



Posted on Tue, Mar. 30, 2010

## Put real-estate picture in context

Re The Miami Herald's March 24 article *Home, condo sales rising*: It's disheartening that The Miami Herald published statistics provided by the Florida Association of Realtors in percentages instead of raw numbers. The FAR reports 11,890 sales for the entire state in February. However, in Miami-Dade County alone, there were 4,878 new foreclosure lawsuits filed in February.

I'd like to see The Miami Herald report the actual number of sales for our county, not just the percentages. Give us the raw numbers, and it will be easier to see that things are not getting better.

I represent homeowners facing foreclosure. Every day, I see more members of our community falling into the foreclosure system.

Just passing along ``feel-good" statistics about an increase in real-estate sales ignores the reality that our community is facing. How many of these sales are a result of a foreclosure or short sale as opposed to a ``normal" transaction? If there were 1,000 homes sold in a particular month, but 999 of those sellers had lost their homes to foreclosure, then I assume that the headline would be different.

To say that the inventory of unsold homes is shrinking ignores the thousands of homes already foreclosed on by banks that are not yet listed for sale. These statistics also ignore the reality that many of the 64,000 foreclosures filed in Miami-Dade in 2009 (and the 9,000 foreclosures filed through the end of February 2010), will end up being placed on the market as well.

The increase in sales of homes is newsworthy. However, our community needs to know all of the facts about our real-estate market in order to put the information in context.

**DENNIS A. DONET**, Miami

---

© 2010 Miami Herald Media Company. All Rights Reserved.  
<http://www.miamiherald.com>