

AARP Announces Five Great Places to Retire

Several of America's big cities “deliver peak value” in terms of the best places to live and retire, according to the September/October 2007 issue of AARP. Atlanta, Boston and Portland, Ore., were on AARP's list of five great places to retire, offering three different price levels.

Atlanta's median housing price of \$171,800 is a strong draw to a city that offers abundant volunteer and cultural opportunities. Despite sticky summers, Atlanta is the fastest-growing metropolitan area in the country, adding more than 890,000 new residents between 2000 and 2006. A new center of civic pride, the Atlantic Station project, has transformed 130 acres on the fringe of downtown into a vibrant center with retail shops, restaurants and housing for 10,000.

AARP describes Portland as “European charm meets environmental nirvana.” With a median house price of \$280,800, the city has a community-wide commitment to transportation, evidenced by its excellent bus and light-rail systems and miles of safe bike lanes. Retirees especially love Portland's Pearl District with its great restaurants, movie theaters and parks. Despite 155 days of annual precipitation, over 12,000 people, ages 55 and over, moved to the city last year.

At \$402,200, Boston's median housing price is more than double that of Atlanta's. But the city offers world-class educational institutions, inpatient hospitals and numerous cultural and professional sports offerings. For a reasonable fee, anyone over 50 can join the Beacon Hill Village, which helps you find everything from a symphony ticket to a cheap ride to your doctor or personal fitness trainer.

Rounding out the AARP list is Chandler, Ariz., with a median housing price of \$297,900, and Milwaukee, Wisc. According to the AARP, the Midwest is attracting more retirees than it's losing—about 15,000 more people 65 and older per year, according to the Census Bureau—and Milwaukee may be the best example why. Empty nesters are flocking to fashionable condos downtown, with over 2,500 condos being added in the last seven years. Overall, the median housing price is \$220,900.

Use this information to help make decision about investing in your market area if you live in any of these three cities. Additionally, if you are like more investors these days, use this info for your virtual investing. Either way, www.InvestorComps.com will be there with data to make go real estate investment decisions.

You can gain even more useful insight by being part of the **ICO Gold Team**. Once a member, you can submit questions on the Comparable Sales Data you are analyzing and get meaningful response from **ICO Consultation**. Get more info at www.InvestorComps.com.