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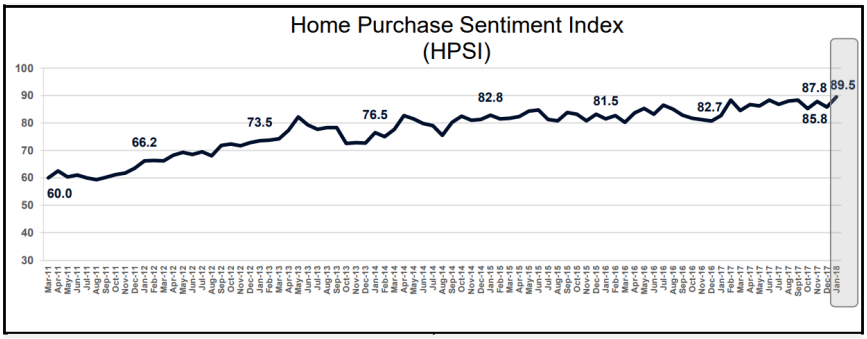
Consumers are Stoked About Housing Market

Five of the six components that make up Fannie Mae's Home Purchase Sentiment Index (HPSI) rose in January, **pushing the index to an all-time high**. HPSI, a quantification of some of the data collected through Fannie's National Housing Survey, was 89.5, up 3.7 points from the December reading. The index is also 6.8 percentage points higher than in January 2017.



The only survey question for which the net positive responses did not improve in January was **whether household income had grown** significantly over the previous 12 months. That score was unchanged at 16 percent.

A conviction that home prices will continue to rise was the main driver of the overall index. The net of responses predicting further gains was up 8 points from December to 52 percent. This is 10 points above the net a year ago. Fifty-eight percent of respondents answered yes to the question, a survey high.

Sentiment about whether it is a good time to buy a home or to sell one both rose during the month. The net change in positive **good-to-buy** responses was up 3 percentage points to 27 percent, reversing much of January's 5-point decline. The net positive responses regarding selling grew by 5 points to 38 percent, 23 points higher than in January 2017. The percentage of those answering that it was a **good time to sell** hit a survey high of 65 percent.

Americans also expressed a greater sense of job security; the net share who say they are not concerned about losing their job increased 5 percentage points. Finally, net responses from consumers about whether mortgage rates

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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will decline down over the next 12 months increased 2 percentage points although that net still remains underwater by 50 points.

"HPSI rebounded from last month's dip to a new survey high in January, in large part due to the spike in consumers' net **expectations that home prices will increase** over the next year," said Doug Duncan, senior vice president and chief economist at Fannie Mae. "Results may continue to fluctuate over the coming months as consumers sort out the implications of the newly passed tax legislation on their household finances. Over the past year, continued home price growth has helped spur a sizable increase in the net share of consumers who say it's a good time to sell a home but also a modest weakening in the net share who say it is a good time to buy. At the start of 2018, it is still too early to determine the overall effect of the new tax legislation on housing, and we will need to see whether positive impacts on both housing demand and supply materialize in the coming months."

The NHS, from which the HPSI is constructed, is conducted monthly by telephone among 1,000 consumers, both homeowners and renters. Respondents are asked more than 100 questions to track attitudinal shifts. The Home Purchase Sentiment Index (HPSI) distills information about consumers' home purchase sentiment from six of those questions into a single number. The January 2018 National Housing Survey was conducted between January 2 and January 25, 2018.

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