## **Housing News Update**



## **Tom Payne**

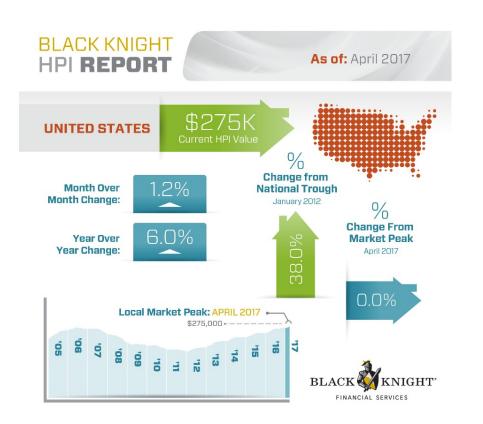
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# Black Knight Home Price Index Hits All-Time High

The third major home price indicator of the month was released on Monday and again there was **no indication that the rate of appreciation is slowing**. Black Knight Financial Services said prices, as measured by its National Home Price Index (HPI) increased from March to April by 1.2 percent. The index reading of \$275,000, was the highest in the HPI's history. The monthover-month increase in the index has brought prices up 3.6 percent since the first of the year, with the bulk of that growth, an aggregate of 2.5 percent, coming in March and April.



On an annual basis, the **index gained 6.0 percent** in April, compared to of 5.8 percent in March. The average year-over-year increase was 5.6 percent in the first quarter of 2017 and 5.4 percent for all of 2016.

#### 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 Banke	rs 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
<b>5/1 ARM</b> 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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### **Housing News Update**

Value Change

Washington State continues to outperform other states; its 2.1 increase from March led the nation for the third straight month. Oregon followed with appreciation of 1.9 percent followed by four states with 1.8 percent gains; Nevada, New Jersey, Michigan, and Montana. Even the worst performing states managed to eke out an increase; West Virginia was up 1.0 percent, Mississippi and Wyoming 0.2 percent, and Maine, South Dakota and Kansas each were up 0.4 percent

The strongest gains among metro areas were Seattle and Bellingham, Washington and Carson City, Nevada, all with 2.3 percent monthly gains. Washington state accounted for five of the nation's top 10 best performing metros

Tuscaloosa, AL was the only metro area to see a decline. Prices fell another 5.1 percent for its fifth consecutive month as the country's worst-performing metropolitan area

Among the 20 largest states tracked by Black Knight, nine hit new peaks in April - Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin. Since the market his bottom in January 2012, prices nationally have recovered by 38 percent.

April marks 60 consecutive months of annual national home price appreciation

# **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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