A tale of two housing markets

This week the National Association of Realtors announced February sales of existing homes had fallen 3.7 percent from January, based on an estimated, seasonally adjusted and annualized 5.48 million homes, the decline attributed to a shortage of homes for sale.Source: NARBlah, blah, blah. That could be the first paragraph of any national housing report in the last five years.Fractional change in a huge market. Blah. Inventory scarce. Blah.NAR people, could we try a little harder -- perhaps shed some descriptive light? Economic trends between red and blue counties The most interesting single piece of overall U.S. economic data this year has been derived from politics.Brookings analysts -- along with all the rest of us -- noticed the county-by-county election map, an ocean of red with little blue islands floating in spots, and dug deeper. What might be the differences in economic trends between red counties and blue ones?There are 3,056 counties in the U.S. In 2...

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