



## LendingTree Reveals Where Homebuyers See the Most Mortgage Lender Competition

May 31, 2018

### New LendingTree study shows how competitive mortgage markets are by metro area

CHARLOTTE, N.C., May 31, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- [LendingTree@](mailto:LendingTree@), the nation's leading online loan marketplace, today released its [study](#) on where homebuyers see the most mortgage lender competition.

Mortgage rates are rising, recently reaching the highest levels in seven years. One of the most effective ways borrowers can adjust to rising rates is by shopping around to get the best deal possible. LendingTree tracks the savings available each week in the [Mortgage Rate Competition Index](#), and thus far, the potential savings through comparison shopping in 2018 is an average of \$28,000 based on a \$300,000 loan, almost 10 percent of the loan amount.

The mortgage market varies across the country, and lenders are active in different regions at different intensities. If more lenders are originating loans in a specific area, there could be more opportunities for borrowers to save by shopping around.

LendingTree analysts ranked the top 50 metros by the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI), which uses a formula to calculate how competitive a market is. This is based on the recently released Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data, which represents over 7.3 million mortgages originated in 2017. HHI creates a score that ranges from close to zero to 10,000, with a lower number indicating less market concentration and thus greater competition among lenders, which could mean more opportunities for consumers to find lower rates by shopping around.

The ranking also includes the market share of the top 10 lenders in the metro area for an alternative measure of market concentration and includes conventional, FHA and VA loans.

#### Key findings from the study include:

- All metro areas show a healthy level of competition, with the highest HHI at 521 across the three loan types. The Department of Justice considers a market moderately concentrated when the HHI is above 1,500, so values below this are viewed favorably.
- Some of the more expensive real estate markets have the least competition among lenders for conventional loans. San Jose, San Francisco and New York are all in the bottom 10 of the ranking. Market share for the top 10 lenders is close to or above 50 percent in these cities.
- The most competitive markets were Providence, R.I., Boston and Hartford, Conn., with top 10 market share under 40 percent.
- Markets that are less competitive for conventional loans are more competitive for FHA loans. San Jose, San Francisco and New York are examples again. This could indicate that lenders are unable to compete in the conventional market concentrate on FHA loans in these cities.
- FHA markets are on average more competitive than conventional, but VA markets are less competitive than conventional.
- The competition in mortgage markets means there are opportunities for borrowers to save by shopping around.

#### Metro areas with the most competition for conventional mortgage borrowers

##### #1 Providence, R.I.

- HHI: 161
- Market share of top 10 lenders: 34%

##### #2 Boston

- HHI: 171
- Market share of top 10 lenders: 35%

##### #3 Hartford, Conn.

- HHI: 173
- Market share of top 10 lenders: 37%

#### Metro areas with the least competition for conventional mortgage borrowers

##### #50 San Jose, Calif.

- HHI: 521
- Market share of top 10 lenders: 50%

##### #49 San Francisco

- HHI: 512
- Market share of top 10 lenders: 55%

##### #48 Buffalo, N.Y.

- HHI: 380
- Market share of top 10 lenders: 54%

"With rising interest rates, it is typical to see a decline in mortgage originations as refinance volume falls," said Tendayi Kapfudz, Chief Economist at LendingTree. "In areas where there are more lenders competing for in-market borrowers, they may have to make more enticing offers to borrowers if they want to win market share and cover their fixed business costs. This means borrowers stand to benefit by comparison shopping, a strategy that could help to minimize the impact of rising interest rates."

To view the full report, visit: [www.lendingtree.com/home/mortgage/where-homebuyers-see-mortgage-competition/](http://www.lendingtree.com/home/mortgage/where-homebuyers-see-mortgage-competition/).

#### Metros Ranked by Conventional Mortgage Market Concentration

Rank	Metropolitan Statistical Area	Herfindahl-Hirschman index	Market Share of Top 10 Lenders
1	Providence R.I.	161	34%
2	Boston	171	35%
3	Hartford, Conn.	173	37%
4	Oklahoma City	183	37%
5	Indianapolis	187	38%
6	Tampa, Fla.	191	36%
7	Louisville, Ky.	192	38%
8	Nashville, Tenn.	194	36%
9	Baltimore	197	38%
10	St. Louis	203	37%
11	Orlando, Fla.	204	38%
12	Houston	204	36%
13	Denver	206	36%
14	Riverside Calif.	207	41%
15	Miami	215	40%
16	San Antonio	216	40%
17	Phoenix	218	39%
18	Kansas City, Mo.	219	38%
19	Atlanta	223	40%
20	Philadelphia	226	37%
21	Columbus, Ohio	229	43%

22	Dallas	234	34%
23	Memphis, Tenn.	240	38%
24	Jacksonville, Fla.	248	40%
25	Sacramento, Calif.	252	43%
26	Milwaukee	253	43%
27	Portland, Ore.	253	41%
28	Austin, Texas	256	34%
29	Las Vegas	260	45%
30	Salt Lake City	261	44%
31	Cincinnati	262	47%
32	Richmond, Va.	275	47%
33	Washington	287	38%
34	San Diego	287	42%
35	Charlotte, N.C.	289	43%
36	Detroit	292	41%
37	Los Angeles	295	45%
38	Virginia Beach, Va.	297	51%
39	Seattle	297	46%
40	Cleveland	302	50%
41	Pittsburgh	306	46%
42	New Orleans	308	44%
43	Birmingham, Ala.	309	41%
44	Raleigh, N.C.	310	44%
45	New York	318	44%
46	Minneapolis	353	46%
47	Chicago	370	47%
48	Buffalo, N.Y.	380	54%
49	San Francisco	512	55%

50	San Jose, Calif.	521	50%
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**About LendingTree**

LendingTree (NASDAQ: TREE) is the nation's leading online loan marketplace, empowering consumers as they comparison-shop across a full suite of loan and credit-based offerings. LendingTree provides an online marketplace which connects consumers with multiple lenders that compete for their business, as well as an array of online tools and information to help consumers find the best loan. Since inception, LendingTree has facilitated more than 65 million loan requests. LendingTree provides free monthly credit scores through My LendingTree and access to its network of over 500 lenders offering home loans, personal loans, credit cards, student loans, business loans, home equity loans/lines of credit, auto loans and more. LendingTree, LLC is a subsidiary of LendingTree, Inc. For more information go to [www.lendingtree.com](http://www.lendingtree.com), dial 800-555-TREE, like our Facebook page and/or follow us on Twitter @LendingTree.

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