EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

Christine Graeff
Director General Communications &
Language Services

The figures tell the story

7th ECB Conference on Statistics

Statistics and monetary policy

“Nothing is more important for monetary policy than good statistics.”

Alexandre Lamfalussy, 1996

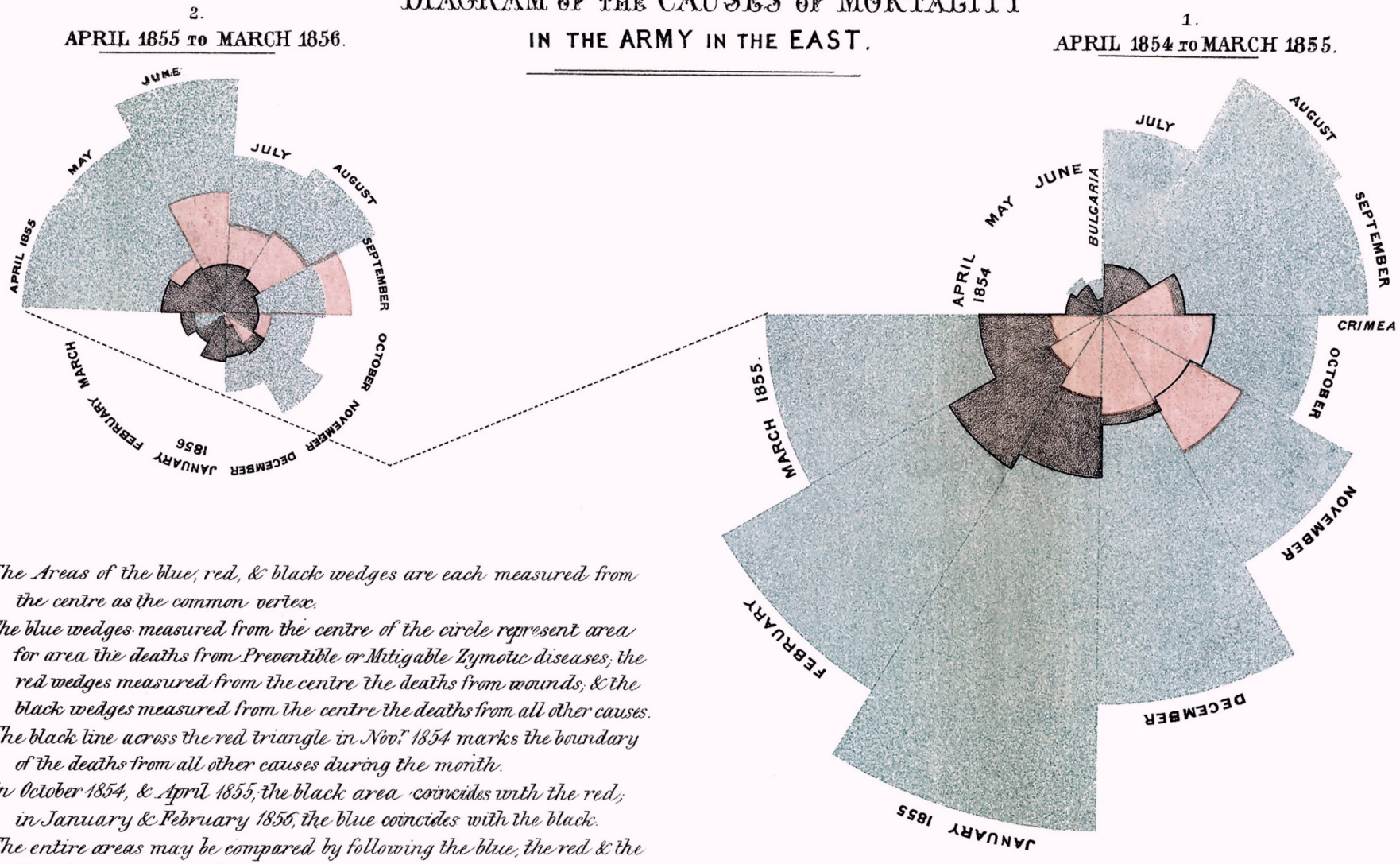
“When monetary policy measures cannot be justified and explained through statistical data, the measures will not be understood, and the executing institution will lose credibility.”

Communication as an instrument

“Central bank communication is right at the heart of monetary policy. It is actually a monetary policy tool in itself. Even for those with little interest in central banking, it is difficult to avoid the pronouncements of one or the other of us in the newspaper.”

Mario Draghi, 2014

DIAGRAM of the CAUSES of MORTALITY IN THE ARMY IN THE EAST.



