

JOINT CENTER FOR HOUSING STUDIES

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The Joint Center for Housing Studies is Harvard University's center for information and research on housing in the United States. The Joint Center analyzes the dynamic relationships between housing markets and economic, demographic, and social trends, providing leaders in government, business, and the non-profit sector with the knowledge needed to develop effective policies and strategies.

Established in 1959, the Joint Center is a collaborative unit affiliated with the Graduate School of Design and the Harvard Kennedy School. Through its rich array of research, education, and public outreach programs, the Joint Center serves as a convener for informed discussion on a broad range of issues in the housing sector of the nation's economy. In doing so, it educates business leaders, government officials, policy makers, and the public on critical and emerging factors affecting housing and our communities.

The Policy Advisory Board, a diverse group of business leaders in the housing sector, supports the Center and its activities. The Joint Center also receives input from its Faculty Committee, which draws on the expertise of a university-wide group of scholars.

Nicolas P. Retsinas has served as Director of the Joint Center for Housing Studies since 1998. Mr. Retsinas was previously Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision.

Research

- The Joint Center investigates and evaluates emerging housing issues and community development policies. Its annual report, *The State of the Nation's Housing*, identifies and analyzes demographic, economic and social trends to inform industry leaders and public officials and help them plan for the future.
- The Center also generates new information on housing and mortgage markets by analyzing large-scale databases, developing housing market indicators, and applying innovative analytical approaches to address housing needs.

Education

- The Joint Center strengthens housing research and instruction at Harvard through the teaching activities of its members and through the support and training of graduate students, students in executive or other special programs, and visiting scholars from around the world.
- The Center's speaker series and seminars provide the university with a focal point for housing-related research and cross-disciplinary collaboration.
- The Center is also the departmental home for the John T. Dunlop Professorship in Housing Studies, Harvard's first endowed chair in the field of housing.

Outreach

- The Joint Center reaches beyond the university to promote national discussion of important housing policy issues. It convenes and collaborates on major conferences and symposia on topics of national importance in the housing field, bringing together housing practitioners, researchers, and policymakers from organizations and communities around the country.
- The Center's published reports, web site, Working Paper series, and public lectures make significant housing research available and accessible to audiences both within and outside the university.

For more information about the Joint Center and its programs, please call (617) 495-7908.