

Weak Housing Data Don't Deter Builders

By Spencer Jakab

It wasn't the sort of spring thaw for residential construction that economists expected.

Housing starts in March rose a lot less than forecast to 926,000 units, confounding predictions of a sharp rebound from a frigid winter in much of the country. The figure for April, due out on Tuesday, finally should crack the million-unit mark on that annualized, seasonally adjusted basis—around the average for all of 2014—if a Wall Street...