

Market Commentary

February 22, 2012

- Existing-home sales increased 4.3% in January compared to December. December sales were revised downward. January's numbers reflect 4.57 million annualized units, which is the strongest pace since April 2010. Months of supply declined to 6.1, the lowest since the housing market started to collapse. Inventories were almost stable. The median home price declined 2% yr -yr over in January.
- The MBA Mortgage Application survey for the week ending February 17, 2012, the composite index dropped 4.5% because of declines in the purchase and refinance indexes. The refinance index fell 4.8%, reversing some of its recent gains. The purchase index declined 2.9% from the previous week, adding to recent weakness and hitting its lowest level since early October. The composite index is trending flat compared with its level reached several months ago.

