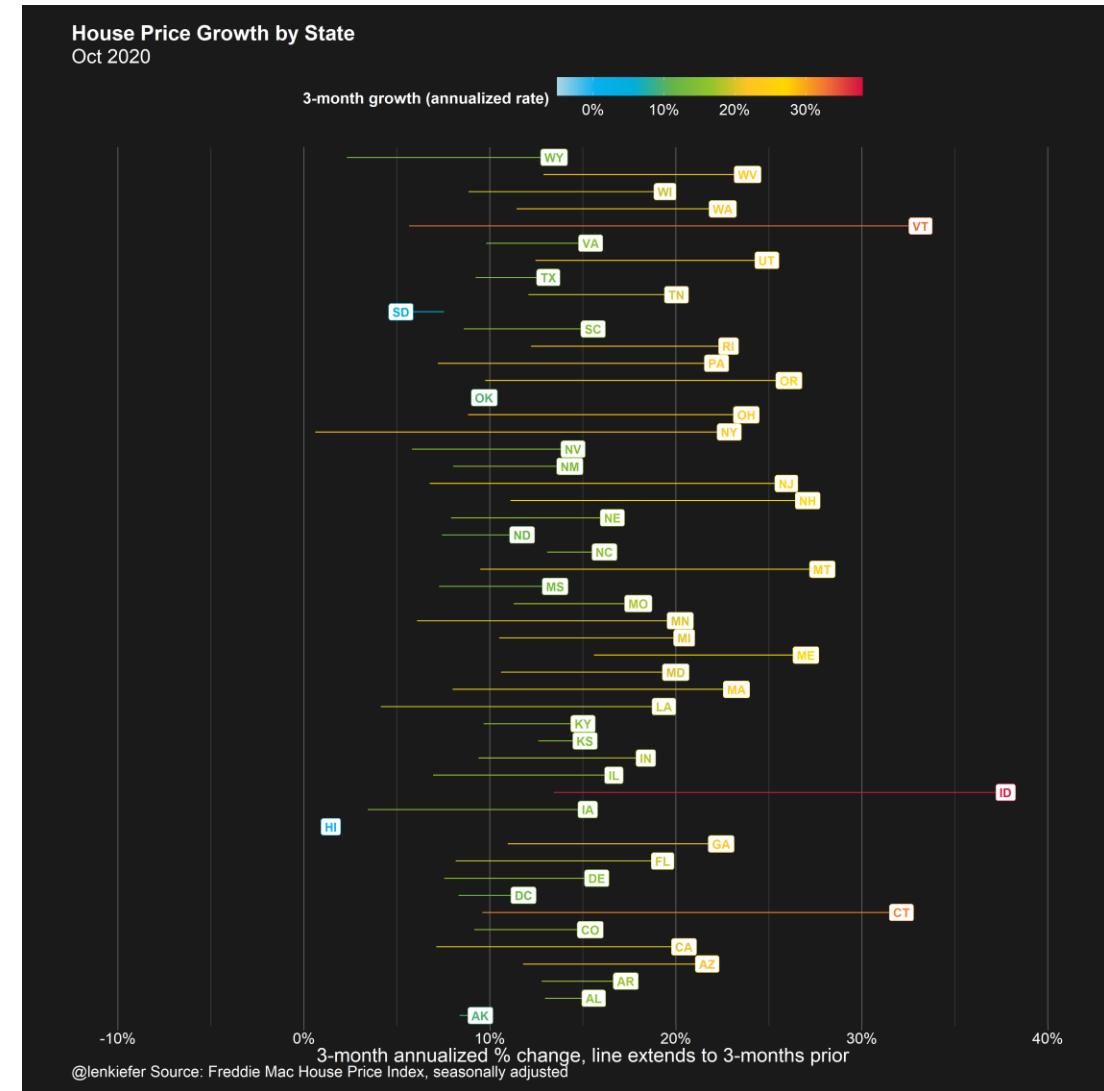