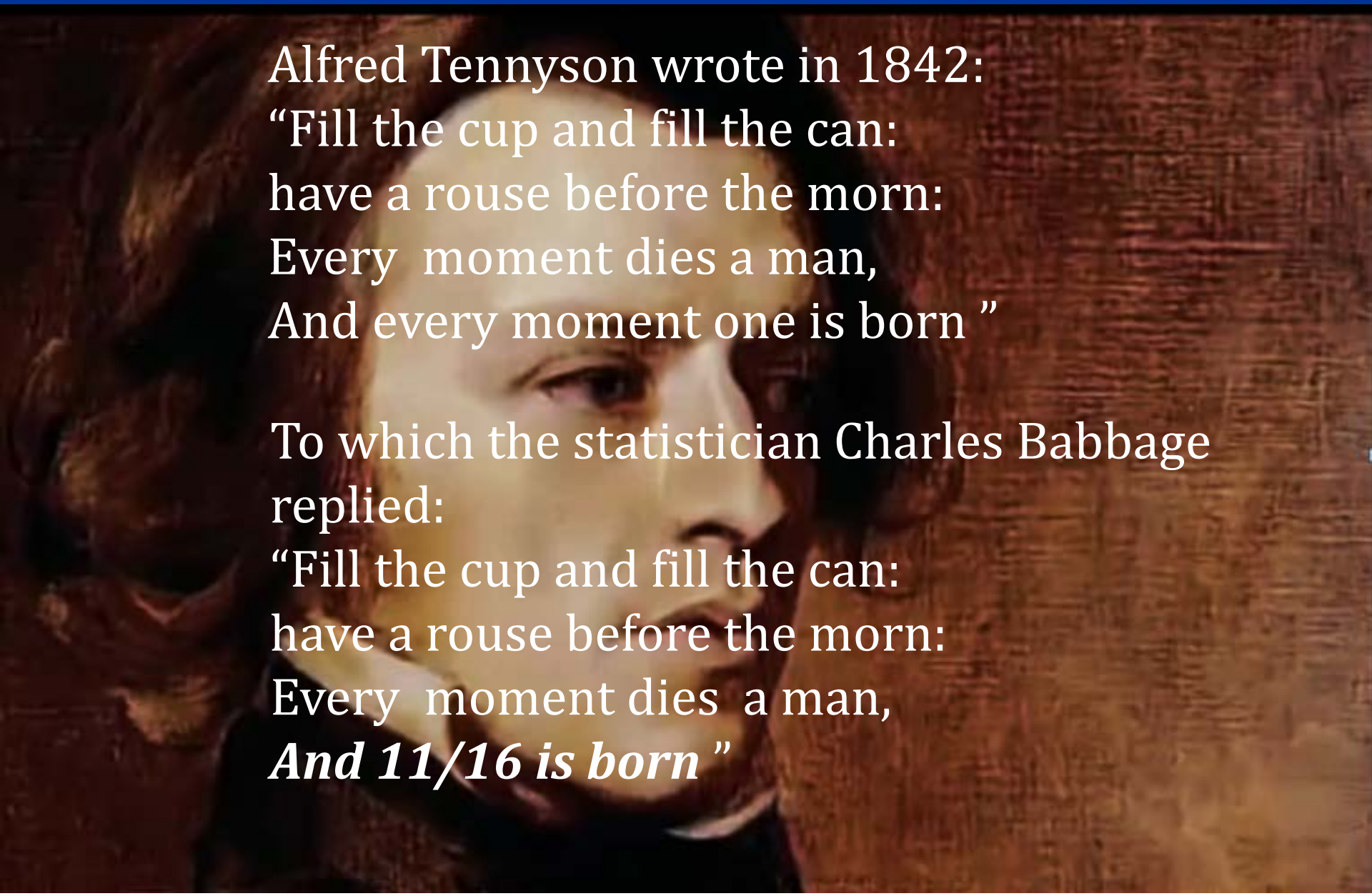
The Areas of the blue, red, & black wedges are each measured from the centre as the common vertex.

