



2019 Chairman of the Board MIAMI Association of REALTORS®

Mid-Market Miami Single-Family Home Sales Increase in January Higher Interest Rates, Limited Supply Result in Fewer Total Sales

Mid-market Miami single-family home sales and median prices increased in January, according to the MIAMI Association of Realtors (MIAMI) and the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) system.

Sales for single-family homes priced between \$300K and \$400K increased 2.1 percent year-over-year in January, from 234 to 239. Growth in the middle of a real estate market is an indicator of a strong market. Median prices rose 6.1 percent for single-family homes to \$350,000. Condo median prices stayed even at \$230,000.

Total Home Sales Decrease in January Due in Part to **Higher Interest Rates**

Uncertainty over mortgage interest rates, the federal government shutdown and the stock market may have impacted Miami-Dade total home sales in January. After posting single-family home sales increases in five of the last six months and the fourth biggest single-family homes sales year in history in 2018, total Miami-Dade County sales decreased 11.7 percent year-over-year in January 2019, from 1,820 to 1,607. Lack of inventory in lower price points also contributed to the decline in transactions.

Seven Consecutive Years of Price Appreciation in Miami Miami-Dade County single-family home prices increased 6.1 percent in January 2019, increasing from \$330,000 to \$350,000. Miami single-family home prices have risen for 86 consecutive months, a streak of seven plus years. Existing condo prices stayed even year-over-year at \$230,000. Condo prices have increased or stayed even in 89 of the last 92 months.

Miami Distressed Sales Continue to Drop, **Reflecting Healthy Market**

Only 7.9 percent of all closed residential sales in Miami were distressed last month, including REO (bank-owned properties) and short sales, compared to 9.9 percent in January 2018. In 2009, distressed sales comprised 70 percent of Miami sales.

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The right lighting can make home functional and beautiful

BY JANA SOELDNER DANGER Special to South Florida Home

ighting allows a homeowner to complete necessary tasks and enjoy recreational activities. It can also create different moods, and some research indicates that certain kinds of light can benefit sleep patterns. Lighting can also change the color in an entire room and then easily change it again. And like so many aspects of life today, smart systems make control easy.

WHAT TO CONSIDER

What are some things to consider when choosing lighting elements? "Homeowners should think about how they will use their space to determine how to light it," said Thomas Cox, senior lighting manager for Wayfair, an online marketplace for home accessories, in an email.

"Think about the size of the room and the ceiling heights, and think about your lifestyle," said Mario Bologna, a lighting consultant with Beautiful Things Lighting in Coral Springs.

The biggest consideration is the amount of light you need and what color temperature you want," said Justin Brown, senior merchant for lighting at The Home Depot, in an email.

Most home illumination today comes from LEDs (light emitting diodes). 'Avoid using incandescent bulbs instead of LEDs," said Don Skenderian, senior lighting manager for Wayfair. "They lead to more frequent bulb replacements and higher energy costs.'

Don't skimp. "LEDs last a really long time, so it is worth the investment to buy good quality bulbs,' Brown said.

An LED typically uses about 30 percent of the wattage required for an incandescent bulb, said Ann Schiffers, senior vice president for USAI, a New York-based manufacturer of LED fixtures. While a traditional bulb might have a life of about 1,000 hours, many LEDs work for 50,000 hours.

ARCADIAN RHYTHMS

Some research indicates that color temperature can be tuned to enhance a person's sleeping and waking patterns, Schiffers said. To that end, one of USAI's systems mimics the sun's natural daylight cycle. "Circadian lighting has become a buzz word," she

Cooler light with bluish tones in the morning may stimulate cells in the eve to make a person feel more energized and awake. In the evening, bluish tints are removed and replaced with warmer amber tones to encourage relaxation before sleep. "Two hours before bedtime, you want to start to bring the light down to allow melatonin (a hormone that influences sleep) to flow through your body," Schiffers said.

DIFFERENT SPACES, DIFFERENT TYPES

Different spaces in the home may need more than one type of light because different activities take place in them. "Many rooms are multi-purpose,"

Light fixtures should complement or blend with other furnishings in the house.

said Frances Herrera, an interior designer in Fort Lauderdale.

"You can make your lighting scheme both functional and beautiful by layering in different types of lighting," said Thomas Cox, senior lighting manager for Wayfair. "Ambient lighting sets the tone of a room and is a necessary part of any space, as it will produce overall illumination. It should be placed on or hanging from the ceiling or walls. Task lighting illuminates an area of a room where specific activities take place; reading, cooking, writing. Accent lighting is used to highlight a particular object or architectural element, creating dimensionality, and to build up your ambient lighting.

What are some ways to effectively incorporate

light into different rooms? 'In the kitchen, you can use pendants over the breakfast table or island," Bologna said. "Undercabinet and toe-kick lighting create ambience and the ability to see better into corners.

In a living room or dining room, crown molding can provide a place to mount strip lighting. "It can create a cove effect," Bologna said. "But you can install strip lighting on the surface of a wall in a way that makes it look like an artistic design. You can also put strip lighting on steps and in hallways."

In a bedroom: "More people today want chandeliers in their bedrooms," Bologna said. "We're getting away from lamps and doing more pendants so there's more useable space on night tables."

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