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Black Knight: Prices Up 2.3 Percent Year-to-Date

Black Knight Financial Services (BK), released its Home Price Index (HPI) on Tuesday. It was in general agreement with the S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller's National Index, released at about the same time, that **prices rose 5.8 percent in March** compared to a year earlier. Black Knight's index, however, put the month-over-month gain at 1.3 percent, well above the 0.8 percent seasonally adjusted and 0.3 percent unadjusted Case-Shiller estimates. The BK national-level HPI stood at \$272,000 in March, a new peak for home prices and marking a 2.3 percent increase since the start of the year.

Washington State had the **largest price gains** for the second consecutive month. Prices there were up 2.2 percent from February. Washington was followed by Nebraska with a 1.9 percent rise in prices. Five states had gains of 1.7 percent, Michigan, Oregon, Georgia, Colorado, and Illinois.

The fastest appreciating metro area was San Jose, with a 2.6 percent monthly increase. Black Knight said all the top ten performing metros, four of which were in Washington State, had monthly **gains of at least 2 percent**.

Home prices in eight of the nation's 20 largest states and 15 of the 40 largest metros hit new peaks in March. At the opposite end of the scale, prices in Tuscaloosa, Alabama continue to tumble, down another 4.5 percent from February to March. The city has suffered a 17 percent decline in prices in the first three months of 2017.

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%

Update: Buyer Broker Agreement

	Value	Change
Builder Confidence	Mar 51	+6.25%

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

Contact me for more information. 702-303-0243 or TPayne@loandepot.com

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