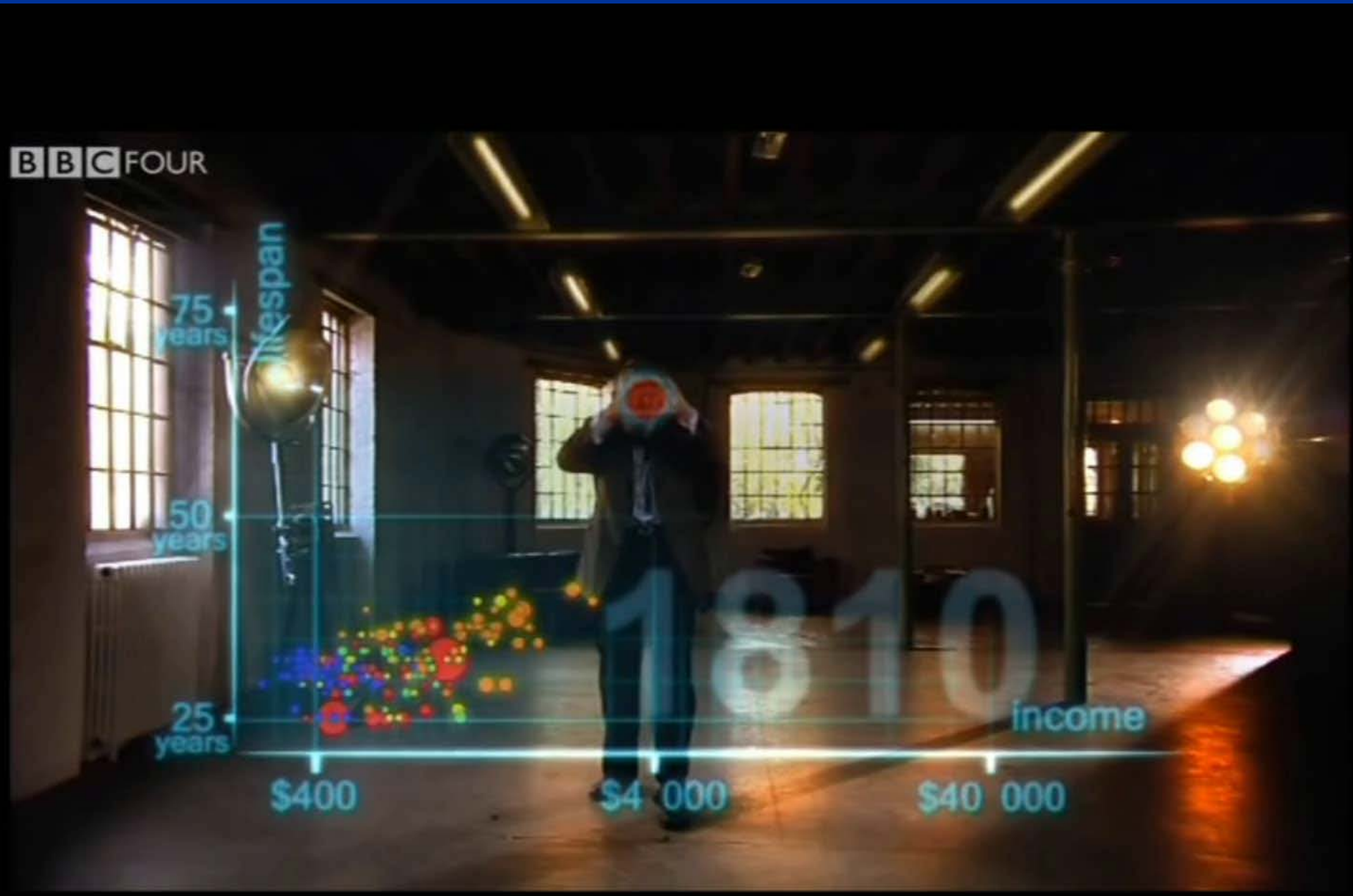
The blue wedges measured from the centre of the circle represent area for area the deaths from Preventible or Mitigable Zymotic diseases; the red wedges measured from the centre the deaths from wounds; & the black wedges measured from the centre the deaths from all other causes.

The black line across the red triangle in Nov.r 1854 marks the boundary of the deaths from all other causes during the month.

In October 1854, & April 1855, the black area coincides with the red; in January & February 1856, the blue coincides with the black.

The entire areas may be compared by following the blue, the red & the black lines enclosing them.


Alfred Tennyson wrote in 1842:
“Fill the cup and fill the can:
have a rouse before the morn:
Every moment dies a man,
And every moment one is born ”
To which the statistician Charles Babbage replied:
“Fill the cup and fill the can:
have a rouse before the morn:
Every moment dies a man,
And 11/16 is born ”


