



Put Away Your Umbrellas Real Estate Climate Is Sunny in Fort Worth

By: Kenneth Jones, President, Greater Fort Worth Association of REALTORS®

Would you carry an umbrella in Fort Worth because you heard it was raining in New York City? The answer is simple. You wouldn't. Much like the weather, the national real estate market cannot be compared to what's happening in Fort Worth, and your Fort Worth Realtors are doing something about this misconception.

The Greater Fort Worth Association of Realtors is excited to say, "Thank goodness it's Fort Worth!" TGIFW exists to share facts and truths about local real estate with local consumers so they can put away their umbrellas.

It's easy to see how negative national news coverage can spill onto Fort Worth's market. However, it's important to remember that while Fort Worth is not immune to national economic conditions, we are separate and insulated from them in many ways. This remains one of the healthiest real estate markets in the country!

Yet, many potential homebuyers and sellers are not hearing these facts. Many question the feasibility of making real estate decisions right now. TGIFW wants to assure that the Fort Worth real estate situation is considered carefully and separately from New York or Florida or even Dallas. The truth is that Fort Worth continues to experience job growth, a diverse economy, and enduring real estate values—all of which make economic conditions here significantly better than national averages.

According to the latest Zillow Real Estate Market Reports, home values in Fort Worth increased 14 percent in the first quarter of 2009, compared to the first quarter of 2008. On the other hand, national home value data was not so encouraging. Home values across the country decreased 14.2 percent during this same period. These numbers illustrate that things aren't the same in Fort Worth as they are elsewhere—they're better!

Brooke Hunt, chairman of the Texas Association of Realtors agrees.

“Texans hear figures like ‘prices are down 41 percent in Arizona’ and assume the same is true here,” she said. “But in reality, average sales prices in Texas are unchanged from 2007 to 2008.”

So, Fort Worth area residents can use this information to make educated decisions for themselves. We want you to have the facts. Consult with a Fort Worth Realtor to learn more about local market conditions and to evaluate your own personal real estate situation.

Cloudy skies elsewhere? Yes, but the skies are clear here in Fort Worth, and there’s no better time to consider buying or selling.

To learn more about the options available to you or to get up-to-date information about the Fort Worth market for yourself, visit www.gfwar.org or visit www.TexasRealEstate.com. Fort Worth Realtors are here to work for you, so make use of them and their resources as you contemplate making a move in the housing market now! Once you know the real facts about Fort Worth, we know you’ll agree with us and say, “Thank goodness it’s Fort Worth!”

The Greater Fort Worth Association of Realtors is working diligently to serve the real estate community within the expanded Fort Worth area. We are one of more than 1,400 local trade associations nationwide that comprise the National Association of Realtors (NAR). All Realtors are members of NAR and are dedicated to a high level of ethical and professional standards. The Texas Association of Realtors is the largest not-for-profit professional membership association in Texas and represents all aspects of real estate, advocating on behalf of Texas Realtors and homeowners. To learn more, visit www.gfwar.org.

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