

News BRIEF



NEW HOME SALES RISE ALMOST 16%

New home sales surged in January, rising almost 16% from December in another sign of an improving housing market.

By: Julie Schmit, USA Today, February 26, 2013

To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2013/02/26/new-home-sales-jan/1948517/>

INTERTHINX: MORTGAGE FRAUD RISK CLIMBS TO HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 2009

In the fourth quarter of last year, the risk of mortgage fraud elevated to the highest level since 2009, Interthinx reported Tuesday.

By: Esther Cho, DSNews, February 26, 2013

To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.dsnews.com/articles/interthinx-mortgage-fraud-risk-climbs-to-highest-level-since-2009-2013-02-26>

MORE FHA BORROWERS MAY FIND REFINANCE OUTLET

Barclays estimates that mortgages being refinanced from Federal Housing Administration-backing to private-insured loans currently account for about 20% of all FHA refinance activity, according to a recent report.

By: Christina Mlynski, HousingWire, February 26, 2013

To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.housingwire.com/news/2013/02/26/more-fha-borrowers-may-find-refinance-outlet>

SHILLER'S BOTTOM LINE: RISK LINGERS IN HOUSING

It's possible that home prices have hit a bottom, but heavy government involvement to stabilize the mortgage market and the broader economy has made it harder to gauge the durability of recent home-price gains, says Yale economist Robert Shiller,

the co-creator of the S&P/Case-Shiller index that bears his name.

By: Nick Timiraos, The Wall Street Journal, February 27, 2013

To read the article in full, please visit: <http://blogs.wsj.com/developments/2013/02/26/shillers-bottom-line-risk-lingers-in-housing/>

THEY BAILED ON MORTGAGE, BUT NOW WANT TO BUY AGAIN

Home sales are slowly climbing back, thanks to investor demand, improving consumer confidence in housing, and the surprising return of former homeowners who once walked away from their commitments.

By: Diana Olick, CNBC.com, February 24, 2013

To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.nbcnews.com/business/they-bailed-mortgage-now-want-buy-again-1C8496356#/business/they-bailed-mortgage-now-want-buy-again-1C8496356>

THINK TANK PROMOTES LIMITED GOVERNMENT ROLE IN HOUSING FINANCE

The Bipartisan Policy Center calls for a new housing finance system with a continued but severely limited role for the federal government.

By: Krista Franks Brock, DSNews, February 26, 2013

To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.dsnews.com/articles/bipartisan-group-promotes-limited-government-participation-in-mbs-2013-02-26>



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