

Midwest homes least expensive

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Midwest had 15 of the 25 most-affordable housing markets in the nation during the July-September quarter. California had 14 of the least-affordable.

The National Association of Home Builders reported Wednesday that its quarterly Housing Opportunity Index found little change in regional trends in housing: The most-affordable markets are in the Midwest and South; the least-affordable in the Northeast and West, particularly California.

Lima, Ohio, jumped to first place as the most-affordable market, from 11th in the second quarter index. San Francisco remained mired in last place, a position it has held since the Home Builders began the surveys in the first quarter of 1991.

Joining the 15 Midwestern markets on the most-affordable list were five areas in the Northeast and five in the South. The West had 18 of the least affordable — 14 in California and one each in Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and Oregon. Four more were in the Northeast and three in the South.

The index measures the proportion of homes sold in a market that a household earning the median income in that market could afford to buy. The median is the midpoint, meaning that half of the homes cost more and half cost less.

The survey included about 500,000 sales of new and previously owned homes in 185 metropolitan areas.

"There's no doubt that higher interest rates are affecting housing affordability conditions in every region of the country," said association president

Tommy Thompson, an Owensboro, Ky., builder. "But rates are still in the single digits, making affordability relatively healthy."

Interest rates as measured by the Home Builders rose to 7.72 percent in the third quarter, from 7.42 percent in the second. The rate is a national, weighted average of adjustable and fixed-rate loans.

Lima posted an 87.4 on the index, meaning that a family earning the area's median income of \$38,600 could have purchased 87.4 percent of the homes sold in the area during the quarter.

San Francisco had a 17.8, meaning a family earning the median income of \$57,600 could afford to buy just 17.8 percent of the homes available.

In addition to Lima in the Midwest, the most-affordable markets by region were Albany, N.Y., in the Northeast; Houma, La., in the South, and Pueblo, Colo., in the West.

The least-affordable markets besides San Francisco were Des Moines, Iowa, New York, and Laredo, Texas.

The nation as a whole posted a 61.7 on the third-quarter index, up from 60.0 from April through June. The median income was \$39,900 in both quarters, although the median price in the third quarter rose to \$117,000 from \$114,000 in the second.

The third-quarter index measured for the first time differences in rates for property taxes and insurance, which were not available previously. The change resulted in some different affordability rankings.

Charges against Salvi hasten

BOSTON (AP) — A federal indictment against a man accused of killing two abortion clinic workers should speed up the process of bringing him to Massachusetts to face murder charges.

John C. Salvi III was to appear today before a Virginia judge, then before a federal magistrate, as authorities try to settle a tangle of jurisdiction questions.

Salvi has been held in a Norfolk, Va., jail since he was arrested Saturday and charged with shooting into the city's only abortion clinic. No one was injured in that attack, which occurred a day after Salvi allegedly shot up two clinics in Brookline, Mass., killing two receptionists and wounding five bystanders.

A two-count federal indictment handed down Wednesday charged Salvi with carrying a firearm across state lines with intent to commit a felony. Each count is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

A Justice Department spokesman said Virginia prosecutors planned to drop their charges today and turn Salvi over to federal marshals. Salvi would then face a hearing before a U.S. magistrate, and could be returned to Boston by tonight.

Once back in Massachusetts, he could be turned over to state authorities for prosecution of the murder charges. The process would be quicker than extradition between the two states, legal experts said.

"I'm very happy that the justice system is moving swiftly and effectively," said Nicki Nichols Gamble, president of the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, which runs one of the clinics where the shootings occurred.

U.S. Attorney Donald Stern said federal authorities may file more charges against Salvi once he is returned to Massachusetts, and may seek the death penalty. Massachusetts has no death penalty for state crimes; murder is punishable by life in prison without parole.

The Boston Globe reported today that authorities have a videotape showing Salvi studying one of the Brookline clinics that was attacked. Authorities also are trying to determine if Salvi made telephone threats to a doctor who worked there.

The videotape shows Salvi in a crowd of about 300 people at a May 14 prayer vigil by abortion opponents outside a Planned Parenthood clinic. Salvi is not saying the rosary with others, but is off to one side apparently scrutinizing the building, the Globe said, citing an unidentified law enforcement source.

An obstetrician-gynecologist at the Planned Parenthood clinic said he got three threatening calls at home two weeks before the shootings. The physician, who asked not to be identified, said he reported the calls to police and the FBI.

The doctor said the caller told him "me and my organization" are going to "blow you away, you, your family and your house." In another call, "he asked for my wife by name, and he said to her, 'How do you feel about being the wife of a murderer?'"

"What bothers me is the time that lapsed between the threats and what happened last week," said the doctor, who was at the clinic when the shootings took place. "Could something have been done?"

WINTER IS AN EXPLOSION OF ACTIVITY!

