

Nest Fest

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An uptick in renters

By Jennifer Hiller on Sep 15, 10 09:54 AM |



There are more renters - finally! - according to a new study from Rent.com.

Nationally, 42 percent of property owners say they have lower vacancy rates than they did a year ago.

Rental vacancies had been rising for much of 2009 and the first half of this year. Renter job losses have been a big a factor, as well as renters moving out to try to save money, according to the owners.

The bad news for renters: just 38 percent of property owners now are willing to make concessions to fill vacancies, with 31 percent lowering rent rates.

Last year, nearly 70 percent said they were lowering their rates. Now many owners expect rents to start rising in the next year.

Rent.com surveyed property owners representing more than 4,000 communities and 1 million rental units.

- [Jennifer Hiller](#)