# **News Release**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Residential housing price decline creates buying opportunities

**VANCOUVER, B.C.** – **November 3, 2008** – Housing price reductions across Greater Vancouver over the last six months have eliminated price gains witnessed in the first quarter of 2008.

The Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver (REBGV) reports that residential benchmark prices, as calculated by the MLSLink Housing Price Index®, declined 8.8 per cent between May and October 2008, resulting in a 3.9 per cent year-to-date price reduction for detached, attached and apartment properties in Greater Vancouver between Octobers 2007 and 2008. In May 2008, the overall residential benchmark price was \$568,411, compared to \$518,668 in October 2008.

"Home sales are not keeping pace with the positive economic conditions in BC," said REBGV president, Dave Watt. "That's a direct result of a loss of consumer confidence in the overall market. Accordingly, today's housing market is characterized by moderating home prices and wide selection. It's definitely a buyer's market."

Residential property sales in Greater Vancouver declined 55 per cent in October 2008 to 1,364 from the 3,028 sales recorded in October 2007.

Active listings totalled 19,257 in October 2008, a three per cent decline from the 19,852 active listings reported in September 2008. New listings for detached, attached and apartment properties increased one per cent to 4,867 in October 2008 compared to October 2007, when 4,819 new units were listed.

Sales of detached properties in October 2008 declined 56.5 per cent to 493 from the 1,133 sales recorded during the same period in 2007. The benchmark price for detached properties declined 4.7 per cent from October 2007 to \$695,962. Since May 2008, the benchmark price for a detached property in Greater Vancouver has declined 9.8 per cent.

Sales of apartment properties in October 2008 declined 52.7 per cent to 647, compared to 1,368 sales in October 2007. The benchmark price of an apartment property declined 3.5 per cent from October 2007 to \$358,359. Since May 2008, the benchmark price for an apartment property in Greater Vancouver has declined eight per cent.

Attached property sales in October 2008 are down 57.5 per cent to 224, compared with the 527 sales in October 2007. The benchmark price of an attached unit declined 1.4 per cent in Greater Vancouver between October 2007 and 2008 to \$448,152. Since May 2008, the benchmark price for an attached property in Greater Vancouver has declined 6.4 per cent.

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Editor's Notes: The MLSLink Housing Price Index® (HPI) calculates benchmark prices, which represent a typical property within a market. The HPI takes into consideration what averages and medians do not – the price of housing features such as lot size, age, number of rooms, etc. These features become the composite of the 'typical house' in a given area. Each month's sales determine the current prices paid for bedrooms, bathrooms, fireplaces, etc. and apply those new values to the 'typical' house model. The HPI measures typical, pure price change (inflation or deflation).

The Real Estate industry is a key economic driver in British Columbia. In 2007, 38,050 homes changed hands in the Board's area generating \$1.065 billion in spin-offs. Total dollar volume of residential sales set a new record at \$22.25 billion and total dollar volume of all sales set a record at \$22.77 billion. The Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver is an association representing more than 9,500 REAL-TORS®. The Real Estate Board provides a variety of membership services, including the Multiple Listing Service®. For more information on real estate, statistics, and buying or selling a home, contact a local REALTOR® or visit www.realtylink.org.



