Tallahassee Real Estate

An analytical view of the Tallahassee Housing Market

Volume 14, Number 4

Please forward this to everyone who has a stake in the Tallahassee real estate market.

Remind them they can subscribe to it here

AT A GLANCE

Inventory Report

The April Housing Report has been completed and is posted at

The Market Bulletin



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Current Supply Perfect In Normal Times

Low demand continues to be problem for home sellers

The Tallahassee real estate market remains in a buyer's market, as we still have more homes for sale than the current rate of demand can consume.

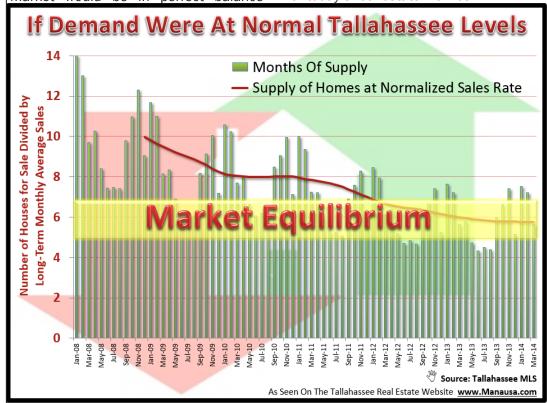
While that is not great news, it is important to know that the amount of homes on the market is no longer the reason for the imbalance between supply and demand. The fault lies on the demand side.

The graph below compares the current inventory with the historically "normal" demand, and it clearly shows that our market would be in perfect balance

should the demand return. So where are the buyers?

There is still a large group of home sellers upside down in their homes, meaning they owe more than the home is worth. Even if they sell short, they won't have the means to then turn around and buy.

These turnaround buyers are the weakness in the demand numbers. Even people who were short sellers several years ago are still fixing credit and cash reserve issues that are holding them out of today's real estate market.



Free Report

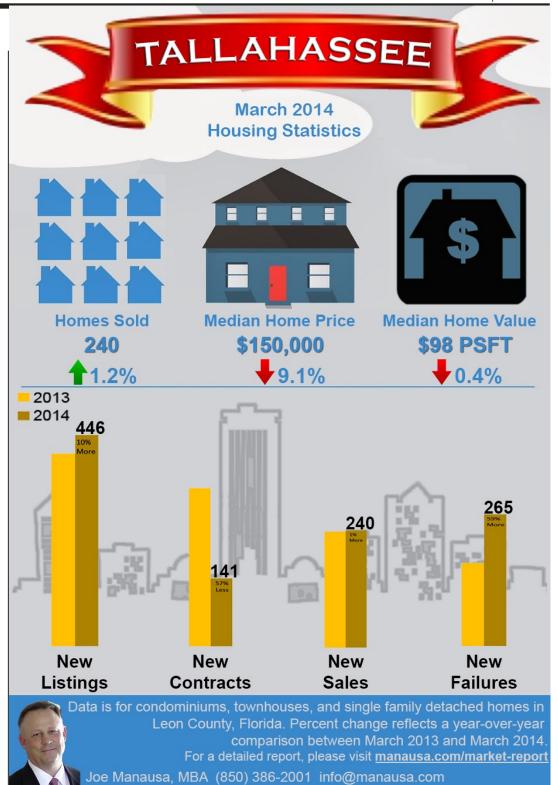
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Search Homes

Fewer Buyers

Year over year new contracts declined a whopping 57% from March 2013 to March 2014. In February, they fell 25%. Where are the buyers?



Take a look at our infographic that shows the current trends in the Tallahassee real estate market. You can

download your free copy of this image anytime you like.

Download Tallahassee Infographic



\$100K to \$300K

The Spring and Summer season could very well leave us with a hole in the middle of our supply chain







For Sale By Owner

With 94% of homebuyers using the internet, today's savvy home seller can now get a home sold without using a real estate agent.

Supply And Demand Adjusts To Seasonal Changes

The supply of homes for sale rises and falls based upon the time of year, and the pattern has been fairly predictable over the past twenty plus years since I first became a real estate broker.

Up until the housing bubble, demand had been very predictable as well, but everything changed back in 2004 and the market continues to recover.

One way that we track supply and demand is by looking at "relative supply," which is the amount of inventory of homes for sale relative to the current rate of demand, expressed in "months of supply."

The graph below shows the relative supply of homes in the Tallahassee real estate market (Leon County) across each price range.

