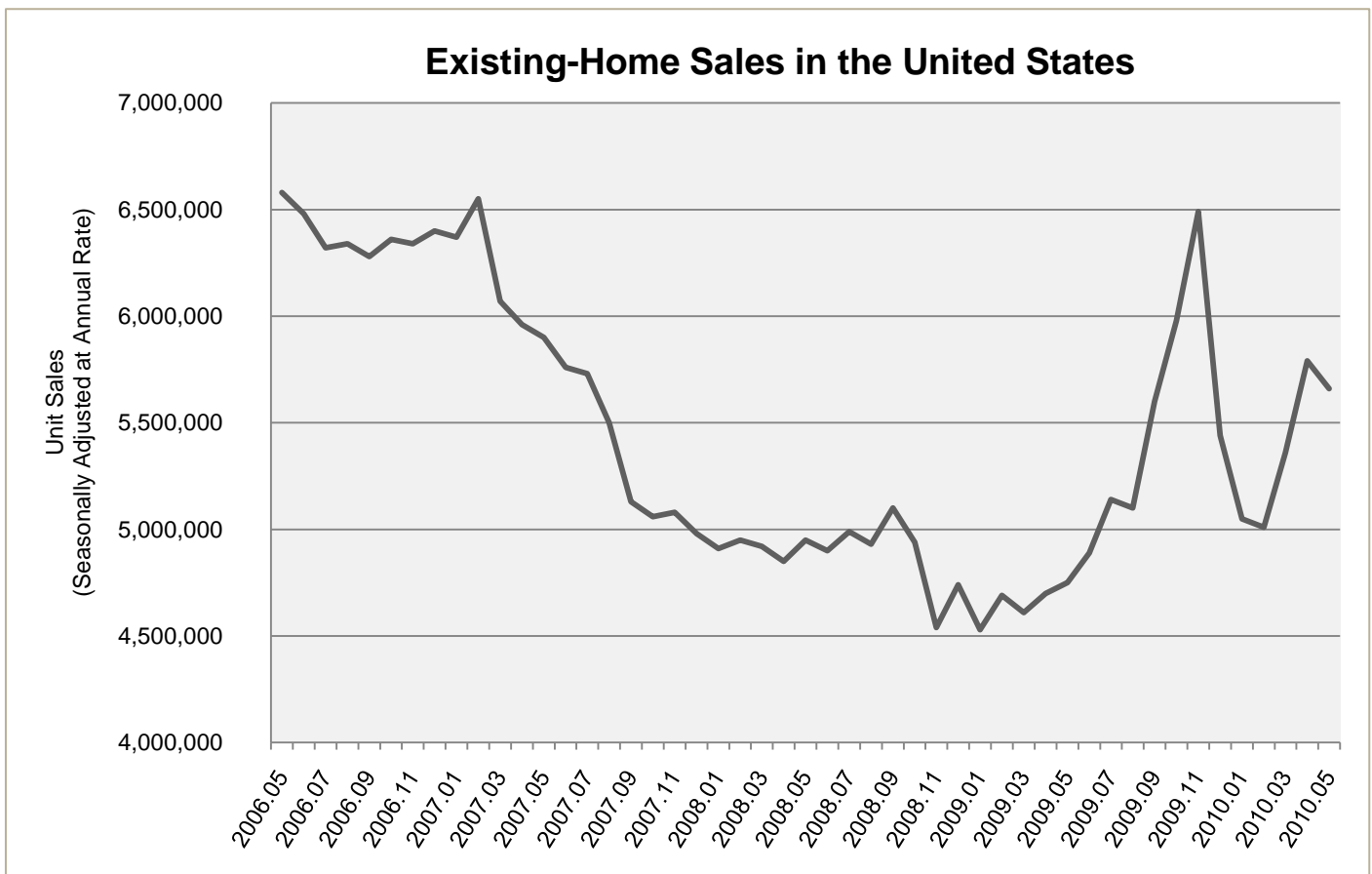


Existing Home Sales in the U.S.: Market is Up and Down

According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), sales of existing homes in the United States decreased by 2.2 per cent (seasonally adjusted) in May 2010 compared to the previous month. Sales appeared to be on the rise, as the number of transactions had increased in the previous two months, with a 7 per cent increase in March and an 8 per cent increase in April (revised).