#### **Preliminary Report**

### **MLSLINK HOUSING PRICE INDEX**



### October 2008

PROPERTY		BENCHMARK	PRICE	3 MONTH AVG	PRICE	1 YEAR	3 YEAR	5 YEAR
TYPE	AREA	PRICE	RANGE	BENCHMARK	INDEX	CHANGE	CHANGE	
			(+/-)	PRICE		%	%	%
Residential	Greater Vancouver	\$518,668	0.7%	\$534,214	219.07	-3.9	25.6	69.5
Detached	Greater Vancouver	\$695,962	1.4%	\$720,093	205.5	-4.7	23.4	63.3
	Burnaby	\$685,592	3.1%	\$712,683	201.8	-3.6	20.4	58.9
	Coquitlam	\$626,631	5.4%	\$657,819	220.4	-0.8	27.3	65.2
	South Delta	\$578,802	4.5%	\$603,235	189.1	-9.6	12.7	53.8
	Maple Ridge	\$429,498	2.9%	\$438,604	195.9	-3.7	20.1	49.9
	New Westminster	\$542,855	6.5%	\$540,731	223.7	-6.4	22.0	78.8
	North Vancouver	\$802,897	3.1%	\$828,824	200.5	-6.3	20.6	49.1
	Pitt Meadows	\$474,084	7.9%	\$467,456	194.6	-0.5	24.0	55.7
	Port Coquitlam	\$529,394	6.7%	\$531,356	223.8	8.0	31.7	68.7
	Port Moody	\$542,174	14.3%	\$629,028	163.0	-23.8	-0.8	23.7
	Richmond	\$743,208	3.5%	\$754,895	219.4	2.0	33.4	76.1
	Squamish	\$526,473	9.6%	\$540,260	200.0	-6.4	40.7	17.1
	Sunshine Coast	\$429,335	7.8%	\$421,152	244.3	0.6	26.6	93.8
	Vancouver East	\$638,021	2.7%	\$651,107	216.1	-3.2	24.3	69.3
	Vancouver West	\$1,279,528	3.6%	\$1,322,236	212.3	-6.6	30.8	75.4
	West Vancouver	\$1,141,363	8.8%	\$1,353,800	168.1	-21.6	-0.5	43.3
Attached	Greater Vancouver	\$448,152	1.1%	\$458,688	217.4	-1.4	28.8	69.3
	Burnaby	\$451,413	1.7%	\$457,202	226.1	2.4	30.7	76.0
	Coquitlam	\$399,859	3.0%	\$410,061	215.7	-2.2	25.3	65.7
	South Delta	\$422,282	7.6%	\$431,886	226.1	-6.8	30.5	87.1
	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows	\$305,594	2.5%	\$309,156	212.0	-1.5	26.4	69.1
	North Vancouver	\$573,069	4.0%	\$568,588	224.3	-1.4	25.9	68.4
	Port Coquitlam	\$382,296	2.5%	\$389,166	210.2	1.6	24.2	60.1
	Port Moody	\$386,570	3.8%	\$387,809	230.7	-1.6	30.0	79.6
	Richmond	\$443,867	2.2%	\$453,112	214.0	1.7	33.4	64.4
	Vancouver East	\$495,842	3.6%	\$519,384	231.8	-2.5	37.0	79.7
	Vancouver West	\$630,738	4.8%	\$675,107	225.1	-9.6	22.8	63.2
Apartment	Greater Vancouver	\$358,359	0.7%	\$367,262	233.1	-3.5	27.6	77.6
	Burnaby	\$322,292	1.5%	\$332,467	240.9	-3.6	28.1	81.5
	Coquitlam	\$277,463	2.2%	\$282,914	236.6	0.1	29.6	86.0
	South Delta	\$328,318	5.2%	\$338,046	213.8	-4.3	23.8	63.4
	Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows	\$241,896	4.7%	\$250,679	256.9	-2.5	36.2	101.0
	New Westminster	\$277,857	2.4%	\$284,912	225.7	-4.5	34.9	86.6
	North Vancouver	\$362,329	2.7%	\$370,295	230.5	-3.9	22.6	73.8
	Port Coquitlam	\$242,409	1.7%	\$250,145	283.9	-3.6	32.5	99.0
	Port Moody	\$281,989	3.3%	\$291,019	240.6	-4.8	15.4	71.5
	Richmond	\$298,792	1.9%	\$306,772	242.8	-1.0	31.9	88.6
	Vancouver East	\$322,203	2.2%	\$322,489	263.8	2.3	42.8	106.8
	Vancouver West	\$448,630	1.3%	\$460,917	228.2	-5.5	22.1	66.3
	West Vancouver	\$579,154	8.8%	\$605,978	207.8	-12.9	23.1	52.0

#### HOW TO READ THE TABLE:

BENCHMARK PRICE: Estimated sale price of a benchmark property. Benchmarks represent a typical property within each market.

