

National Update Commentary Macroeconomy

- Growth in Q3 was strong, exceeds its estimated potential
 - Personal consumption expenditures accounted for largest contribution to growth.
 - Residential fixed investment declined.
 - Prospects for modestly higher growth over 2018.
- Strong employment growth continued in November, unemployment rate remains low
 - Non-farm payroll employment rose by 228,000 as residential construction rose by 14,800.
 - Unemployment rate was unchanged at a low of 4.1%.
 - Moderately stronger employment growth and continued decline in the unemployment rate expected in 2018.
- Headline inflation accelerates, core inflation remains stable
 - Energy prices accounted for three-fourths of monthly increase in the CPI.
 - Core inflation steady below 2.0 percent.
 - Inflation is expected to accelerate in 2018.
- Mortgage rates rise slightly in November, but remain low
 - Slight dip in inflation expectations offset by small increase in risk premium.
 - Mortgage rates expected to rise in 2018, but remain historically low.



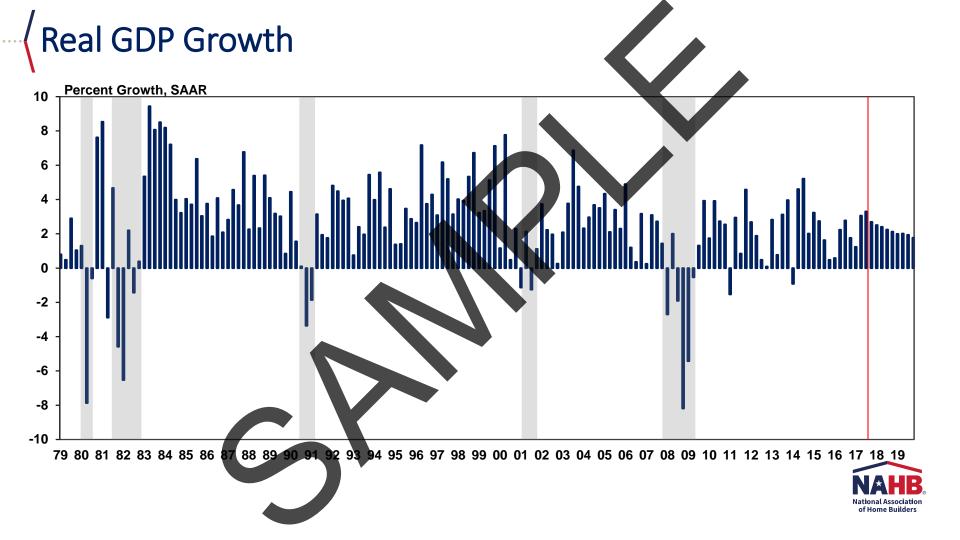
National Update Commentary Housing Market

- Single-family starts rose in November
 - Single-family starts climbed 5 percent to reach a post-recession high of 930,000.
 - Builder confidence rose to an 18 year high.
 - Single-family starts expected to grow more moderately in 2018.
- Home price appreciation continues
 - Tight inventory supports house price growt
 - Price appreciation is supporting home equity expansion, but affordability could be a challenge
 - In 2018, price growth expected to decelerate on weaker housing demand.
- Multifamily starts impacted by monthly revisions
 - Large October increase revised down.
 - November level, 367,000 (SAAR), about unchanged from October revision, 373,000.
 - Industry will continue to move toward normal levels over 2018.
- Remodeling spending at cycle highs
 - Growth is expected to continue, but at a slower pace in 2018.

