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FHFA Raises Conforming Loan Limit to \$453k

Loan limits were frozen in place at \$417,000 for 10 long years after the housing bust, but were finally raised on January 1 of this year. **Rapidly increasing home prices** have now allowed the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) to increase them again for 2018.

The maximum conforming loan limits for mortgages eligible to be acquired by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (the GSEs) in most of the U.S. starting on January 1 will be \$453,100, an increase from \$424,100 in 2017. The Veterans Administration and FHA are expected to follow suit, raising limits for their own loans.

The Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA) requires that the baseline conforming loan limit for the GSEs be **adjusted each year** to reflect the change in the average U.S. home price. FHFA published its third quarter House Price Index (HPI) earlier today showing the average U.S. home value has increased by 6.8 percent since the third quarter of 2016. Therefore, the baseline maximum conforming loan limit has been increased by 6.8 percent as well.

Not every borrower will be subject to the baseline limit. Where the local median home value is more than 115 percent of that limit, HERA allows **higher limits**, with a ceiling of 150 percent of the baseline limit. This will make the new ceiling in high-cost areas \$679,650, that is 150 percent of \$453,100. Some areas will have limits falling between those two numbers, as shown in the heat map below and in a complete county-by-county list of loan limits [here](#).

There are additional provisions allowing for different limits in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In these areas, the baseline loan limit will be \$679,650 for one-unit properties, but FHFA says some specific locations may have even higher limits.

Properties with **multiple units** will have baseline limits of \$580,150 for two-family properties, \$701,250 for three units, and \$871,450 for four units. High cost areas will have maximum limits of \$870,225, \$1,051,875, and \$1,307,175 respectively.

Second mortgage loan limits have been raised to \$225,550 with a limit of \$339,825 in Alaska, Guam, Hawaii and the Virgin Islands.

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%

Fannie Mae has advised its sellers that loans delivered through December 31 must comply with the 2017 limits, but any loan delivered on 1/1/2018 or later gets the new limits. Loans can be submitted (or resubmitted) through Fannie's Desktop Underwriter on or after the weekend of December 9, 2017. Even if loans were submitted before Dec 9th, Fannie says the new loan limits will still apply if the loan amount was the only reason the loan was deemed ineligible (assuming, of course, that the loan isn't delivered to Fannie before 1/1/2018).

Builder Confidence	Mar 51	+6.25%
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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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