PRICE RANGE: Expresed as a + or - percentage of the benchmark price, there is a 90% probability the sale price of a benchmark house is within the interval.

PRICE INDEX: Index numbers estimate the percentage change in price on typical and constant quality properties over time. All figures are based on past sales.

In Year 2001, the indexes are averaged to 100

Key: \* = Sales sample too small; Price information not reported.

## **MLS® SALES Facts**

REAL EST OF GREATE					Ridge/Pitt Mead.	ster.	/er		t Moody/Belcarra			st		St	How.	erton			
Octo	ober	•	1	1	€	Gulf	]	iį	l no	itla <sub>n</sub>	/ Å	1	1	Coast	. East	8	1 %	de de	\ \&
2008		Burnaby	Coquitlam	Delta - South	Islands - G	Maple Rid	New Westminster	North Vancouver	Port Coquitlam	Port Mood	Richmond	Squamish	Sunshine (	Vancouver E	Vancouver West	West Vancouver/House	Whistler/Pemberton	TOTALS	
	Number of	Detached Attached	41	58	25 4	0	46	9	55	18	10	49	9	22	73	52	19	7	493
October	Sales	Apartment	36 81	19 44	10	0	20 11	5 43	13 47	21 32	10 18	34 91	3 4	1 4	21 39	21 199	-1 11	17 13	224 647
2008	Median	Detached	\$655,000	\$582,500	\$505,000	n/a	\$449,500	n/a	\$815,000	n/a	n/a	\$684,000	n/a	\$450,000	\$640,000	\$1,272,500	n/a	n/a	
	Selling Price	Attached	\$425,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$292,000	n/a	n/a	\$374,000	n/a	\$420,000	n/a	n/a	\$472,000	\$749,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Apartment	\$310,000	\$266,500	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$250,000	\$350,000	\$228,000	n/a	\$253,750	n/a	n/a	\$314,000	\$408,500	n/a	n/a	
	Number of	Detached Attached	51	42	29	3	72	10	45	26	12	59	11	36	70	46	21	13	546 275
September	Sales	Apartment	43 93	18 42	3 15	0	17 21	9 46	24 38	20 27	11 17	41 134	10 10	7 11	16 70	39 223	2 8	15 9	764
2008	Median	Detached	\$689,000	\$659,900	\$602,000	n/a	\$462,500	n/a	\$825,000	\$499,750	n/a	\$691,000	n/a	\$395,000	\$685,000	\$1,440,000	\$1,282,500	n/a	
	Selling	Attached	\$420,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$590,000	\$367,450	n/a	\$441,800	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$545,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Price	Apartment	\$322,500	\$259,000	n/a	n/a	\$199,000	\$264,000	\$345,000	\$244,000	n/a	\$332,500	n/a	n/a	\$312,000	\$411,500	n/a	n/a	
	Number	Detached	95	124	38	2	124	24	83	46	21	136	17	42	163	156	51	11	1,133
Ostaban	of Sales	Attached	67	47	8	0	45	7	41	26	35	105	9	7	41	62	5	22	527