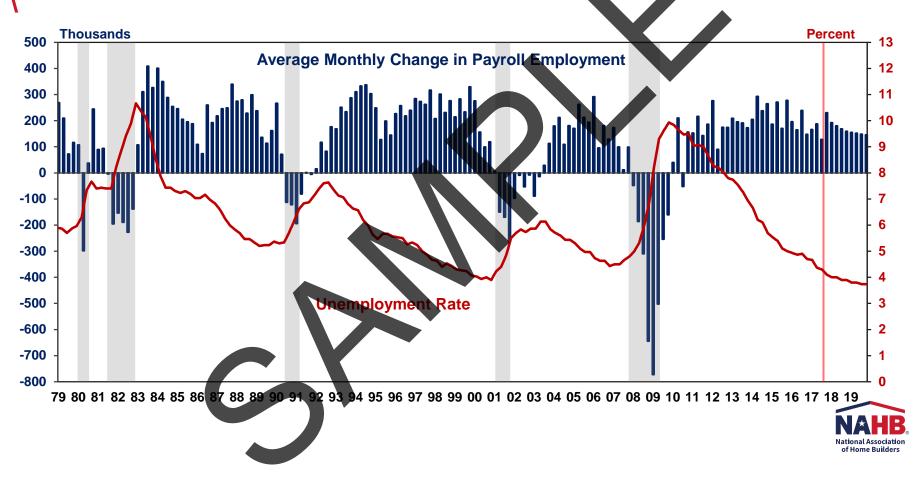
Details in the following charts

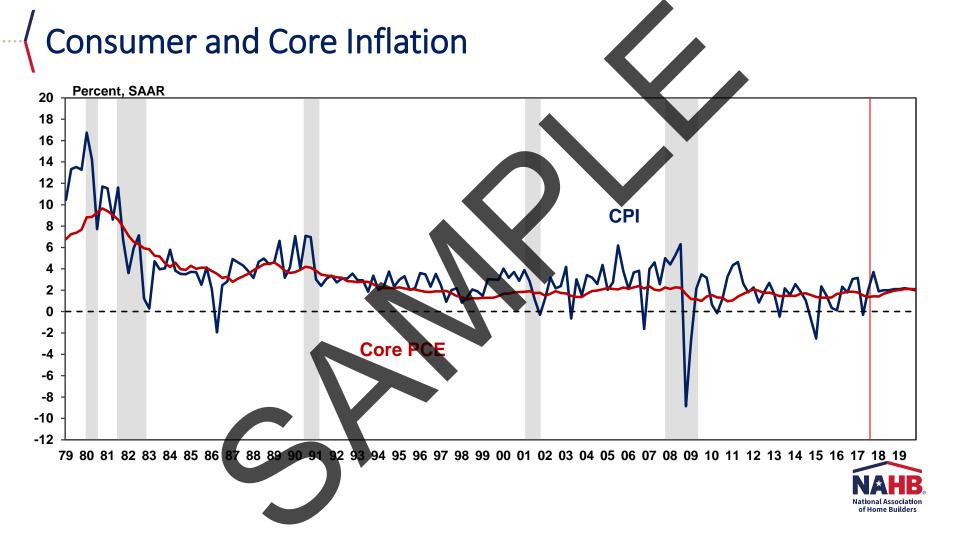
Additional information can be found at <u>eyeonhousing.org</u>



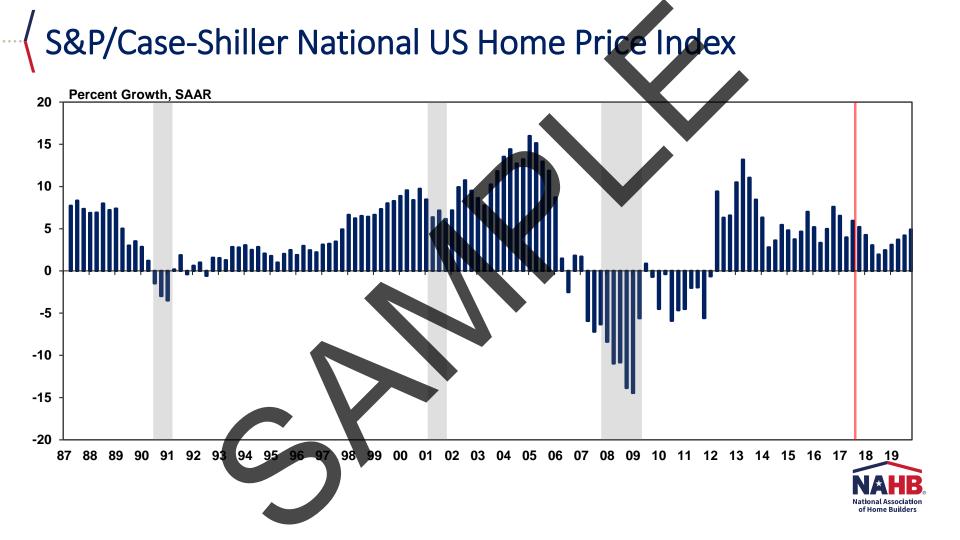


Payroll Employment Growth and Unemployment Rate

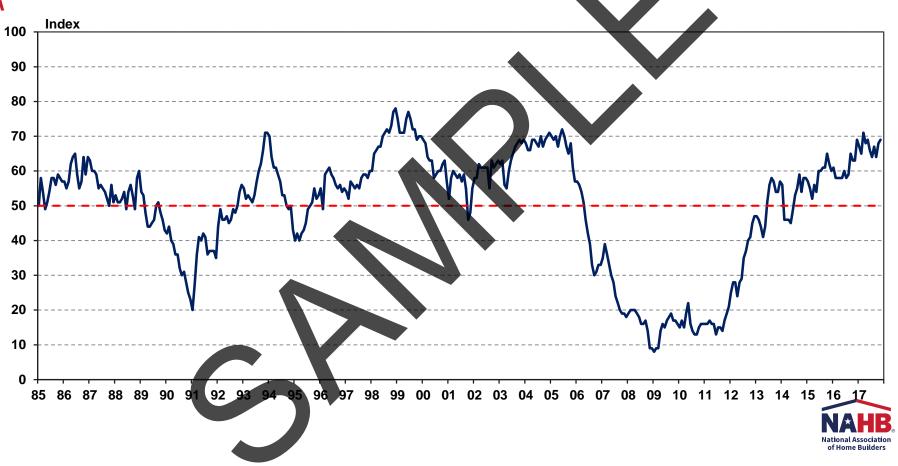




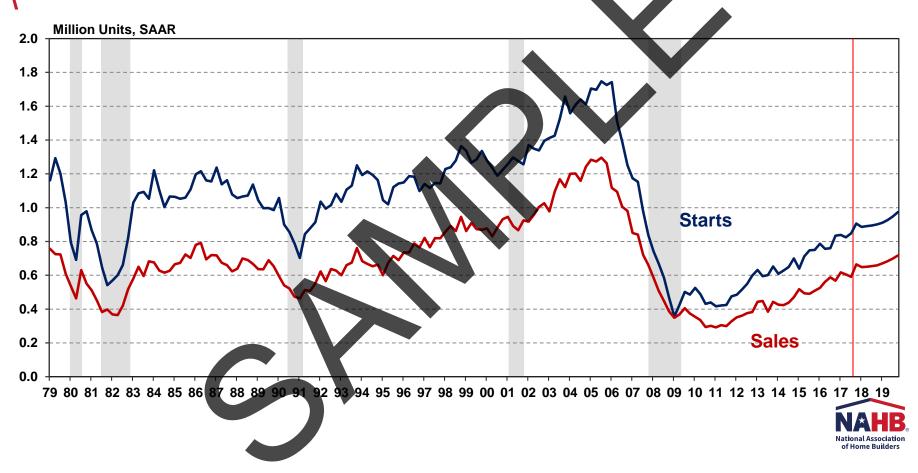




NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index



Single-Family Housing Starts and Sales







Private Residential Improvements Spending

