



New home sales fall but stronger than expected

(Reporting by Mark Felsenthal, Editing by Neil Stempleman)



Sales of newly constructed U.S. single-family homes were stronger than expected in June, falling 0.6 percent to a 530,000 annual pace, a government report showed on Friday, providing a glimmer of hope for the beaten-down housing market.

Economists polled by Reuters were expecting sales to slow to a 500,000 seasonally adjusted annual sales rate from a previously reported 512,000 pace in May. May's sales rate was revised up to 533,000, the Commerce Department said.

The inventory of homes available for sale shrank 5.3 percent to 426,000, the lowest since December 2004. The June sales pace put the supply of homes available for sale at 10 months' worth.

The median sales price rose to \$230,900 from \$227,700 from May, but was down 2 percent from a year earlier, the government said.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin