



# METROLIST<sup>SM</sup>

## Economic and Market Watch Report

4th Quarter, 2008



\*Click on a County to view economic and real estate information at the county and zip code level

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**Metrolist, Inc.**  
**Economic and Market Watch Report**

Proud to be Realtor® owned, Metrolist Inc.SM is the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) serving 19,000 real estate professionals throughout the greater metro Denver area. Metrolist provides access to a broad database of real property listings so that real estate brokers may better serve buyers and sellers. Founded in 1984, Metrolist was one of the first regional MLSs in the nation and is considered an industry leader. For more information about Metrolist and its products and services, please visit [www.metrolist.com](http://www.metrolist.com).

Metrolist, Inc. is pleased to introduce the Economic and Market Watch Report designed to help real estate practitioners identify current and future economic and real estate trends that affect our industry.

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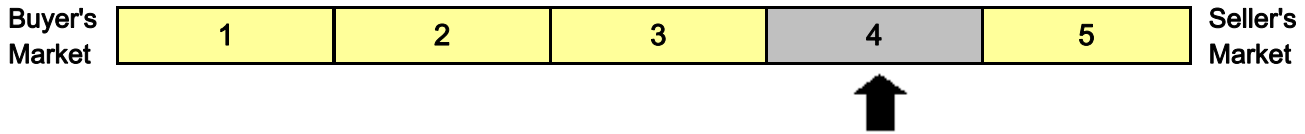
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## Adams County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 1,095 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 5.7% in the third quarter to 6.3% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Adams County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 <i>(Forecast)</i>
<b>Average Price</b>	\$171,400	\$163,400	
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	4,007	2,582	
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	1,899	1,508	
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	99	53	
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	97	90	

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80011	\$108,700	-11.19%	69	60.47%	78	100.6%
80019	\$146,200	-26.79%	6	-45.45%	105	100.4%
80022	\$146,100	-14.11%	232	87.10%	109	98.0%
80024	\$55,600	-	1	-	10	101.1%
80030	\$122,900	-16.96%	34	3.03%	88	97.6%
80031	\$237,000	-15.11%	81	1.25%	87	96.7%
80102	\$141,200	-7.77%	17	112.50%	182	94.9%
80136	\$158,100	-22.61%	12	-40.00%	210	94.8%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

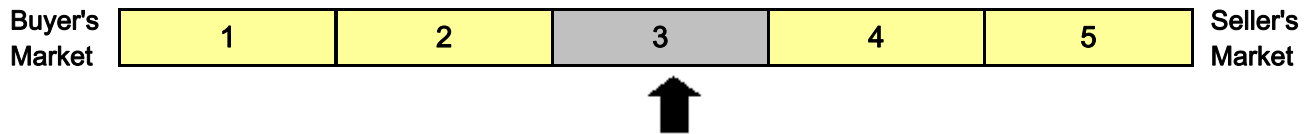
## Adams County, CO

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80221	\$108,700	-18.33%	152	68.89%	82	99.3%
80229	\$122,200	-14.61%	203	43.97%	68	100.1%
80233	\$155,500	-14.04%	148	19.35%	70	99.9%
80234	\$290,300	4.16%	48	-7.69%	108	97.4%
80241	\$215,900	-0.69%	81	-16.49%	80	98.0%
80260	\$130,200	-16.70%	34	-17.07%	95	99.0%
80601	\$160,700	-15.47%	103	-12.71%	79	97.6%
80602	\$274,800	-6.24%	110	-5.17%	100	96.9%
80640	\$207,100	-6.59%	49	36.11%	84	98.6%
OTHER	\$151,000	-33.16%	128	23.08%	111	97.0%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Arapahoe County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 1,537 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 5.3% in the third quarter to 5.8% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Arapahoe County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 <i>(Forecast)</i>
<b>Average Price</b>	\$277,600	\$253,800	↓
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	4,485	2,948	↑
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	2,014	1,370	↓
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	138	68	↓
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	91	87	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80010	\$90,600	-7.55%	77	-3.75%	89	98.5%
80012	\$151,400	-12.64%	83	-6.74%	83	98.9%
80013	\$175,200	-7.40%	255	-5.90%	70	99.0%
80014	\$207,100	-12.25%	37	-19.57%	68	97.5%
80015	\$227,600	-4.29%	186	-11.85%	88	98.0%
80016	\$364,100	-19.11%	145	14.17%	118	95.6%
80017	\$134,500	-13.84%	92	-8.91%	63	100.1%
80018	\$225,000	-11.90%	34	-8.11%	94	98.7%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

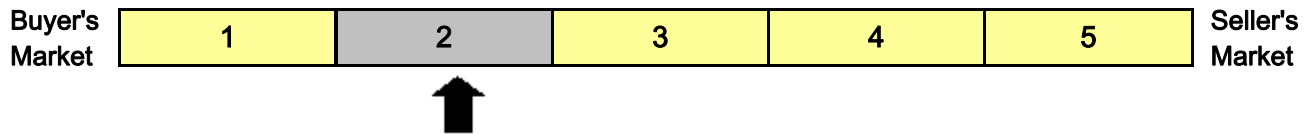
## Arapahoe County, CO

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80103	\$198,300	14.23%	6	20.00%	126	97.8%
80110	\$150,700	-15.48%	55	10.00%	59	99.7%
80111	\$612,000	34.24%	54	5.88%	107	93.4%
80112	\$298,400	-0.37%	41	-19.61%	73	96.3%
80113	\$594,100	-30.44%	44	-20.00%	109	93.7%
80120	\$274,000	-1.83%	53	23.26%	73	97.2%
80121	\$623,500	32.57%	40	2.56%	95	93.5%
80122	\$291,300	-9.76%	38	-33.33%	106	97.4%
80247	\$227,200	-8.97%	15	200.00%	98	97.3%
OTHER	\$224,200	-0.71%	115	-5.74%	104	96.8%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Boulder County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment increased by 2,622 jobs in Boulder County during October and November. However, the number of job seekers also increased. The combined effect of these two trends was an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 4.5% for the third quarter to 4.7% in the first two months of the fourth quarter. The solid job growth may provide home sales, while historically low mortgage rates boost affordability.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 (Forecast)
Average Price	\$393,700	\$375,300	↑
# Homes on the Market *	979	627	↔
# Homes Sold **	359	195	↓
# New Homes Built ***	10	19	↓
Avg # of Days on Market	96	95	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80026	\$249,600	-34.25%	18	-37.93%	106	98.3%
80027	\$391,700	-4.77%	29	-25.64%	76	97.6%
80301	\$435,700	8.28%	10	-33.33%	92	95.6%
80302	\$748,800	-9.49%	3	-72.73%	127	94.8%
80303	\$474,800	-8.99%	7	-36.36%	154	95.3%
80304	\$805,200	-3.30%	9	-30.77%	59	96.0%
80305	\$656,700	-10.77%	7	-12.50%	133	96.1%
80403	\$309,400	60.56%	4	33.33%	191	91.2%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