BBC FOUR
lifespan
75 years
50 years
25 years
1810
income
$400
$4 000
$40 000

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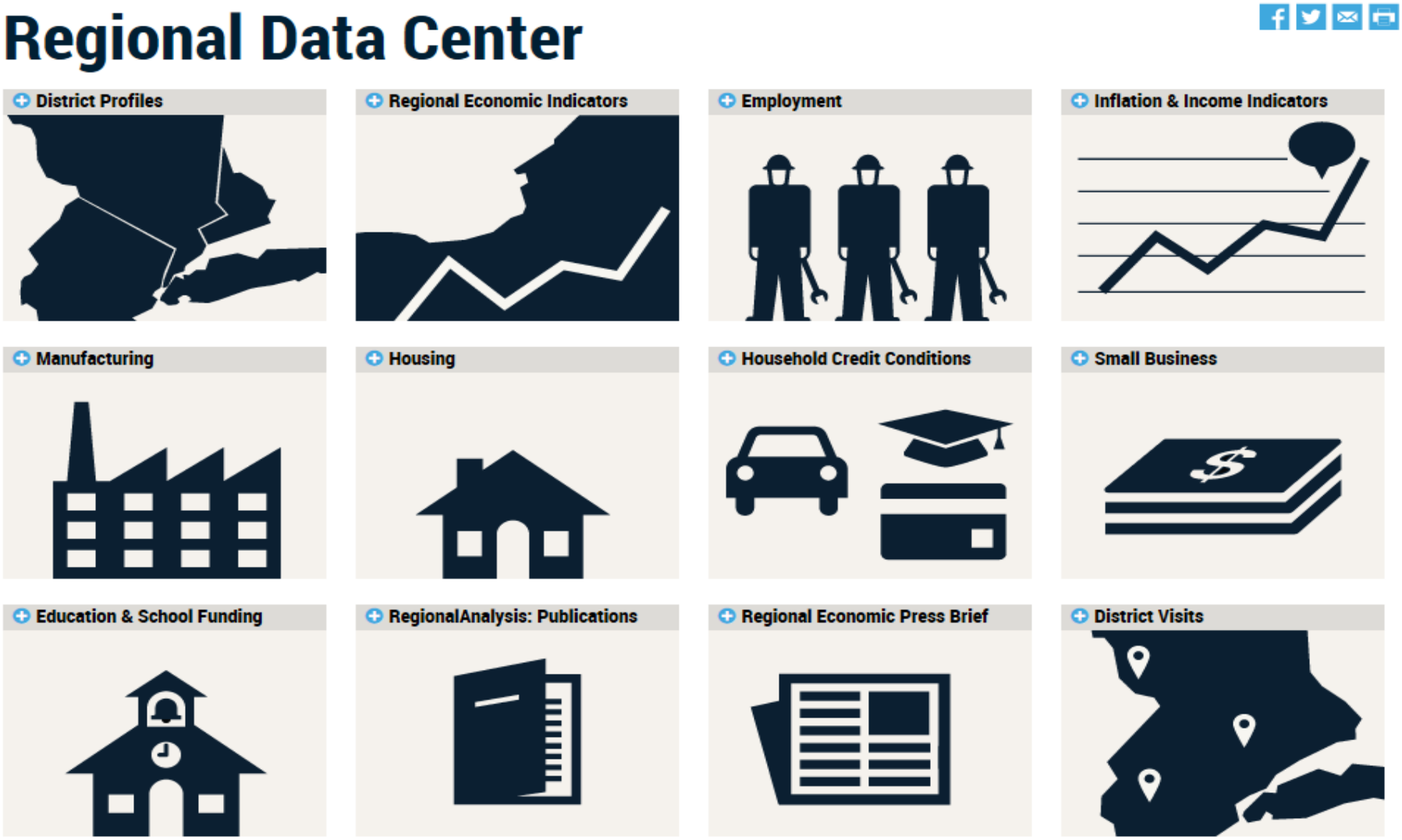
EUROSYSTEM

Statistics at the Fed of New York

How Dona Wong presents the figures

User-friendly navigation



Real estate prices in New York (I)

Housing Market Recovery in the Region

Where and to what extent are the housing markets of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut achieving a recovery? The following interactive visuals provide evidence of local conditions.

Introduction | Home Prices | Home Equity | Home Affordability | About the Data

For the U.S., home prices have increased on a year-over-year basis for most of 2012 and 2013. As indicators of a national housing market recovery gain strength, is similar resilience manifesting for markets in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut? We provide regional data that we anticipate will be valuable to policymakers, service providers and others, especially as they assess and undertake the process of recovering from Superstorm Sandy. The data show considerable variation across regional counties:

- In 35 percent of counties, mainly in upstate New York, median home prices reached the peak levels of 2006.
- 79 percent of counties have experienced a rise in home prices during the last 4 quarters, possible evidence that local housing markets may have bottomed.
- Lower home prices may have increased home affordability across the region. For example, median households could afford the median home in 86 percent of the counties in 2011 as compared with 59 percent of counties in 2006.

