

# news release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Iowa Housing Market Showing Positive Signs**

**CLIVE, IOWA (Apr. 14, 2009)** – Iowa’s housing market is showing positive signs as home prices and sales increased in March, according to the Iowa Association of REALTORS®.

The number of home sales in March increased by 39 percent and the average sale price of homes was up four percent from February, reports the IAR in its March 2009 Housing Trends Report.

“These increases may be due to the combination of high inventory, good prices, low interest rates and the first time homebuyers’ tax credit,” says Terry Knapp, president of the IAR. “We are happy to see this increased activity in Iowa’s housing market, and are hoping this is just the beginning of more good news to come.”

Twenty-one of Iowa’s 44 local REALTOR® boards reported increases in the average prices of homes in March, while 15 boards reported increases in the number of sales. Benton County, Fremont-Page, Mt. Pleasant, Rathburn Area and Southwest Iowa Boards all showed an increase in both average prices and numbers of sales.

The 2009 March Housing Trends report also reflects a three percent decrease in prices and a 10 percent decrease in the number of sales from March 2008, prior to the economic downturn. Knapp states that although March 2009 numbers are down when compared to last year at this time, they aren’t down as much as they have been in recent months. “All in all, Iowa’s market has been holding pretty steady through these recent economic challenges,” says Knapp. “Now that

things are headed in the right direction, we are hopeful Iowa's housing market will continue on the upswing.”

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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