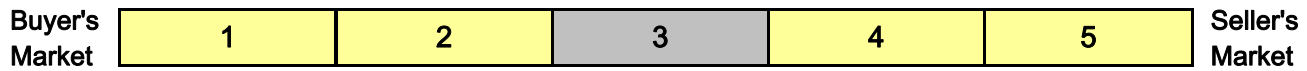
## Boulder County, CO

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80466	\$365,000	-35.86%	1	-83.33%	246	96.1%
80481	\$410,000	34.21%	1	-50.00%	74	96.5%
80501	\$192,200	-11.83%	59	-10.61%	77	97.2%
80503	\$506,400	-3.60%	22	-33.33%	85	95.2%
80504	\$1,148,300	125.60%	3	0.00%	156	104.1%
80516	\$296,600	-7.66%	20	33.33%	117	97.5%
80540	\$320,000	-12.81%	1	-75.00%	7	96.1%
OTHER	\$1,375,000	-	1	-	384	98.9%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Broomfield County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 128 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 5.2% in the third quarter to 5.5% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Broomfield County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 (Forecast)
<b>Average Price</b>	\$350,800	\$336,100	↓
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	416	309	↑
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	218	116	↓
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	NA	NA	↓
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	95	112	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

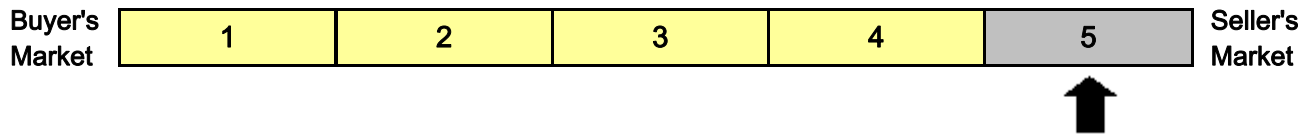
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80020	\$250,200	0.40%	77	-36.36%	95	97.2%
OTHER	\$505,700	-19.24%	39	-2.50%	148	96.8%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Chaffee County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 880 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 4.4% in the third quarter to 5.3% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Chaffee County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 (Forecast)
<b>Average Price</b>	\$135,000	\$131,500	↑
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	21	1	↔
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	1	1	↓
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	22	20	↓
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	357	98	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

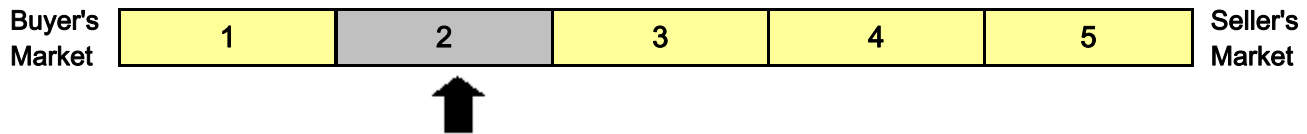
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
81211	\$131,500	-51.39%	1	0.00%	98	86.6%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Clear Creek County, CO



### Labor Market :

A decline in employment of 29 jobs was offset by a decrease in the number of persons looking for work during the first two months of the fourth quarter. The net effect was no change in the 5% average monthly unemployment rate from the third quarter. Job losses are cutting into confidence and demand, but historically low mortgage rates are creating a great buying opportunity for those with a job and good credit.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 (Forecast)
Average Price	\$263,100	\$274,600	↓
# Homes on the Market *	212	156	↑
# Homes Sold **	33	36	↓
# New Homes Built ***	NA	NA	↓
Avg # of Days on Market	165	109	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

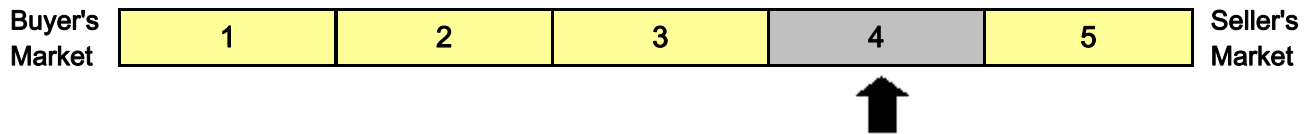
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80436	\$119,700	-25.88%	2	0.00%	31	90.8%
80444	\$220,800	-2.65%	7	75.00%	83	98.0%
80452	\$177,000	0.45%	12	0.00%	87	89.7%
80476	\$105,000	-	1	-	225	95.5%
OTHER	\$419,400	24.45%	14	-22.22%	144	94.7%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Denver County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 1,545 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 5.8% in the third quarter to 6.4% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Denver County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 (Forecast)
Average Price	\$254,300	\$211,500	↓
# Homes on the Market *	5,467	3,870	↑
# Homes Sold **	2,466	1,946	↓
# New Homes Built ***	126	81	↓
Avg # of Days on Market	93	89	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80203	\$349,700	5.52%	15	87.50%	74	97.8%
80204	\$111,400	-11.80%	96	41.18%	73	98.4%
80205	\$198,900	-5.91%	98	3.16%	80	97.3%
80206	\$475,000	-47.76%	39	14.71%	76	93.6%
80207	\$202,800	-6.33%	109	5.83%	79	97.5%
80209	\$567,400	-2.74%	68	-16.05%	125	93.8%
80210	\$434,400	-5.99%	93	-13.08%	126	95.8%
80211	\$247,900	-1.04%	92	-15.60%	83	97.4%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

