

[<<Back](#)

## Huntsville Seeing Economic Rise

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*NewsChannel 19's Ellis Eskew reports:*

John Allen is president of the Huntsville/Madison County Homebuilders Association.

He has a different outlook on the economy than most of the country.

"Locally, our economy is fantastic," says Allen. "The housing market nationally has gotten a lot of attention, but certainly our focus has been what is going on in our economy and our market."

The Homebuilders Association represents 1,500 local businesses and individuals. He says Huntsville and Madison County's home values have risen in the past year.

In 2007, the average home in Huntsville/Madison County cost \$192,000. In 2006, it was \$179,000.

However, it's not just the housing market that's on the rise.

"Currently, right now there are over 1,200 jobs in Research Park, engineering and aero-space jobs, which need to be filled which don't have anything to do with BRAC," said Allen.

Despite a so-called national recession, with more business and people coming into the area, Allen says North Alabama's future looks bright.

"When you have a situation where you have increasing demand, which you have here and is currently underway, we also have increasing home starts in sales, which matches the needs of the people coming here," said Allen.



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