

Fresno housing market is healthiest nationwide

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Fresno is starting the year off with the healthiest housing market in the country.

A 3.38 percent jump in applications for home purchases and a small boost, 0.61 percent, in employment helped keep Fresno on the top of mortgage giant Freddie Mac's [Multi-Indicator Market Index](#) for the fifth month in a row.

More homeowners are also paying mortgages on time, according to the monthly index released on Dec. 30, and home purchasing power – based on house prices, mortgage rates and household income – fell only slightly. The index was based on October 2015 numbers.

Austin, Texas and Honolulu came in second and third, respectively with similar results. Salt Lake City came in fourth and Los Angeles placed fifth.

The index measures the stability of the nation's housing market, the District of Columbia and the top 100 metro markets. It combines proprietary [Freddie Mac](#) data with current local market data to assess where each single-family housing market is relative to its own long-term stable range.

“While strong home purchase applications and rising home values in some markets are contributing to this improvement,” said Len Kiefer, Freddie Mac deputy chief economist in a news release, “it’s largely more of a reflection of mortgage delinquencies continuing to decline at a steady.”

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