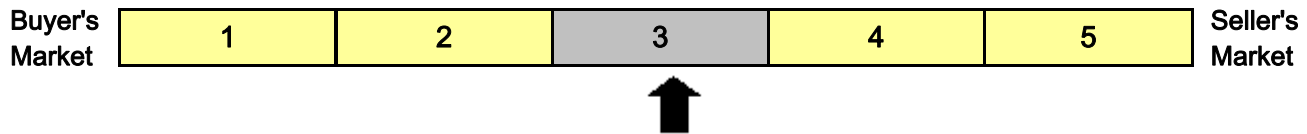
## Denver County, CO

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80212	\$312,600	8.62%	46	-32.35%	83	97.0%
80216	\$52,000	-22.16%	49	58.06%	97	100.6%
80218	\$514,500	-42.30%	19	-36.67%	133	91.9%
80219	\$96,300	-17.90%	326	44.25%	83	98.8%
80220	\$279,000	-34.31%	116	9.43%	108	96.1%
80222	\$282,900	-7.31%	42	16.67%	97	93.8%
80223	\$127,700	-9.94%	86	30.30%	90	97.8%
80224	\$278,400	-0.11%	24	-35.14%	124	95.4%
80230	\$503,800	-0.92%	13	85.71%	181	98.5%
80231	\$278,600	8.19%	21	40.00%	108	96.7%
80236	\$175,100	-13.36%	40	8.11%	75	98.0%
80237	\$346,300	-17.05%	18	-14.29%	143	97.2%
80238	\$507,500	15.76%	35	-28.57%	159	97.5%
80239	\$99,600	-20.64%	251	79.29%	77	99.9%
80246	\$714,600	22.09%	11	37.50%	116	90.0%
80249	\$149,900	-8.60%	149	53.61%	73	99.2%
OTHER	\$168,300	-32.03%	90	7.14%	65	97.9%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Douglas County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 773 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 4.6% in the third quarter to 4.9% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Douglas County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 (Forecast)
Average Price	\$382,700	\$369,000	↓
# Homes on the Market *	3,423	2,615	↑
# Homes Sold **	1,311	898	↓
# New Homes Built ***	188	84	↓
Avg # of Days on Market	99	103	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80104	\$277,000	-15.70%	109	-6.03%	113	96.7%
80108	\$565,200	-14.02%	85	13.33%	201	95.7%
80109	\$319,100	-8.33%	60	-9.09%	114	97.5%
80116	\$613,000	44.54%	5	-28.57%	108	94.8%
80118	\$518,100	-22.84%	13	-63.89%	109	96.6%
80124	\$546,700	12.47%	32	-28.89%	127	96.1%
80125	\$291,000	-22.28%	32	-39.62%	141	95.8%
80126	\$352,200	-10.08%	114	-16.18%	80	97.1%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

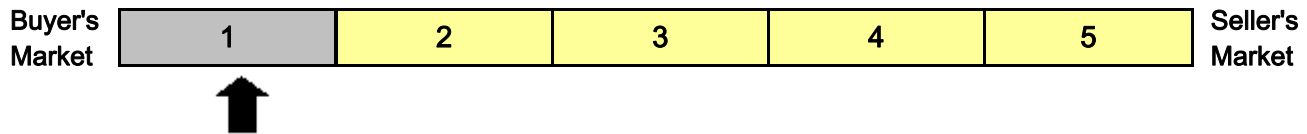
## Douglas County, CO

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80129	\$312,100	-3.46%	67	-31.63%	68	98.0%
80130	\$344,600	0.64%	93	-18.42%	73	97.9%
80131	\$895,000	148.47%	1	-50.00%	84	100.0%
80134	\$348,200	-5.48%	190	-14.80%	83	96.7%
80135	\$400,500	-24.85%	8	14.29%	101	94.5%
80138	\$385,000	2.09%	88	29.41%	102	95.9%
OTHER	\$165,000	-	1	-	120	86.8%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Eagle County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 1,405 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 3.4% in the third quarter to 4.6% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Eagle County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 (Forecast)
Average Price	NA	\$549,000	↓
# Homes on the Market *	NA	6	↑
# Homes Sold **	NA	1	↓
# New Homes Built ***	NA	1	↓
Avg # of Days on Market	NA	102	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

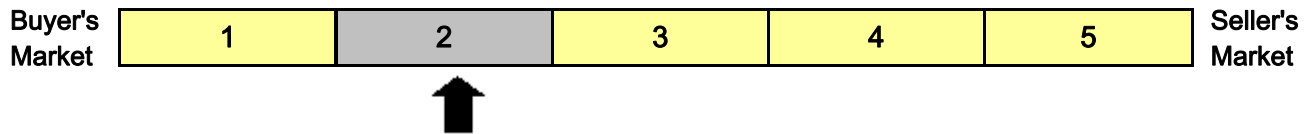
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
81637	\$549,000	-	1	-	102	93.8%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.






## Elbert County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 67 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 4.9% in the third quarter to 5.3% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Elbert County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 <i>(Forecast)</i>
<b>Average Price</b>	\$288,200	\$300,100	
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	423	312	
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	109	84	
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	13	8	
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	133	114	

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

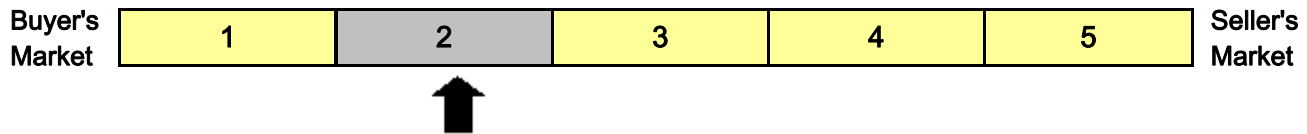
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80107	\$312,700	1.07%	54	20.00%	118	96.1%
80117	\$234,200	-18.74%	8	33.33%	108	96.4%
80835	\$150,000	23.05%	2	-50.00%	92	98.7%
OTHER	\$307,400	-38.79%	20	-4.76%	109	96.9%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.