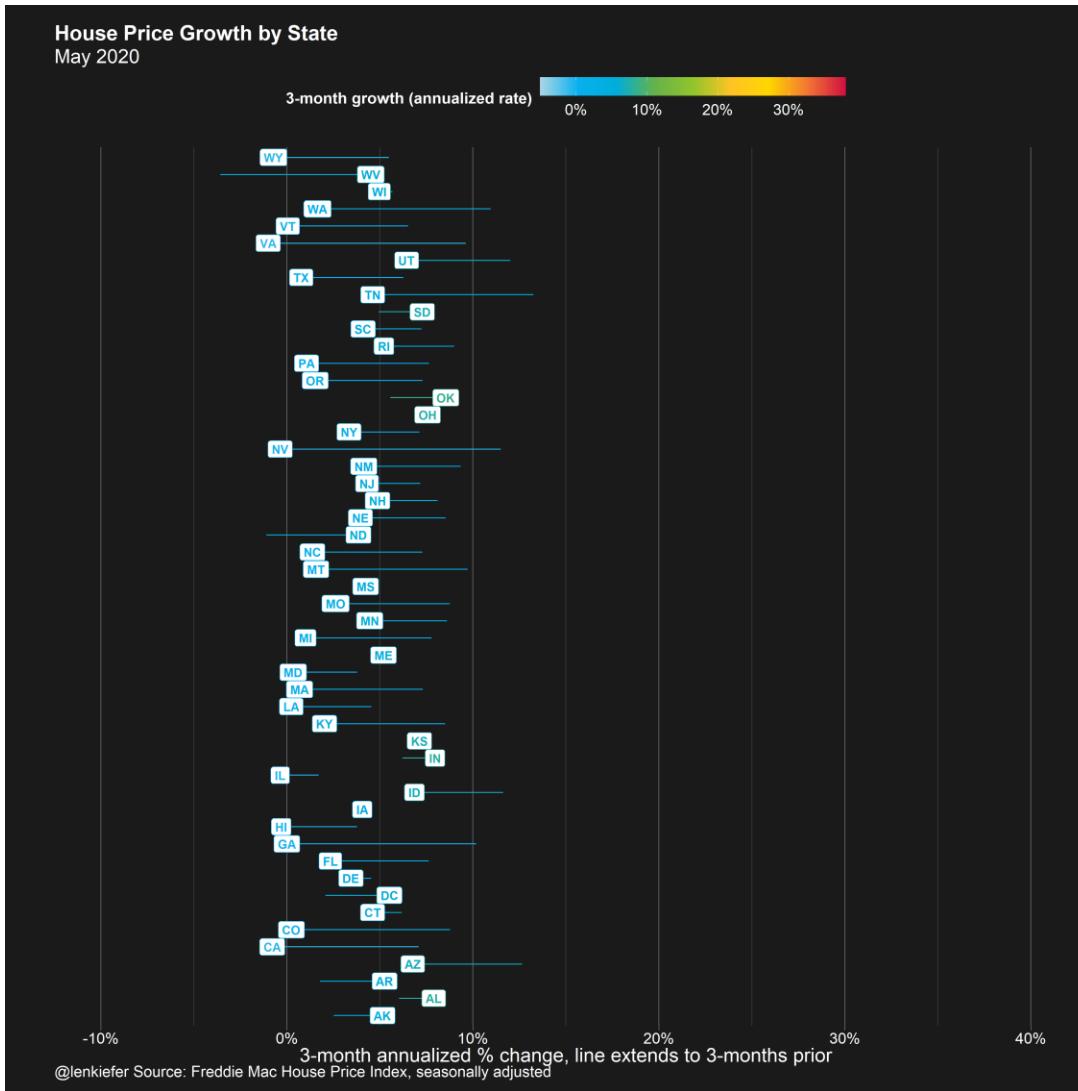
3-month growth (annualized rate)

