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A Message from Stephen Moye:

"This is great news! Reach out to so that I can show you the ways I can help you "build your Business" with our great construction programs."

Homebuilders More Optimistic Over the Next Six Months

New home builders are looking ahead, and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) says this optimism was reflected in its Housing Market Index (HMI) for February. While the total HMI, which is also sponsored by Wells Fargo, was unchanged from January at 72, its most forward-looking component hit a post-recession high.

The HMI is derived from a monthly survey NAHB conducts among its newhome builder members. The survey asks builders for their perceptions of current market conditions for newly constructed homes and their expectations for-those conditions over the next six months, ranking each as "good," "fair" or "poor." The survey also asks builders to rate traffic of prospective buyers as "high to very high," "average" or "low to very low." Scores for each component are then used to calculate a seasonally adjusted index where any number over 50 indicates that more builders view conditions as good than poor.

It was the question about conditions **six months in the future** that showed the **strongest degree of confidence**, gaining 2 points from January to a score of 80. The index measuring buyer traffic held steady at 54, and the component gauging current sales conditions dropped one point to 78.

NAHB chief economist Robert Dietz said, "The HMI gauge of future sales expectations has reached a post-recession high, an indicator that consumer demand for housing should grow in the months ahead. With ongoing job creation, increasing owner-occupied household formation, and a tight supply of existing home inventory, the single-family housing sector should continue to strengthen at a gradual but consistent pace."

He added that while the index shows demand conditions are positive, **supply-side construction hurdles need to be managed**, as scarce labor and building material price increases remain top concerns.

National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News I	Daily		
30 Yr. Fixed	6.43%	+0.02	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	5.95%	0.00	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	5.82%	+0.02	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	6.62%	0.00	0.00
5/1 ARM	6.28%	-0.01	0.00
Freddie Mac			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.35%	-0.51	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	5.51%	-0.65	0.00
Mortgage Banke	rs Assoc.		
30 Yr. Fixed	6.44%	-0.06	0.54
15 Yr. Fixed	5.88%	-0.16	0.68
30 Yr. FHA	6.36%	-0.06	0.85
30 Yr. Jumbo	6.75%	+0.07	0.39
5/1 ARM Rates as of: 8/30	5.98%	-0.27	0.65

Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Aug 28	226.9	+0.49%
Building Permits	Mar	1.46M	-3.95%
Housing Starts	Mar	1.32M	-13.15%
New Home Sales	Mar	693K	+4.68%

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Regional HMI scores are expressed as three-month moving averages. The **Midwest** rose two points to 72, the **South** increased one point to 74, the **West** remained unchanged at 81, and **Northeast** fell two points to 56.

		Value	Change
Pending Home Sales	Feb	75.6	+1.75%
Existing Home Sales	Feb	3.97M	-0.75%
Builder Confidence	Mar	51	+6.25%

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