## El Paso County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 3,669 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 6.1% in the third quarter to 6.5% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in El Paso County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 <i>(Forecast)</i>
<b>Average Price</b>	\$331,400	\$275,800	
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	353	213	
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	61	51	
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	259	140	
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	104	140	

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80132	\$401,600	-15.90%	8	0.00%	137	97.6%
80133	\$385,000	60.42%	1	0.00%	476	90.6%
80817	\$187,700	-19.44%	5	0.00%	202	101.0%
80831	\$255,400	34.42%	5	400.00%	87	95.5%
80903	\$167,900	-	1	-	2	98.8%
80906	\$97,000	-82.36%	1	0.00%	125	96.0%
80908	\$226,600	-22.48%	7	-12.50%	56	97.5%
80909	\$91,000	-57.28%	1	-50.00%	158	102.2%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

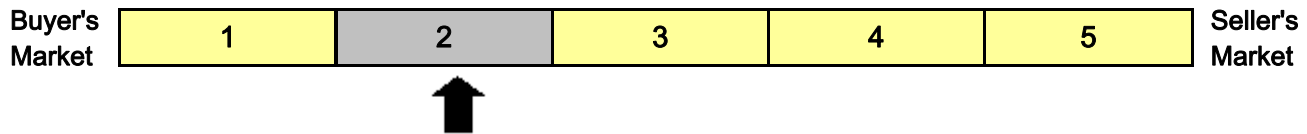
## El Paso County, CO

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80917	\$247,500	14.58%	2	100.00%	150	94.5%
80918	\$317,100	89.31%	2	100.00%	52	98.3%
80919	\$409,500	-2.73%	2	0.00%	89	96.5%
80920	\$389,000	32.86%	3	0.00%	245	93.6%
80921	\$220,000	-39.36%	1	-80.00%	203	95.7%
80925	\$213,200	-	3	-	38	95.3%
OTHER	\$259,200	-	9	-	202	96.4%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Gilpin County, CO



### Labor Market :

A decline in employment of 17 jobs was offset by a decrease in the number of persons looking for work during the first two months of the fourth quarter. The net effect was no change in the 4.8% average monthly unemployment rate from the third quarter. Job losses are cutting into confidence and demand, but historically low mortgage rates are creating a great buying opportunity for those with a job and good credit.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 <i>(Forecast)</i>
<b>Average Price</b>	\$246,000	\$189,400	↓
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	153	105	↑
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	24	24	↓
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	NA	NA	↓
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	95	209	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

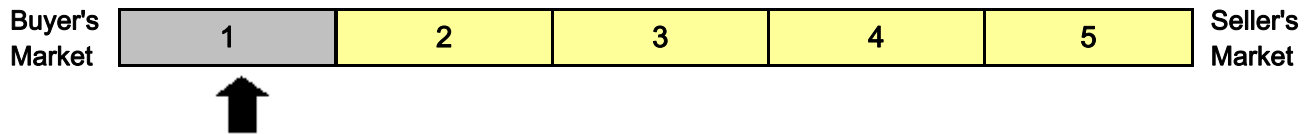
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80403	\$204,200	-26.91%	12	-58.62%	242	96.9%
80422	\$252,300	8.52%	4	100.00%	53	94.9%
80427	\$80,300	-75.67%	5	400.00%	323	87.8%
80474	\$312,000	37.08%	2	0.00%	118	94.6%
OTHER	\$60,000	-	1	-	75	63.2%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.






## Grand County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 1,075 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 3.4% in the third quarter to 4.4% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Grand County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 (Forecast)
<b>Average Price</b>	\$356,500	\$597,600	
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	131	101	
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	10	12	
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	48	22	
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	287	183	

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

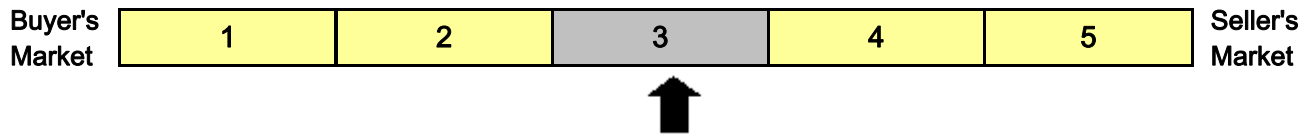
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80442	\$672,000	-	1	-	276	90.0%
80446	\$477,100	80.04%	3	200.00%	210	95.6%
80447	\$339,900	-36.63%	4	-20.00%	155	95.7%
80459	\$137,000	-52.76%	1	0.00%	78	96.2%
80478	\$715,000	-	1	-	132	90.5%
80482	\$556,200	104.49%	1	-50.00%	390	83.7%
OTHER	\$2,300,000	-	1	-	77	88.8%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.






## Jefferson County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 1,545 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 5% in the third quarter to 5.4% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Jefferson County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 <i>(Forecast)</i>
<b>Average Price</b>	\$298,900	\$284,700	
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	3,930	2,634	
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	1,601	1,104	
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	87	44	
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	87	97	

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80002	\$198,500	-4.20%	28	0.00%	68	98.0%
80003	\$179,600	-6.94%	66	-24.14%	55	97.4%
80004	\$241,600	2.90%	64	-30.43%	88	97.8%
80005	\$281,000	-9.38%	60	-26.83%	91	97.7%
80007	\$401,800	-26.79%	13	-38.10%	101	96.8%
80021	\$206,000	-19.06%	56	-20.00%	51	98.8%
80033	\$217,200	-3.25%	36	-36.84%	120	96.0%
80123	\$314,300	-2.36%	58	23.40%	113	97.1%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

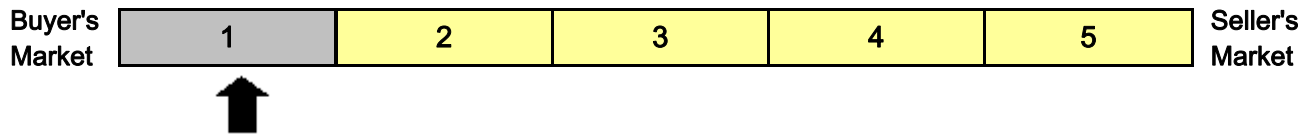
## Jefferson County, CO

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80127	\$342,300	0.06%	74	-31.48%	111	96.2%
80128	\$229,600	-6.89%	72	-4.00%	79	97.5%
80214	\$164,800	-8.09%	47	27.03%	70	96.7%
80215	\$250,800	-4.82%	46	-17.86%	101	98.2%
80226	\$206,700	-14.45%	47	-22.95%	71	97.4%
80227	\$309,100	1.15%	24	-40.00%	112	97.4%
80228	\$348,400	12.93%	50	2.04%	95	96.6%
80232	\$188,800	-12.06%	64	6.67%	79	97.7%
80235	\$272,100	-0.26%	10	66.67%	174	97.1%
80401	\$489,600	22.86%	76	-10.59%	129	94.4%
80403	\$369,400	-14.90%	39	-20.41%	155	94.7%
80433	\$322,000	-15.99%	36	-12.20%	167	95.5%
80439	\$452,000	-20.23%	49	-40.96%	128	96.7%
80454	\$356,300	0.71%	2	-33.33%	88	93.8%
80457	\$235,000	-	2	-	245	98.6%
80465	\$363,200	-3.30%	43	-33.85%	118	95.3%
80470	\$345,700	13.01%	6	-50.00%	108	94.1%
OTHER	\$194,800	-13.84%	36	-2.70%	59	98.2%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.






