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Licensed by the Department of Business Oversight

Under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act

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## FHA Loan Limits Increased

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) has now joined the Federal Housing Finance Agency in raising the dollar limits for loans that qualify for FHA guarantees. Last week FHFA raised limits for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loans to 424.100, a number which forms a **basis for some of the FHA changes**.

The new limits, which will be effective for loans with **case numbers assigned on or after January 1**, will constitute a slight increase in 2,948 U.S. counties; limits will remain at 2016 levels in 286 counties.

In so-called high cost areas, the national "**ceiling**" will increase to \$636,150 from \$625,000. The "**floor**" will increase to \$275,665 from \$271,050. The loan limit ceiling is 150 percent of the national conforming limit (\$424,100) while the floor is set at 65 percent. The floor applies to those areas where 115 percent of the median home price is less than 65 percent of the national conforming loan limit. Any areas where the loan limit exceeds the "floor" is considered a high cost area.

The maximum claim amount for FHA-insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECMs), or reverse mortgages, will increase to \$636,150. This amount is 150 percent of the national conforming limit.

Conforming loan limits had remained unchanged for ten years but FHA limits were adjusted several times over that period. According to Katie Jones, writing for the Congressional Research Service, when Congress enacted the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 it temporarily increased the maximum mortgage amounts to **125% of area median home prices**, with a floor of \$271,050 and a high-cost area ceiling of \$729,750. This was done as both public and private lending standards tightened and fewer borrowers could qualify for loans without FHA insurance or other types of guarantees. The increased loan limits allowed more borrowers to qualify for FHA-insured mortgages. Those temporary limits were rolled back in 2013.

FHA calculates forward mortgage limits based on median house prices in accordance with the **National Housing Act**. FHA's Single Family mortgage limits are set by Metropolitan Statistical Area and county. Loan limits for reverse mortgages are also calculated but these do not vary by MSA or county; instead, a single limit applies to all mortgages in the regardless of

## National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
<b>Mortgage News Daily</b>			
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
<b>Freddie Mac</b>			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.35%	-0.51	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	5.51%	-0.65	0.00
<b>Mortgage Bankers Assoc.</b>			
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	5.98%	-0.27	0.65

Rates as of: 8/30

## 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%

# Housing News Update

where they are originated.

To find a complete list of FHA loan limits, areas at the FHA ceiling, areas between the floor and the ceiling, as well as a list of areas with loan limit increases, visit FHA's [Loan Limits Page](#).

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

## thanks for visiting this site

thank you for coming to website. Having been a loan officer for 20+year...I know first hand how important it is to stay on top of the news and event that effect mortgage rates, regulation, and program guidelines. Let this web site be a resource for you.

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**Stephen Moye**