Real estate prices in New York (II)

Housing Market Recovery in the Region

Where and to what extent are the housing markets of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut achieving a recovery? The following interactive visuals provide evidence of local conditions.

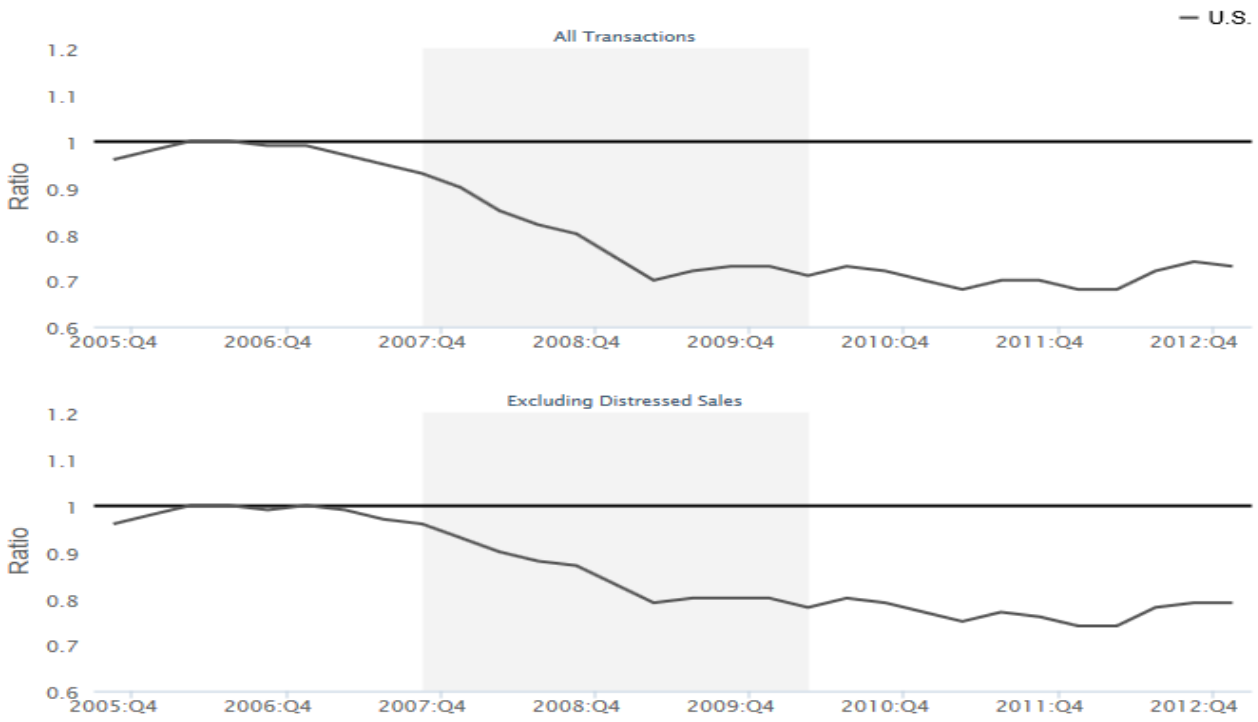
Introduction | **Home Prices** | Home Equity | Home Affordability | About the Data

Home Price Indexes

Home prices—both including and excluding distressed sales—are recovering at the national level. However, the extent of the recovery varies widely across local housing markets. The following chart compares home price indexes—normalized to the 2006 U.S. peak—for the geographies that you select.

Select up to 5 items: Selection Count : 0 | Reset

- U.S.
- NYC
  - Manhattan
  - Bronx
  - Brooklyn
  - Queens
  - Staten Island
- Connecticut
  - Fairfield
  - Hartford
  - Litchfield
  - Middlesex
  - New Haven
  - New London
  - Tolland
  - Windham
- New Jersey
  - Atlantic
  - Bergen
  - Burlington
  - Camden
  - Cape May
  - Cumberland



Real estate prices in New York (III)

