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## **S&P U.S. State and Local Government Credit Conditions Forecast: The Economy Looks to Pick Up Steam in 2015 After a Slow Start.**

After letting up on the accelerator late in 2014 and early 2015, the U.S. economy looks poised to resume faster growth for the remainder of the year, according to Standard & Poor's economists. A harsh winter in the Midwest and Northeast contributed to some softening in the housing market, which acted as a drag on broader economic performance. Despite the winter's chilling effects, however, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services earlier forecast of 1.2 million housing starts remains intact, and we continue to see housing as a key to economic growth this year. This is similar to the pattern we saw in 2014: a slow first quarter followed by faster growth in the second and third quarters. This time, the economy...

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