Home prices ramp up

Numbers rise 12.1 percent from a year ago

By Julie Schmit
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Home prices hummed along in April, going up 12.1 percent year-over-year, CoreLogic says. The annual increase is the biggest in more than seven years. Prices were up 3.2 percent in April from March.

"Increasing demand ... coupled with low inventory, has created a virtuous cycle for price gains," said Mark Fleming, CoreLogic chief economist, noting that home price growth continues to "surprise to the upside."

The states with the highest year-over-year home price appreciation were Nevada, up almost 25 percent; California, 19 percent; Arizona and Hawaii, 17 percent; and Oregon, almost 16 percent.

A rise in the supply of homes for sale should lead to moderating price gains later this year, said Ed Stansfield, an economist with Capital Economics.

In April, the supply of existing homes for sale grew to 5.2 months, up from 4.7 months in March, the National Association of Realtors said. Realtors generally consider a 6-month supply to be balanced.

The cities showing the biggest gains year over year included Atlanta, up almost 17 percent.