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New Home Sales Up Less Than Expected; Prices up 7.5% Annually

Sales of newly constructed homes, had a strong start in 2016 but **flattened out toward the end of the year** and ended with a dismal December. Now 2017 has also started on a positive note. The Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development reported sales were up in January by 3.7 percent from the previous month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 555,000 units. Sales in December, originally estimated at 536,000 units were revised down to 535,000. The January sales were 5.5 percent higher than sales a year earlier of 526,000. On a non-seasonally adjusted basis there were 41,000 homes sold during the month compared to 38,000 in December.

New Home Sales



Analysts had however **expected a much stronger recovery** from the 10.4 percent nosedive sales took in December. Econoday reported those they polled were looking for sales in a range between 538,000 and 600,000 units with a consensus of 576,000, a 7.5 percent gain.

At the end of January there were an estimated 261,000 homes available for sale (a non-adjusted figure.) This is a **larger inventory** than existed during any

National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
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Mortgage News Daily

30 Yr. Fixed	7.07%	+0.02	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.45%	0.00	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	6.51%	+0.02	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.26%	0.00	0.00
5/1 ARM	7.02%	-0.01	0.00

Freddie Mac

30 Yr. Fixed	6.86%	-0.01	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.16%	+0.03	0.00

Mortgage Bankers Assoc.

30 Yr. Fixed	7.02%	-0.05	0.65
15 Yr. Fixed	6.60%	-0.15	0.55
30 Yr. FHA	6.87%	0.00	0.92
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.18%	-0.03	0.54
5/1 ARM	6.45%	+0.08	0.81

Rates as of: 6/28

Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Jun 12	208.5	+15.58%
Building Permits	Mar	1.46M	-3.95%
Housing Starts	Mar	1.32M	-13.15%
New Home Sales	Mar	693K	+4.68%
Pending Home Sales	Feb	75.6	+1.75%
Existing Home Sales	Feb	3.97M	-0.75%

Housing News Update

month in 2016 and represents a **6.4-month supply** at the current rate of sales.

Sales in the Northeast region were up 15.8 percent from December and were 22.2 percent higher than a year earlier. The Midwest saw sales rise by 14.8 percent month-over-month and 4.5 percent compared to January 2016. Sales in the South were up 4.3 percent from December, but fell below the year-ago pace by 1.0 percent. New home sales in the west were down 4.4 percent for the month but remained 16.2 percent higher on an annual basis.

The Median price of a new home sold during the month was \$312,900 compared to 291,100 the previous January, an impressive **7.5 percent increase**. The average sale price declined from \$365,600 to \$360,900 over the 12-month period.

Homes sold during January had a median time on the market of **3.2 months**, down from 3.3 months both in December and in January 2016.

	Value	Change
Builder Confidence	Mar 51	+6.25%

Real Talk

At The Rate Shop, we're not your average mortgage banker. We specialize in bringing you ridiculously low interest rates that will make you wonder what the other guys are doing. In fact the ONLY objection we ever hear is "your rates sound too good to be true". Well they're not, and here is why...

After 15 years in the retail banking world I was frustrated with the high interest rates that came from that business model. As I looked around at all the bloated layers of management and their expensive salaries and the overhead of running a larger company (think rent costs, employee health and benefit costs, payroll taxes, and on and on) it dawned on me that I was a part of the problem, and the solution, for me at least, was so easy to see.

Start my own mortgage brokerage shop. No expensive executive salaries, no expensive building to pay rent at, no unnecessary employees and all the costs that are associated with that. What happens when you cut out all the fat? You can provide lower rates and lower closing costs. It's simple. Now here is the best part, you still get great service from a local Kansas City Lender. My mission is to let everyone know that low rates and great customer service are NOT mutually exclusive.

Thanks for coming along on this journey where Low Rates meet Great Service. The two do NOT have to be mutually exclusive. It's just a lie that the big box mortgage companies have been telling you for years. Don't believe me? Give me a call or shoot me a text on my personal cell phone today and compare my rates and costs up against any other lender in the country, and be prepared to be blown away.

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