



**Bell Mortgage™**  
SINCE 1880

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## **BELL MORTGAGE BANKS ITS BEST YEAR SINCE 1880**

***The numbers are in and Minneapolis-based Bell Mortgage proves after 124 years, the company is stronger than ever!***

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – Bell Mortgage has announced record-breaking numbers from its 2003 totals. Year-end numbers show Bell Mortgage, now in its 124th year of business, producing \$1.9 billion in retail residential volume.

“The mortgage business is typically cyclical, and during Bell's long history we've seen and worked through the good times and bad times,” says Gary Kirt, CEO of Bell Mortgage. “We've always managed to stay strong no matter what the economic environment. That success is due largely to the talented team we have at Bell Mortgage. Our focus has always been on ensuring our customers have choices and confidence when it comes to securing a loan with us - again, no matter the economic environment,” adds Kirt.

Widely known as not only the oldest, but also the largest privately owned mortgage company in the Midwest, Bell Mortgage's achievements are also gaining industry-wide recognition. In a February 13, 2004 ranking of the top local mortgage companies published by The Business Journal, Bell Mortgage ranks #5 among the publication's Top 25 Residential Mortgage Companies. The list signifies those Minnesota mortgage companies securing top residential volume in 2003.

A testament to its consistency and consequent longevity in the mortgage business, Bell Mortgage is the only privately owned, and one of only three of the top eleven companies recognized in the 1991 that still remain on the list today. In fact, despite typical "feast or famine" tendencies in the industry, over the last decade Bell Mortgage is one of only two mortgage companies that have landed a top five listing in each of last the ten years.

Additionally, Bell Mortgage has shown 30% annual growth over the last five years, another record-breaking figure for the company.

“It's always interesting to see how this list changes year to year,” adds Kirt. “There is a lot to be said for longevity when it comes to the mortgage business. At Bell, our longevity has proven to be a huge factor in terms of customer satisfaction and retention. They know we aren't going away any time soon.”

A commitment to community spanning three centuries, the constant pursuit of cutting-edge technology, the best combination of products, prices and service, all backed by the experience and dedication of the largest and oldest private mortgage company in Minnesota- that's Bell Mortgage and has been for more than 120 years.

Based in Minneapolis, Bell Mortgage has 17 locations nationwide and more than 500,000 family mortgages to its name.

For more information on Bell Mortgage, log on to [www.bellmortgage.com](http://www.bellmortgage.com).