Housing News Update



Tom Payne

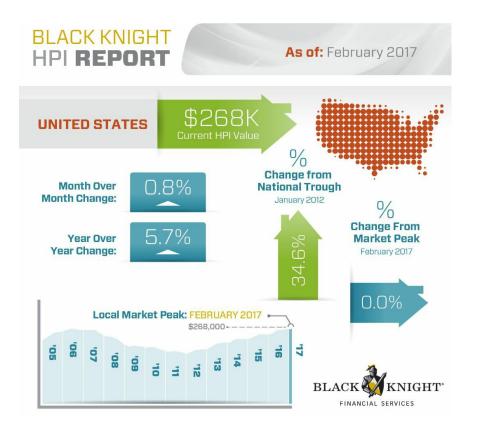
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Home Prices Hit Post Crisis Peak -Black Knight

Home prices in February rose at their fastest pace since last June, up 0.8 percent on a month-over-month basis. Black Knight Financial Services said its national-level Home Price Index (HPI) hit \$268,000 during the month, a new post-crisis peak. Prices are now up 5.7 percent compared to March 2016 and have risen 1.0 percent since the first of this year.



Washington State had the largest monthly gain, up 2.2 percent. Colorado and Oregon followed with 1.6 percent and 1.5 percent growth respectively. Prices did not fall in even the worst performing of the states: West Virginia and Connecticut, were unchanged from January. They were followed by Rhode Island and Ohio with, each with 0.1 percent gains.

National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points	
Mortgage News I	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 Rates as of: 7/22	6.22%	-0.16	0.60	

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%

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Change

For the third month in a row Tuscaloosa was the poorest performing metropolitan area. Prices there declined 4.7 percent from January, more than eight times the 0.5 percent rate of decline in the second worst performing metro area, Atlantic City. Seattle saw 2.7 percent appreciation, the most of any metropolitan area, followed by San Jose, Denver, and Bellingham, each with monthly gains of 2 percent or more. Washington State accounted for **six of the 10 fastest** appreciating metro areas.

Home prices in six of the nation's 20 largest states and 14 of the 40 largest metros hit new peaks in February

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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