October 2007		Apartment Detached	168	77	15	0	36	92	91	28	19	175	32	10	110	479	18	18	1,368
2007	Median Selling	Attached	\$710,000 \$412,000	\$575,800 \$410,500	\$620,000 n/a	n/a n/a	\$472,500 \$305,000	\$552,500 n/a	\$799,000 \$550,000	\$510,250 \$368,750	\$755,000 \$433,000	\$700,000 \$436,000	n/a n/a	\$375,000 n/a	\$656,000 \$478,950	\$1,422,000 \$684,000	\$1,560,000 n/a	n/a \$392,000	n/a
	Price	Apartment	\$328,000	\$260,250	n/a	n/a	\$225,500	\$272,500	\$369,500	\$247,950	n/a	\$296,500	\$373,000	n/a	\$295,000	\$435,000	n/a	n/a	11/4
	Number	Detached	702	750	387	31	933	198	759	339	178	1,057	155	426	1,191	952	427	82	8,567
	of	Attached	621	287	69	1	352	123	280	247	207	780	112	69	285	470	45	151	4,099
Jan	Sales	Apartment	1,267	552	136	0	270	699	674	327	279	1,345	90	45	1,020	3,246	124	88	10,162
Oct. 2008	Median	Detached	\$724,500	\$638,000	\$620,000	\$464,500	\$489,900	\$560,750	\$880,000	\$527,000	\$693,000	\$716,500	\$492,000	\$397,950	\$680,000	\$1,479,000	\$1,480,000	\$862,000	,
Year-to-date	Selling Price	Attached Apartment	\$437,000	\$425,000	\$437,000	n/a	\$315,000	\$394,000	\$588,500	\$384,850	\$422,500	\$457,500	\$388,000	\$288,500	\$519,000	\$716,000	\$935,000	\$629,000	n/a
	Number	Detached	\$328,900 1,159	\$280,000 1,173	\$322,250 530	n/a 62	\$235,000 1,375	\$289,000 292	\$367,000 1,008	\$244,250 512	\$330,000 236	\$314,250 1,583	\$285,000 228	\$220,000 626	\$315,000 1,911	\$439,650 1,574	\$735,000 662	\$300,000 118	13,049
	of	Attached	921	364	108	0	533	95	397	287	323	1,336	152	70	410	717	52	177	5,942
Jan	Sales	Apartment	1,743	756	174	0	327	853	980	423	349	1,779	197	39	1,435	4,897	179	148	14,279
Oct. 2007	Median	Detached	\$684,750	\$591,250	\$588,950	\$380,000	\$464,900	\$539,400	\$800,000	\$484,950	\$707,000	\$656,000	\$460,000	\$376,000	\$634,500	\$1,350,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,110,000	
Year-to-date	Selling Price	Attached	\$409,500	\$388,500	\$377,500	n/a	\$297,000	\$373,500	\$558,000	\$367,000	\$425,000	\$420,000	\$368,000	\$260,000	\$483,000	\$671,500	\$1,140,000	\$560,000	n/a
7047 10-4410	riice	Apartment	\$312,000	\$253,000	\$300,700	n/a	\$221,000	\$265,304	\$340,000	\$233,900	\$317,600	\$283,800	\$289,250	\$240,000	\$289,000	\$415,900	\$669,000	\$325,000	
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Note: Median Selling Prices are not reported for areas with less than 20 sales or for the Gulf Islands

