San Francisco is the Worst Metro for First-Time Homebuyers

Six of the bottom ten metros are in California

New York, NY – March 18, 2019 –San Francisco is the worst metro area for first-time homebuyers, according to a new study by Bankrate.com. The study reviewed the 50 largest metro areas in the U.S. based on several factors a first-time homebuyer should consider when purchasing a home including: affordability, job market, market tightness, culture and safety. In fact, the state of California is home to 6 of the 10 worst metros that were evaluated. For more information, go to:

https://www.bankrate.com/mortgages/best-cities-for-fist-time-homebuyers/

San Francisco certainly has big city appeal – especially for those looking for diversity, access to the arts, and trendy restaurants. However, all that comes at a very high price for homebuyers in the metro area. San Francisco ranked second-to-last for both affordability (49) and market tightness (49). The metro's low score for safety (43) is also concerning. Even though San Francisco is booming with culture (9) and their job market ranks in the top-half (24), homebuyers may want to think about a better location for their first home.

It's interesting to note that six of the 10 worst metro areas for first-time homebuyers are in California. The metros include Los Angeles (49), Sacramento (48), San Jose (47), Riverside/San Bernardino (45), and San Diego (44). Although Los Angeles scored high for culture (12) and all areas fare well in terms of safety, each received low marks in all other categories. Specifically, San Jose came in last place for both affordability and market tightness and Riverside/San Bernardino has the worst job market of all the metro areas in the study. Seattle (46) is the only city outside of California to rank inside the bottom five.

"Young homebuyers better be ready to compromise," said Bankrate data analyst, Adrian Garcia. "Affordability and convenience might be the tradeoff to moving to a major metro with a little less culture or popularity. Buyers have to find the balance that works for them and their financial situation. Make sure you're making a sound investment. You can always upgrade later."

First-time homeowners who want to feel more confident in their purchase should consider Pittsburgh. The Steel City earned first-place for both affordability and safety. That paired with lower market tightness (8), available culture (12) and a good job market (15), puts Pittsburgh at the top of the list. Raleigh, N.C., Oklahoma City, OK, Hartford, CT and St. Louis, MO round out the top-five metros for first-time buyers.

The 2019 Bankrate Best Metros for First-Time Homebuyers was compiled using 13 measures related to affordability, culture, job market, market tightness and safety. We used the most recently available data for the 50 most populous metropolitan areas. For our analysis, we gave

affordability a 30 percent weighting, safety, market tightness and the quality of the job market each a 20 percent rating and culture a 10 percent rating.

Data sources included Attom Data Solutions, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Gallup-Sharecare Wellbeing Index, North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, Realtor.com and U.S. Census Bureau.

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