0% 10% 20% 30%



3-month annualized % change, line extends to 3-months prior

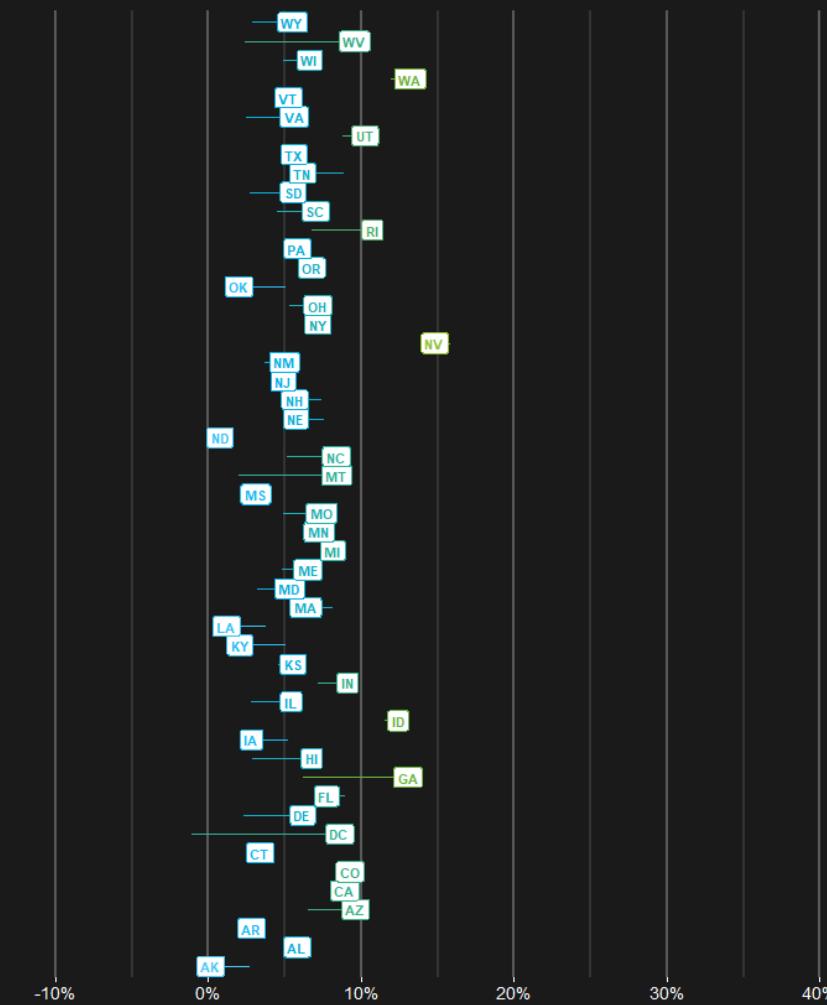
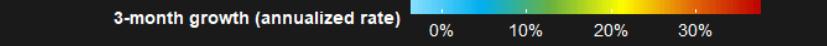
@lenkiefer Source: Freddie Mac House Price Index, seasonally adjusted



# House Price Growth by State

Jan 2018

3-month growth (annualized rate)



@lenkiefer Source: Freddie Mac House Price Index, seasonally adjusted

# House Price Growth by State

HI

3-month growth (annualized rate)