# **MLS® LISTINGS Facts**

REAL EST		BOAI				M.S.											Sound		
October 2008		Burnaby	Coquitlam	Delta - South	Islands - Gulf	Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadon	New Westminster	North Vancouver	Port Coquitlam	Port Moody/Belcarra	Richmond	Squamish	Sunshine Coast	Vancouver East	Vancouver West		Whistler/Pemberton	TOTALS	
	Number of	Detached Attached	177 117	204 55	69 15	32 1	211 65	30 21	155 56	76 42	36 21	231 146	29 14	77 8	226 66	232 154	119 10	24 30	1,928 821
October	Listings	Apartment	251	128	17	0	63	134	140	59	73	242	12	5	193	730	32	39	2,118
2008	% Sales to	Attached	23% 31%	28% 35%	36% 27%	0% 0%	22% 31%	30% 24%	35% 23%	24% 50%	28% 48%	21% 23%	31% 21%	29% 13%	32% 32%	22% 14%	16% -10%	29% 57%	n/a
		Apartment	32%	34%	59%	n/a	17%	32%	34%	54%	25%	38%	33%	80%	20%	27%	34%	33%	
	Number of	Detached Attached	203 136	265 72	87 11	13 0	240 65	66 16	231 84	88 48	50 51	239 144	55 17	83 13	331 96	314 182	155 7	26 44	2,446 986
September	Listings	Apartment	321	141	20	0	59	184	169	118	56	341	15	16	312	895	37	26	2,710
2008		Detached	25%	16%	33%	23%	30%	15%	19%	30%	24%	25%	20%	43%	21%	15%	14%	50%	,
	% Sales to Listings	Attached	32%	25%	27%	n/a	26%	56%	29%	42%	22%	28%	59%	54%	17%	21%	29%	34%	n/a
		Apartment	29%	30%	75%	n/a	36%	25%	22%	23%	30%	39%	67%	69%	22%	25%	22%	35%	
	Number of	Detached Attached	157	193	69	12	205	46	119	72	40	175	36	76	262	209	116	16	1,803
October	Listings	Apartment	140 256	43 141	9 27	0	83 64	15 138	53 151	45 67	40 38	132 280	40 30	14 34	60 166	99 762	11 28	30 20	814 2,202
2007		Detached	61%	64%	55%	17%	60%	52%	70%	64%	53%	78%	47%	55%	62%	75%	44%	69%	2,202
	% Sales to Listings	Attached	48%	109%	89%	n/a	54%	47%	77%	58%	88%	80%	23%	50%	68%	63%	45%	73%	n/a
	Liotingo	Apartment	66%	55%	56%	n/a	56%	67%	60%	42%	50%	63%	107%	29%	66%	63%	64%	90%	
	Number	Detached	2,092	2,355	885	140	2,330	481	1,772	888	519	2,821	415	1,096	3,217	2,933	1,396	289	23,629
lon	of Listings	Attached	1,445	664	133	2	743	246	633	552	444	1,671	240	122	724	1,462	129	377	9,587
Jan Oct. 2008		Apartment Detached	3,002	1,533	221	0	657	1,660	1,575	756	810	3,068	202	99	2,341	8,180	331	348	24,783
OCI. 2008	% Sales to		34% 43%	32% 43%	44% 52%	22% 50%	40% 47%	41% 50%	43% 44%	38% 45%	34% 47%	37% 47%	37% 47%	39% 57%	37% 39%	32% 32%	31% 35%	28% 40%	n/a
Year-to-date*	Listings	Apartment	42%	36%	62%	n/a	41%	42%	43%	43%	34%	44%	45%	45%	44%	40%	37%	25%	TI/Q
	Number	Detached	1,920	2,002	749	130	2,082	469	1,426	800	410	2,422	341	1,113	2,970	2,323	1,129	225	20,511
	of	Attached	1,244	502	129	1	737	170	513	421	430	1,726	193	109	591	1,115	116	275	8,272
Jan	Listings		2,620	1,126	229	0	611	1,349	1,352	609	566	2,700	305	97	1,982	6,956	315	273	21,090
Oct. 2007	% Sales to	Detached  Attached	60%	59%	71%	48%	66%	62%	71%	64%	58%	65%	67%	56%	64%	68%	59%	52%	n/-
Year-to-date*	Listings	Attached	74% 67%	73% 67%	84% 76%	0% n/a	72% 54%	56% 63%	77% 72%	68% 69%	75% 62%	77% 66%	79% 65%	64% 40%	69% 72%	64% 70%	45% 57%	64% 54%	n/a
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<sup>\*</sup> Year-to-date listings represent a cumulative total of listings rather than total active listings.