Housing Market Recovery in the Region

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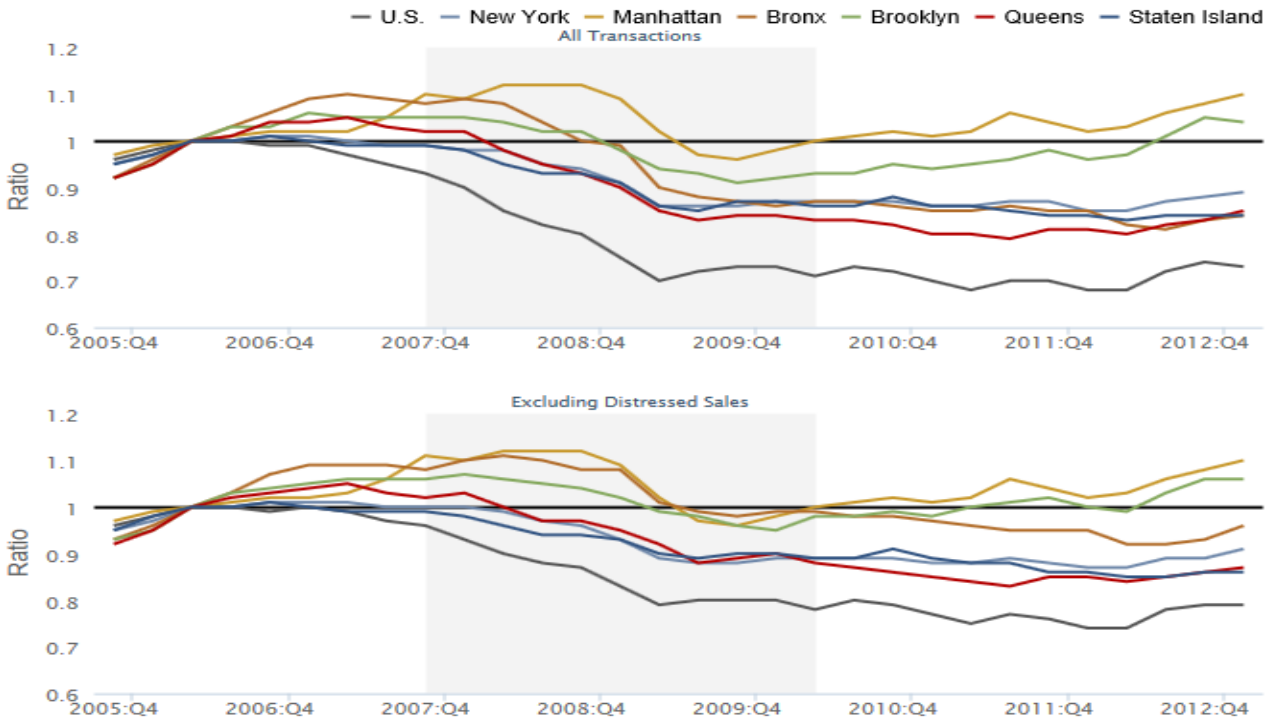
Select up to 5 items: Selection Count : 5 | Reset

- [x] U.S.
- [x] NYC
  - [ ] Manhattan
  - [ ] Bronx
  - [ ] Brooklyn
  - [ ] Queens
  - [ ] Staten Island
- [ ] Connecticut
  - [ ] Fairfield
  - [ ] Hartford
  - [ ] Litchfield
  - [ ] Middlesex
  - [ ] New Haven
  - [ ] New London
  - [ ] Tolland
  - [ ] Windham
- [ ] New Jersey
  - [ ] Atlantic
  - [ ] Bergen
  - [ ] Burlington
  - [ ] Camden
  - [ ] Cape May
  - [ ] Cumberland



Real estate prices in New York (IV)

Housing Market Recovery in the Region

Where and to what extent are the housing markets of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut achieving a recovery? The following interactive visuals provide evidence of local conditions.

Introduction | Home Prices | Home Equity | **Home Affordability** | About the Data

Ratio of median household income to qualifying income

One way to assess home affordability is to compare a borrower's actual income to the income required to qualify for a mortgage. Given a home's price, lenders qualify homebuyers with incomes that result in debt-to-income (DTI) ratios—the percent of monthly gross income used to cover housing costs—between .25 and .35. The closer a homebuyer's actual income is to the qualifying income, the more affordable housing is deemed to be. To illustrate this connection, we graph the ratio of median household income to qualifying income. Values above zero indicate higher affordability. For example, a ratio of 0.1 indicates that the median income is 10 percent higher than the qualifying income.

