## **UK Housing Prices: Boom or Bust?**

Despite the rapidly increasing house prices that were noticedevident induring 2006, the threat of a UK housing price crash persists. It is reported that increased levels of personal debt, the chance for of interest rate rises increases and fearss concerning over the stability of the subprime mortgage market can all lead to athe crash of housing prices. It is noted that the The UK mortgage market increasedhiked almost 21 per cent from 2005 to 2006. This signifies a jump from £288.4 billion to £344.9 billion in one year. Moreover, the growth in the average unsecured debt has been an ever increasing phenomenonhas continued to rise in the UK. In fact, it has increasedgrown 5.4% per each year since 2002, risinggoing from £3,670 to £4,522. ThereforeSo, it is not surprsing to noticesee the number of repossessions also increasinggoing from 10,310 to 17,000 infrom 2005 to 2006.

Together with expectations of a hike in the-interest rates, this could be the most imporatnt factor that maycould lead to a-house price crash in housing prices. Higher levels of personal debt could also lead to the increased role of the sub-prime mortgage sector (mortgages for high-risk borrowers) becoming more significant in the housing market. In particular, it is pointed out by experts reveal that there is a recent crisis among sub-prime mortgage lenders in the US also exists well, and it echoesing the situation in the UK.

We can see that whileAlthough the UK lenders need to practice a practical lending policy, we can see that there are always "players" in the housing market who are willing to take a risky approach to lending. This can be accomplisheddone by relaxing their making their criteria more relaxed in orderso as to attract more customers. SThough there is an ome people may argue that argument that they havethese individuals practice sophisticated underwriting models which are practiced. Nonetheless, UK sub-prime lenders should learn to heedtake the US sub-prime mortgage crisis as a warning. They should make sure that ensure they are not opening themselves to more riskiery loans. Otherwiself they fail to do so, itthis could have a had some serious impact on the UK mortgage market.

**Comment [T1]:** You should specify which organization

But Tthe organization has keenly pointed out that although the risk should be taken seriously, the housing market was notis not likely to crashgo bust. Experts do not believe that the housing market is on the path to a house price will experience a price crash, mainly because the economy remains

healthy., However, but the threat of a boom and bust cycle still remainsstays. A number of factors such as high levels of personal debt that, averageing £4,521 per person, may have a considerable effect on the future performance of the mortgage market.

It is said that such Many experts claim that -exuberant housing activity cannot be retained on acontinue on a long-term basis and undoubtedly, housinge prices cannot keep going upcontinue to increase foreverindefinitely. It is reported that. The world's biggest property agent, whose value is close to half the investment-grade commercial real estate in all of the UK, has requested that selected clients to mark down their reduce the value of their property by up to as much as 10 percent. This is a result of has been due to sheer concern, given the as there is a significant major downturn in the market. Such is the condition of the UK real estate market in the UK. A boom and a bust cycle are just part and parcel of the real estate property cycle industry. In fact, this cycle does not differing much from the real estate scenario all over the world.