

# Home equity improves in Fresno County

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Left to right, Liisa Bakula and Sherry Kingsly-Walker discuss the home for sale at 1905 W. Harvard Ave. during an open house on Sunday, Aug. 31, 2014.

MARK CROSSE — THE FRESNO BEE [Buy Photo](#)

Home equity continues to improve in Fresno County, according to a report from [RealtyTrac](#).

About 41,461 borrowers, representing 22% of all mortgage loans, owed significantly more than the value of their homes during the third quarter of the year, the online housing data company said.

That's a decrease from the second quarter when 44,399 borrowers, or 24% of all loans, was seriously underwater or owed at least 25% more than their property is worth.

Statewide, the number of seriously underwater mortgages fell slightly to 938,704 in the third quarter compared to a little over a million during the previous quarter.

"The decrease in underwater properties is promising," said Daren Blomquist, RealtyTrac's vice president.

But an estimated \$1.4 trillion in negative equity remains nationwide and a slow down in home price appreciation means underwater homeowners still "have a long road back to positive equity."

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