Select up to 5 items:
You've selected: 0 | Reset

- U.S.
- NYC
  - Manhattan
  - Bronx
  - Brooklyn
  - Queens
  - Staten Island
- Connecticut
  - Fairfield
  - Hartford
  - Litchfield
  - Middlesex
  - New Haven
  - New London
  - Tolland
  - Windham
- New Jersey
  - Atlantic
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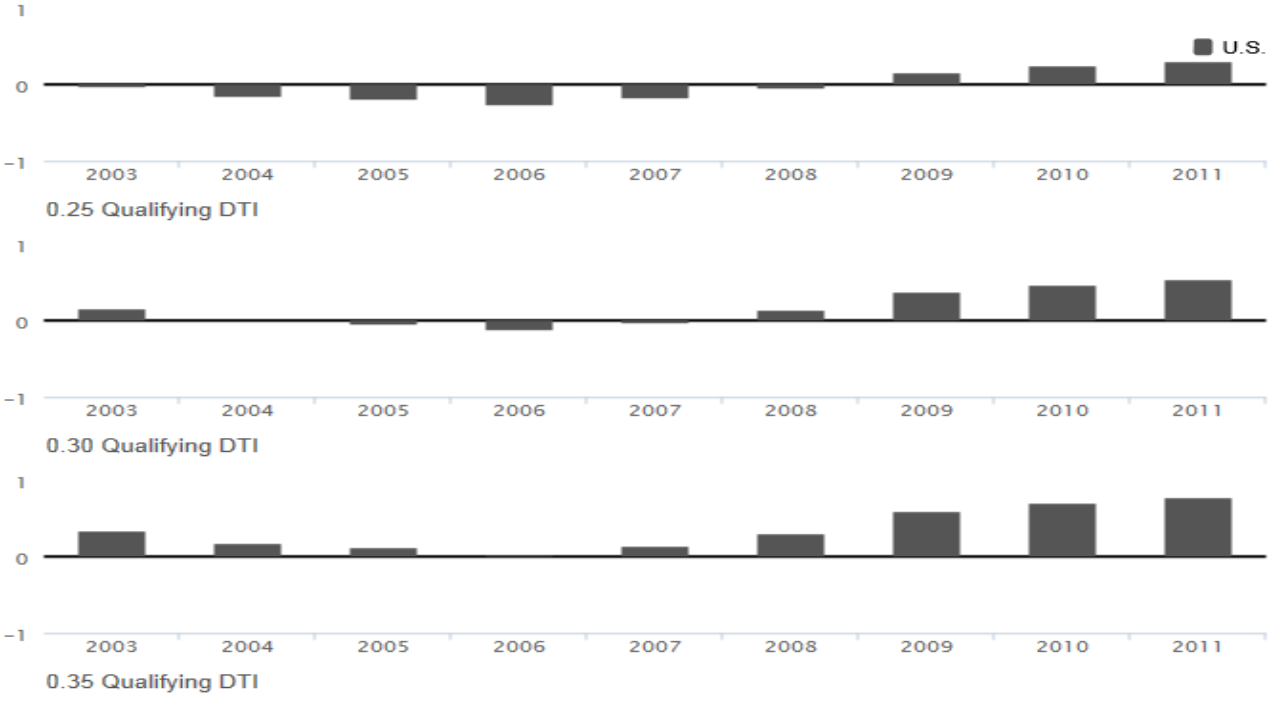
  - Burlington
  - Camden
  - Cape May



Real estate prices in New York (V)

Housing Market Recovery in the Region

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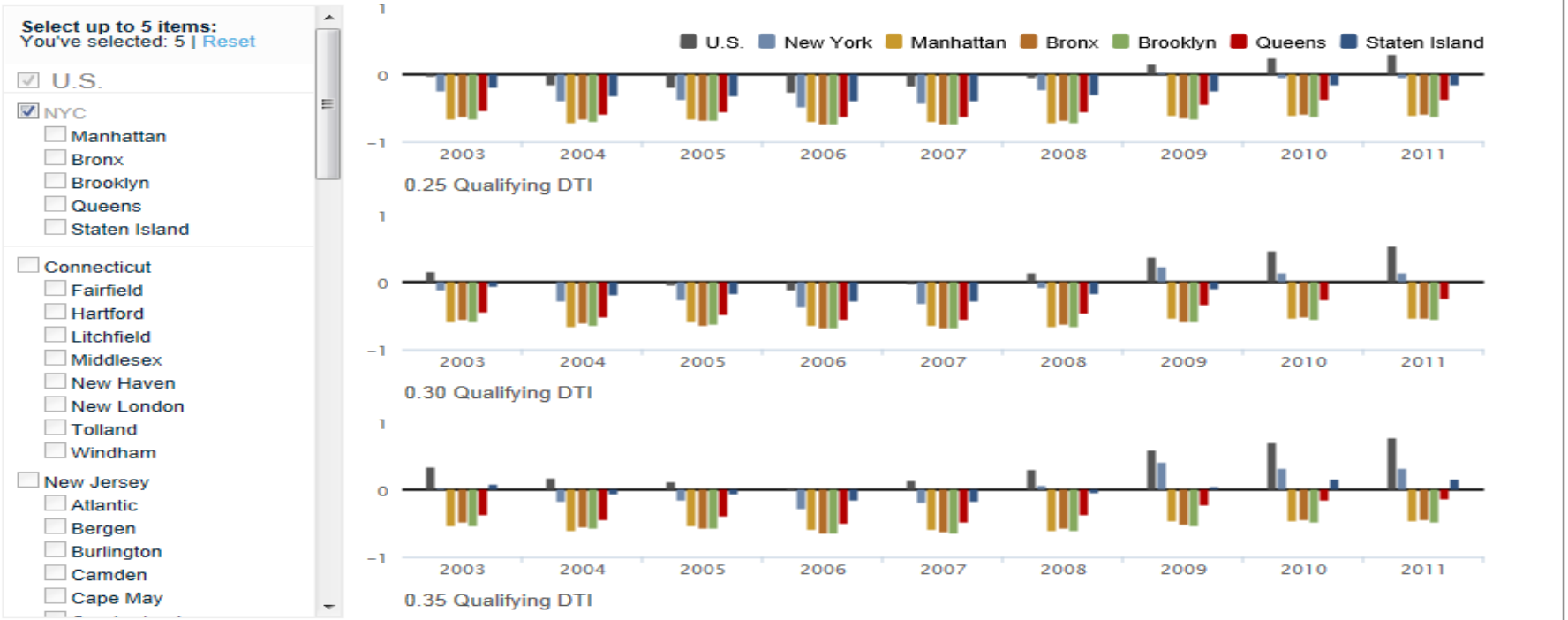