LEAGUES	DIV	MIN# PLAYERS	ENTRY DEADLINE	START DATE	FEE
+Basketball	M-W-C	5	**Instant Lottery Scheduling	Jan. 18	\$40
+Racquetball	M-W	3	Jan. 19, 3:00 p.m.	Jan. 24	\$5 per person
+Volleyball	C	6	Jan. 20, 3:00 p.m.	Jan. 25	\$40
TWO DAY TOURNAMENTS					
Wrestling: Team/Individual	M	Team or Ind.	Jan. 18, 3:45 p.m. (weigh-ins)	Jan. 18	\$2 per person
NEW! Challenge Soccer	M-W-C	2	Feb. 7, 3:30 p.m.	Feb. 8	\$2 per person
Indoor Soccer	M-W-C	5	Feb. 9	Feb. 11	\$15
NEW! Stadium Football	M-W-C	7	Feb. 16, 4:00 p.m.	Feb. 18	\$25/team
SPECIAL EVENTS					
Basketball Scramble	M-W	5	Jan. 11, 3:30 p.m.	Jan. 11 & 13	NC
Open Swim Meet	M-W-C	4	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	\$15
Free Throw, Hot Shot, 3 Point	M-W	1	Feb. 8	Feb. 8	NC

* M=Men, W=Women, C=Coed
 + Intramural sport - under IM regulations (See Handbook)
 **INSTANT LOTTERY SCHEDULING
 Basketball: Thursday, January 12, 102 Esslinger, time TBA

TEAM CAPTAIN/MANAGER OR TEAM REPRESENTATIVE MUST ATTEND MANDATORY PRE-SEASON MEETING TO GET AN ASSIGNED REGISTRATION TIME

Mandatory Pre-Season Meetings:

Sport	Day	Date	Time	Location
Basketball	Tuesday	Jan. 10	4:00 p.m.	Fr Room - EMU
Racquetball: Team/Ind.	Wednesday	Jan. 18	4:00 p.m.	Cedar AB - EMU
Volleyball	Thursday	Jan. 19	4:00 p.m.	Cedar AB - EMU


Mandatory Playoff Meetings:

Sport	Day	Date	Time	Location
Basketball	Thursday	Feb. 9	4:00 p.m.	242 Gerlinger
Volleyball	Thursday	Feb. 9	5:00 p.m.	Century A - EMU
Racquetball	Wednesday	Feb. 15	4:00 p.m.	Cedar AB - EMU

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Stadium Football: Football in winter? Yes, plus it's played at Autzen Stadium (Home of the PAC-10 Champions). The game is designed to be a fast, exciting, offensive game. Two games will be played simultaneously with each game always moving toward the opposite goal. An added element to the game is that teams may attempt field goals. See RIM office for details!



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Doctors watch for flu

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (AP) — During a busy and rainy Friday afternoon, Dr. Jonathan Mittelman picks up the telephone to report the number of flu cases he has seen this week — none.

Mittelman is one of about 150 physicians around the country volunteering to help the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention track the spread of influenza this year.

His contribution may be small, but it's important, said Lee Schmeltz, director of the CDC's U.S. Influenza Surveillance system. "We get advance warning from the physicians," she said. "In a lot of years, they're first with the news of major epidemics."

Doctors in the CDC's Sentinel Physicians Surveillance network volunteer their time in exchange for a subscription to the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, which normally costs \$85 a year, and regular contact with federal health officials.

Each week from October through mid-May, they notify the CDC of the number and ages of patients with flu-like illness.

"It's so easy," Mittelman said of the automated dialing system. "You just input the numbers and you're off and running."

The information from doctors beats by about a week the data the CDC gets from its laboratories and state and city health departments on which flu strains are striking and the number of deaths they cause.

"By putting these different components together, we get a reasonably good picture of what's happening nationwide," said virologist Nancy Cox, chief of the CDC's Influenza Branch.

Cox and her colleagues at the CDC examine the weekly reports called or mailed in by family physicians like Mittelman and Dr. Patricia Kellner, who teaches at Case Western Reserve University's medical school in addition to running her own small practice in Ohio.

"Influenza is entertaining," said Kellner, who has been a flu sentinel for about four seasons. "It marks the season, just like birds returning in the spring."

"It's fun to tell somebody about it, and the CDC likes to listen," she said.

Kellner said she hasn't seen any flu among her patients so far this season. A bad flu season means that she sees three or four patients a week battling the fever, achy muscles, sore throat and headache typical of the flu.

Mittelman said he's seen few cases of the flu in his suburban Atlanta office. He is hoping for a mild season, particularly after last year's deadly — and early — epidemic.

"Last year, it seemed like everybody got together for (Thanksgiving) turkey and stuffing and the flu. This year, we'll see everyone sharing (Christmas) presents and the flu," he predicted.