## Kit Carson County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 403 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 3% in the third quarter to 3.4% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Kit Carson County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 <i>(Forecast)</i>
<b>Average Price</b>	\$144,500	\$131,500	
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	33	26	
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	4	4	
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	NA	NA	
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	190	309	

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

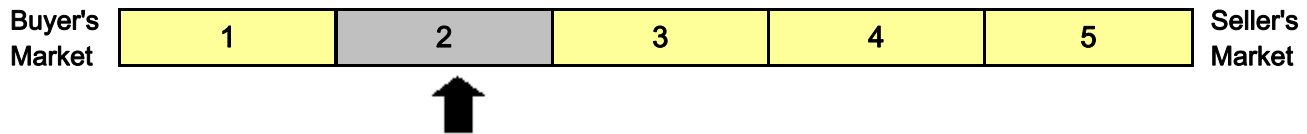
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80807	\$150,300	37.26%	3	0.00%	267	91.2%
80834	\$75,000	-	1	-	436	100.0%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Lake County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 187 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 4.4% in the third quarter to 5.3% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Lake County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 (Forecast)
Average Price	\$199,200	\$259,600	↓
# Homes on the Market *	32	39	↑
# Homes Sold **	9	10	↓
# New Homes Built ***	NA	NA	↓
Avg # of Days on Market	121	189	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

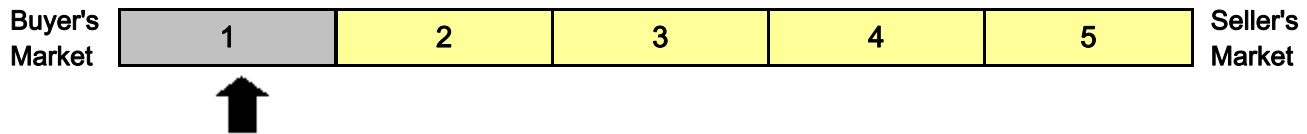
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80461	\$259,600	20.97%	10	-23.08%	189	93.3%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Larimer County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 965 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 4.4% in the third quarter to 4.6% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Larimer County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 (Forecast)
Average Price	\$377,600	\$265,300	↓
# Homes on the Market *	260	167	↑
# Homes Sold **	47	25	↓
# New Homes Built ***	131	84	↓
Avg # of Days on Market	120	188	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

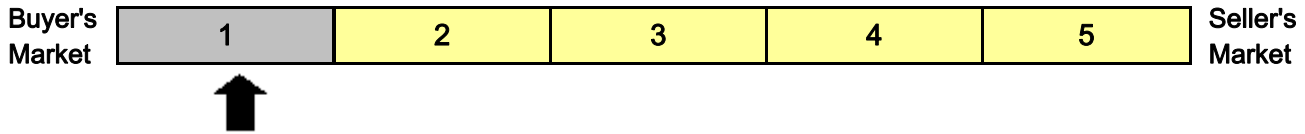
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80513	\$130,000	-49.83%	1	-90.91%	596	92.9%
80524	\$410,000	-62.90%	1	-50.00%	56	96.7%
80525	\$127,500	-60.83%	1	-75.00%	132	94.5%
80526	\$181,900	-11.05%	2	100.00%	4	98.1%
80537	\$266,800	52.02%	8	-20.00%	118	99.3%
80538	\$290,900	37.28%	9	-18.18%	81	96.4%
80540	\$430,000	53.02%	1	0.00%	753	78.9%
80545	\$209,000	-46.41%	2	100.00%	751	92.2%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.






## Lincoln County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 177 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 3.6% in the third quarter to 4.3% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Lincoln County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 <i>(Forecast)</i>
<b>Average Price</b>	\$92,000	\$35,000	
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	13	27	
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	2	1	
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	NA	NA	
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	118	37	

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

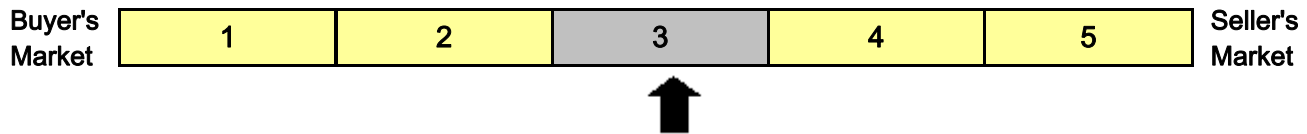
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80828	\$35,000	-75.61%	1	0.00%	37	94.9%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Mesa County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 9 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 4.1% in the third quarter to 4.2% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Mesa County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 (Forecast)
Average Price	NA	\$179,500	↑
# Homes on the Market *	NA	6	↔
# Homes Sold **	NA	2	↓
# New Homes Built ***	NA	99	↓
Avg # of Days on Market	NA	161	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

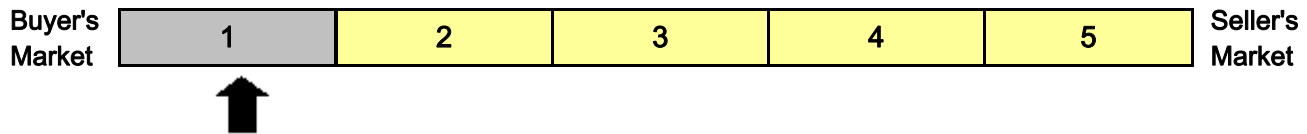
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
81503	\$164,000	-44.78%	1	0.00%	151	100.0%
81504	\$195,000	-	1	-	172	95.1%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Morgan County, CO



### Labor Market :

Morgan County saw 252 layoffs occur during October and November. Despite the decline in employment, the average monthly unemployment rate fell from 4.5% during the third quarter to 4.3% in the first two months of the fourth quarter. Resign job losses are hurting demand, but historically low mortgage rates are improving affordability.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 (Forecast)
<b>Average Price</b>	\$138,300	\$130,800	↓
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	74	62	↑
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	20	9	↓
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	1	0	↓
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	115	211	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

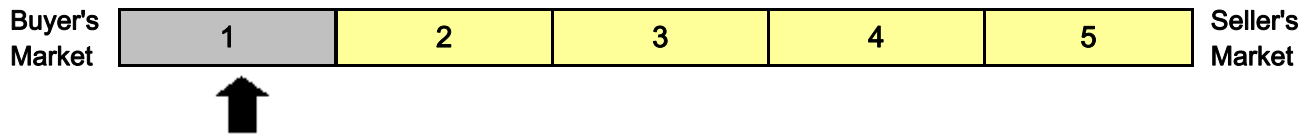
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80654	\$280,000	69.70%	1	-50.00%	123	98.2%
80701	\$143,800	-20.20%	3	-70.00%	399	94.5%
80723	\$94,300	-32.93%	3	-25.00%	150	87.9%
80733	\$122,500	-	1	-	98	98.0%
80750	\$60,000	-	1	-	31	75.1%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.






