



FORECLOSURE FACTS

- > While foreclosure filings rose 24 percent nationally, the number of foreclosures in North Carolina fell 42 percent in the first quarter from the same period last year.
- > In the latest quarter, North Carolina ranked 36th in the nation for foreclosure filings.
- > In March alone, foreclosure filings fell 40 percent when compared to the same period last year.

ECONOMY

- > Six N.C. cities – Raleigh, Durham, Asheville, Wilmington, Winston-Salem and Charlotte – were among the top 20 "Best Metros" in the country for business and careers, according to *Forbes*.
- > In a recent study from the National Low Income Housing Coalition, North Carolina ranked 21st in affordable housing.
- > North Carolina recently was named the second-best state in which to conduct business, according to *Chief Executive* magazine.

HOMEOWNERSHIP

- > Nationally, the median existing-home price increase for all housing types from February to March was 4.2 percent, much higher than the typical 1.8 percent seasonal increase between those two months.
- > The National Association of Home Builders recently announced that half of all U.S. households (55 million to be exact) can now afford to buy the median priced \$200,000 new home. That's up 45 percent in the past 24 months.
- > Home-builder confidence was in the double digits in April for the first time in six months.
- > First-time homebuyer activity has surged. In March, first-time homebuyers accounted for 53 percent of transactions.
- > The average price of a home in March 2009 has increased approximately 20 percent when compared to March 2000.