



2ND QUARTER “2 X 4” HOUSING INDICATORS

— MHP Report Examines Recession’s Impact —

St. Paul, MN (September 30, 2009) – The second quarter 2009 issue of the [Minnesota Housing Partnership’s \(MHP\) “2x4” Report](#) shows that—as Minnesota unemployment hovered around 8%, a rate not sustained through any 3-month period since 1983—both owners and renters fell further behind in their ability to cover housing costs, while the state’s housing industry began to show possible signs of stabilizing.

[MHP’s “2 x 4” Report](#) graphically depicts 2 indicators for each of 4 key housing areas: the home ownership market, the rental market, homelessness, and the housing industry. Through quarterly updates, the report provides a concise and timely overview of housing challenges facing Minnesota.

During the second quarter of 2009, the data showed increasing numbers of Minnesotans struggling to pay for housing, with the housing industry in flux. Some findings from the report:

- Renter delinquencies were up again this quarter, with nearly a quarter of renter households surveyed behind on rent.
- Mortgage defaults for primary (first lien) mortgage holders increased again at a steady rate, surpassing 7% in 2009’s second quarter.
- Nearly 7,500 kids, ranging from infants to high school-aged youth, were identified as homeless by Minneapolis and St. Paul schools—up 1.4% from the 2008–2009 school year.
- While housing construction employment increased seasonally in the second quarter of 2009, June 2009 construction employment was down 45% from June 2006.

MHP’s “2x4” report is meant to inform policymakers’ debate and response to Minnesota’s current housing crisis.

See the full [“2 x 4” Quarterly Housing Indicators Report](#)—including graphs, data sources, and narrative—at: www.mhponline.org/research/2x4. (Media inquiries call Rick Bernardo at 651-295-5549 or email him at Rick.Bernardo@MHPonline.org.)

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