



---

## High Desert housing prices up Real estate agents cautious about future

ANDREW POST, SPECIAL TO THE DAILY PRESS

September 20, 2009

**VICTORVILLE • Victor Valley home prices rose 2.5 percent in August, while inventory decreased by 13.2 percent, according to a report compiled by the Victor Valley Multiple Listing Service.**

On average, half of all homes for sale in the High Desert sold during August, a staggering increase from previous years. **This indicates that homes are being bought up, supply is going down and demand is rising.**

Real estate agents are uncertain whether to herald the end of the residential housing slump.

"Nobody has control over this inventory right now, except the banks," said Bobby Tarango, business developer with Chicago Title in Victorville. "They're still foreclosing.

We've seen the numbers on that. They're not giving out the listings yet. And as to when those will come, that's anybody's guess."

After foreclosing on properties, banks can withhold the new listings, which can keep inventory low.

It's unknown when the banks will release the listings, making the housing market's immediate future unclear.

"I think it'll remain stable," Julie Brown, of Julie Brown & Associates in Hesperia, said. "It'll be slight, but it will continue to increase. Hopefully we'll have more people moving in and we'll have more people purchasing locally and get those houses filled."

The general consensus seems to be that there's too many factors involved to accurately judge which way the market will go, despite recent findings.

"I've heard every economic forecast, I've been to every conference that you can think of, and everyone is giving us a different opinion," Candace Foster, owner of Desert Castle Realty in Victorville, said.

"We get different opinions on everything," she said.