## **Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver**

### **Listing & Sales Activity Summary**

	<u>Listings</u>				_			<u>Sales</u>			
	1	2	3	Col. 2 & 3	5	6	7	Col. 6 & 7	9	10	Col. 9 & 10
	Oct	Sep	Oct	Percentage	Oct	Sep	Oct	Percentage	Aug 2007 -	Aug 2008 -	Percentage
	2007	2008	2008	Variance	2007	2008	2008	Variance	Oct 2007	Oct 2008	Variance
BURNABY DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	157 140 256	203 136 321	177 117 251	% -12.8 -14.0 -21.8	95 67 168	51 43 93	41 36 81	% -19.6 -16.3 -12.9	299 229 485	136 130 266	% -54.5 -43.2 -45.2
COQUITLAM  DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	193	265	204	-23.0	124	42	58	38.1	335	147	-56.1
	43	72	55	-23.6	47	18	19	5.6	116	57	-50.9
	141	141	128	-9.2	77	42	44	4.8	231	124	-46.3
DELTA DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	69	87	69	-20.7	38	29	25	-13.8	119	79	-33.6
	9	11	15	36.4	8	3	4	33.3	25	11	-56.0
	27	20	17	-15.0	15	15	10	-33.3	47	31	-34.0
MAPLE RIDGE/PITT MEADOWS  DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	205	240	211	-12.1	124	72	46	-36.1	376	192	-48.9
	83	65	65	0.0	45	17	20	17.6	137	63	-54.0
	64	59	63	6.8	36	21	11	-47.6	87	49	-43.7
NORTH VANCOUVER  DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	119	231	155	-32.9	83	45	55	22.2	251	156	-37.8
	53	84	56	-33.3	41	24	13	-45.8	114	52	-54.4
	151	169	140	-17.2	91	38	47	23.7	278	126	-54.7
NEW WESTMINSTER  DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	46	66	30	-54.5	24	10	9	-10.0	86	35	-59.3
	15	16	21	31.3	7	9	5	-44.4	27	22	-18.5
	138	184	134	-27.2	92	46	43	-6.5	284	151	-46.8
PORT MOODY/BELCARRA DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	40	50	36	-28.0	21	12	10	-16.7	69	34	-50.7
	40	51	21	-58.8	35	11	10	-9.1	108	39	-63.9
	38	56	73	30.4	19	17	18	5.9	84	51	-39.3
PORT COQUITLAM  DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	72	88	76	-13.6	46	26	18	-30.8	139	59	-57.6
	45	48	42	-12.5	26	20	21	5.0	78	64	-17.9
	67	118	59	-50.0	28	27	32	18.5	114	85	-25.4
RICHMOND DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	175	239	231	-3.3	136	59	49	-16.9	456	157	-65.6
	132	144	146	1.4	105	41	34	-17.1	350	112	-68.0
	280	341	242	-29.0	175	134	91	-32.1	538	317	-41.1
SUNSHINE COAST DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	76	83	77	-7.2	42	36	22	-38.9	169	88	-47.9
	14	13	8	-38.5	7	7	1	-85.7	19	19	0.0
	34	16	5	-68.8	10	11	4	-63.6	16	20	25.0
SQUAMISH DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	36 40 30	55 17 15	29 14 12	-47.3 -17.6 -20.0	17 9 32	11 10 10	9 3 4	-18.2 -70.0 -60.0	67 40 58	30 20 20	-55.2 -50.0 -65.5
VANCOUVER EAST DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	262	331	226	-31.7	163	70	73	4.3	499	224	-55.1
	60	96	66	-31.3	41	16	21	31.3	106	49	-53.8
	166	312	193	-38.1	110	70	39	-44.3	353	194	-45.0
VANCOUVER WEST  DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	209	314	232	-26.1	156	46	52	13.0	426	144	-66.2
	99	182	154	-15.4	62	39	21	-46.2	199	97	-51.3
	762	895	730	-18.4	479	223	199	-10.8	1364	656	-51.9
WHISTLER DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	16	26	24	-7.7	11	13	7	-46.2	42	30	-28.6
	30	44	30	-31.8	22	15	17	13.3	56	51	-8.9
	20	26	39	50.0	18	9	13	44.4	59	33	-44.1
WEST VANCOUVER/HOWE SOUND DETACHED ATTACHED APARTMENTS	116	155	119	-23.2	51	21	19	-9.5	168	59	-64.9
	11	7	10	42.9	5	2	-1	-150.0	15	6	-60.0
	28	37	32	-13.5	18	8	11	37.5	51	28	-45.1
GRAND TOTALS  DETACHED  ATTACHED	1791	2433	1896	-22.1	1131	543	493	-9.2	3501	1570	-55.2
	814	986	820	-16.8	527	275	224	-18.5	1619	792	-51.1

### Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver Average Price Graph January 1977 to October 2008

DETACHED ----- CONDOMINIUM ——ATTACHED ——APARTMENTS

IN THOUSANDS (\$) 1000 \$825,206 900 800 700 \$461,788 600 500 400 \$386,839 300 200 100

1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008