### **Housing News Update**



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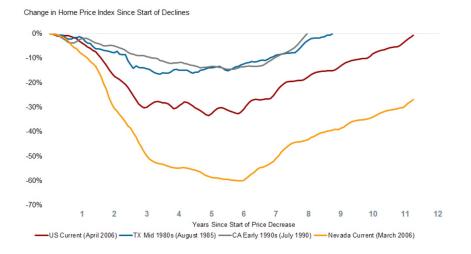
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## **Comparing Housing Booms and Busts**

With home prices nearly back to where they were when the housing crisis began, CoreLogic's principal economist Molly Boesel compares the duration of the recent cycle to those of other downturns. While there hasn't been a comparable period of performance nationwide, she looks at several regional ones.

After hitting peak in 2006, the national price level **fell for five years**, finally reaching bottom in March 2011. Most other sources set the date for the bottom of the market to exactly a year later which may indicate they are using inflation adjusted numbers. From peak to trough, prices fell 33 percent nationally. As of July 2017, CoreLogic data shows prices were approximating the 2006 level.

Boesel compares these numbers to those of the Texas oil bust in the mid-1980's which resulted in a 16 percent decline over 3.5 years. The peak to recovery cycle in that downturn took nearly nine years. In the early 1990s in California, defense and manufacturing job losses led to home price declines in that state. After falling by 15 percent over five and a half years, home prices in California fully recovered after eight years. The U.S. home price decreases that started in 2006 were **twice as severe** as these two regional declines.



While national home price numbers are nearly back to their peak, the **recovery is far from even**. Nevada, where prices dropped the farthest of any state, 60 percent, the 11-year period that has elapsed has left the state 27 percent short of its March 2006 peak. In Colorado, on the other hand, prices fell 14 percent from an August 2007 peak but have now surpassed that peak

#### 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 Banker	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%

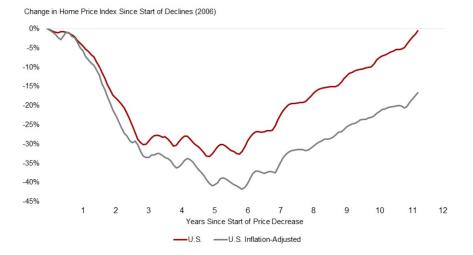
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by 42 percent. Boesel calls Colorado "an extreme case" of rapidly rising prices, but says 34 states are now above their pre-crisis home price levels.

		Value	Change
Builder Confidence	Mar	51	+6.25%



Boesel says inflation should also be factored into the pace of recovery. From the peak in housing prices through this past July, the inflation has totaled just under 18 percent. When home prices are adjusted for that, the **trough was deeper**, down 40 percent from the beginning of the cycle, and the recovery shallower; prices remain 17 percent off the peak.

# **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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