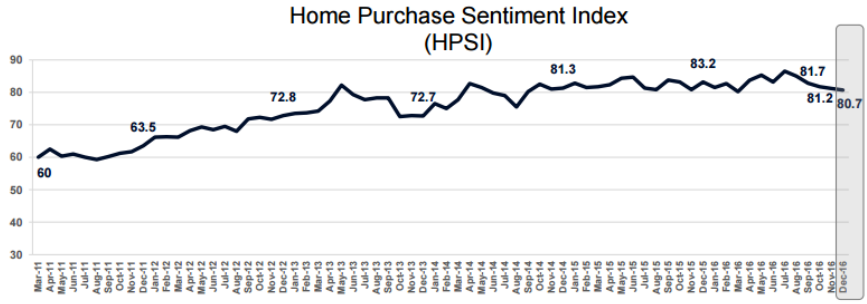
Eric Aasness

Branch Sales Manager, Homebridge Financial
NMLS #506980
16040 Christensen Road, Suite 315 Tukwila, WA 98188

Mobile: 206-915-3742
eric@ericismybanker.com
View My Website

Rising Rates Hurting Homebuyer Sentiment -Fannie

Consumer perceptions about rising interest rates and stagnant income levels were the **main contributors** to a half-point decrease in Fannie Mae's Home Purchase Sentiment Index® (HPSI) in December. The HPSI, which reflects key variables from the company's National Housing Survey (NHS), was 80.7 in December. It was the fifth consecutive month in which the index declined and the measure is 2.5 percentage points lower than in December 2015.

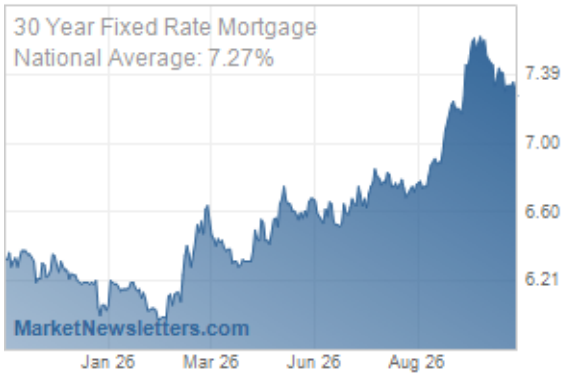


The net share of consumers who report an **income significantly higher** than a year earlier fell five percentage points to a net of only 10 percent. The net of consumers expecting mortgage rates to decline over the next year fell four points to a negative 55 percent.

Offsetting these numbers were a two-point rise in the net share of respondents who say it is a good time to buy a house which went from 30 to 32 percent, and a gain of four points to a net of 68 percent of answers in which respondents report confidence they would not lose their jobs in the next year. Both the net percentage of those who believe it is a good time to sell and the net share who believe that home prices will go up remained unchanged in December at 38 percent and 35 percent respectively.

"Despite the post-election bump in general consumer attitudes, a rapid rise in mortgage rate expectations has **tamped down home purchase sentiment**, at least in the near term. A spike in economic optimism in the immediate aftermath of an election is typical. Whether consumers will sustain this level of optimism into 2017 remains unclear," said Doug Duncan, senior vice president and chief economist at Fannie Mae. "The spike in interest rates reflects, in part, the market's anticipation of pro-growth policies from the

National Average Mortgage Rates



Mortgage News Daily

	Rate	Change	Points
30YR Fixed	7.27%	-0.02	0.00
15YR Fixed	6.92%	-0.03	0.00
30YR FHA	6.90%	-0.01	0.00
30YR Jumbo	7.55%	0.00	0.00
7/6 SOFR	6.78%	-0.10	0.00
30YR VA	6.91%	-0.01	0.00

Rates as of: 10/30

MBS and Treasury

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	99.81	-0.02
10 YR Treasury	4.9299	+0.0084
30 YR Treasury	5.3082	+0.0081

Pricing as of: 10/30 5:59PM EST

Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Oct 21	195	+3.39%
Building Permits	Sep	1.4M	+0.43%
Housing Starts	Sep	1.22M	-4.24%
New Home Sales	Sep	676K	-1.17%
Pending Home Sales	Aug	71.2	0%
Existing Home Sales	Oct	3.99M	+0.25%
Builder Confidence	Oct	29	-9.38%

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incoming Administration. If this optimism comes to fruition, it should translate into stronger income growth and increased job security for consumers - the two HPSI components that could help support housing sentiment this year."

The Home Purchase Sentiment Index (HPSI) distills information about consumers' home purchase sentiment from the NHS into a single number that reflects current views and forward-looking expectations of housing market conditions. The NHS is conducted monthly by telephone among 1,000 consumers, both homeowners and renters. Respondents are asked more than 100 questions used to track attitudinal shifts, six of which are used to construct the HPSI. The December 2016 National Housing Survey was conducted between December 1, 2016 and December 21, 2016.

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