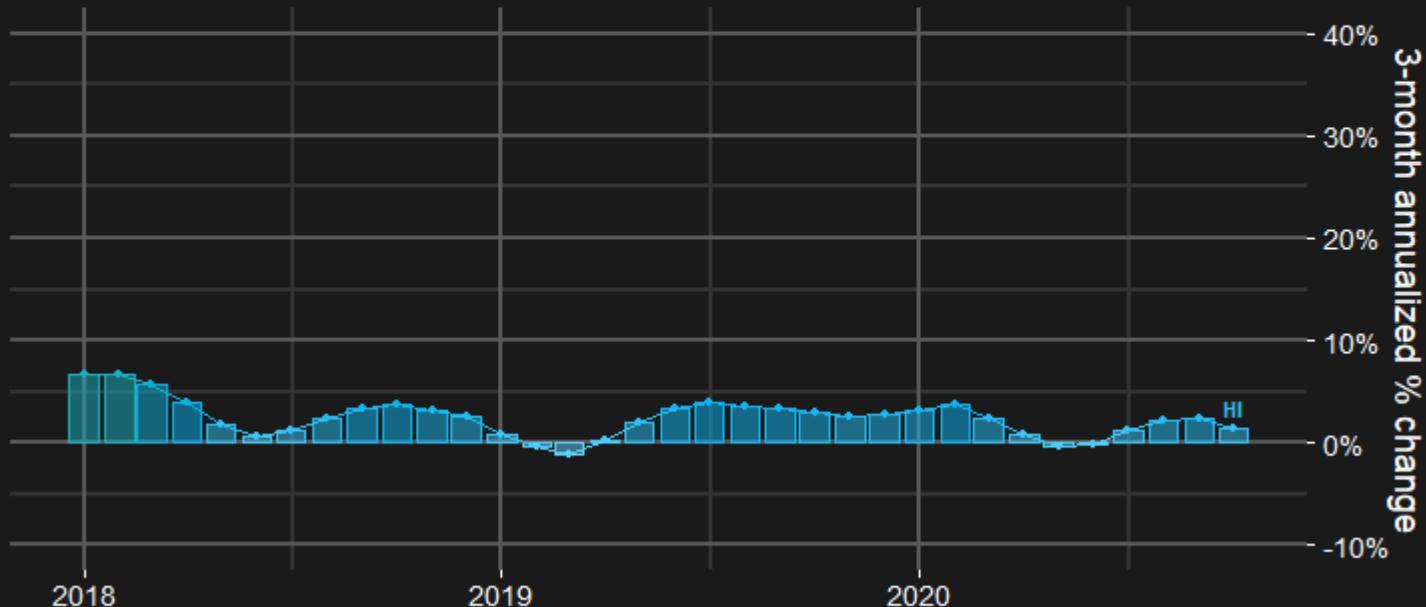


0%

10%

20%

30%

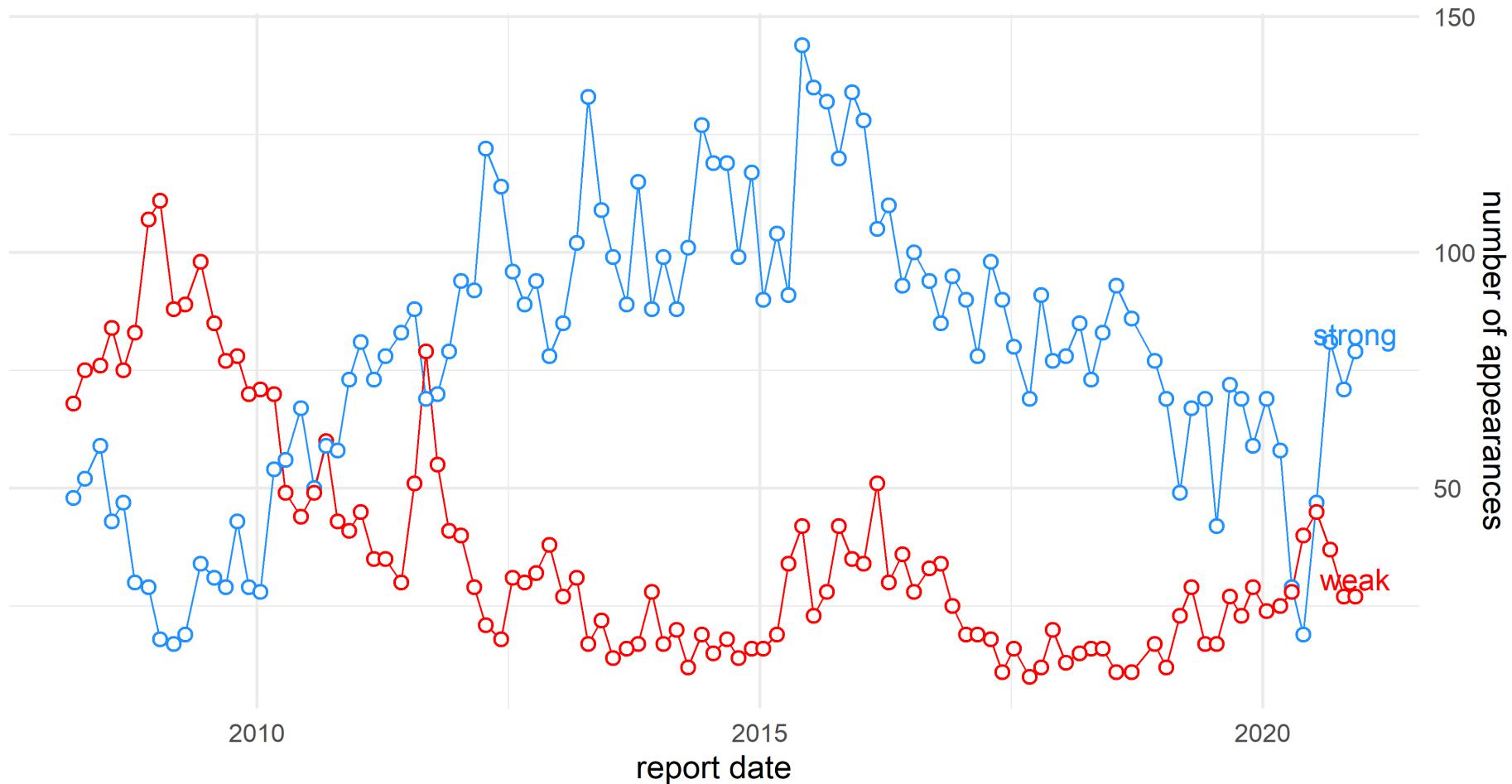


@lenkiefer Source: Freddie Mac House Price Index, seasonally adjusted

# Visualizing Text

# Number of times term appears in Beige Book

Beige Book Mar 2008-Dec 2020



@lenkiefer Source: Federal Reserve Board Beige Book

For details and R code see Beige-ian Statistics: <http://lenkiefer.com/2018/07/29/beige-ian-statistics/>

strong includes "strong", "stronger", "strongest", "strengthen", "strengthened", "strengthening", "strongly"

