

# 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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