The blue line, measured on the right vertical axis shows this relative supply. The gold band highlights the range in which relative supply would be considered at equilibrium (a market that is balanced between sellers and buyers).

Anywhere the blue line falls below the gold band, we can say that the price range is in a seller's market. And anywhere it rises above the gold band, we declare it a buyer's market.

This graphic clearly shows that there is no seller's market in our area, despite reports that we have seen from California to South Florida, warning of falling inventory. But this will change fairly soon in Tallahassee, for those properties valued between \$100,000 and \$300,000. The Spring and Summer season could very well leave us with a hole in the middle of our supply chain.





Distressing

One in every three homes listed for sale is a short sale, foreclosure, or bank owned property

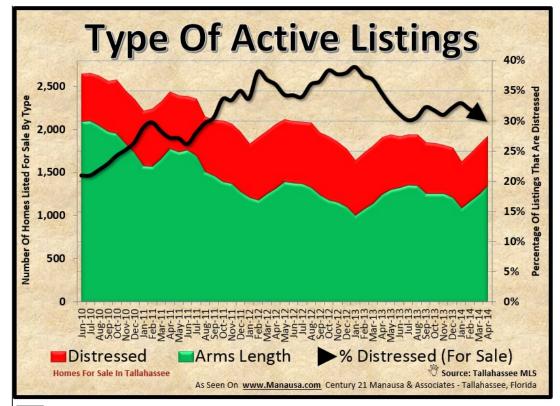
FREE LIST OF HOMES Distressed Property, short sales REOs, Foreclosures - Best Buy List



Competition

It's hard for home values to push higher when so many distressed properties need to first clear the market.

Still Significant Number Of Distressed Properties



There are still a lot of distressed properties for sale in Tallahassee. Any time a "niche" in the market hits 30%, you cannot believe that it is not driving a lot of the trends that we observe.

The graph above shows a monthly snapshot of the current supply of homes from June 2010 to present. The green areas shows the number of arms-length homes on the market, while the red area shows the number of distressed properties for sale. The black line measures the ratio of distressed homes to all homes on the market.

Values Under Pressure

If you are selling a home right now, one in every three homes listed for sale is a short sale, foreclosure, or bank owned property. This means that if two other homes are similar to yours, one of those two is likely being sold under distress (assuming you are not).

It's hard for home values to push higher when so many distressed properties need to first clear the market.

By some counts, it could take several more years to clear the distressed properties from the market, but I suspect after a year or so we will see the problems confined to luxury homes.

Unfortunately, the upper end of the market was last to hit the distressed market and will likely be hurting for many more years. This market grew by more than 6000% during the frenzy of 2002 through 2006, and it has been faring well since due to historically low interest rates. But when rates return to normal, who will buy these homes?

New Contracts Down 57% Year Over Year

Home Not Sold?



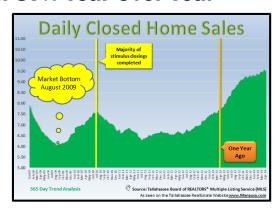
Get Answers Now

The only negative news in our infographic (found on page 2 of this report) is that new contracts are down 57% in March 2014 versus March 2013.

In order to generate the data for the graph below, we count the number of new contingent contracts and new pending contracts each day in the Tallahassee MLS.

When Bad Is Not Bad

Even though new contracts in the MLS have been on a near-continuous slide, we have seen closed sales do nothing but rise during that same period of time. One must wonder how we can see an increase in the number of closed home sales following a long period of declining contracts. Fortunately, I believe some good news provides the rest of the story.

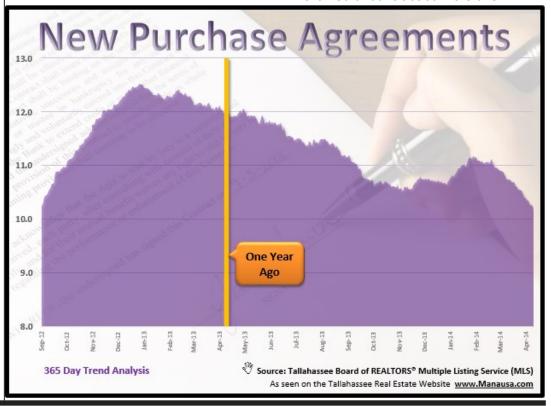


The great decline of short sales in our market means that we are returning to "normal" conditions where buyers will rarely offer on more than one home at a time. With short sales, buyers were often waiting so long to hear from sellers' banks that they often would offer on other homes. This increased the number of contracts in the MLS without increasing actual closed home sales. The decline of short sales should result in the rise of contract conversions.