## Park County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 49 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 5% in the third quarter to 5.2% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Park County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 <i>(Forecast)</i>
<b>Average Price</b>	\$212,300	\$224,800	
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	464	336	
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	80	62	
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	37	22	
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	191	182	

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

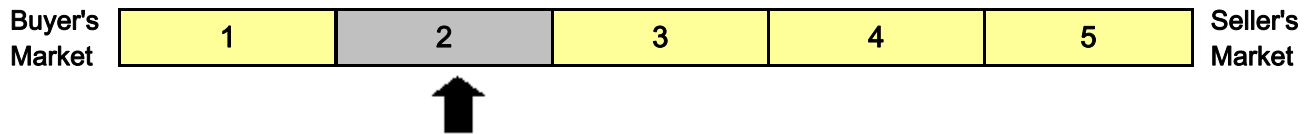
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80420	\$325,200	25.32%	3	50.00%	55	97.6%
80421	\$198,600	-22.93%	29	-21.62%	168	88.4%
80432	\$206,200	11.88%	7	75.00%	239	97.7%
80440	\$282,600	34.44%	9	50.00%	191	99.5%
80456	\$164,500	-19.16%	7	-56.25%	136	95.9%
80820	\$224,000	-1.54%	2	-50.00%	314	97.4%
OTHER	\$323,600	28.36%	5	-64.29%	253	96.1%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.






## Rio Grande County, CO



### Labor Market :

Rio Grande County saw 364 layoffs occur during October and November. Despite the decline in employment, the average monthly unemployment rate fell from 6.1% during the third quarter to 5.3% in the first two months of the fourth quarter. Resign job losses are hurting demand, but historically low mortgage rates are improving affordability.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 <i>(Forecast)</i>
<b>Average Price</b>	NA	\$39,900	
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	NA	4	
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	NA	1	
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	NA	NA	
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	NA	134	

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

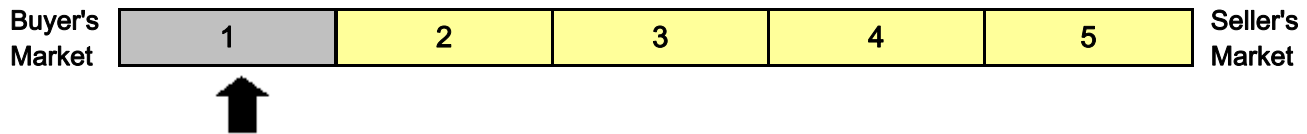
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
81144	\$39,900	-	1	-	134	61.5%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Summit County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 200 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 3.9% in the third quarter to 4.8% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Summit County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 (Forecast)
Average Price	\$522,700	\$665,500	↓
# Homes on the Market *	58	95	↑
# Homes Sold **	10	12	↓
# New Homes Built ***	40	16	↓
Avg # of Days on Market	143	203	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

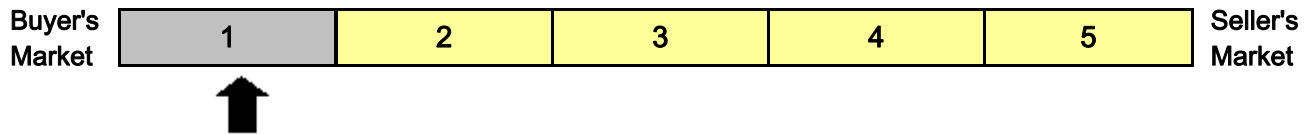
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80424	\$769,800	91.49%	5	-50.00%	220	89.5%
80435	\$48,500	-91.87%	1	0.00%	186	82.2%
80443	\$894,500	-	2	-	301	96.3%
80498	\$583,000	-13.31%	3	-25.00%	53	92.1%
OTHER	\$550,000	-	1	-	396	97.4%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.






## Teller County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 160 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 5.3% in the third quarter to 6.2% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Teller County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 <i>(Forecast)</i>
<b>Average Price</b>	\$490,800	\$228,600	
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	33	21	
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	5	2	
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	20	17	
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	216	45	

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

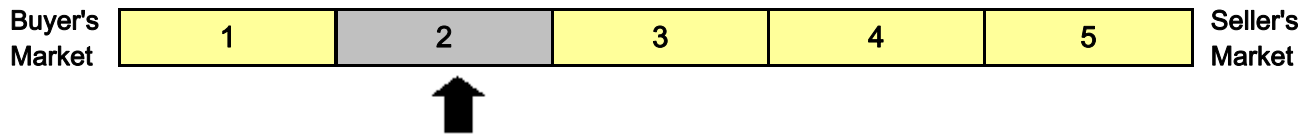
\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80814	\$104,200	-	1	-	60	94.7%
80863	\$353,000	-	1	-	31	98.1%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Weld County, CO



### Labor Market :

Employment declined by 896 jobs in October and November. The job losses brought about an increase in the average monthly unemployment rate from 5.3% in the third quarter to 5.7% for the first two months of the fourth quarter. Job losses are ticking upwards, creating a drag on buyer confidence and demand in Weld County. However, historically low mortgage rates have created a favorable buying environment for those with a job.

### Housing Market :

	Q3' 08	Q4' 08	Q1' 09 <i>(Forecast)</i>
<b>Average Price</b>	\$213,500	\$193,400	↓
<b># Homes on the Market *</b>	1,068	652	↑
<b># Homes Sold **</b>	312	215	↓
<b># New Homes Built ***</b>	145	108	↓
<b>Avg # of Days on Market</b>	121	115	↑

\* Available as of Dec. 31, 2008.

