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Mortgage Apps Managed to Improve Despite Rate Spike

Mortgage activity increased slightly during the week ended February 1. The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) says its Market Composite index, a measure of application volume, rose a modest 0.7 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis, and was up 4.0 percent unadjusted. **Activity has been strong** since the first of the year; the index has posted three weekly gains averaging 5.63 percent, offset by a 2.6 percent decline during the week ended January 26.

The **Refinance** Index gained 1 percent compared to the previous week and the seasonally adjusted Purchase Index was unchanged. The unadjusted **Purchase** Index was 7 percent higher week-over-week and 8 percent above its level during the same week in 2017.

Refi Index vs 30yr Fixed

Purchase Index vs 30yr Fixed

As interest rates rise, the composition of applications continues to gradually change. The **refinance share** of total applications declined for the fourth consecutive week. It is at the lowest level since last July at 46.4 percent, down from 47.8 percent the week before. The share of applications that were for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) increased to 6.1 percent of total applications after hitting a 14-month low of 5.0 percent during the week ended January 5.

FHA loans had a 10.4 percent share of the applications submitted during the week, down from 10.7 percent the previous week and the USDA portion dipped to 0.7 percent from 0.8 percent. The VA share was unchanged at 10.1 percent.

Significant increases in interest **rates** during the week affected both contract and effective quotes for fixed rate mortgage products. The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages (FRM) with conforming loan balances of $453,100 or less reached the highest level since April 2014, 4.50 percent, up from 4.41 percent a week earlier. Points increased to 0.57 from 0.56.

National Average Mortgage Rates



Mortgage News Daily	Rate	Change	Points
30YR Fixed	7.29%	+0.03	0.00
15YR Fixed	6.93%	+0.11	0.00
30YR FHA	6.97%	+0.02	0.00
30YR Jumbo	7.40%	0.00	0.00
7/6 SOFR	6.68%	+0.08	0.00
30YR VA	6.99%	+0.03	0.00

Rates as of: 11/27

MBS and Treasury

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	99.65	-0.24
10 YR Treasury	4.9345	+0.0755
30 YR Treasury	5.3271	+0.0792

Pricing as of: 11/27 5:59PM EST

Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Nov 18	212	+6.11%
Building Permits	Oct	1.3M	-7.5%
Housing Starts	Oct	1.31M	+7.21%
New Home Sales	Oct	701K	+3.7%
Pending Home Sales	Oct	63	-4.69%
Existing Home Sales	Oct	3.99M	+0.25%
Builder Confidence	Nov	25	-13.79%

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Rates for **jumbo** FRM, loans with balances larger than the conforming rate, surged 13 basis points, also reaching the highest level since April 2014, 4.47 percent. Points increased to 0.44 from 0.40.

The 30-year FRM backed by the **FHA** saw rates increased to 4.47 percent from 4.40 percent. Points rose to 0.69 from 0.68.

Fifteen-year FRM rates were at the highest level in seven years; 3.91 percent with 0.65 point. The prior week the rate was 3.85 percent with 0.60 point.

There was a slight easing in rates for **adjustable** products. The average contract interest rate for 5/1 ARMs decreased to 3.77 percent from 3.79 percent, with points increasing to 0.42 from 0.41.

MBA's Weekly Mortgage Applications Survey has been conducted since 1990 and covers over 75 percent of all U.S. retail residential mortgage applications. Respondents include mortgage bankers, commercial banks and thrifts. Base period and value for all indexes is March 16, 1990=100 and interest rate information is based on loans with an 80 percent loan-to-value ratio and points that include the origination fee.

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