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First Read on Feb Home Prices Surprisingly Strong

CoreLogic says house price increases **picked up the pace again** in February. After the rate of appreciation dipped from 7.2 percent for the 12 months ended in December, to 6.9 percent annually in January it **appeared** the long-awaited price deceleration had begun. A similar downturn had been noted in January for indexes maintained by Black Knight Financial Services and the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) although S&P Case Shiller's index rose for the month. The monthly indices were mixed.

CoreLogic's HPI for February, however, shows the rate of appreciation on the **rise** again. The company puts the January to February change at 1.0 percent, it was 0.7 percent in January, and the increase from February 2016 at 7.0 percent.

CoreLogic also provides a forecast for price changes on both a monthly and an annual basis. This month the company projects a gain of 0.4 percent from February to March and from February 2017 to the same month in 2018 at **4.7 percent**.

Over the previous 13 months the CoreLogic forecast for monthly increases have averaged 0.43 percent. The actual price gains over that period have averaged 1.21 percent. The estimates for annual changes have averaged 5.13 percent while the **actual** average price gains have been 6.5 percent. The CoreLogic HPI Forecast is a projection of home prices using the CoreLogic HPI and other economic variables. Values are derived from state-level forecasts by weighting indices according to the number of owner-occupied households for each state.

"Home prices and rents have risen the most in local markets with **high demand and limited supply**, such as **Seattle, Portland and Denver**," said Dr. Frank Nothaft, chief economist for CoreLogic. "The rise in housing costs has been largest for lower-tier-priced homes. For example, from December to February in Seattle, the CoreLogic Home Price Index rose 12 percent and our single-family rent index rose 6 percent for all price tiers compared with the same period a year earlier. However, when looking at only lower-cost homes in Seattle, the price increase was 13 percent and the rent increase was 7 percent."

National Average Mortgage Rates



| | Rate | Change | Points |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Mortgage News Daily | | | |
| 30 Yr. Fixed | 6.89% | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 15 Yr. Fixed | 6.33% | +0.01 | 0.00 |
| 30 Yr. FHA | 6.33% | +0.01 | 0.00 |
| 30 Yr. Jumbo | 7.05% | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5/1 ARM | 6.58% | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Freddie Mac | | | |
| 30 Yr. Fixed | 6.77% | -0.09 | 0.00 |
| 15 Yr. Fixed | 6.05% | -0.11 | 0.00 |
| Mortgage Bankers Assoc. | | | |
| 30 Yr. Fixed | 7.00% | -0.03 | 0.60 |
| 15 Yr. Fixed | 6.63% | +0.07 | 0.61 |
| 30 Yr. FHA | 6.87% | -0.03 | 0.92 |
| 30 Yr. Jumbo | 7.13% | +0.02 | 0.38 |
| 5/1 ARM | 6.22% | -0.16 | 0.60 |

Rates as of: 7/22

Recent Housing Data

| | | Value | Change |
|---------------------|--------|-------|---------|
| Mortgage Apps | Jul 10 | 206.1 | -0.19% |
| Building Permits | Mar | 1.46M | -3.95% |
| Housing Starts | Mar | 1.32M | -13.15% |
| New Home Sales | Mar | 693K | +4.68% |
| Pending Home Sales | Feb | 75.6 | +1.75% |
| Existing Home Sales | Feb | 3.97M | -0.75% |

"Home prices continue to grow at a **torrid pace** so far in 2017 and these gains are likely to continue well into the future," said Frank Martell, president and CEO of CoreLogic. "Home prices are at peak levels in many major markets and the appreciation is being driven by a number of dynamics-high demand, stronger employment, lean supplies and affordability-that will continue to play out in the coming years. The CoreLogic Home Price Index is projecting an additional 5 percent rise in home prices nationally over the next 12 months."

Builder Confidence

Mar

51 +6.25%

Update: Buyer Broker Agreement

After requests from real estate companies, a nonprofit consumer watchdog group the Consumer Federation of America has developed a list of factors to consider when creating a buyer contract in preparation for upcoming practice changes in the industry.

CFA released its "Proposed Criteria for Evaluating Home Buyer Contract Forms" on Tuesday. The 15 criteria focus on the contracts' form – whether the documents are readable and understandable – and content – whether they are fair to homebuyers.

- the document's expiration date (CFA recommends buyers asks for a three-month contract and never sign one longer than six months)
- the right to terminate the contract
- the disclosure that compensation is negotiable
- the broker's compensation clearly stated and that the buyer broker can't receive additional compensation for facilitating a sale
- that any additional fees, such as for showing a home, will be deducted from the broker's commission if there is a successful sale
- that the commission is due only if there is a successful closing
- that buyers have an obligation – for no longer than 60 days, CFA recommends – to pay a broker who earlier showed them a home they purchased after the contract ended
- seller concessions paid directly to buyers
- dual agency not pre-approved by the contract
- an explanation of how a broker treats different buyer clients interested in the same property
- that buyers should not be required to first go through mediation or arbitration if they have a complaint

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