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REAL ESTATE REPORT

Columbus No. 62 on competitive list

It may be little consolation to central Ohio home shoppers struggling to find a house, but the area is nowhere near the most competitive housing market in the nation, according to a new study by Lending Tree.

The mortgage company ranked central Ohio 62nd most competitive out of the nation's 100 largest metro areas.

Lending Tree based its analysis on the financial qualifications of buyers, such as credit scores and average down payments, because the more qualified buyers there are to compete against, the harder it is to buy a home.

Based on that criteria, San Francisco is the most competitive housing market in the nation, followed by San Jose, California, and Denver.

The average central Ohio down payment of 13 percent and the percentage of buyers with prime credit (45 percent) fell well below the nation's most competitive cities.

Lending Tree described Columbus as one of the most accessible markets in the nation.

"This is great news for buyers," the company wrote in a news release.