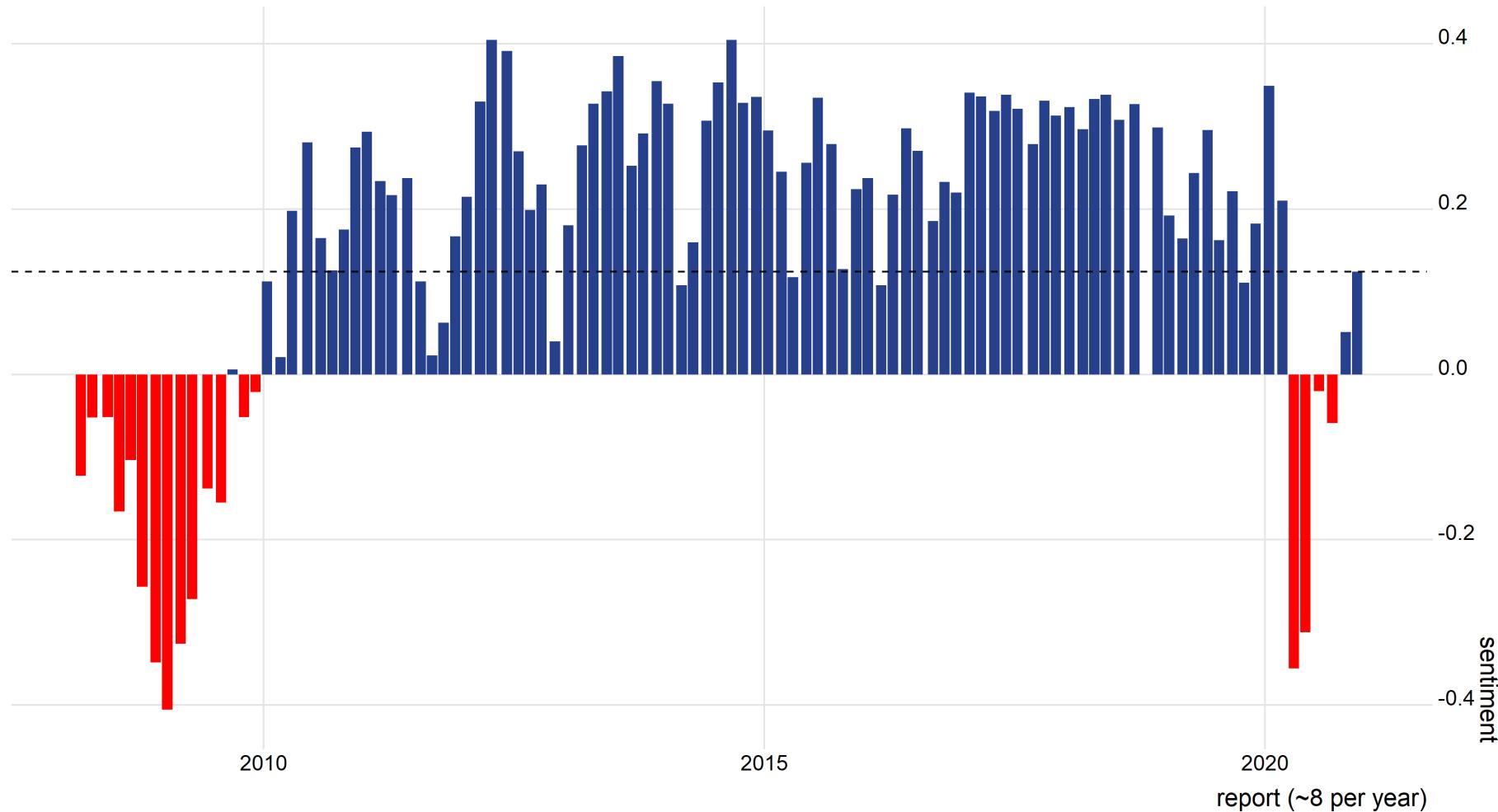
weak includes "weak", "weaken", "weakened", "weaker", "weakest", "weakly", "weakening"

## Sentiment in Federal Reserve Beige Book

customized bing lexicon

sentiment = (positive-negative)/(positive+negative)

dotted line at December 2020 value



@lenkiefer

Source: Beige Book March 2008 - Dec 2020

For details and R code see Beige-ian Statistics: <http://lenkiefer.com/2018/07/29/beige-ian-statistics/>