Real estate prices in New York (VI)

Housing Market Recovery in the Region

Where and to what extent are the housing markets of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut achieving a recovery? The following interactive visuals provide evidence of local conditions.

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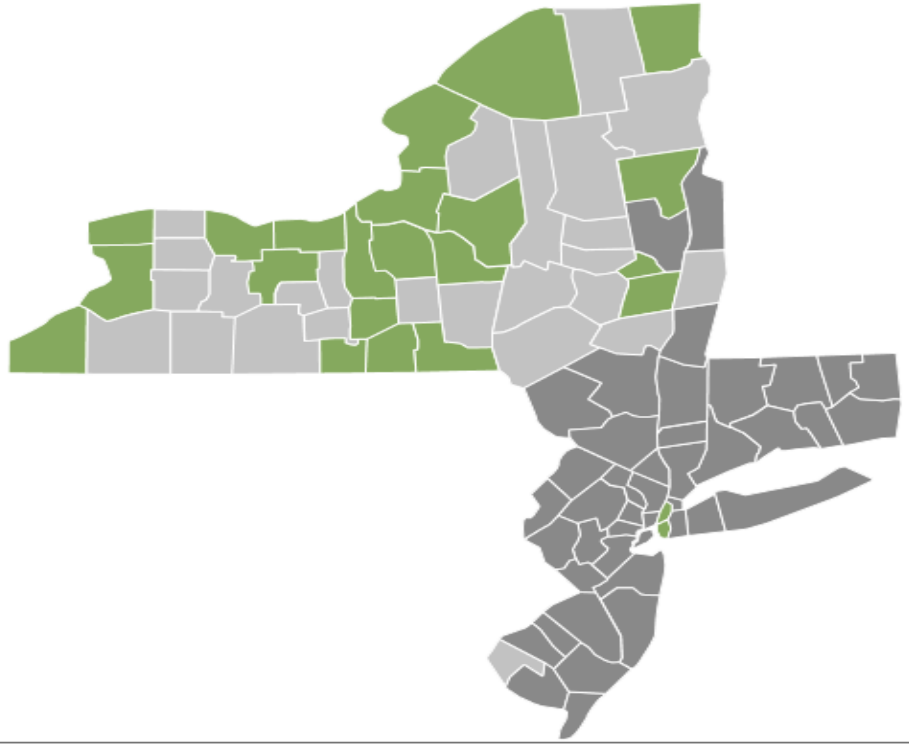
Median home prices in 2013 relative to past years

A property's location and year of purchase influence a homeowner's equity position. This interactive map examines this connection by comparing county-level median home prices as of the first quarter of 2013 to previous years. For example, select a year on the timeline and a green color indicates that prices in that county in 2013 Q1 are higher than those in the selected year; similarly, counties with lower prices are colored dark grey.

'00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11 '12 '13

- 2013 prices higher than 2006 prices
- 2013 prices lower than 2006 prices
- Insufficient data



Have a look at your local market

Foreclosure rates on a district level:

Statistics and Communication

- Statistics are a pre-requisite for monetary policy.
- Communications is becoming a monetary policy tool in itself.
- This influences as well the way of displaying and presenting statical data.
- Statistics can be seen as becoming an own communications channel.

“To understand God's thoughts
we must study statistics,
for these are the measure of his purpose.”

Florence Nightingale