

# Housing slowdown causes problems

Experts: Sluggish rebound to boost prices, hurt jobs

By Sara Murray

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Arizona's lagging housing market likely won't recover until next year and will continue to hinder job growth until it rebounds, state economists said this week. Although houses continue to sell, inflated prices and stockpiled inventory will cramp the industry a while longer.



**Marshall Vest**

"Most buyers, I think, now realize that housing prices are not declining, they've simply leveled off," said Marshall Vest, director of the Economic and Business Research Center at the University of Arizona's Eller College of Manage-

ment. "Houses are still selling, they've just come off of those peaks that were driven by the mania that ripped the market there for a while," added Vest, who gave his midyear economic report on Wednesday to business leaders in Tucson.

Vest's comments were underscored by Dennis Hoffman, a Valley economist who said the amount of money changing hands in real estate sales has dropped about 18 percent, to \$6.9 bil-