\*\* May not add to total of zip codes.

\*\*\* During the first two months of 4th quarter.

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80504	\$220,200	-13.00%	33	-25.00%	139	96.9%
80514	\$132,900	90.95%	6	-25.00%	52	95.4%
80516	\$331,900	-15.87%	40	-2.44%	141	95.7%
80520	\$131,700	-32.57%	6	20.00%	109	97.8%
80530	\$146,800	-12.93%	11	-15.38%	85	98.8%
80534	\$190,700	-6.70%	8	-38.46%	131	97.8%
80542	\$326,400	-4.08%	3	-72.73%	167	93.9%
80543	\$132,900	-3.28%	4	-50.00%	59	99.6%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Weld County, CO

### Data by Zip Codes for Q4 2008

Zip Code	Average Price	Price Change ***	Total # Homes Sold (Quarter)	% Change in # Homes Sold ***	Average Days on Market	% of Asking Price (Sold/ List Price)
80550	\$603,000	210.03%	2	0.00%	129	96.1%
80603	\$125,200	-28.00%	23	-47.73%	81	97.5%
80615	\$224,000	51.35%	4	300.00%	232	99.1%
80620	\$161,000	16.58%	2	-60.00%	47	85.9%
80621	\$130,900	-24.34%	25	-24.24%	104	97.7%
80623	\$92,300	32.61%	2	100.00%	45	100.0%
80631	\$51,500	-65.25%	7	133.33%	143	91.2%
80634	\$129,200	-9.33%	21	200.00%	72	96.0%
80642	\$97,800	-51.22%	3	50.00%	110	91.4%
80643	\$214,400	52.60%	8	60.00%	194	94.5%
80645	\$107,500	-53.84%	2	-33.33%	170	97.8%
80651	\$146,700	21.54%	5	66.67%	86	97.5%

\*\*\* % Change of current quarter compared to the same quarter to year ago.

## Will Spring Thaw the Frozen Market?

Ken Fears

Economist, Manager of Regional Economics

The sharp stock market decline in August along with the economic gyrations that ensued sent the housing market into gridlock during the fourth quarter of 2008. Owners, buyers, and sellers alike felt a sharp pinch to their retirement accounts and stock holdings. Coupled with massive layoffs, consumer confidence fell to an all-time low in December of 2008, 56.7% lower than it was a year earlier. Consumers have cut back on spending and they are scared and unwilling to take big risks. Unfortunately, a home purchase is a big risk and the housing market is suffering the impact as a result.

Many factors would suggest that housing should re-ignite at any time. Mortgage rates are near historic lows and there is a distinct possibility that they could slip below 5.0% and stay there for some time. Much action is being taken in Washington and new incentives are planned to stimulate demand including conversion of the current \$7,500 tax credit into a true tax credit (the current credit must be repaid over a 15-year period) and an interest rate buy-down program. Passage of these and other possible housing stimulus programs should help to stimulate demand by way of improved affordability. The problem with the process of introducing these initiatives is that buyers may wait until these programs are implemented before buying.

It is difficult to say definitively whether anticipation of these programs is what is pushing buyers to the fence. Buyers have plenty of economic concerns to worry about, not to mention tighter credit standards. Regardless, it is wise for a seller to understand the current landscape and how it will change moving through the spring.

During the winter, less new inventory is placed on the market, but this pattern changes in the spring as the end of the school year approaches. In the current market, units that are priced well move fast. However, properties that are not well priced can sit for long periods. Homes that once sold in a few weeks are now sitting on the market for months with no interest. So, what should a seller do? Or more specifically, how should a seller's agent advise his or her client?

Every market is unique. Some have a strong influx of inventory that arrives every spring. An agent may anticipate more demand with the spring and advise their seller to wait. Conversely, the spring could bring more competition from other sellers, in which case an agent might suggest aggressive re-pricing prior to the spring. Yet another view holds that regardless of the new supply or competition from other sellers, new buyers will see an old listing for the first time. Thus, a listing with many days on market and a new price may be priced right from their fresh perspective...and move quicker with this new pool of potential buyers.

Days on Market	Less than 30	30 to 59	60 to 99	100 to 149	150 or more
Number	2050	2378	3080	2937	7292
Share	11.6%	13.4%	17.4%	16.6%	41.1%
Avg. Concession	99.1%	97.6%	95.8%	94.6%	92.0%

Here in the area covered by Metrolist, the majority of homes on the market as of December 31st had been on the market for more than 150 days. Listings on the market for more than 150 days accounted for 41.1% of the total inventory and averaged a concession of 92.0%. Conversely, the smallest share of inventory is in the range less than 30 days on market, which makes up 11.6% of the total inventory.

Pricing is paramount, so getting it right the first time is critical. However, the spring market may present an opportunity to move a floundering property if it can be re-priced correctly. Good sellers' agents are working harder and being creative to earn their income these days; the rest are suffering. A fresh strategy may help.

# We Need a “Jolt” Now!

*by Lawrence Yun, Chief Economist, NAR Research*

Well, let's talk about the bad news. The economy is just awful. It shed 2.6 million jobs in 2008. Brace yourself for another one million in the upcoming months. The stock market still has a very long way to go to recoup all its losses from the past year. The latest retail figures – which include data from the just-concluded holiday season – were the worst in years. I think I speak for a number of us when I say “thank goodness 2008 is over!” Happy New Year.

The recent housing figures did nothing to cheer us up at the end of the year – or even during the first few days of 2009. Existing-home sales declined 8.6 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.46 million. Year over year, existing sales declined 10.6 percent. Home prices declined 13.2 percent from the previous year – that's the largest price decline since NAR began tracking home prices in 1968. And immediate future sales activity doesn't look all that hot either. NAR's Pending

Home sales index was at its lowest level since NAR began tracking pending sales in 2001.

### **Pending and Closed Sales**

Let's recap the numbers on both pending and closed sales measures. Pending home sales represent signing of contracts, not closed sales. Sometimes contracts do not close — for a variety of reasons. They may “fall out” because of buyers losing their jobs, or due to loss of ready cash (to pay for closing costs or down-payments) from stock market losses or retreating home equity. Because pending home sales is a leading indicator of what the closing activity will be two or three months down the road, the weak November figure suggests that sales activity also will be weak in December and possibly in January.