Normal Is Back

The great decline of short sales in our market means that we are returning to "normal" conditions where buyers will rarely offer on more than one home at a time.



Are Homes Selling?

Over the past year, roughly 58% of the homes that were listed actually sold



ne statistic that we have been maintaining at The Market Bulletin is a measurement that we refer to as the "Sales Success Rate." Recently, the one-year trend has been on a steady rise, setting a three year high while finally reaching the 50% success level.

Sales Success Rate Growth Stalls

By dividing the total number of closed sales by the total number of new listings, over a specific time period, we can show a trend that gives a hint at how many homes (as a percentage of the total) are actually selling.

Conversely, we can measure the home sales failure rate as the total number of listings that failed to sell over the past 365 days divided by the total number of listings taken during that same period of time.

Success: 58%

Failure: 42%

Sales Success Rates Still Too Low

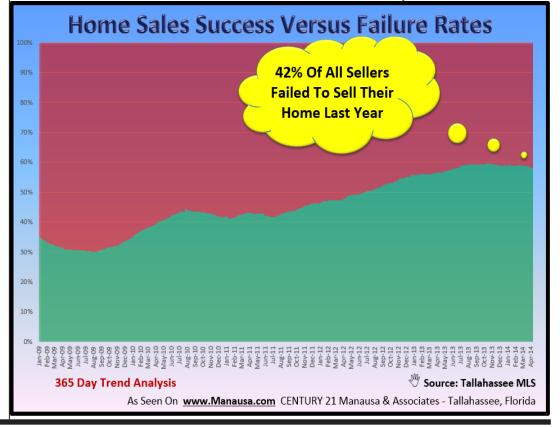
So, in simplified terms, we can say that over the past year, roughly 58% of the homes that were listed actually sold, and 42% of the listings taken failed to sell.

The success trend continues to be on the rise, though we are concerned that previously failed "wanna-be" sellers will return to the market en masse when they realize values are still on the decline.

The failure trend once rose to 70% in June 2009 and it might be heading back to that level when these listings enter the market. We will keep a close eye on these activities because this trend analysis points the way to the speed in which the recovery will take.

Odds Of Selling

By dividing the total number of closed sales by the total number of new listings, over a specific time period, we get a percentage of roughly how many homes are actually selling.





Market Forecast

Knowing the five sequential phases in a market turn allows us to anticipate current and future market changes.

Now Hiring!



Well Supplied

The seasonal surge of homes on the market has made it so that each price range is in or moving towards a buyer's market

Watch For Trend Changes

f you want to know the beginning of the next phase of the market turn, just keep an eye on the relative home supply. You can always track supply levels at <u>The Market Bulletin</u>.

The next phase you say....? Absolutely. I believe that the transition from a buyers' market to a sellers' market will follow this pattern:

- 1. Inventory changes from growth to reduction.
- 2. Home Values Fall At Accelerating Rate
- 3. Year over year sales increase? 🏹
- 4. Inventory levels reach 6 months of supply (balanced market).
- 5. Home Values Stop Falling/Start Rising.

Market Equilibrium In Tallahassee

When we look at the supply and demand of homes in Tallahassee, we find many price ranges that have found market equilibrium.

In the chart below, we see that there is under seven month's supply of homes on the market, with just the luxury end of the market continuing in a glut.

Sales Must Continue To Increase

Home sales have finally started to heat back up. Our current rate of sales is still slower than what we experienced in the 1990s though. It is going take a return of normal sales rates for our market to expel the glut of homes for sale, along with the excess supply of homes that exist above \$500.000.

