



## Tom Payne

Senior Loan Consultant, loanDepot  
 NMLS# 1017004 #174457 Licensed in all 50 States  
 2835 St. Rose Parkway, Suite 120 Henderson, NV 89052

Office: 702-303-0243  
 Mobile: 702-303-0243  
[tompaynemortgage@gmail.com](mailto:tompaynemortgage@gmail.com)  
[View My Website](#)

## Normal Seasonal Stall For New Home Sales -MBA

The Mortgage Bankers Association is forecasting that new home sales in July were **down by 8 percent** compared to June. Sales during the month will surpass those in July 2015 by 2.4 percent, the slowest year-over-year growth thus far in 2016. MBA bases its projections on its Builder Applications Survey (BAS) which gathers data on mortgage applications from the mortgage subsidiaries of new home builders. The month over month change in sales is not seasonally adjusted.

Lynn Fisher, MBA's Vice President of Research and Economists said, "Month over month declines in applications are **part of the normal seasonal pattern** this time of year and the Builder Applications Survey index has not maintained the momentum we saw during February and March."

Official new home sales estimates are conducted by the Census Bureau on a monthly basis. In that data, new home sales are recorded at **contract signing**, which is typically coincident with the mortgage application. Census Bureau data for July will be released on August 23.

When **seasonally adjusted**, MBA's estimate of new home sales rises by **1.9 percent** from the June pace of 530,000 units. On an unadjusted basis, it estimates that there were 45,000 new home sales in July 2016, a decrease of 4.3 percent from 47,000 sales in June. MBA's June numbers were well below those reported by the Census Bureau; sales at a seasonally adjusted rate of 592,000 and 54,000 unadjusted.

The BAS showed that 68.5 percent of applications for new home purchases were for conventional loans and 17.2 percent were for FHA guaranteed mortgages. VA loan applications had a 13.6 percent share and RHS/USDA loans an 0.7 percent share. The average loan size of new homes decreased from \$326,175 in June to \$325,843 in July.

## National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
<b>Mortgage News Daily</b>			
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
<b>Freddie Mac</b>			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.77%	-0.09	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.05%	-0.11	0.00
<b>Mortgage Bankers Assoc.</b>			
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%

## Update: Buyer Broker Agreement

	Value	Change
Builder Confidence	Mar 51	+6.25%

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](mailto:TPayne@loandepot.com)

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Tom Payne 