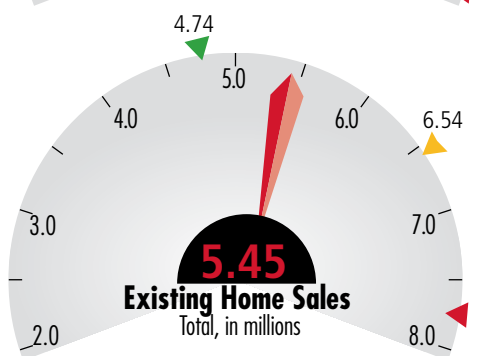
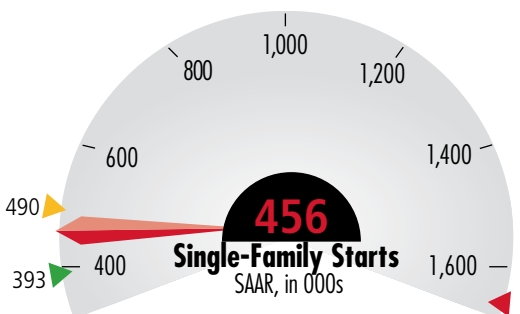
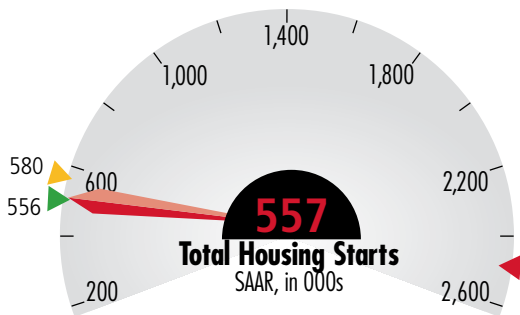


## Housing starts and sales

For December 2009

▶ Prior month's data   ▶ Prior year's data   ▶ Record high

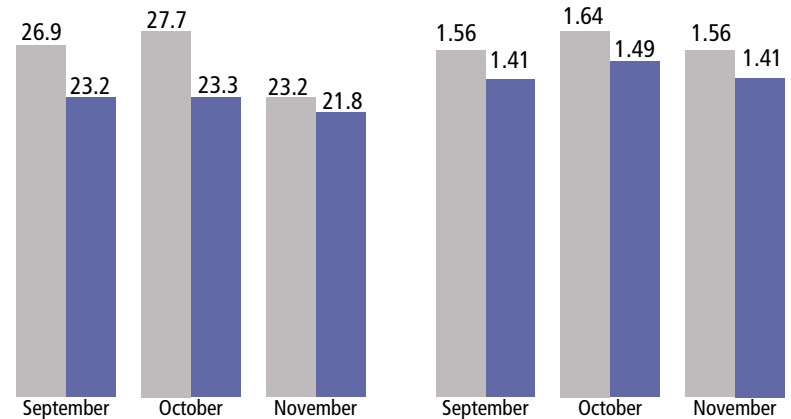


Source: Commerce Dept. / National Association of Realtors

## Monthly retail sales, in \$billions, not adjusted

Home centers and pro dealers (NAICS 444)

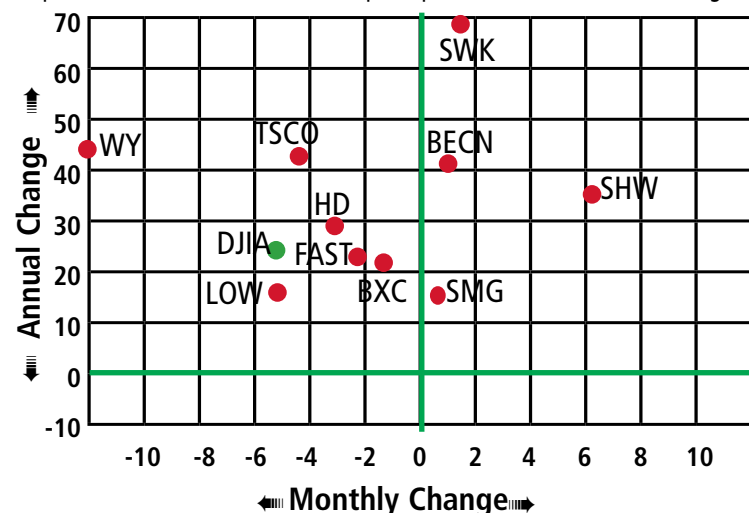
Hardware stores (NAICS 44413)



KEY: ■ 2008 ■ 2009 Estimates are from the Monthly Retail Trade Report from the U.S. Census Bureau. Source: Census Bureau

## Home channel stock roundup

The performance of stocks based on Jan. 29 prices, plus the Dow Jones Industrial Average.



BECN, Beacon; BXC, BlueLinx; FAST, Fastenal; HD, Home Depot; LOW, Lowe's; SHW, Sherwin-Williams; SMG, Scotts; SWK, Stanley; TSCO, Tractor Supply; WY, Weyerhaeuser

## Consumer watch

### Unemployment rate

For the entire United States

January 2010

9.7%

Prior month - Dec. 2009

10.0%

Prior year - Jan. 2009

7.7%

Source: Labor Dept.

### Consumer confidence

Indexed to a value of 100 in 1985

January 2010

55.9

Prior month - Dec. 2009

53.6

Prior year - Jan. 2009

37.4

Source: The Conference Board

### Gas prices

National average price per gallon (regular)

Feb. 5, 2010

\$2.66

Prior week

\$2.69

Prior month

\$2.69

Prior year

\$1.91

Source: AAA