Housing News Update



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\$766,550 is The New Conforming Loan Limit For 2024

If you're just here for the conforming loan limit news, \$766,550 is the number for 2024.

Does this mean no one can get a mortgage for more than \$766,550? No. The conforming loan limit is the maximum amount that can be guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (the government-sponsored enterprises or GSEs). That guarantee has advantages in terms of the loan approval process and interest rates. There are plenty of mortgage options for higher amounts or that are not guaranteed by the GSEs, but conforming loans account for a vast majority of new mortgages.

\$766,550 is the base amount. Higher cost areas have access to higher limits based on the average home prices in that area. The county by county limits are listed separately, HERE. The highest tier is \$1,149,825 (base loan limit x 1.5).

HOUSING TYPE	STANDARD	HIGH BALANCE
Single Family, Coop & Condos	\$766,550	\$1,149,825
Two Family Homes	\$981,500	\$1,472,250
Three Family Homes	\$1,186,350	\$1,779,525
Four Family Homes	\$1,474,400	\$2,211,600

Where do these numbers come from?

The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) is the regulator of the GSEs. It publishes various home price data. Once the data is in for the 3rd quarter (typically by late November), it is compared to the 3rd quarter of the previous year and home prices are adjusted by the corresponding amount.

In situations where home prices fall, the limit does not fall, but it will not rise again until home prices move back above the levels associated with the previous limit. For instance, let's imagine the loan limit was \$700k, but prices fell enough to drop it to \$600k. The limit would remain at \$700k year after year (even if prices were rising) until prices got back above \$700k.

National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News I	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 Banke	rs 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 Rates as of: 6/28	6.45%	+0.08	0.81

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%

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Value

Change

All that having been said, even after the deceleration in prices in early 2023, year-over-year numbers remain in positive 1 territory. The following chart includes the Case Shiller HPI which focuses on the 20 largest metro areas (it's not used for conforming loan limit calculation, but it too is in moderately positive territory year over year).

+6.25%



Perhaps "moderately positive" wrong term. After all, annual home price appreciation of 5.5% FAR surpasses the Fed's 2% inflation target. Combined with the highest rates in decades a little over a month ago, this speaks to the ever-present affordability problem.

Conforming loan limits can play some small part in helping affordability to the extent that someone needs a \$766,550 mortgage and was unable to buy/refi with the previous limit of \$726,200.

The new limits go into effect for loans acquired by the GSEs in 2023. That typically means lenders can apply the limits immediately since it takes at least a month for a new loan to be 'delivered' to the GSEs. Lenders tend to adopt the new limits at slightly different paces.

Frontrunner lenders will likely announce them today. Laggards may take a few weeks. Many lenders preemptively offered limits of \$750k, knowing that the actual limit would be at least that high and that it would not need to deliver those loans to the GSEs until 2024.

How about FHA loan limits? These have yet to be announced. Last year it happened on the same day as FHFA. In any event, the calculation is known. FHA will be 65% of the FHFA Conforming Loan Limit or \$498,250 (rounded from a calculated value of \$498,257.50).

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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.

Mike Baker

