

# news release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Iowa Association of REALTORS®**

### **Housing Statistics Show Housing Market Down Slightly**

**CLIVE, IOWA (Jan. 14, 2009)** – The most recent housing statistics from the Iowa Association of REALTORS® (IAR) reveal the housing market is down just slightly across the state. According to IAR’s December 2008 Housing Trends Report, average housing prices statewide have shown a 2 percent decrease, while the number of sales are down 11 percent from last year at this time.

With just a 2 percent dip in prices, overall, Iowa homes are still holding their value, says Terry Knapp, president of the Iowa Association of REALTORS®. “The numbers simply aren’t as bad as they could have been considering the weather and the fact that December is usually a little slower,” explains Knapp. “There are some pockets of the state where the housing market has held steady and even increased slightly in prices and sales.” Despite some of these positive signs, Knapp says there are other areas of Iowa that have experienced slightly lower prices and number of sales. “But, all in all, the real estate market in Iowa is holding its own,” states Knapp. “And we want to remind Iowans that a home is still a good investment.”

Local REALTOR® boards that reported increases in both average prices of homes and number of sales from Dec. 2007 to Dec. 2008 include Fremont-Page, Ft. Madison, Keokuk, Marion County, Newton, Northeast, Oskaloosa, Plymouth County, Rathburn Area and Western Iowa.

Additional local boards that reported increases in the average price of homes included Carroll, Central Iowa, Greater Davenport, Greater Mason City, Montgomery, Poweshiek County, Tama, Waterloo-Cedar Falls and Webster City. Additional local boards that reported increases in the

number of sales of homes include Benton County, Burlington, Cedar Valley, Iowa City Area, Mt. Pleasant and Washington.

The Iowa Association of REALTORS® is the state's largest real estate professional organization representing more than 7,000 members and affiliates. The IAR releases a Housing Trends Report each month. Data is collected from local REALTOR® boards through their multiple listing service (MLS), which tracks sales activities in the board area. The IAR compiles all of the local board data into the statewide report each month. Reports are available online to IAR members and affiliates with a login and password. Anyone is eligible to become an IAR affiliate. For membership information, visit [www.iowarealtors.com](http://www.iowarealtors.com).

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