

# U.S. Data Review

- Existing home sales: recovering

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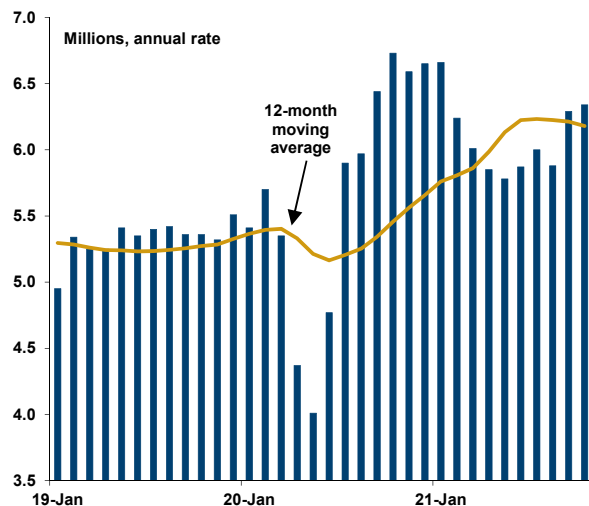
## Existing Home Sales

Sales of existing homes rose 0.8 percent in October, easily beating the consensus estimate of a 1.8 percent decline. The increase marked the fourth gain in the past five months, including a jump of 7.0 percent in September. Activity remains shy of the firm totals late last year and the start of this year, but the slide from February through May seems to be over (chart, left).

Sales firmed despite affordability issues associated with elevated home prices and a limited inventory of homes for sale. Recent hints of rents advancing faster than they were during the worst of the pandemic may have led some individuals into the home market. In addition, increases in interest rates may have motivated some buyers to make a purchase while rates were still near historical lows.

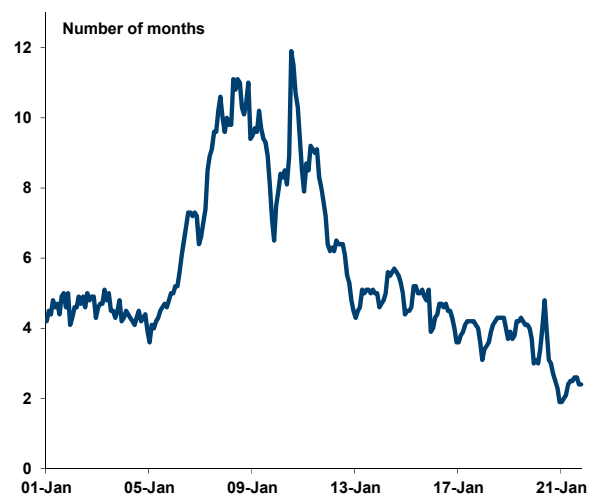
The number of homes for sale slipped 0.8 percent in October, a respectable showing for this month. (This series is not seasonally adjusted, and the number of homes on the market typically declines in October. The average change in the number of homes for sale was -2.8 percent in the prior 10 Octobers.) The number of homes for sale represented a supply of 2.4 months at the current sales pace, unchanged from September but a reading in the low end of the historical range (chart, right).

### Existing Home Sales



Source: National Association of Realtors via Haver Analytics

### Months' Supply of Unsold Homes



Source: National Association of Realtors via Haver Analytics

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