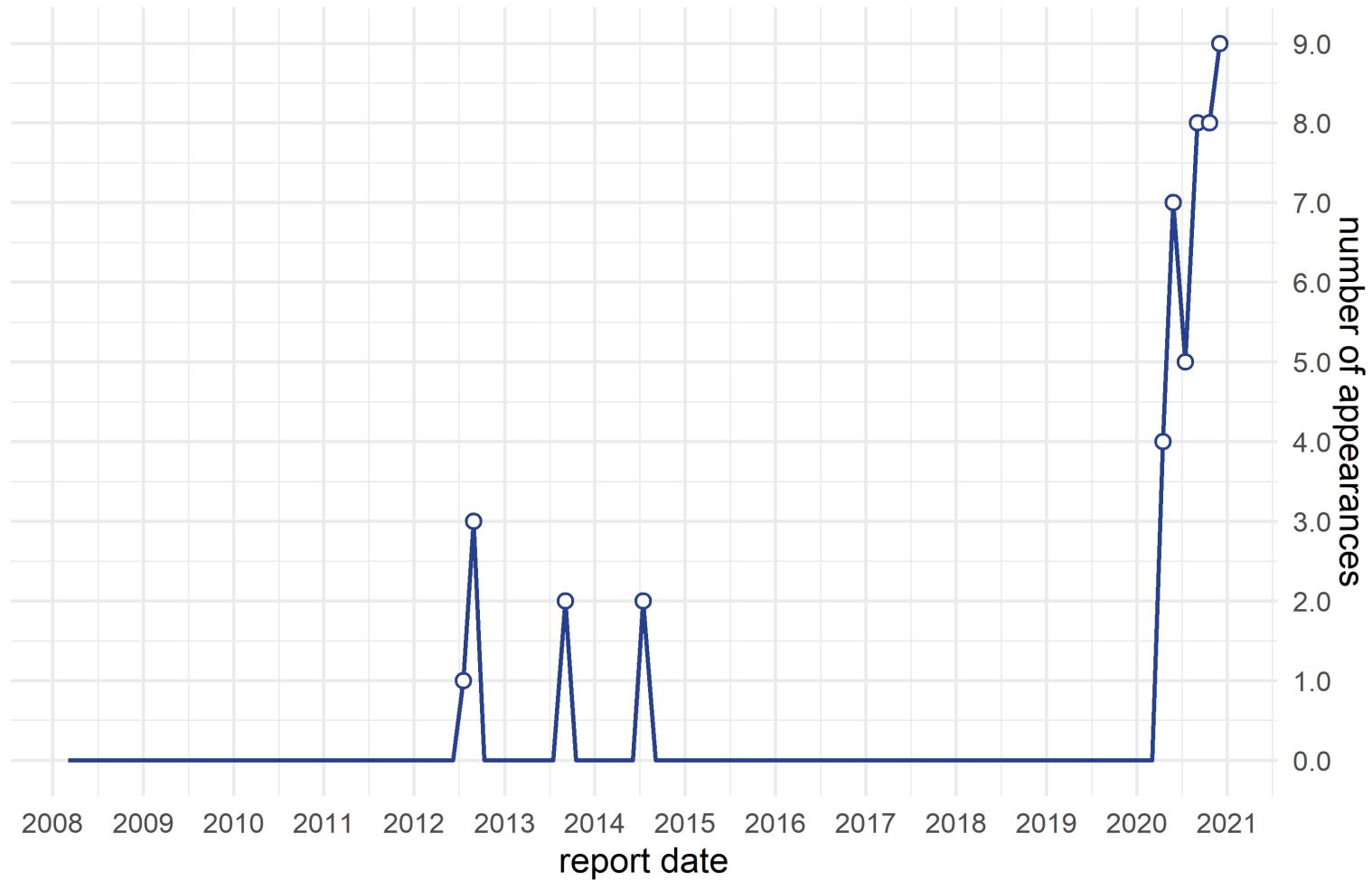
Highest tf-idf words in Dec Federal Beige Book: 2008-2020  
Top 10 terms by tf-idf statistic: term frequency and inverse document frequency



@lenkiefer Source: Federal Reserve Board Beige Book  
Note: omits stop words, date abbreviations and numbers.