Existing-home sales also were down – to their lowest level since 1997. The decline is due first of all to the stock market “crash” in October. Job losses of course also played a major role in collapsing consumer confidence. Another reason for lower sales activity in November is that serious buyers decided to wait given the discussion about policy measures that could bring down mortgage rates.

### **Housing Stimulus**

The price and sales figures affirm the need for a housing stimulus plan. Some action has already been taken. In the middle of December, the Fed working with the Treasury department, made a very innovative, nontraditional monetary policy move of purchasing – or making the announcement of purchasing – mortgage-backed securities. As a result, interest rates fell to 50-year low levels. Just consider – 5 percent mortgage rates! Who would have thought we would ever see 5 percent mortgage interest rates! (Please note that the November pending and existing-home sales do NOT reflect that.) But remember, generally there's about a 3-5 month lag time between interest-rate changes and the way home sales activity respond.

But I think we need further additional incentives for buyers. Right now, we are in a recession, people are losing jobs. Consumer confidence is likely to be low for those who are currently unemployed. But we need to change the confidence level of those households who HAVE jobs. About 90 percent of people will have jobs. How do we instill confidence in those potential home buyers? One way is to have “money on the table.” NAR has advocated for a home buyer tax credit for quite some time. Last summer a version of such a credit was enacted. But at the time the federal government was concerned with budget deficits. So while

the program provided for buyers to get a tax credit, they needed to pay it back. In these economic times, that just doesn't make sense. What we need now is a clean tax credit: where people get the credit and don't have to worry about repaying it.

Another element of such a housing stimulus package would be to raise loan limits. Even though people may qualify for a 5 percent mortgage rate, that is only for a conforming, conventional loan – NOT jumbo loans. The jumbo loan market is virtually frozen. One way to defrost it would be to raise the jumbo loan limit so more home buyers can qualify and take advantage of historically low rates.








### **“Jolt” Impacts**

If a good strong stimulus package does pass Congress in January or February, the prospects for housing could be good. I think we may begin to see some steady improvement just from the historically-improved interest rates. But that will be a modest increase. Home sales activity now matches the level seen in 1997, so we are definitely down. While any improvement from a very low level is not necessarily great news, it would be welcome.

What we really need is a “jolt” to the system to help stabilize home prices. And our government can provide that jolt. Without home price stabilization, economic recovery will be very difficult. As home prices decline, consumer spending contracts. As prices decline, bank balance sheets deteriorate; as home prices decline, there will be increased incidence of mortgage defaults and rising foreclosures, including those on recently modified loans. If we have a properly structured housing-focused stimulus plan, once it is enacted I suspect that home sales could increase 10 percent – perhaps even 20 percent – nationwide. That would immediately bring down inventory levels and thus stabilize home prices.

That will give us the foundation for a further recovery in housing – which in turn will help turn our economy around. Here's to the potential for a happy new year.

This table reflects data available through January 2009.

Monthly Indicator	Recent Statistics	Likely Direction Over the Next Six Months	Forecast
<p><b>Existing Home Sales</b> declined 8.6% in November to a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of 4.49 million units. The median sales price for an existing home also declined – to \$181,300, 13.2 percent below the price posted in November of 2007. Housing inventory continues at very elevated levels, with 4.2 million existing homes available for sale at the end of November – an 11.2 month supply at November’s sales pace.</p>	Nov 08 4,990 Oct 08 4,890 Nov 07 5,930		Rising affordability conditions will help despite job cuts
<p><b>New Home Sales</b> posted 407,000 seasonally adjusted annualized units in November – 2.9% below October’s pace and 35.3% off the pace in November of 2007. While the actual number of new homes available for sale fell to 372,000, the month’s supply of inventory is still very high at 11.5 months.</p>	Nov 08 512 Oct 08 525 Nov 07 857		So few new homes are being built
<p><b>Housing Starts</b> posted a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of 625,000 units in November – 18.9% below October’s level and 47.0% below that posted in November of 2007. Housing permits – generally a reliable indicator of future starts – were at 616,000 (seasonally adjusted annual rate), 15.6% off the rate in October and 48.1% below the rate a year ago. Builders have sharply cut back production. Given the large overall housing inventory, and further construction cutbacks are likely.</p>	Nov 08 625 Oct 08 771 Nov 07 1,179		Inventory is still high and cuts are required
<p><b>Housing Affordability</b> In spite of the recession, housing affordability continues to improve. NAR’s latest housing affordability index rose in November to 142.4 – a 7th monthly increase. The rise in affordability was due primarily to a slight increase in the median family income and a decline in qualifying income while interest rates remained relatively low.</p>	Nov 08 142.4 Oct 08 138.8 Nov 07 120.1		Staying at a near 30-year high
<p><b>Mortgage Rates:</b> Rates on 30 year fixed-rate mortgages fell 5.33% in December – their lowest level since June 2003. Rates have been falling since November when the Federal Reserve announced a plan to purchase mortgage-backed securities in an effort to prop up the distressed housing market.</p>	Dec 08 6.32% Nov 08 6.04% Dec 07 6.61%		Near 50-year lows and will remain at that level for most of 2009
<p><b>Employment</b> The U.S. economy continues to bleed jobs. Nonfarm payrolls were cut by 524,000 in December, and November’s job loss figure was revised upward to 584,000. The unemployment rate rose to 7.2% in December – its highest level in 16 years. The economic momentum and the fall in average work hours per employee in the last month suggest another one million jobs could easily be lost in the upcoming months.</p>	Dec 08 -524 Nov 08 -528 12-month total -2,600 (thousands)		Heavy job losses in 1st quarter of 2009 followed by moderating job cuts in the second quarter
<p><b>Economic Growth</b> The U.S. economy is officially in recession. GDP growth decreased at an annual rate of 0.5% from the second to the third quarter of 2008. This is the final estimate of GDP growth based on more complete data. Both consumer and business spending continue to decline. Economic contraction is expected to continue at least through the first half of 2009.</p>	2008:III 1.0% 2008:II 0.6% 2007:III 1.2%		Recovery in the second half of 2009 after a sharp contraction in the first half

Notes: All rate are seasonally adjusted. New home sales, existing home sales, and housing starts are shown in thousands. Employment growth is shown as month-to-month change in thousands. Inflation is shown as the month-to-month change in the Consumer Price Index. Sources: NAR, Bureau of the Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Freddie Mac, and the Mortgage Bankers Association