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New Home Sales Skyrocketed in April, Probably...

New home sales surged in April after a disappointing report in March. The Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development said today that sales were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 619,000, an **increase of 16.6 percent** from the previous month and 23.8 percent higher than in April 2015. That said, it should be noted that this report has a notoriously high margin of error, with this month's ringing in at 15.4 percent.

Sales in March were also **higher than earlier reported**. Last month's report had those sales down from February by 1.5 percent to a seasonally an annual rate of 511,000. That number has now been revised to 531,000.

New Home Sales



On a **non-seasonally adjusted** basis there were 61,000 newly adjusted homes sold during the month. In March sales totaled 50,000.

At the end of the reporting period there were an estimated 243,000 new homes for sale nationwide. This is estimated at a **4.7-month supply** at the current rate of sales, down from 5.5-months in March.

The **median price** of a new home sold in April was \$321,100 compared to \$292,700 a year earlier. The average sales price was \$379,800 compared to \$334,700 in April 2015.

National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News Daily			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.89%	0.00	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.33%	+0.01	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	6.33%	+0.01	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.05%	0.00	0.00
5/1 ARM	6.58%	0.00	0.00
Freddie Mac			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.77%	-0.09	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.05%	-0.11	0.00
Mortgage Bankers Assoc.			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.00%	-0.03	0.60
15 Yr. Fixed	6.63%	+0.07	0.61
30 Yr. FHA	6.87%	-0.03	0.92
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.13%	+0.02	0.38
5/1 ARM	6.22%	-0.16	0.60

Rates as of: 7/22

Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Jul 10	206.1	-0.19%
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%

The Mortgage Bankers Association, based on the numbers of applications submitted to the mortgage subsidiaries of new home builders, had predicted sales to decline 11 percent from March. On a non-seasonally adjusted basis they had projected sales at 48,000 units, down from 54,000 units in March.

Builder Confidence	Mar	51	+6.25%
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Sales in the **Northeast** were up **52.8 percent** from March and an astounding 323.1 percent from the previous year. Sales in the **Midwest** declined by 4.8 percent and 9.1 percent from the two earlier periods.

Sales of new homes in the **South** rose 15.8 percent from March and 18.1 percent year-over-year. The **West** saw sales increase by 18.8 percent month-over-month and 23.6 percent for the year.

Update: Buyer Broker Agreement

After requests from real estate companies, a nonprofit consumer watchdog group the Consumer Federation of America has developed a list of factors to consider when creating a buyer contract in preparation for upcoming practice changes in the industry.

CFA released its "Proposed Criteria for Evaluating Home Buyer Contract Forms" on Tuesday. The 15 criteria focus on the contracts' form – whether the documents are readable and understandable – and content – whether they are fair to homebuyers.

- the document's expiration date (CFA recommends buyers asks for a three-month contract and never sign one longer than six months)
- the right to terminate the contract
- the disclosure that compensation is negotiable
- the broker's compensation clearly stated and that the buyer broker can't receive additional compensation for facilitating a sale
- that any additional fees, such as for showing a home, will be deducted from the broker's commission if there is a successful sale
- that the commission is due only if there is a successful closing
- that buyers have an obligation – for no longer than 60 days, CFA recommends – to pay a broker who earlier showed them a home they purchased after the contract ended
- seller concessions paid directly to buyers
- dual agency not pre-approved by the contract
- an explanation of how a broker treats different buyer clients interested in the same property
- that buyers should not be required to first go through mediation or arbitration if they have a complaint

Contact me for more information. 702-303-0243 or TPayne@loandepot.com

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