# Number of times "child", "children" or "childcare" appears in report

Beige Book Mar 2008-Dec 2020



@lenkiefer Source: Federal Reserve Board Beige Book  
For details and R code see Beige-ian Statistics: <http://lenkiefer.com/2018/07/29/beige-ian-statistics/>  
Includes terms 'child','children','childcare'

**Get more information**

An excellent resource:

<https://clauswilke.com/dataviz/>

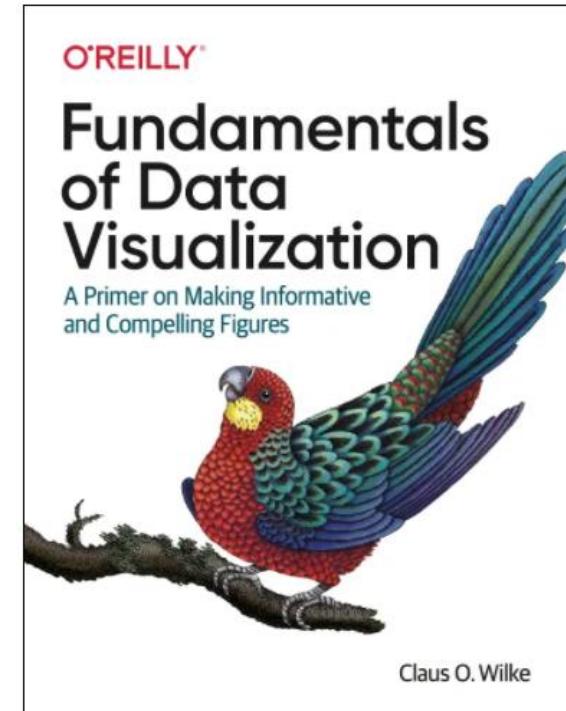
# Fundamentals of Data Visualization

*Claus O. Wilke*

## Welcome

This is the website for the book “Fundamentals of Data Visualization,” published by O’Reilly Media, Inc. The website contains the complete author manuscript before final copy-editing and other quality control. If you would like to order an official hardcopy or ebook, you can do so at various resellers, including [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), [Google Play](#), or [Powells](#).

The book is meant as a guide to making visualizations that accurately reflect the data, tell a story, and look professional. It has grown out of my experience of working with students and postdocs in my laboratory on thousands of data visualizations. Over the years, I have noticed that the same issues arise over and over. I have attempted to collect my accumulated knowledge from these interactions in the form of this book.



Find reproducible R code at [lenkiefer.com](http://lenkiefer.com), or follow me on Twitter and LinkedIn

Len Kiefer

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- [LinkedIn](#)
- [GitHub](#)

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Built with [Hugo](#)  
Theme [Blackburn](#)

# Len Kiefer

Helping people understand the economy, housing and mortgage markets

## Visual Meditations on House Prices 2020 Edition

2020/11/30

dataviz / house prices / R

VISUAL MEDITATIONS are the analysis of repeated graphs of the same data with variations on a graphical theme. When altering the mapping of data to aesthetics sometimes interesting patterns emerge. I find it a useful practice. I made a series of these a few years ago with different charts. The chart images have been lost to past blog migrations, but the code should still work. In this post, I want to consider several alternative ways to visualize house prices.

[Read more »](#)

## New Research Paper Inequality During the COVID-19 Pandemic The Case of Savings from Mortgage Refinancing

2020/11/23

economy / mortgage / presentation / housing

For several months now, I've been working on a new research paper with Sumit Agarwal, Souphala Chomsisengphet, Hua Kiefer, and Paolina Medina studying refinance activity this year. When we started the

Len Kiefer 17.2K Tweets

Len Kiefer @lenkiefer Deputy Chief Economist at Freddie Mac. I help people understand the economy, housing, mortgage markets. Falls Church, Virginia Joined December 2014 780 Following 14.8K Followers

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Pinned Tweet Len Kiefer @lenkiefer · Apr 20 I have made a place to share some favorite data visualizations. Will update and add more as we go

Updated Favorite Data Visualizations  
A place for us to find updated versions of favorite data visualizations  
lenkiefer.com

Search

Leonard Kiefer Deputy Chief Economist at Freddie Mac

Activity 3,628 followers

Chart for today: Though home prices have been increasing rapidly, so far falling... Leonard shared this 2 Reactions

possibly, hard to say for sure as we are in totally uncharted territory with COVID. if... Leonard replied to a comment