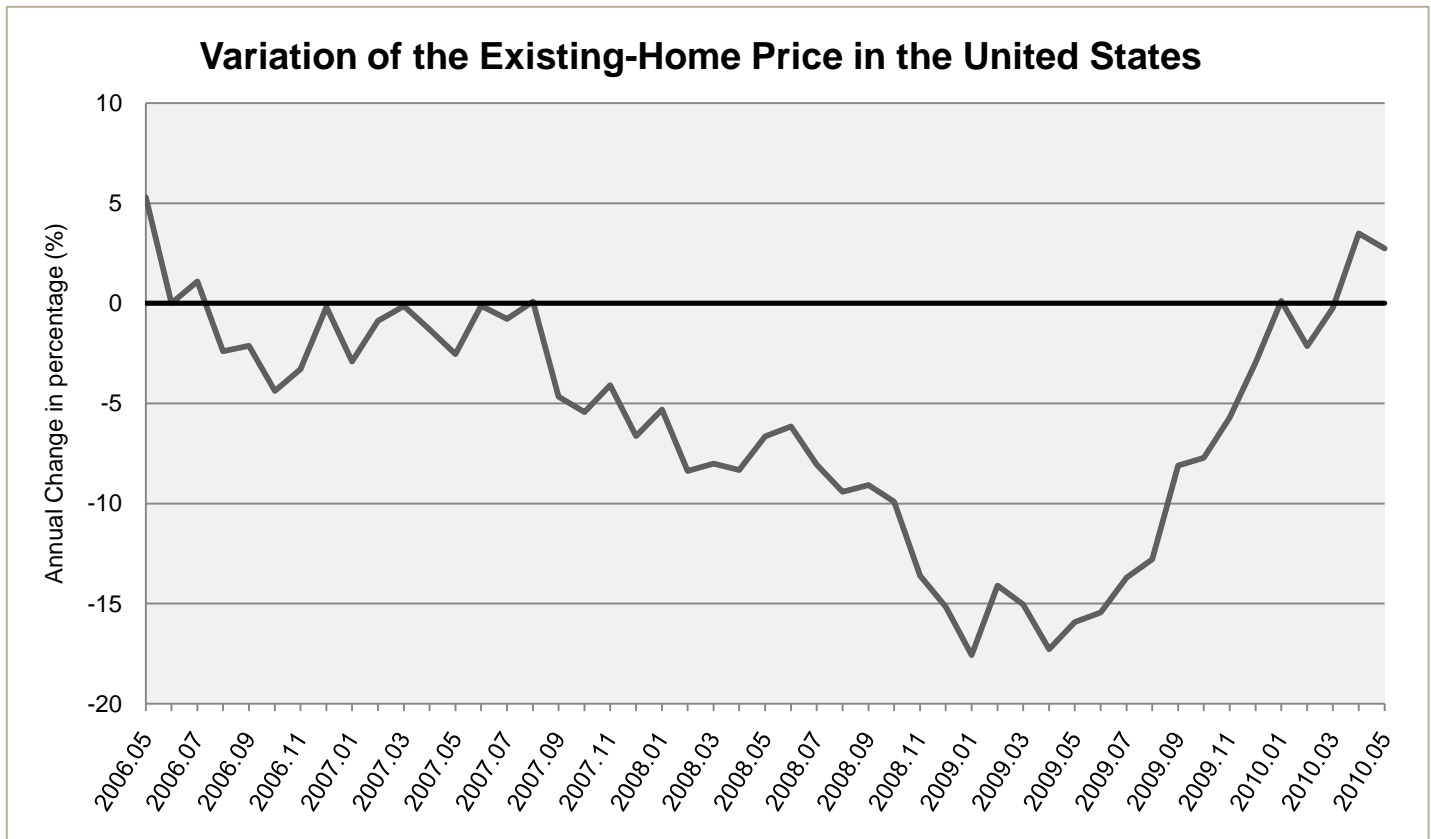
On an annualized basis, sales reached 5,660,000 in May.



Source: National Association of Realtors

There were 526,000 existing-home sales (not seasonally adjusted) in the United States in May, a 17.7 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. This now makes one year in which existing-home sales in the U.S. have increased compared to the previous year.

The median price of houses reached \$179,600 in May 2010, an increase of 2.7 per cent compared to the median price in May 2009. This increase follows an increase of 3.5 per cent (revised) in April.



Source: National Association of Realtors

To read the official NAR press release, [click here](#).

Details About the United States Resale Market

Figures on existing home sales in the United States are published every month by the National Association of Realtors (NAR). They are expressed on a seasonally adjusted and annualized basis, which represents what the annual sales level would be if the sales pace of the current month is maintained for a full year. As we do here for the Québec resale market, the NAR publishes the median price of properties sold, rather than the average price. .

The Resale Market in the United States and the Resale Market in Québec

The evolution of the U.S. resale market is a good point of comparison with real estate activity in Canada and Québec.

Activity on the U.S. resale market may affect the housing market in Canada and Québec due to its potential influence on consumer confidence here in Canada. For example, a difficult situation on the U.S. real estate market may have a negative impact on Canadian consumer confidence, as consumers here may worry about a potential deterioration of Canada's real estate activity.