Leon County Home Inventory Report

Residential Home Supply - April 2014

| Chart Information | NE | NW | SE | SW | ALL |
|---------------------|------|----------|------|----------|------|
| \$0-\$75,000 | 4.2 | 7.2 | 6.3 | 9.1 | 7.1 |
| \$75,000-\$100,000 | 5.0 | 8.5 | 5.7 | 12.6 | 7.6 |
| \$100,000-\$125,000 | 5.1 | 7.6 | 6.0 | 7.8 | 6.5 |
| \$125,000-\$150,000 | 5.5 | 10.1 | 8.9 | 21.0 | 8.2 |
| \$150,000-\$200,000 | 5.9 | 9.5 | 6.6 | 16.0 | 6.9 |
| \$200,000-\$250,000 | 6.4 | 10.3 | 6.5 | 42.0 | 7.0 |
| \$250,000-\$300,000 | 7.4 | 6.5 | 5.5 | 36.0 | 7.2 |
| \$300,000-\$500,000 | 7.8 | 12.0 | 4.9 | No Sales | 7.8 |
| \$500,000-\$750,000 | 13.4 | 15.0 | 7.5 | No Sales | 12.9 |
| \$750,000+ | 19.3 | No Sales | 48.0 | No Sales | 21.5 |
| All Price Ranges | 6.8 | 8.4 | 6.3 | 11.5 | 7.5 |

Information in the report above shows relative home supply (months of supply based upon the current rate of sales). For example, there are 7.4 months of supply of homes priced between \$250K and \$300K in the Northeast, but 36.0 months of supply of the same priced homes in the Southwest.

Relative Supply Continues To Decline

Selling Homes

The current 7.5 months of supply is lower than the 9.1 months of supply reported this time last year.

Home Search

Betton Homes
The "Bobbins"
Buckhead
Bull Run
Glen At Golden Eagle
Golden Eagle
Highgrove
Indian Head Acres
Killearn Acres
Killearn Estates
Killearn Lakes
Ox Bottom Manor
Piney-Z
Southwood
Summerbrooke

Weems Plantation

Woodland Drives

Distressed Properties

Arms Length Homes

Golf Course Homes

Waterfront Homes

Short Sales

Foreclosures



The graph above is very busy, but once you get accustomed to seeing supply and demand reported in this manner, you will quickly grasp the state of the Tallahassee housing market.

We use this graph to determine the relative supply of homes (meaning the current supply of homes for sale compared to the current rate of demand). We report relative supply as "months of supply of homes." It is generally accepted that a balanced market (market equilibrium) is when the relative supply of homes is at 6 months of supply.

The blue bars in the graph above show the relative supply of homes (measured on the left vertical axis). Market equilibrium is plotted as an orange line, and we observe that the market has been over-supplied since we began recording this information in 2008.

But the relative supply of homes has fallen. The current 7.5 months of supply is lower than the 9.1 months of supply reported this time last year.

Falling supply, both real and relative, are very good for a housing market that has been glutted with too many homes since the collapse of the market back in 2006. The growth in demand that is shown in the graph is just what the market has needed, and its continual rise will help us return to normal.

Soon, we are going to see home sellers emerge from the shadow inventory to fill in the growing demand. It is great to see the market handle this growth in the supply with an even greater growth in demand.

Can We Help?







Selling A Home?

Sell it now, sell it fast, and move to the home that you desire with low interest rates



Links To Relevant Articles

Help Haley May Defeat Diabetes

In an age where the news constantly delivers stories about what is wrong with America and its people, I find it refreshing each year when I get the announcement that



a Tallahassee youth continues in her very adult mission to beat diabetes.

May 3rd marks the 7th anniversary of Haley May's quest to raise money for the fight against diabetes, so I will ask all of our readers, both locally and across the internet, to "mark your calendars" for the May Family Dollars 4 Diabetes Car Wash. [Read More]

Why People Choose To Sell A Home

The National Association of REALTORS has produced a new infographic, and it shows that people continue to make the same old mistakes when they decide to sell their home.

But it also provides information about events that occurred during the home selling process, and I think anybody who is planning on putting their home on the market can learn (from the mistakes of others) with this quick study.[Read more]

Are Job Seekers Now Considering A Career In Real Estate?

The housing market is heating up, more homes are being sold every day, so I was wondering if job seekers would be looking at real estate careers as a prospective answer to their employment problem. A quick look inside of Google gave me some very surprising answers. [Read more]

Six Tallahassee Real Estate Graphs

hen we dissect the market by property types and sale types, it provides a very clear picture for homeowners to have an understanding of what is happening to the value of their homes.

Condominiums, townhouses and single family detached homes, segmented by arms length and distressed property sales produce 6 great market snapshots. [Read more]

Does A Pocket Listing Help Or estate agent is marketing a home for sale, but not in the Multiple Listing Service (MLS).

If you are thinking about selling a home in the near future, you would be well served to form a strong opinion about the benefits and liabilities of working with an agent who boasts an inventory of pocket listings. [Read more]

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